

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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FREEMASONRY AND POLITICS.

SEVERAL of the Provincial newspapers have lately made comments under the above heading, in regard to the result of some of the bye-elections which have recently taken place, and we think the general opinion expressed is a high tribute to the Craft, association with which is regarded by the writers here referred to as anything but an advantage to a parliamentary candidate. This is as it should be, for as is known throughout the world English Freemasonry takes no cognisance of political or other controversial matters, and it would be very unfortunate if it could ever be pointed out that the best means of securing political advancement was through the portals of a Masonic Lodge, not but what we have known more than one embryonic legislator who has sought admission to Freemasonry, not perhaps wholly with the intention of securing its assistance in a parliamentary candidature, but certainly with a slight hope that it might be the means of securing a few extra votes when the day of polling came round. But it is seldom such convincing evidence is adduced by outside journals as the arguments now available in support of the theory of the writers, that Freemasonry is no assistance in connection with political or similar preferment, and we think the thanks of the Craft are certainly due to those who have taken the opportunity of saying a word in defence of Freemasonry, which in this direction has long been regarded with a certain amount of suspicion in some quarters.

From among other comments we extract the following from the "Birmingham Daily Gazette," no mean authority throughout the midlands: "Freemasons, it is known, are not permitted as a body to take an active part in politics on any side. Nevertheless one would suppose that Freemasons would support at the poll a Brother who happened to be a Parliamentary candidate. It does not appear, however, that Freemasonry is any advantage to a candidate. The two last seats lost to the Conservatives were contested by candidates who had distinguished connection with Masonry. Mr. Keyser, who lost Reading, is a leading man in the Craft, and the Earl of Lathom, the father of Lord Skelmersdale, who lost Southport, stands next to the Prince of Wales as head of the English Masons. Southport, too, is unusually strong in the Craft. Yet this did not help Lord Skelmersdale."

As we have said, we regard all this as matter for satisfaction, and consider such comments in a leading provincial daily paper a compliment to the Craft, and evidence that members do not forget the principles of the Order, even when leading Freemasons seek their suffrages as Parliamentary candidates, but it would seem our view is not the universally accepted one, as proved by a letter which appeared in the "Birmingham Daily Gazette," in reference to the paragraph we have quoted. The writer, who signs himself "Walsall,"

thinks it would have been better had the paragraph never seen the light, and continues: "Were the political element introduced into the Craft, the very foundation of Freemasonry would be shaken, and what is now one of the most Charitable Institutions in the world would become a mere wreck."

We agree with "Walsall" in what he says, but fail to see in our contemporary's comments any invitation or desire that the political element should be introduced into the Craft. On the contrary, the writer, it seems to us, warns candidates of the futility of relying on Freemasonry as a stepping stone to Parliamentary honours. Surely if such well known and popular Masons as C. E. Keyser and Lord Skelmersdale fail to reap any benefit from the fact of being associated with Freemasonry there would be very little chance of less popular Brethren being supported for Masonic reasons alone. We hope the Craft will ever show as much freedom from politics as is proved existed at Reading and Southport on the occasions in question, and we also hope that the comments to which we have referred may be brought to the notice of those who would seek preferment through association with Freemasonry.

BERKSHIRE.

THE Prince of Wales having appointed the Right Hon. Baron Wantage, V.C., K.C.B., Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, as Provincial Grand Master for that county, arrangements have been made for the installation of his lordship at a Provincial Grand Lodge to be held in the Town Hall, Reading, on Friday, the 14th prox. It has not yet been decided who will perform the ceremony. The Grand Mastership of this Province has been vacant since the lamented decease of the Duke of Clarence.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge was held on the 14th inst., under the banner of the Hope and Charity Lodge, at Kidderminster Town Hall. Sir A. F. Gobson, M.P. Provincial Grand Master presided, supported by Colonel Warner Otley P.P.G.D.C. Deputy Prov. Grand Master.

In the morning there was a meeting of the Provincial Charities Committee, and in the afternoon the Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Town Hall. The Brethren then attended Divine Service at the parish church, and a sermon was preached by the Dean of St. Asaph Grand Chaplain of England. In the evening there was a banquet in the Corn Exchange.

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

THE Lord Mayor, with a determination to make his circle of hospitality complete, says the "City Press," intends giving yet another special banquet at the Mansion House. An entertainment to the members of the Masonic Craft will take place on Wednesday, 26th October. Invitations will be issued to meet the Grand Officers of the year, the Provincial Grand Masters, and other distinguished representatives of the Craft.

CORNWALL.

AT the annual Provincial Grand Lodge, at Falmouth, on the 13th inst., the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe Prov. Grand Master presided, and was supported by Sir Charles B. Graves-Sawle, Bart., Deputy Prov. G.M. There was a very large attendance, every one of the thirty Lodges in the Province being represented.

The Treasurer Bro. R. L. Randall reported a balance in hand of £248, against £252 last year, after contributing 180 guineas to the Charities.

The Secretary Bro. E. D. Anderton reported that there had been 159 initiations, against 147 last year; 34 joining members, against 28; making a total of 1,925 members, against 1,868 last year. This was the largest number on record. The increase on the year was 57.

Bro. Milford presented the report of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund. The Lodge contributions amounted to £329, against £307 last year, an increase of £22. The total ten years ago was £170. The invested capital and balance at bank amounted to £6,364, and produced an income of £247. There were eleven annuitants receiving from £20 to £30 each, and six children being educated from the funds. Bro. Milford added that by the recommendation of the Committee (afterwards confirmed by the voting of the Brethren) four additional annuities and two educational grants would be added.

The Provincial Committee of Relief recommended a grant of £20 to a P.M. of 1272, and £5 each to Brethren of 131 and 970, and they were adopted.

The following votes were passed: Twenty guineas to the R.M. Benevolent Institution, twenty guineas to the Girls School, and fifty guineas to the C.M.A. and B. Fund.

Bro. G. B. Pearce, presenting his thirteenth annual report of the Cornwall Masonic Charity Association, said that it was rather more cheerful than in previous years, the subscriptions showing an increase of 83 guineas, last year's total being 207 guineas, and this year's 290 guineas. The largest contributions were from the following Lodges:—Liskeard, 50 guineas; Helston, £29; Hayle, £24; Millbrook, £21; Redruth, £19; St. Ives, £19. In the cases of Helston, Millbrook, and St. Ives the sums named included special donations to the Boys Centenary Fund, presented through the Association, and had these been separated from the annual subscriptions derivable from membership the aspect of the list would have been changed—Liskeard, 50 guineas; Hayle, 24 guineas; Helston, 19 guineas; and Redruth, 19 guineas. Taking the full list of 290 guineas, the east contributed 139 guineas and the west 151 guineas, but omitting the donations, which was the fairest comparison, the east won by 124 guineas, against west 116 guineas. There had been 31 new members, Redruth taking first place with eight new members and Liskeard next with six. He wished to urge upon Lodges the importance of adopting the membership system, by which they could subscribe two or more guineas annually, and when the Lodge vote was taken let it fix the contribution yearly for the five years complete. Bro. Pearce offered congratulations to Bro. McLeod, the Secretary of the Boys School, on the wonderful success of the Centenary Festival, which was one of the greatest feats in Masonic charity that had ever been accomplished.

The Provincial Grand Master wished to join in congratulations to Bro. McLeod, on the success of his great effort. The report was adopted.

Bro. B. F. Edyvean presented his fifth annual report as Charity Representative for the Province. During the year he received the following votes:—Girls 1,224, Boys 1,097, Benevolent 2,201, total 4,522, an increase of 317 on the previous year. For the Province's adopted candidate he polled in May last 6,359, which placed the candidate third on the successful list. These figures, though somewhat high, would explain themselves when he stated that there were no less than 60 candidates for only 12 vacancies. It was the most difficult and uncertain election he had yet experienced. So great was the demand for Benevolent votes that he was unable to exchange their Boys and Girls at an even reasonable rate and, therefore, he lent them to other Provinces repayable on demand. They owed at present 3,412 Benevolent votes, and had owing to them 1,323 Boys and Girls, which, when exchanged at the usual rates of 1 for 2, would reduce their actual debt to 766 only. He hoped this would be considered a satisfactory state of affairs. For the election of a Truro Brother, 4th on the successful list with 5,310 votes, they had to thank their ever generous Cornish Brethren in London. In conclusion, he desired to again thank the Brethren of the

Province for their support during the past year, and to remind them that success was dependent on that support, which he trusted would ever be increasingly accorded to the grand cause of charity.

Business was suspended, and the Lodge went in procession to the Parish Church, drizzling rain falling. The town was gaily decorated with flags, and the procession, headed by the Falmouth Artillery Band, was watched by a large number of persons. The volume of the Sacred Law was, as usual, borne by four "Lewises" before the Prov. G.L. Officers. Prov. G. Chap. Rev. E. F. Nugent delivered an excellent discourse from Psalm cxviii, 22, "The stone which the builders refused."

On returning to Lodge, the Prov. G.M. presented each of the "Lewises" (Tom Sylvester Holder, Samuel Lewis Tresidder, Leonard Moody Buckley, and Bruce Jory Gregg) with a Bible. His lordship hoped the Bibles would not only be a recollection to them of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cornwall meeting at Falmouth, but that they would study the Bible, and so receive happiness for the life that was before them. The collection at the church amounted to £12 16s 9d.

