

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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R. M. I. GIRLS.

THE Quarterly General Court of the Governors and Subscribers of this Institution was held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Thursday, under the presidency of Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., Past Grand Warden of England Patron and Treasurer of the Institution.

The list of candidates for the April election was closed, with thirty-six applicants, the number of vacancies being sixteen. Fourteen of the candidates come forward from previous contests, the remaining twenty-two being new cases. A feature of the list is the large number of last application cases, no less than eight of the candidates being only just within the age limit, six of them being among the first applications.

The Fifteen Sections were worked at the City of Westminster Lodge of Instruction, No. 1563, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Bro. B. Da Costa P.M. 1349. We hope to give a report of the very successful meeting next week.

Referring to a recent visit to the Hampton Lodge, at Hampton House, St. Pancras, the "Merrie Villager" of the "Islington Gazette" says the members have an ideal Lodge room, and he recommends every Mason to try and see it. We fully endorse our worthy Brother's advice.

A Library in connection with a private Lodge is somewhat of a rarity, and hence it is we are pleased to record the fact that the Cornubian Lodge, No. 450, Hayle, has a collection of some 270 volumes, many of them of great value. A catalogue is being prepared, and will be issued shortly.

The members of the Duke of Connaught Lodge, No. 1524, are looking forward with considerable pleasure to the annual meeting of the Lodge, to be held on Thursday, 26th inst., when Bro. Frisby is to be installed as Master. Bro. Frisby has for many years fulfilled the duties of Organist in the Lodge, and has won a host of friends in that capacity.

Many of our readers will enjoy with us the satisfaction of knowing that Bro. George Everett P.G. Treasurer of England has almost recovered from his recent serious illness, so far so that he wrote us just before going to press that he hoped to be present at the installation meeting of the Domatic Lodge, No. 177, to be held last night. We hope his wish was realised, and that he will not feel any ill effects from his devotion to his old favourite.

The installation meeting and subsequent banquet of the Savage Club Lodge, No. 2190, always forms an important event, says the "Stage," and the next function of the sort, which will take place at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, 7th February, will be no exception to the rule, for a most distinguished body of visitors is expected to be present. The occasion will be the placing in King Solomon's chair of Bro. Eugene Barnett—a familiar figure in musical circles—and the ceremony of installation will be conducted by the retiring Master Bro. Harold Burke, not altogether unknown in the land of the painters' art. The musical portion of the programme to be gone through will be noted for both quantity and quality, as befits the circumstances.

Another candidate for the position of Masonic record breaker appears in the person of Bro. Alexander Levy P.M. of the Tranquillity Lodge, No. 185, who was presented with an address at the last meeting of that Lodge, from his fellow members, together with their hearty congratulations, on his completing fifty years membership of the Lodge. The presentation was made by the W.M. Bro. J. A. Witthaus, and was acknowledged by Bro. Alexander Levy with great emotion. It was Bro. Levy's first appearance at the Lodge after his recent severe illness, and he was cordially greeted on his return.

The Woodgrange Lodge, No. 2409, has for several years rendered valuable assistance to the West Ham Hospital through the instrumentality of a ball, and on Wednesday, 4th inst., the fifth of these enjoyable gatherings took place at the Town Hall, Stratford. The floor was in splendid condition, and nearly 300 ladies and gentlemen had a most pleasant evening. Bro. A. J. Russell acted as M.C. in an efficient manner, and Bro. Octavius E. Riche P.M. ably carried out the duties of Hon. Secretary. During an interval Mrs. Wilkinson, wife of the W.M., was presented by the Secretary with a handsome floral bouquet on behalf of the members of the Lodge.

The Masonic ball at Nottingham on the 5th inst., to commemorate the appointment of the Duke of Portland as Provincial Grand Master of Nottingham, was a great success. There were about 400 guests present, including Brethren from other Provinces. The Albert Hall was lavishly decorated, and the spectacle when dancing was in progress was a brilliant one. The Duke and Duchess of Portland were accompanied by Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P., Provincial Grand Master of Cumberland and Westmorland, Lady Henry Bentinck, Captain and Mrs. Lindsay, &c.

PRESENTATION AT CHELMSFORD.

THE annual installation meeting of the Lodge of Good Fellowship, No. 276, held at the Crane Court Rooms, Chelmsford, on Wednesday evening, 21st ult., was of more than common interest through a presentation which was made to the Lodge, and which will doubtless form one of its possessions for many years to come.