The following Brethren were invested as Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Sir C. B. Graves Sawle	-	-	-	Deputy
E. W. Carus Wilson	-	-	-	Senior Warden
G. A. Jenkins	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. E. F. Nugent	-	-	-	Chaplains
Rev. C. F. Mermagen	-	-	-	
J. M. Blamey	-	-	-	Treasurer
W. W. J. Sharp	-	-	-	Registrar
E. D. Anderton	-	-	-	Secretary
W. J. M. Gooding	-	-	-	Senior Deacons
R. P. Couch	-	-	-	
J. Willey	-	-	-	Junior Deacons
T. Burge	-	-	-	
A. Carkeek	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
G. B. Trevorton	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
R. S. Rundle	-	-	-	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
G. Davis	-	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
R. S. Langford	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
Nicholas Pascoe	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
John White	-	-	-	
J. McTurk	-	-	-	Organist
F. Downing	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
W. Coulter	-	-	-	Pursuivant
John H. Chubb	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
R. T. Peters	-	-	-	Stewards
N. Bray	-	-	-	
W. Andrew	-	-	-	
E. A. Broad	-	-	-	
Thomas Cundy	-	-	-	
W. F. Clarke	-	-	-	Tyler.
Martin Richards	-	-	-	

The Prov. Grand Master asked, as the P.G.S. was not in the good health they would like him to be, that all communications on the business of the Province might for the present be sent to Bro. J. C. R. Crewes (Truro), Assistant to the Prov. Grand Secretary.

The Brethren afterwards lunched together.—"Western Morning News."

The Prince of Wales's great charm of manner is appreciated only by those who have the opportunity of meeting his Royal Highness. These are far more numerous than is usually supposed, says a writer in the "Ladies Home." The few who use their meetings with the Prince for purposes of self-advertisement are in a great minority compared to the many whom H.R.H. has honoured by privately and familiarly talking with them, and who carefully avoid all mention of this gratifying fact except to their familiar friends. The Prince, for instance, is much interested in all the possessors of real talent, and where he sees it is always anxious to make the acquaintance of its proprietor. The other day, adds the writer, I met a young actress, not an Englishwoman, who had been bidden at the Prince's express wish to a luncheon party, and who, also at H.R.H.'s wish, sat beside him at table. The lady in question, whose name, by her own request, I refrain from giving, is no admirer of Princes and dignitaries unless they have something beyond their rank to recommend them to her somewhat fastidious notice. The Prince, however, riveted her attention from the first by his clever, sensible conversation on the great topics of the day. He talked with her as with an equal, and she got so absorbed in the subjects, and the masterly way he discussed them, that she forgot not only to eat her lunch, but to call his Royal Highness, "Sir." She said: "I forgot entirely that he was the Prince of Wales, the heir-apparent to the greatest empire in the world. I just thought him the most brilliant and charming gentleman I had ever talked with."

WASHINGTON REPORT ON NEGRO MASONRY.

THE "Kansas Freemason" thus refers to a pamphlet, containing the report of the "Committee on Negro Masonry," to the Grand Lodge of Washington, and adopted by an almost unanimous vote 15th June, during the last Annual Communication of that body: This report, with the accompanying resolutions, was prepared by the master brain and hand of Grand Master Wm. H. Upton, and to say it is strong, clear, exhaustive and unanswerable is but stating a fact instantly apparent to everyone who peruses it. We say it is unanswerable, and so we regard it, viewed from the high grounds of justice and Masonic law, but it is altogether likely numerous answers will be made, but if so it must be in a strain similar to that employed in 1875, by Albert Pike, when he said; "Prince Hall Lodge was as regular a Lodge as any Lodge created by competent authority, and had a perfect right (as other Lodges in Europe did) to establish other Lodges, and make itself a Mother Lodge. That is the way the Berlin Lodges, Three Globes and Royal York, became Grand Lodges. I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligation before white men, not to Negroes. When I have to accept Negroes as Brothers or leave Masonry, I shall leave it. Better let the thing drift.—Après nous le deluge."

The resolutions recommended by the Committee are as follow:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, Masonry is universal; and, without doubt, neither race nor colour are among the tests proper to be applied to determine the fitness of a candidate for the degrees of Masonry.

Resolved, That in view of recognised laws of the Masonic Institution, and of facts of history apparently well authenticated and worthy of full credence, this Grand Lodge does not see its way clear to deny or question the right of its constituent Lodges, or of the members thereof, to recognise as Brother Masons, Negroes who have been initiated in Lodges which can trace their origin to Prince Hall Lodge, No. 459, organised under the warrant of our R.W. Brother Thomas Howard, Earl of Effingham, Acting Grand Master, under the authority of H.R.H. Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, etc., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honourable Society of F. & A. Masons in England, bearing date 29 September A.L. 5784, or to our R.W. Brother Prince Hall, Master of said Lodge; and, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, for the purpose of tracing such origin, the African Grand Lodge, of Boston, organised in 1808—subsequently known as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the first African Grand Lodge of North America in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, organised in 1815, and the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, may justly be regarded as legitimate Masonic Grand Lodges.

Resolved, That while this Grand Lodge recognises no difference between Brethren based on race or colour, yet it is not unmindful of the fact that the white and coloured races in the United States have in many ways shown a preference to remain, in purely social matters, separate and apart. In view of this inclination of the two races—Masonry being pre-eminently a social institution—this Grand Lodge deems it to the best interests of Masonry to declare that if regular Masons of African descent desire to establish, within the state of Washington, Lodges confined wholly or chiefly to Brethren of their race, and shall establish such Lodges strictly in accordance with Masonic law as heretofore interpreted by Masonic tribunals of their own race, and if such Lodges shall in due time see fit in like manner to erect a Grand Lodge for the better administration of their affairs, this Grand Lodge, having more regard for the good of Masonry than for any mere technicality, will not regard the establishment of such Lodges or Grand Lodges as an invasion of its jurisdiction, but as evincing a disposition to conform to its own ideas as to the best interests of the Craft under peculiar circumstances; and will ever extend to our coloured Brethren its sincere sympathy in every effort to promote the welfare of the Craft, or inculcate the pure principles of our Art.

Resolved. That the Secretary be instructed to acknowledge receipt of the communication from Gideon S. Bailey and Con A. Rideout, and forward to them a copy of the printed proceedings of this Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, as a response to said communication.

WHAT MEANS ALL THIS?

An Address delivered by Bro. David S. Kaufman, of Texas, on St. John the Evangelist's Day.

WHAT means this parade and pageantry? this public display? this solemn procession? these badges and insignia of ancient honour—the exhibition of the Bible, Square and Compass—borne by that tottering remnant of humanity?

the petition to the Throne of Divine Grace? and the melting strains, of music which have just fallen on our delighted ears? Why have age and youth and beauty honoured this hall with their unaccustomed presence on this sacred day? Why are you, my Brothers, clothed in your working apparel, and armed with the implements of your office? This is the birthday of the beloved disciple of the Prince of Peace, and an honoured festival in the Masonic calendar! The presence of the votaries of the Temple, from the humble Apprentice to the Knight of Malta, shows that we cherish the highest veneration for this celebrated patron of our Order; and the Christian audience which I see around me gives me the gratifying assurance that the memory of the Evangelist is nurtured in other bosoms than ours. Whilst as Masons we regard St. John amongst the most illustrious of our Brotherhood, and one who has shed a halo of glory around our mystic union, the world adores him as the proclaimer of the "true word," and as the prophet of Patmos, to whose revelations none can add, and from which none dare take away.

In every age and country, amongst the savage as well as the civilised nations of the earth, it has been customary to observe stated anniversaries and festivals. Masonry, too, has her festivals, and amongst these stand conspicuous the 27th of December and the 24th of June, the anniversaries of the two St. Johns. The assemblage of individuals on these interesting occasions is admirably calculated to burnish the link which connects the present with the glorious past; to brighten and preserve those animating recollections which the selfishness and cupidity of the world are so prone to rust and corrode, and to enable us again to live over in imagination those few proud scenes in the dark and bloody history of man which stand out as beacon lights on the promontories of time, and still claim for him an immortality beyond the grave. Without recollection what would we be? Like the brutes that go down to the dust and perish. Events create a nation and the recollection preserves it. The invocation of the name of Brutus could rebuke treason to Rome; and the memory of Washington, calling on the country he had created to frown upon the first dawns of any attempt to destroy the American Union, enables the Star Spangled Banner still to brave the battle and the breeze.

It may not, perhaps, be unconstructive to take a brief retrospective glance at the origin and character of our Institution. Although from its extreme antiquity little positive is known of its early history and progress, yet we are able to trace it back to the building of the Temple of Solomon, our Grand High Priest and Master. This stupendous specimen of architecture, which was seven years in being built, and which, indeed, was among the wonders of the world, could not be erected without the strictest subordination of all the workmen to the Grand Master of the enterprise. It required the labour of the world to perfect it, and different nations of the earth lent their aid to the completion of the grand design. It is said that there were employed three Grand Masters, two thousand three hundred Masters, eighty thousand Craftsmen, and seventy thousand Entered Apprentices. All these were so classed and arranged into Lodges that neither envy, discord nor confusion was permitted to interrupt the harmony of those engaged in that important work. Mount Moriah was the place immortalised by its location, and it was erected a lasting monument of the spot where Abraham was about to offer up Israel's hope, and where David encountered and appeased the destroying angel. After this grand edifice had been erected and dedicated to the true and living God, it is reasonable to presume that the associations there formed would not be broken off, but that they would continue after the causes which produced them ceased to exist. They did continue, and they have become the foundation of a moral edifice greater than this gorgeous temple of Solomon, which could contain three hundred thousand souls; the temple of Masonry contains millions who worship in it without any to molest them or make them afraid! The former occupied a small space on the mountain's top—the latter has extended itself into the uttermost parts of the earth. The one has already passed away like the baseless fabric of a vision, and lives only in story—the other still exists in more than its pristine vigour and beauty, strengthening and growing with the onward march of time, and will continue to live unhurt amidst the war of elements, the wreck of nations, and the crush of empires! In its onward progress down to our day and generation, it has included amongst its worshippers many of the great and good of every clime and tongue, amongst these Saint John the Evangelist and Saint John the Baptist challenge our peculiar admiration; and will we not rejoice that amidst the death and desolation of Time, he has involuntarily spared our sacred Order, and that it contains within itself the seeds of its own eternal preservation? When we consult the page of history we weep over the mutability of things and pine at the lot of humanity. We ask ourselves, Where are the towers of Babylon, the gates of Thebes, the lyceums of Athens, and the amphitheatres of the "Eternal City"? They have passed away! Where is Greece the arbiter of letters, and Rome the mistress of the world?

They still live, but oh, how changed! The one has become the home of the degraded Mussulman; as to the other—

"The Goth, the Christian, time, war, flood and fire,
Have dwelt upon the seven-hill'd city's pride;
She saw her glories, star by star, expire,
And up the steep, barbarian monarch ride.
Where the car climbed the capital far and wide
Temple and Tower went down, nor left a site.
Chaos of ruins? who shall trace the void?
O'er the dim fragments cast a lunar light,
And say, 'Here was Rome,' where all is doubly night."

Where are the splendid mausoleums, the towering columns, and the triumphal arches of the conquerors of the earth? At the touch of the destroyer's noiseless foot they have crumbled into their native undistinguished dust, and the very names of those they were intended to honour now swell the long black list of infamy.

But we look again, and cease our regret; we see an institution of humble origin gradually rising and growing until it has filled the earth with a knowledge of its name and character. The waves of persecution and power have dashed against it, but they have been thrown back upon their exhaustless source, only to return again in powerless and harmless fury. Amidst the rage of faction, the strife of party, the change of revolution, and the horrors of civil war, it has pursued the even tenor of its way regardless alike of all. It has been delivered out of the jaws of the lion, and has passed through the fiery furnace unscathed. The foot of power has attempted to crush it, but like the plant of which nature yields but one specimen, it has lifted itself from the dust and bloomed again with renewed fragrance and beauty. "The rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; but it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock." Vain man! how long will you attempt to annihilate that which is indestructible, and to war when defeat is your certain doom? Why will you strive to wither the oasis in the desert pathway of life, and leave no green spot on which the eye may rest and feast its weary vision? Why would you strike from the moral world the sun of indissoluble friendship, and involve it in the darkness of universal misanthropy?

The question is frequently asked why our Society takes not into its communion the softer and lovelier sex, and why they are not made participants of its counsels and its secrets? It is not, I may assure my audience, and particularly the fairer portion of it, because we entertain any opinions derogatory of their worth or because we wish to deprive them of their elevated rank in the scale of society. No! the farthest from it possible. Operative Masonry being the foundation of our Order, and the origin of our Association, females were not permitted to share in the toils and drudgeries of the rougher sex. The dwelling was to be enjoyed and enlivened by them when completed, but the burthen of its erection was borne by other shoulders. Heaven has appropriated for them a more elevated and lofty sphere, and we would not disregard the beneficent designs of the Author of "every good and perfect gift." After the heat and burthen of the day is over, it is their proud prerogative to cheer and animate with their heavenly smiles the drooping spirits of the toil-worn labourer. We are to be the "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for those to whom we proudly yield the palm of supremacy. It is a principal part of our duty, as Masons, to vindicate the rights of women and to place her above the vicissitudes and misfortunes of life. No look that threatens her with insult will pass unrevenge by any true and loyal knight of our Order. We feel that if woman is degraded from her elevated rank, society would be at once resolved into chaos and confusion. Instead of being blessed with her animating presence, a cheerless gloom would brood over our social relations, and man would be without a "light to his feet and a lamp to his path." Yes—

"Where'er we wander, East or West,
Tho' fate begins to low'r,
A solace she is to us
In sorrow's lonely hour.
When tempests lash our gallant bark,
And rend our shiver'd mast,
Fair woman's form withstands the storm—
She's constant to the last;
And when our fevered lips are parch'd
On Afric's burning sands,
She whispers hopes of happiness,
And tales of distant lands.
Our life had been a wilderness,
Unbless'd by Fortune's gales,
Had fate not link'd our lot to hers,
And filled our happy sails."

Loyalty to the sex is the distinguishing characteristic of every genuine Craftsman, and he that proves recreant to this trust we discard as an exotic! Although woman is not permitted to share in our labours, yet our wages are freely and liberally divided with her. The uninitiated may disbelieve our professions, but the testimony of thousands and tens of thousands of widows and orphans rises up in judgment against them and condemns them.

The charity of Masons, like the dew of Hermon, visits its objects noiselessly and without ostentation. The destitute receive, and the world knows it not. Their necessities are relieved, and they themselves hardly know the hand that plucks them from despair. Although as yet a novice in the Craft, and only on the threshold of the Temple, I would not exchange the feelings occasioned by the little good it has made me instrumental in doing for all the honours and distinctions which the favour of the world can bestow.

There are many, however, who acknowledge the benefits arising from Masonry, but object to it on account of its secrecy. This is the main cement of our union and the foundation of its permanency. Take this away and our venerable fabric falls to the ground; abolish this, and the lovely streams which adorn and beautify the moral earth are at once swallowed up and lost in the great ocean of the world. Associated together for no pecuniary, selfish or worldly purpose, it is necessary to our ends that we should retire into the sanctuary of privacy to accomplish our noble designs. Will it, however, be denied that any benefits arise from union? The day was when such a dogma might have been advanced; but, thank God, that day is past and gone! We live, emphatically, in the age of associations; associated capital has penetrated Europe and America with artificial rivers; it has propelled the steam car with the rapidity of the wind, and ploughed our rivers with the majestic steamboat; it has dragged wealth from the bowels of the earth; has made the temperate zone subsidiary to the torrid, and the torrid to the temperate; has almost annihilated time and space, and brought together what ignorance had too long kept asunder; it has converted nations from rivals into friends, ameliorated the horrors of war, and begun to lay the foundations of that era "when the sword shall be converted into the ploughshare, and the spear into the pruning-hook." And shall it be said that an association for moral purposes ought to be discouraged? Can principle so successful in the progress of physical improvement operate injuriously when applied to the moral amelioration of mankind? Are we so much of utilitarians that everything we hold dear must be sacrificed for physical improvement? Is friendship to be proscribed? and can no temple be erected to Charity, without which all other virtues would be as "a sounding brass and tinkling cymbal"? Will it be considered as a useless waste of time to endeavour to square our actions by the principles of morality, and circumscribe our desires in every varied station of life that our lot may be cast? But I need not further interrogate; I know your answer—I appreciate it.

Masonry, like Christianity, though humble in its origin, and born as it were in a manger, has attained a lofty and elevated stand, and now numbers among its disciples many of the powerful of the earth. It is no respecter of persons, and in the sacred recesses of the Temple all meet as equals. The monarch is lost in the man; and his subjects, as men, are at once put upon an equality as Masons. Brothers of the same extended family, we share the same burthens and enjoy the same exemptions. Our labour and refreshments are one, and we sit under the same vine and the same fig-tree. This principle of our Order must commend it to the approbation of all. The feelings of human liberty and natural equality are engraved on every human heart, and an institution which recognises these feelings cannot but be right, at least in that respect. We work with our equals; and before our peers, bound to us by the strong ties of friendship, we lay our complaints. If in the chequered scenes of life, so beautifully represented by the Mosaic pavement of the Lodge, we should be overtaken by adversity or encountered by misfortune, we can lay our sorrows before our Brothers unsubjected to the censorious criticism of a cold and unfeeling world. Should an untoward fate consign a Brother's wife and children to a premature widowhood and orphanage, his dying bed will feel soft from the gratifying reflection that he leaves behind him those who will be a friend to the widow and a father to the orphan. Oh, who would not flee to this city of refuge from the persecutions, bickerings and casualties of this world? Who would not search for the trestleboard of Masonry, on which he will find drawn those beautiful designs from which he can build up his own happiness and that of his family here and hereafter. I cannot tell what others may feel, but as for myself, when I look at the ancient origin of our Institution, the sacred character of its patrons, the universality of its extent, comprehending the four quarters of the globe, and knitting together into one family men of every tribe, kindred and tongue; the unbroken chain of tradition which leads us back to the early ages, and has transmitted to us unwritten and unimpaired the landmarks of our Order; when I see it silently, like a ministering angel, relieving the wants of the needy, administering comfort to the brokenhearted, inculcating the cardinal virtues and enjoining "peace and good will to men," I am forced to exult in the badge of a Mason, and to admit that it is more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honourable than the Star or Garter, and more lasting than the pearls of princes or the diadems of kings.

Will it then any longer be contended that this Institution is injurious, and ought to be discontinued? Can a moral arch, the keystone of which is benevolence, be detrimental to the interests of a community? Can an edifice contrived by wisdom, supported by strength, and adorned by beauty, offend the taste of the most fastidious? Will the ignorant and designing, for selfish purposes, continue to aim the shafts of malice against it on account of its supposed danger to republican institutions? The charge carries on its face its own refutation. Look at the long and distinguished list of republicans who have adorned and still adorn our Order, and you can no longer doubt. See at the head of it the sage of Mt. Vernon, the warrior of America and the patriot of the world, who said to his native land, "Let there be light!" and there was light; the man who spoke and fought millions of human beings into the blessings of freedom; who knew how to conquer not only armies, but himself; who would have been deified by the ancients and is adored by us, and whose monument is built in the hearts of freemen everywhere. See next on the scroll the name of the French Marquis who adjured monarchy to fight for republicanism; who left the ease and luxuries of the Old World to battle in the cause of the New; and who, after he had seen the "stars and stripes" firmly planted on the ruins of Tyranny, returned to his country, carrying back with him his republican principles, and endeavouring to give to the great nation of his birth the principles of a rational liberty. Look again and you will see the name of the bold and intrepid Franklin, who at one time seized the fiery bolt of heaven's wrath, and conducted it harmless to the earth; at another, when he saw the mountain wave of faction hanging over the little vessel of state, and just about to strike it into the yawning gulf beneath, threw oil upon the threatening billow, averted impending destruction, and calmed the elemental fury of the human passions; and yet at another condescending to teach his fellow citizens the principles of economy, and to communicate in distiches truths which have infused happiness into many an humble cottage, and which of themselves entitle him to immortality. There, too, you will find the name of Thomas Jefferson, the friend of man, the foe of tyrants, the author of the sentiment that "Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God;" the man, every event of whose life seemed to act out the proud motto of that unterrified commonwealth that gave him birth—"Sic semper tyrannis."

Take another view and you will see the names of a Jackson, a DeWitt Clinton, a Livingstone, a Clay, and a thousand other stars of the first magnitude which adorn the republican galaxy and at the same time have been humble votaries at the shrine of Freemasonry. Their patriotism cannot be questioned, and will a calumny be thrown out upon their memories and their names in the shape of an attack on the venerable Institution which they adorned by their virtues and illustrated by their genius? Forbid it, justice!—forbid it, gratitude!

Abuses no doubt have been committed under the sacred name of Masonry, but it met not with her sanction. Errors will attend the progress of everything human and of every institution, however good may be its objects. Judas betrayed his Master, and yet the other eleven merit neither censure nor execration for his purchased treachery. Christians, so called, have tied to the stake and burned unoffending victims for the exercise of freedom of thought; and yet the religion which they professed and profaned teaches forbearance, mercy and love. The abuses of Christianity have been many and great, and as well for these causes might you proscribe the one as the other. No! such missiles when directed against the shield and panoply of truth are blunted, and fall innocuous at her feet or recoil upon those that winged their arrowy flight. Whatever may be the trials and tribulations of Masonry, its onward march is certain as destiny; she follows in the wake of empire, of civilisation and of Christianity; and wherever their banners are planted her temples will spring up at their side!

It is a melancholy reflection, my dear friends, that we must all soon pass to the cold and silent tomb. The sands of life are rapidly, though imperceptibly, passing away from the hour-glass of each and every one of us, and "the places which know us now will soon know us no more forever." Our young and beautiful country will rise and culminate, but her sun, like that of all other nations, must set. The decline and fall of every nation is as certain as its rise and progress; and although every patriot may pray in his heart "esto perpetua," yet it is a dream which posterity can never realise. But although we and nations must go the way of all living, Masonry will outlive the mutations of man and of empires! Her existence is independent of national compacts! Her home and country are the whole earth! Founded on the affections of the human heart, which are always and everywhere the same, her temple is unsubjected to the gusts of human passions, the tempest of faction, and the rage of party violence! There black clouds may hover around and discharge their thunders at her base, but eternal sunshine rests upon her head, lifted far above the rage of terrestrial tumult! So will it be! "So mote it be!" Christians, encourage it, for it is the beautiful

handmaid of religion. Citizens, protect it, for it is the conservative of social order. Parents, revere it, for it may reclaim your beloved offspring from vice, and lead them in the pleasant path of virtue! Women, cherish it, for although its labours are not yours, yet you are, and always shall be, the chosen recipients of its bounties! Patriots, foster it, for in the battle's front those who have been taught to wipe away the tear of the widow and orphan will not be found wanting.

As for you, my honoured Brothers, who have been initiated into the mysteries of the temple, who know and appreciate its objects, it is unnecessary for me to urge upon you their importance. I may be permitted, however, with great humility, to press upon you the necessity of strictly adhering to its principles. This portion of Masonry's vineyard is committed to our keeping, and oh! may we be enabled to give a good account of our stewardship. We are acting not only for ourselves and country, but for the cause of Masonry throughout the world. Men, as we are, and fallible as we must be, subject to a thousand temptations, may Divine assistance enable us to avoid them all. May we live together in unity and peace, and may the endeared appellation of Brother prove to us something more than a name. May all bickerings and contentions be banished forever from our associations, and may brotherly love prevail in all our Lodges. May our light so shine that others, seeing our good works, may receive profit thereby. The world is not only regarding our efforts at self-government with anxious eyes, but our Brotherhood everywhere view our efforts in the cause of our Order with great solicitude. Let us, then, on this natal day of one of our brightest lights, dedicate ourselves anew to the service of the temple: let us swear, like Hannibal to his country, unchanging fealty to her honour and her laws; let it be a new starting place, an era in our search after light and truth; and let us run with honour the race that is set before us. May we catch a new inspiration from the enlivening scenes around us, the sanctity of the day, the invocation of Divine grace, and the sweet strains of music poured forth by woman's voice, softening and mellowing all within their hallowed influence. Heaven has vouchsafed to us these proud privileges; let them not be "as pearls cast before swine."—"Voice of Masonry."

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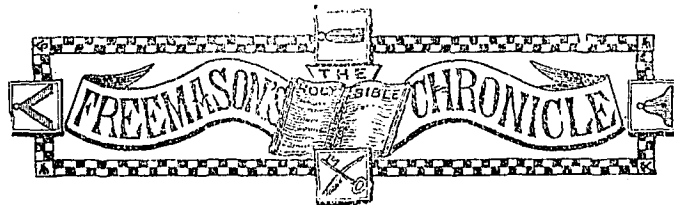
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SATURDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 1898.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE September meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday night, at Freemasons' Hall, with Bros. J. H. Matthews in the President's chair, D. D. Mercer in the Senior Vice President's, and C. A. Cottebrune in the Junior Vice President's. Bros. W. Lake Assistant Grand Secretary, W. Dodd, and G. S. Recknell represented the Grand Secretary's office.

The Brethren confirmed the recommendations made at the August meeting, that the Grand Master should approve of grants between £25 and £40 to several cases, amounting in the whole to £230, and then dealt with the new list, on which there were sixteen petitioners. These were disposed of by adjourning the consideration of two petitions, dismissing one, and voting to the remainder a total of £315, of which Grand Lodge was asked to sanction a gift of £75, and another of £50. The Grand Master was asked to approve of £30 being granted in two cases. Four grants were made of £20 each, one petitioner was awarded £15, three petitioners received £10 each, and a foreign Brother was granted £5.

Brocklesby Hall, in North Lincolnshire, the ancestral seat of the Earl of Yarborough Provincial Grand Master of Lincolnshire, was destroyed by fire six months since. The Earl has now decided to rebuild the mansion, and the works will be commenced in about a fortnight. Up to March 1898 Brocklesby was always regarded as one of the finest "places" in Lincolnshire. This was especially the case during the lifetime of the grandfather of the present Earl. The Earl of Yarborough of 50 years since (who was, in his time, head of Freemasonry of Lincolnshire) was not only a nobleman, but he was emphatically a man also—that is, a man in the highest and noblest sense of the word. He was a gentleman of intelligence, enterprise, and far-sighted views. It was largely due to his influence that Grimsby was elevated from a small fishing village to one of the principal ports of the country. His lordship also rendered great assistance in extending what is known as the Great Central Railway from Grimsby to Brigg and Retford in one direction, and to Market Rasen and Lincoln in another. He was, further, a man of cool intrepidity, as was shown when his yacht sunk beneath him off the Norfolk coast. In 1849 Brocklesby was visited by the Prince Consort, and the muster of tenantry on the lawn in front of the mansion greatly impressed the royal visitor. The tenantry were devoted to their landlord, and gladly turned out upon the occasion. They were a tenantry without leases, but notwithstanding this tenant families had occupied farms upon the property from generation to generation; and it was the rule with the Earl that when a farmer died his widow was never required to leave, even if her family was quite young. The one condition which the Earl made with his tenantry was that everyone of them must keep a hunter and go out with him with the Brocklesby hounds to hunt the fox.—"East Midlands Gossip," in "Eastern Daily Press."

The "Craftsman," the organ of Freemasonry in Wales, announces the establishment shortly of a new Lodge at Briton Ferry.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Monday.

79 Pythagorean, Greenwich
1540 Chaucer, Southwark
1632 Stuart, Camberwell
1745 Farringdon (Without), Via. H'tl
1828 Shepherd's Bush, S'pherd's B'sh
48 Industry, Gateshead
62 Social, Manchester
85 Faithful, Harleston
102 Unanimity, North Walsham
491 Royal Sussex, Jersey
543 Cleveland, Stokesley
613 Unity, Southport
737 Wentworth, Wellingboro'
985 Alexandra, Sutton Bridge
1218 Prince Alfred, Mossley
1258 Kennard, Pontypool
1280 Walden, Saffron Walden
1312 St. Mary, Bocking
1325 Stanley, Liverpool
1575 Clive, Drayton
1895 Thames, Henley
1991 Agricola, York
2042 Apollo, Liverpool
2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.
2187 Adur, Henfield
2257 Powell, Bristol
2363 Minnehaha Minstrel, M'chester.
2429 Research, Leicester
2547 Llangattock, Cardiff
2582 Lewisham, Smethwick

Tuesday.

141 Faith, Anderton's
186 Industry, Freemasons'-hall
1158 Southern Star, Southwark
1441 Ivy, Camberwell
126 Silent Temple, Burnley
160 True Friendship, Rochford
253 Tyrian, Derby
299 Emulation, Dartford
310 Union, Carlisle
373 Socrates, Huntingdon
484 Faith, Newton-le-Willows
564 Stability, Stourbridge
597 St. Cybi, Holyhead

624 Abbey, Burton-on-Trent
779 Ferrers & Ivanhoe, Ashby'Z'ch
789 Dunheved, Launceston
943 Sincerity, Norwich
954 St. Aubyn, Devonport
1016 Elkington, Birmingham
1052 Callander, Manchester
1358 Torbay, Paignton
1390 Whitwell, Millon
1479 Halsey, St. Albans
1522 Olicana, Ilkley
1536 United Military, Plumstead
1566 Ellington, Maidenhead
1580 Cranbourne, Hatfield
1609 Liverpool Dramatic, Liverpool
1636 St. Cecilia, Brighton
1675 Ancient Briton, Liverpool
1834 Duke of Connaught, Landport
1896 Audley, Newport, Salop
2025 St. George, Plymouth
2404 Lord Charles Beresford, Ch't'm.

Wednesday.

753 Prince Fred. Will'm., Frascati
754 High Cross, Tottenham
898 Temperance in East, Poplar
1056 Victoria, Guildhall Tavern
1360 Royal Arthur, Wimbledon
2332 Borough of G'n'wich, E. G'wich
2562 Papyrus, Criterion
32 St. Geo. Harmony, Liverpool
76 Economy, Winchester
82 Foundation, Cheltenham
86 Loyalty, Prescott
117 Salopian of Charity, Shrewsbury
163 Integrity, Manchester
220 Harmony, Garston
257 Phoenix, Portsmouth
540 Stuart, Bedford
606 Segontium, Caernarvon
651 Brecknock, Brecon
724 Derby, Liverpool
818 Philanthropic, Abergavenny
996 Soudes, East Dereham
1039 St. John, Lichfield
1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
1193 Doric, Wymondham

1219 Strangeways, Manchester
1343 Saint John, Grays
1520 Earl Shrewsbury, Cannock
1543 Rosslyn, Dunmow
1633 Avon, Manchester
1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown
1723 St. George, Bolton
1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool
1760 Leopold, Scarborough
1783 Albert Edward, Huddersfield
1793 Sir Charles Bright, Teddington
1809 Fidelis, Guernsey
1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard
1967 Beacon Court, New Brompton
2019 Crook, Crook
2120 Abbey, Chertsey
2149 Gordon, Hanley
2216 Egerton, Swinton
2283 Euston, St. Neots
2320 St. Martin, Castleton
2357 Barry, Cadoxton
2385 Godson, Oldbury
2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames
2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs

Thursday.

General Committee Girls School,
Freemasons' Hall, at 5.
1524 Duke of Connaught, Anderton's
2192 Highbury, Highbury
2264 Chough, Cannon Street Hotel
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
111 Restoration, Darlington
116 Royal Lancashire, Colne
129 Union, Kendal
208 Three Gd. Principles, Dewsbury
275 Harmony, Huddersfield
276 Good Fellowship, Chelmsford
283 Amity, Haslingden
318 True and Faithful, Helston
332 Virtue and Silence, Hadleigh
337 Candour, Uppermill
475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
590 La Cesaree, Jersey
630 St. Cuthbert, Howden
636 De Ogle, Morpeth
707 St. Mary, Bridport
710 Pleiades, Totnes
772 Pilgrim, Glastonbury
807 Cabbell, Norwich

904 Phoenix, Rotherham
966 St. Edward, Leek
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
1164 Eliot, St. Germans
1166 Clarendon, Hyde
1235 Phoenix St. Ann, Buxton
1313 Fernor, Southport
1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
1519 Albert Edward, Clay'n-le-Moors
1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
2091 Castleberg, Settle
2269 Peace, Wigan
2418 Hedworth, South Shields

Friday.

Council Boys School, Freemasons
Hall, at 4

602 North York, Middlesbrough
810 Craven, Skipton
1303 Pelham, Lewes
1385 Gladsmuir, Barnet
1391 Commercial, Leicester
1435 Annesley, Nottingham
1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
2415 Tristram, Shildon
2431 Kingsley, Northampton

Saturday.

1572 Carnarvon, Albion
1622 Rose, Camberwell
1949 Brixton, Kennington
2466 Cheerybles, Freemasons'-hall
149 Peace, Meltham
370 St. George, Chertsey
444 Union, Starcross
1223 Amherst, Riverhead
1388 Canynge, Bristol
1460 Thames Valley, Hampton Ct.
1550 Prudence, Plymouth
1567 Elliot, Feltham
2054 Wilson Iles, Rickmansworth
2096 George Price, Croydon
2331 Ravencroft, Barnet
2442 St. Clement, Leigh
2493 Vale of Eden, Appleby
2499 North Kent, Bexley Heath
2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

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JEW'S AS FREEMASONS.

IN the eleventh volume of *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* there is an elaborate article on the Masonic MSS. in the Bodleian Library, by W. J. Chetwode Crawley; and in the Calendar of the Rawlinson MSS., No. 30 (page 30), there is introduced the name of Mr. Daniel Delvalle. In the *Daily Post* of Friday (not Monday), 22nd September 1732, the following paragraph appeared:—"On Sunday about two in the afternoon was held a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, at the Rose Tavern, in Cheapside, where, in the presence of several Brethren of Distinction, as well Jews as Christians, Mr. Edward Rose was admitted of the Fraternity, by Mr. Daniel Delvalle, an eminent Jew snuff merchant, the Master, Captain Wilmot, &c., who were entertained very handsomely; and the evening was spent in a manner not infringing on the Morality of the Christian Sabbath."

In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1732, ii., 966, the paragraph appears thus:—"Sunday, 17th September 1732. At the Rose Tavern, Cheapside, was held a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, when Mr. Edward Rose, of the said tavern was admitted of the fraternity, by Mr. Daniel Delvalle, an eminent Jew snuff-merchant, Master, in the presence of several Brethren of distinction, both Jews and Christians, for whom was a handsome entertainment." The Editor of the *Grub Street Journal* says: "These Jews, I fear, entertained no very favourable notion of this manner of keeping the Christian Sabbath." (Thursday, 18th September 1732).

In endeavouring to trace the word "Mason" to its origin, "your most affectionate Brother A. H." writing in the *Grub Street Journal*, No. 163, 8th February 1732-1733, says that "there are some wicked persons who, I know, would derive this name from the Papish mass which I own is of a very intricate nature, yet must I reject such a malevolent supposition if it was only because so many zealous Protestants, nay, even Jews, the constant enemies of transubstantiation, are accepted Brethren."

"It further deserves notice," says the writer of a letter in *The Craftsman*, No. 593, 16th April 1737, "how artfully they have dispersed themselves in different Lodges through all parts of the Kingdom, and particularly in this great metropolis: as it were on purpose to beat up for volunteers, in which they not only admit Turks, Jews, Infidels, but even Jacobites, non-Jurors," &c., &c.

By a coincidence, designed or undesigned, the very next paragraph in the *Daily Post* states:—"Last Monday (18th September 1732) the Jews observed in a very strict manner their Annual Fast in memory of the destruction of Jerusalem." If these dates are accurate—though the introduction of the "Destruction of Jerusalem" renders it doubtful—Mr. Daniel Delvalle, the Master, initiated Mr. Edward Rose on the Eve of Kippur.

This is said to be the first definite record of the admission of Hebrew Brethren: the date being 17th September 1732. And certainly the affair produced a little excitement, for in *Fog's Journal*, No. 204, Saturday, 30th September 1732, there is the usual advertisement that "At the Oratory, the corner of Lincolns Inn Fields near Clare Market, to-morrow . . . in the evening at six," there will be "another question whether a Jew can be a Mason, or a Mason can be made on a Sunday, caused by a letter on a late Making in Cheapside." In the following number, 205, of *Fog's Journal* for Saturday, 7th October 1732, it is announced that "At the Oratory, the corner of Lincoln's Inn Fields, near Clare Market, on Wednesday (11th October 1732) the case of the Jew Masons (will be) fully cleared, and the affair of the Bricklayers' Lodge from *Barbican* to the *Rose* in Cheapside discussed." The Oratory was the scene of Orator Henley's performances. In the MSS. Department of the British Museum there are more than forty volumes of Orator Henley's sermons and lectures, in his own handwriting, extending from 1729 to 1756; but diligent search has hitherto failed to discover the oration about Jew Masons. The *Rose* Lodge, or the "Lodge at the *Rose*," held its first meeting on 27th December 1732, and the name of Daniel Delvalle stands twenty-ninth on the list of members; the "*Rose*" was held previously "at the Bricklayers' Arms in Barbican" it having been originally constituted 26th January 1730, the Master being a snuff merchant, and Mr. James Carrington, who officiated as Junior Warden, being a tobacco merchant. According to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, xxxviii., 447, James Carrington, Esq., father to the Rev. Mr. Carrington, Chancellor of Exeter, died on 6th September 1768. Daniel Delvalle appears to have been Master of the *Rose* Lodge up to 8th July 1734, when he settled accounts, from which

accounts it was shown that the Lodge was in debt to its Master in the sum of £15 19s 8d. Thus far Daniel Delvalle; it remains yet to be discovered when and in which Lodge he was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. "Mr. Delvalle, a Jew merchant, died in Bunhillfields, August 1 1737." (*Gentleman's Magazine*, vii. 514).

Some difference of opinion exists as to when Jews first entered the ranks of speculative Masonry. In 1725 the Register contains the names of Israel Segalas, of Solomon's Temple Lodge, Hemming's Row, and Nicholas Abraham, of the Golden Lyon Lodge, Dean Street. In 1730-2 the Register contains names of members of No. 84 at Daniel's Coffee House, Lombard Street, viz., Solomon Mountford, Solomon Mendez, Abraham Ximinez, Jacob Alvares, Isaac Baruch, and Abraham de Medina. Grand Stewards 1738-9, Moses Mendez and Samuel Lowman.

With regard to a Lodge having been founded and "started" by Jews, the earliest instance given (*) is Lebeck's Head Lodge, constituted 24th August 1759, for which there were twenty-three petitioners, thirteen of whom have "unmistakably Jewish names." And as to nine, these are they: "Founders, Initiates, Officers:—Jacob Moses, Lazars Levy, Edward Morley, Solomon Levy, Jacob Arons, Senur Warden, Yoel; Secatary, Henry Lyon; Tresher (Treasurer), Ross; Past Master, Moses Levy." But reaching 1759 brings the student within a short distance of the date of the foundation of the Lodge known as the "*Joppa*," which still flourishes.

Many years since an ingenious gentleman, anxious to connect Jews with Freemasonry at a remote period, endeavoured to prove that an early Lodge, if not the very first Lodge, was held by Moses.—MATTHIAS LEVY, in "*Jewish Chronicle*."

(*) Mr. Henry Sadler, "*Masonic Facts and Fictions*," London, 1887.

The Grand Masters Mark Lodge of Instruction will resume its working on the 7th proximo, and meetings will be held on the first and third Fridays of the winter months, at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, at 6 p.m. sharp, for the rehearsal of the ceremonies of advancement and installation. The Lodge is presided over by Bro. Dr. Reynolds Green P.G.D. as Preceptor, with Bro. C. F. Matier P.G.W. Mark Grand Secretary as Treasurer, and Bro. John Smith P.G. Steward as Secretary. Mark clothing is worn at the meetings.

Votes of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys are requested for Arthur James Thos. Holdom, aged 7½ years, son of the late Bro. George Thomas Holdom P.M. of the Lodge of St. John, No. 1306, and P.Z. of the Lily Chapter of Richmond, No. 820. Bro. Holdom was a commercial traveller, representing an eminent London firm. He was taken ill when on one of his journeys to Norwich; he underwent a serious operation in Norwich Hospital, and was not allowed by the doctors to return to London, therefore his home had to be broken up and transferred to Norwich, and after a long and painful illness he died in the above-mentioned city on 2nd August 1895, leaving his wife and four children totally unprovided for. Bro. Holdom was a Life Governor of the R.M.B.I., and had rendered assistance to other Masonic Institutions on many occasions. The case is strongly recommended by a large number of the best known Masons of the East End of London, headed by the veteran Bro. C. Lacey P.M. and P.Z. 174 P.G.S.D. Herts., of Exmouth Street, Stepney, E. We had the pleasure of knowing the late Bro. Holdom for many years, and shall be personally obliged to any of our readers who can spare a few votes for either of the Institutions on behalf of his orphan son. The proxies may be sent to Bro. Charles Lacey, or to the widow, Mrs. Holdom, Hawthorns, Prince of Wales Road, Cromer.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THE funeral of the late Bro. T. N. Richardson S.D. of the Borough Lodge, No. 424, took place at Gateshead Cemetery on the 13th. The deceased was held in high esteem by the members of the Fraternity, and a large number were present at the interment. The burial service was impressively read by the Rev. F. L. Cope, vicar of St. Cuthbert's and Chaplain of the Borough Lodge, and at the conclusion the usual beautiful Masonic hymns were sung.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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We shall be pleased to receive particulars of Masonic meetings for insertion in our columns, and where desired will endeavour to send a representative, to report Lodge or other proceedings.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

—:o:—

NEW CONCORD LODGE, No. 813.

A MEETING of this popular Lodge was held on Thursday, 15th inst., at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street, E.C. In the absence of Bro. George Simpson Worshipful Master the chair of K.S. was occupied by the highly esteemed Bro. John Moore I.P.M., who was most ably assisted by the following Officers and Brethren: R. Clarke S.W., J. Lewon J.W., H. J. Gabb P.M. Treasurer, A. Potter P.M. Sec., W. Johnson S.D., J. W. Couch J.D., J. Howard I.G., T. Petchell Stwd., Edw. Johnson Organist, Right Rev. C. J. Stevens, D.D., LL.D. Chaplain, A. Turbefeild Tyler; Past Masters H. J. Blake and C. H. Ockleford; Bros. J. Love, W. H. Angell, J. Isaacs, W. Venner, A. Larcher, G. Innes, J. Van Helden, L. Wild, A. Levesque, W. Hammon, A. Bussy, J. Bray, S. J. Britton, and others.

Visitors: Bros. A. Lothian S.D. 1900, J. Otto 2467, and J. Wynman.

The Lodge being formed the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Bros. A. Larcher and W. Venner, who had been initiated at the previous meeting, were examined, and having answered the usual questions in a very satisfactory manner were entrusted and retired.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and those Brethren were in due course passed as Craftsmen. This ceremony being ended the Worshipful Master proceeded to examine Bros. J. Isaacs and G. Innes for the third degree, and those Brethren having also answered the questions to the satisfaction of the Brethren were entrusted.

The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the last named Brethren were raised as Master Masons. The two degrees were rendered in the well known and perfect manner of Bro. Moore, to the entire satisfaction of the Brethren.

The W.M. then resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and after a few communications by the Secretary, and well earned compliments and hearty good wishes from the Brethren and Visitors, the Lodge was closed in harmony.

The Brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where an excellent dinner was provided, in the high class style for which this old establishment is so well known. Bro. J. Marsham, Superintendent of the Tavern, attended to the guests with the greatest promptitude.

At the termination of the dinner the customary Loyal toasts were given from the chair, and received with Masonic honours.

The next toast the acting W.M. had very much pleasure to propose was that of the W.M. of the Lodge Bro. Simpson, who had gone for a well earned holiday. He hoped he would have an enjoyable time, which wish the Brethren most heartily endorsed.

Past Master Blake in an elegant manner proposed the health of the presiding Master, saying it was a pleasure to have witnessed his working on that occasion. It had been rendered in his usually able manner.

Bro. Moore who, on rising, was most heartily received, said it was a pleasure to him to preside once again as W.M. at the Lodge. He was more pleased to hear he had given satisfaction.

The acting W.M. proposed the health of the Visitors, feeling sure that if Bro. Simpson the Worshipful Master was present he would desire to give the guests of the evening the heartiest of welcomes. The New Concord Lodge was always pleased to see Visitors, and hoped those who now attended would be present at future gatherings.

The Visitors acknowledged the toast in suitable terms.

The toast of the Past Masters was next submitted, the chairman referring to them as the stars of the Lodge, who did everything in their power to make the New Concord one of the brightest Lodges in the metropolis. The toast received a hearty reception.

Bro. Blake, in responding, said that the past rulers of the Lodge had its interests at heart. They were proud of being Past Masters of the Lodge, and would be most happy to render any assistance to the Brethren that was required of them.

Bro. C. H. Ockleford P.M. also acknowledged the compliment in a few appropriate words.

The acting W.M. had now very much pleasure to propose the toast of the Officers of the Lodge. It was a satisfaction to work with them, as they understood their work to perfection. They had rendered him great assistance, for which he sincerely thanked them. The Rev. Bro. Stevens Chaplain of the Lodge had been a member for over twenty years, and they hoped to see him for another twenty or thirty years at least in the New Concord Lodge. The Treasurer and Secretary were hard working members, and he was well aware they did their work for the love of Masonry. He could not let the opportunity pass without complimenting Bro. Potter Secretary for the perfect manner in which he had arranged the summer outing, and on behalf of the Ladies he also had to thank him for the great care and attention he had shown them. All had enjoyed themselves immensely on that occasion, and he was sure the Brethren had done the same.

Bro. Gabb Treasurer, in his usual eloquent manner, thanked the W.M. for his compliments.

Bro. Potter Secretary said he was not sorry that Bro. Simpson the Worshipful Master of the Lodge was not present, because he was well aware the W.M. was enjoying his holidays. About the summer outing, he was very pleased to hear the Brethren had enjoyed themselves, and especially so that the Ladies had done so likewise. Knowing that all were satisfied he looked back upon the work it entailed as a pleasure. He finished by thanking the acting W.M. for his kind remarks, and the Brethren for having received the toast in so cordial a manner.

Bro. Stevens Chaplain thanked the W.M. for his very kind remarks. Whatever he could do for the welfare of the Lodge he would be most happy to undertake.

The W.M. next asked the Brethren to honour a silent toast in memory of the late wife of Bro. Sprake P.M. of the Lodge, who was highly esteemed by all. The deceased lady was one of the most charitable women in existence, and when he was at her graveside he heard several remark that

another of the best of friends had gone. She was always willing to help those in need. The Brethren responded in an impressive silent toast.

Other toasts followed, and the Tyler brought one of the most pleasant Masonic evenings possible to a termination.

INSTRUCTION.

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WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

ON Tuesday, at the Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, W., the chair was occupied by the Worshipful Master of the Mother Lodge Bro. F. Wortham, with G. Knight S.W., C. Halston J.W., H. Dehane P.M. Preceptor, R. J. Rogers P.M. Treas., G. Mogford P.M. Sec., G. Crow S.D., Tucker J.D., G. Bagnall I.G., T. Mogford P.M., W. H. Handover, W. DeMaid, T. Matthews; H. Foskell P.M., J. Wynman, A. J. Elliott.

Previous to the working the Worshipful Master received the hearty congratulations of the Brethren, who wished him many happy returns of the day, the anniversary of his birth. The compliment was suitably acknowledged.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Matthews being the candidate, after which Bro. W. DeMaid answered the questions leading to the second degree and retired. Bro. Handover was entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the second degree and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed.

Bro. H. Foskell I.P.M. No. 1642 was elected a member, the compliment being appreciated. Bro. George Mogford P.M. of the Bloomsbury Rifles Lodge and Secretary of the Westbourne Lodge of Instruction was unanimously elected to preside next Wednesday. The known ability and the popularity of that Brother should ensure a large attendance and a satisfactory evening's work.

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ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

ON Thursday, 15th inst., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, Bros. S. W. Keene W.M., F. J. Cross S.W., H. R. Worth J.W., F. J. Larkman Treas., J. H. Cumming Sec., R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Middx. Prec., W. Langdon S.D., J. Dennis J.D., R. W. Robinson I.G., E. H. Wilcox Stwd., H. T. Johnson, A. W. Bridger, T. W. Osman, and others.

Bro. F. J. Osman answered the questions, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Lodge was resumed to the first degree and called off and on. Afterwards the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Johnson being candidate.

Bro. F. W. Osman, Benevolence Lodge, No. 446, Wells, was unanimously elected a member. Bro. F. J. Cross was selected to preside at the next meeting.

The attention of the Brethren was drawn to the fact that the West London Election Association had taken up the case of Marguerite Knott, and they were asked to support it.

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SOUTHERN STAR LODGE, No. 1158.

ON Thursday, at Bro. W. Rugg's Ship Tavern, Kennington Road, S.E., Bros. N. Dickenson W.M., M. Mc Vey S.W., G. Body J.W., C. Johnson Prec., T. Green S.W. 1158 Sec., T. Davies S.D., Blum J.D., Cooper I.G., Janeway P.M., Whiting P.M., Wynman.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree, and Bro. Johnson, with the assistance of the Brethren, worked the first section of the lecture. The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, when Bro. Janeway answered the questions leading to the second degree, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bro. Cooper answered the questions leading to the third degree. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Davies, who rehearsed the investiture of Officers, Bro. Johnson acting as D.C.

The Fifteen Sections will be worked in this Lodge on the 3rd Thursday in October. Bro. Whitaker P.M. was unanimously elected to occupy the chair on that occasion.

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HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

ON Monday, at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, Bishop's Road, W., Bros. J. R. Beardon W.M., W. H. Smith S.W., C. B. Lumley J.W., H. Foskell P.M. 1642 Dep. Preceptor, H. Dehane P.M. Sec., G. Riemann S.D., G. Mogford P.M. 2362 J.D., F. W. Bates I.G., T. Middleweek W.M. 1793 Steward, J. Duff Smith, W. Lincham, J. Wynman, W. H. Handover.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Duff Smith acting as candidate. The Lodge was called off and on, when the W.M. kindly vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Thomas Middleweek W.M. 1793, who rehearsed the second degree, with Bro. Handover acting as the candidate.

Bro. Beardon having re-occupied the chair resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and Bro. W. H. Smith was unanimously elected to preside on Monday next.

Bro. George Mogford made a strong appeal to the Brethren on behalf of Charlotte Josephine Jacobs, a candidate for the October election of the Girls School. The Lodge having a few votes were pleased to hand them to Bro. Mogford.

Bro. Middleweek thanked the W.M. for having allowed him to rehearse the ceremony of passing.

Bro. Foskell Dep. Preceptor proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the able manner in which Bro. Middleweek had rehearsed that ceremony, which compliment was duly acknowledged, and the Lodge was closed.

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CHISWICK LODGE, No. 2012.

ON Saturday, 10th inst., at the Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith, Bros. H. J. Cousens W.M., J. H. Cumming S.W., W. Hyde J.W., Arthur Williams P.M. 884 2090 Acting Secretary, K. M. Ross S.D., R. Reid J.D., J. Atkinson I.G., E. Wilkins, and others.

Bro. Reid answered the questions, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Lodge was called off and on. The first and second sections of the first Lecture were worked under the direction of Bro. Arthur Williams.

Bro. Arthur Williams spoke of the excellent work the West London

Masonic Election Committee was doing in their midst, and asked the Brethren to support the case of Marguerite Knott.

ON Saturday, 17th inst., Bros. John H. Cumming P.M. W.M., Robert Reid S.W., E. Wilkins J.W., F. Craggs Treas. and acting Sec., Arthur Williams P.M. 834 2090 Preceptor, W. Herring S.D., H. J. Cousens J.D., J. Atkinson I.G., L. Powell, and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Herring acting as candidate, after which the Lodge was opened in the second and third degrees and then closed down to the first. The first section of the first lecture was worked by the Brethren, under the direction of the able Preceptor.

Bro. R. Reid was elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting.

By the unanimous vote of the Brethren the W.M. was deputed to hand the votes for both the Boys and Girls Schools to Bro. Arthur Williams, the Secretary of the West London Election Association, and we can assure our readers that in his hands they are always used to the very best advantage at the five elections of the year.

ROYAL VICTORIAN JUBILEE LODGE, No. 2184.

(LATE THE TERRIERS.)

ON Wednesday afternoon, at the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster Bridge Road, Bros. A. Collins W.M., B. Cohen S.W., F. Holden J.W., C. Wetton Dep. Prec., D. Anderson S.D., J. Wynman J.D., H. Andrews I.G., C. Randall Steward.

The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Andrews being the candidate. The ceremony of raising was also rehearsed, Bro. Randall being the candidate for that degree. The W.M. gave the traditional history.

Bro. D. Anderson was elected a member, and Bro. A. Cohen W.M. for the first Wednesday in October.

BRONDESBURY LODGE, No. 2698.

AS we predicted last week would be the case Bro. M. Spiegel P.M. P.Z. P.P.G. Std. Bearer was supported by a large number of Brethren on the occasion of his presiding as W.M. of this Lodge on Wednesday, at Bro. Coxen's, the Earl of Derby, High Road, Kilburn. He was supported by Bros. A. H. Oldrey S.W., J. H. Clemens J.W., A. F. Hardymont Prec., H. Willsmer Sec., R. Campbell S.D., W. Knowles J.D., A. E. Horstead Org., G. D. Frazer I.G., J. W. Smith P.M., J. Gawthrop P.M., Coxen, Wyatt, Pardue, Hawton, Battrum, Wynman, Crook, Liddall, Symons, Ball, Stanley, &c.

After the usual formalities the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Horstead Organist of the Lodge kindly acting as candidate. By desire of the W.M., Bro. Campbell gave the ancient charge, to the great satisfaction of every Brother present. The Lodge was called off. On resuming, the W.M. opened in the second degree, and gave the explanation of the tracing board thereof, in a manner seldom equalled. The W.M. advanced the Lodge to the third degree, and closed down to the first.

Bros. Hawton and Ball were unanimously elected members, while Bro. Oldrey was chosen as W.M. for the next meeting.

Bro. Hardymont proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the excellent and perfect manner in which Bro. Spiegel had occupied the chair in the Brondesbury Lodge of Instruction for the first time, which was unanimously agreed to. Bro. Spiegel in a few appreciative words thanked the Brethren.

Bro. Hardymont proposed the election of Bro. Wynman as an Honorary Member of the Lodge, Bro. Campbell seconded, and the motion was agreed to, the Brother thus complimented returning his thanks.

PROVINCIAL.

CONCORD LODGE, No. 323.

AT the first meeting held after the summer vacation, on Wednesday, 14th inst., the members of this Lodge, of which the late Bro. Emanuel Clough was a highly respected Past Master, instructed their Secretary to forward a vote of condolence to the widow of the deceased member.

Bro. Councillor W. Johnson S.W. made touching allusions to the memory of Bro. E. Clough, who was honoured in various circles of the community, and the speaker submitted that a vote of sympathy be sent to Mrs. Clough, who had sustained so severe a loss. Bro. Johnson also moved that reference be entered on the minutes of Concord Lodge respecting the loss which the Lodge and the Craft had experienced by the death of Bro. Clough.

Bro. Cheetham and Bro. Edmondson W.M. also referred to the esteem in which the deceased was held. The proposition was then adopted.

The Secretary Bro. H. Newton intimated that he had forwarded a letter, and his action was endorsed, with commendation.

KING HAROLD LODGE, No. 1327.

THE annual installation took place on Thursday, 18th ult., at the Four Swans Hotel, Waltham Cross, when Bro. J. Priddle presided over a large attendance.

The Lodge was opened and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A unanimously favourable ballot was taken in the interest of Mr. Stephen Thomas Eeles, a candidate for initiation, who was duly accorded entrance to the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry.

Bro. P. Herriott, on giving proof of his proficiency, was entrusted, and, the Lodge being advanced, he was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft.

Bro. Park S.W. Worshipful Master-elect was then presented to receive the benefit of installation from the hands of the W.M., who addressed the Brethren, and obligated the W.M.-elect. A large Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. Henry Park was installed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom, and duly proclaimed Worshipful Master of the King Harold Lodge by Bro. J. Priddle W.M., whose ability made the impressive ceremony of exceeding interest to the Brethren, who signified their hearty appreciation by tendering him a vote of thanks, the same to be recorded on the minutes.

Bro. Henry Park W.M. then appointed and invested his Officers in a very able manner, giving to each the charge concerning the duties of his respective position. The following were invested: Bros. W. Bangs P.P.G. Orgt. Herts. S.W., E. G. Platt J.W., W. A. Sproat P.M. P.P.G.D. Herts. Treasurer, W. J. Robinson Sec., D. J. Witte S.D., G. J. Holdsworth J.D., John Robinson P.M. P.P.G.W. Herts. D.C., Lewis Cohen I.G., J. W. Crockett and D. J. Shepherd Stewards, J. S. Gregory Organist, and A. G. Young Tyler.

The Auditors' report being entirely satisfactory the balance sheet was accepted, and Bros. Sharp and Donald were accorded a hearty vote of thanks for their services as Auditors.

The W.M. consenting, he was unanimously elected to represent the Lodge on the Finance and Herts Charity Committees. There being no other business claiming immediate attention the Lodge was closed in perfect peace and harmony.

After a short adjournment an excellent banquet was served by Bro. Herriott. The usual Loyal and Craft toasts followed.

Bro. J. Priddle I.P.M., in proposing the health of the Worshipful Master, said he was exceedingly pleased to invite the Brethren to honour the toast. Bro. Park had so ably acquitted himself in the past, and was so eminently fitted to adorn the position to which he has just succeeded, that there was not the slightest doubt he would do himself credit and be an ornament to the Lodge.

The W.M., on rising to respond, was received most cordially. He thanked the Brethren for their hearty reception and the compliment accorded, and assured them he would do his best to carry out the duties of his office in such a manner as would reflect credit on the Lodge, whose welfare would be entirely his first care. He felt it was a matter for congratulation that he was to enjoy the assistance of such an able staff of Officers.

The W.M. next proposed the health of the I.P.M. Bro. Joseph Priddle, to whom, on behalf of the Lodge, it was his very great pleasure to present a handsome Past Master's jewel, as a mark of respect and esteem, and in recognition of the most estimable qualities displayed while conducting the business of the Lodge, during his term of office. Bro. Priddle had decidedly merited their appreciation, and he hoped he would live for many years to wear and cherish their gift as a memento of his Mastership.

Bro. Joseph Priddle I.P.M., in response, thanked the W.M. and Brethren for kindness shown him during his term of office. It had been his desire, since first accepting office, that when he reached the chair he would be able to enhance the reputation of the Lodge and generally promote its interests, and what he had done for the Lodge had been done with that end in view. The splendid Jewel presented to him that evening would for ever be cherished as a memento of his period of office as Worshipful Master. He thanked the Officers for the great assistance rendered him, and hoped the King Harold Officers would continue to uphold their high reputation, by a zealous attention to their duties, and by according to each successive Master their most earnest support.

During the evening a selection of vocal and instrumental music was given by Bros. D. J. Shepherd, J. T. Simmons, A. J. Maxfield, W. A. Cock, and Miss Edith Herriott, which was greatly appreciated.

Among the Past Masters present were: Bros. G. S. Metcalf I.P.M., T. Reilly P.P.G.P. Herts., J. Fisher P.P.G.Sw. Bearer Herts., W. A. Rogers P.P.G.D. Herts., F. M. Bilby P.P.G. Standard Br. Herts., W. Lewis P.P.G.P. Herts., P. L. Blackmore P.P.G. Supt. Wks. Herts., W. Metcalfe P.P.G.P. Herts., W. H. Bickel P.P.G. St. Br. Herts., H. E. Smith Prov. G. Steward, and J. Mark.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE first meeting after the recess took place at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Harley, on Friday, 2nd inst., Bro. J. R. E. Birkett W.M. The most important feature of the gathering was a rendering of the traditional history, and explanation of the tracing board of the third degree by Brother Cyril H. Beever P.M. D.C.

An early adjournment was made to the festive board, where a very pleasant evening was spent. We were previously unaware that Bro. Alfred Pickford P.M. added that of singing to his other accomplishments, but were glad to note that he distinguished himself in this direction.

Among those present were Bros. John M. Crone S.W., Hugh W. Bloomer J.W., W. T. Hesketh P.M. Secretary, A. A. Moss P.M. P.P.G.D., Councillor Jas. J. Lambert P.M. P.G.D. Visitor: Bro. J. G. Batty P.M. 1387.

[NOTE.—In answer to numerous inquiries, the Steward of the building, whose melancholy death took place a few days after the above meeting, and which was reported in the local papers, was not a member of the Craft.]

LODGE OF TRUTH, No. 1458.

DURING the summer vacation two very important changes have taken place in connection with the above Lodge; firstly, the members have left the Moseley Hotel for new quarters at the Mitre Hotel, Cathedral Gates, Manchester, special structural alterations having been made in that building for their benefit; and, secondly, an alteration has been made in the day of meeting, viz.: from Friday to the first Saturday in the month, as originally fixed.

The first meeting in the new home was on the 3rd inst., and there was a capital attendance, which seemed to justify the changes. Bro. Thomas P. Cooper W.M., who was supported by Bro. A. B. Taylor S.W., and Herbert H. Hellewell J.W., presided. A dispensation granted by the Provincial Grand Master having been read, Lodge was opened and the minutes of the regular meeting held 3rd June were confirmed.

Four ceremonies had been announced on the summons, but only two were taken, the other candidates being out of town. Mr. Ed. Jelenko, who had already been balloted for, was initiated by Bro. Alfred Hebden P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C. Dir. of Cers., assisted by Bro. Hellewell J.W., who presented and explained the working tools of the degree, after which Bro. James Holmes Moss was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. Geo. T. Lenard P.M.

A very excellent tea preceded the festive board, and the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were pleasantly relieved by songs, recitations, &c.

Among others who were present, and whose names have not been previously mentioned, were Bros. J. Pearce Treas., G. P. Taylor Sec., J. Day S.D., W. Dewhurst J.D., R. Stevenson I.G., T. H. Hall P.M., E. M. Shepherd P.M., W. J. Herring P.M., Councillor H. W. Southern, J. J. Dean, and L. J. W. Woodford.

Visitors:—Bros. H. Powell Jones P.M. 1957 and 2688 P.P.G.S.B. (host of the Mitre Hotel), Rev. J. Birch Jones 2295, C. J. Pinnell 211, David Wright 317, J. H. Baird 317, and W. Robertson 992.

CONCORD LODGE, No. 1534.

THE regular meeting was held at Chester Bank, Prestwich, on the 15th inst., Bro. H. B. Fawcett W.M.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, Mr. A. S. Woodhouse, Agent, Prestwich, was successfully balloted for and afterwards initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. This ceremony was followed by the passing into the degree of F.C. of Bro. Thos. Scholfield, after which an election of Officers took place, with the result that Bro. Dr. F. Stephenson S.W. was unanimously selected as W.M. His installation will take place on Thursday, 20th October.

GRAYSTONE LODGE, No. 1915.

THE annual installation meeting was held on Thursday, 8th inst., at Whitstable, when Bro. Mark Kemp was installed as Worshipful Master by Bro. J. Elvin W.M.

After the ceremony, which was rendered in a most impressive manner by Bro. Elvin, a banquet took place at the Bear and Key Hotel, when between fifty and sixty sat down to a recherché repast provided by Bro. J. Fielding. After dinner the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.

NEW QUARTERS AT ST. HELENS.

AFTER occupying the premises in Hall Street, St. Helens, for the past nineteen years, the business of the local Freemasons will in future be conducted in the Imperial Buildings, Ormskirk Street, which are more spacious and centrally situated, and therefore more convenient for the purpose. The Lodges meeting there are: Lodge of Loyalty, No. 897; Ionic Lodge, No. 2405; Prince of Wales Mark Lodge, No. 466; Loyalty Chapter, No. 897; William De la More Preceptory Knights Templars.

Representatives from the various Lodges, &c., and also from the Provincial Grand Lodge, attended the opening meeting on Tuesday evening, 13th inst. An excellent supper was afterwards served in the dining-room, by Bro. F. B. Taylor. There were fifty-two present.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER AT PENGE.

ON Thursday evening Bro. W. J. Blaker, "mine host" of the Waterman's Arms, Beckenham Road, Penge, gave a complimentary banquet to a number of local and other members of the Craft. Bro. J. H. Francis presided, and was supported by Bros. Dibble P.M., H. Leney P.M., and other past and present Office holders, the company numbering about twenty-five. The catering was in the hands of Bro. G. J. Ribbens, of Kent House, Beckenham Road, who put on a magnificent dinner, the menu of which redounded highly to his credit.

The usual Loyal and patriotic toasts having been duly honoured, the chairman in felicitous terms proposed the health of the "founder of the feast," Bro. W. J. Blaker, who responded in suitable terms. Bro. Ribbens also came in for a suitable compliment.

The music was of high class description, the Organist being Bro. Macadam. Altogether the occasion was a most enjoyable one, and an evening to be pleasantly remembered by both host and guests; the final scene being a vote of thanks to Bro. Francis for presiding.

Bros. C. J. R. Tijou P.G.P., W. Klingenstein, M. Spiegel, G. D. Mogford P.M. of the Bloomsbury Rifles Lodge, and several others with whom we have long been associated in Freemasonry are working to the best of their ability on behalf of Charlotte J. Jacobs (aged 9 years), who is a candidate for the benefits of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. She is the daughter of the late Bro. Joseph Jacobs, of the Harmony Lodge, No. 1411, who died suddenly, leaving a widow and six children unprovided for. Bro. Mogford will be pleased to receive proxies, at 39 Fernhead Road, St. Peter's Park, W.

The West London Masonic Election Committee are very anxious to secure the admission of Marguerite Knott, who is a candidate for the Girls School, and are appealing to the Brethren of their district to support them. Bro. J. H. Rutherglen, Past Master of the Hugh Owen Lodge, is also pleading on the girls' behalf, her father having been connected with the Poor Law Service, as Master of the Fulham Union Workhouse. Bro. Rutherglen recognises the claims made on Provincial Brethren by their local associations, but hopes that the ties of every day labour will serve to win a few votes on behalf of the child of an old colleague. At the last election 2,009 votes were recorded on the child's behalf, and it is felt at least an equal number must be secured next month to ensure success. Bro. J. H. Cumming Secretary of the Royal Alfred Lodge of Instruction, No. 780, joins in the appeal, and tells us he will be pleased to receive proxies, addressed to him at 69 Dalling Road, Hammersmith, London, W., particularly from Brethren who are or have been associated with No. 780.

ESSEX.

THE Provincial Grand Superintendent has fixed Thursday, 6th October, for the annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Chapter, which is to be held this year at Southend.

THE Great Western Railway Company announce that a half-day trip to Shakespeare's country, and to Banbury and Leamington, will leave Paddington Station at 12.2 noon on Thursday next, 29th, returning from Stratford-on-Avon at 7.20 p.m. The return fare to Banbury, Leamington, and Stratford-on-Avon will be 3s 6d.

The Theatres, &c.

Drury Lane.—7.30, The Great Ruby. Matinée, Saturday, 1.30.
 Lyceum.—8, Macbeth.
 Her Majesty's.—8.15, The Termagant. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.15.
 Haymarket.—8.30, The Little Minister. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Adelphi.—8, The Gipsy Earl.
 Criterion.—On Wednesday, The Liars. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Vaudeville.—8.20, Her Royal Highness. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
 Daly's.—8.15, A Greek Slave. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Savoy.—8.20, The Sorcerer, and Trial by Jury. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Prince of Wales's.—8, The Royal Star.
 Gaiety.—8.15, A Runaway Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
 Strand.—8.15, No credit. 9, What happened to Jones. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
 St. James's.—8.30, The Elder Miss Blossom.
 Globe.—8, Hogmanay. 8.45, Tommy Dodd. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
 Avenue.—8, Constaney. 8.30, Lord and Lady Algy. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
 Garrick.—8.15, The Secret of the Keep. 9, Teresa. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
 Terry's.—8, Meadow Sweet. 8.45, Our Boys. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
 Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
 Lyric.—8.15, Little Miss Nobody.
 Duke of York's.—8.15, The Dandy Fifth. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
 Comedy.—8, The Topsy Turvy Hotel.
 Royalty.—8, The Land of Nod.
 Grand.—Next week, The Three Musketeers.
 Parkhurst.—Next week, Valentine Smith's Opera Company.
 Queen's Opera House, Crouch End.—Next Week, The transit of Venus.
 Alexandra.—Next week, Charley's Aunt.
 Dalston.—Next week, The Gay Parisienne.
 Alhambra.—8, Variety Entertainment. Jack Ashore, &c.
 Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. "The Press" Ballet, &c.
 Palace.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c.
 London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.
 Tivoli.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2.15 also.
 Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30 also.
 Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
 Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Thursdays, Fireworks.
 Alexandra Palace.—Open Daily. Constant Amusements. Balloon Ascents. Fireworks, &c., &c.
 Royal Aquarium.—Open 10 a.m., close 11.30 p.m. Constant Amusement.

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