The new Worshipful Master is Bro. Fred Spalding, and the installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Robert Cook P.M. P.P.S.G.D., after which Bro. Cook presented to the Lodge a list of its Worshipful Masters from the year 1770 down to the present time. The list has been artistically illuminated on vellum by Bro. F. W. B. Stocker. It has a chaste border in red, gold, and blue, with Masonic emblems. The list has been designed, and framed in massive oak, by Bro. F. Spalding, space having been left for seventy additional names, so that when the list is completed it will contain the names of the Masters for 200 years.

The Brethren afterwards dined together at the White Hart Hotel, the company including Bro. James Terry Secretary Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Bro. Ralling Provincial Grand Secretary, &c.

[Glancing down the list of names compiled for this presentation it is curious to note how in its earlier history the same Master presided year after year in the Lodge. Thus we have Bro. William Reed as the presiding Officer for 1793 and 1799 to 1803, the interval (1794 to 1798) showing Bro. John Goulding at the head of affairs. Bro. James Butler is another who appears to have been very popular, he filling the chair in 1806, 1810, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, and 1829. There are many others who presided for two or three years in succession.—Ed. F.C.]

METROPOLITAN : INSTRUCTION.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

AT the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, on Thursday, 5th inst., Bros. A. J. Swash W.M., J. Dinnis S.W., E. H. Wilcox J.W., R. H. Williams P.M. Preceptor, F. J. Larkman P.M. Treasurer, J. H. Cumming P.M. Secretary, C. Humble S.D., F. M. Ridley J.D., A. H. Bridger I.G., C. E. Dowling, D. D. Heath, and others.

Brother Heath answered the questions leading to the second degree, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bro. Ridley answered the questions leading to the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. Lodge was then resumed to the first degree.

Bro. Dinnis was unanimously elected to fill the W.M.'s chair at the next meeting. The Preceptor, Treasurer, and Secretary were unanimously re-elected, and the latter presented his annual report, showing that the Lodge of Instruction had done good and useful work during the past year, and that it had subscribed five guineas to two Masonic Institutions, on behalf of two Brethren who have been fortunate in winning ballots. A vote of thanks to Bro. Swash for presiding was passed.

CHISWICK LODGE, No. 2012.

ON Saturday, 7th inst., at the Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith, Bros. K. M. Ross W.M., J. H. Cumming P.M. S.W., W. Herring J.W., R. Josey P.M. Sec., Arthur Williams P.M. 834 2090 Preceptor, W. Handover S.D., H. J. Cousens J.D., A. J. Swash I.G., L. Walsh Steward, E. Fox P.M., L. Powell, D. D. Heath, R. Reid, W. Atkinson, W. R. Flack, and several others.

After confirmation of minutes the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Atkinson kindly acting as candidate. Lodge was called off and on. The first and second sections of the first lecture were worked by the Brethren, under the direction of the esteemed Preceptor.

Bro. J. H. Cumming was unanimously elected to fill the chair at the next meeting, and before the Lodge was closed Bro. Ross asked the Brethren to rise and thank the Preceptor, Treasurer and Secretary, for their increasing labours in bringing the Lodge of Instruction to its present prominent position in the Western district of London. The Secretary was asked to mention this on the minutes.

WEST LONDON MASONIC ELECTION ASSOCIATION.

A VERY large number of the members of this Association assembled on Wednesday evening, 4th inst., at the Town Hall Tavern, Kensington. After the special meeting was opened the Bye-Laws were read and considered. The President Bro. W. Helliar P.M., who is well known in the West of London, pointed out in a most lucid speech the great advantages of the Association, and asked any Brethren present who were not enrolled to lose no time in registering themselves, as the subscription was only one shilling, with an entrance fee of a like amount, and also to bring the matter before any of their Masonic friends.

In response to the wish of the President the Hon. Sec. Bro. Arthur Williams P.M. gave some most interesting particulars of the Association since its origin in 1894, and stated that during the period it had been the means of securing the election of eleven applicants to the different Institutions of the Craft, and they had not had a single failure. The objects he stated were the consolidation of votes, so as to prevent waste; to secure the attendance of a few well qualified Brethren to assist at the polling; and also to assist in defraying the election expenses of the applicants, if their friends were not in a position to do so. The members were numerous and increasing, and should any Brethren who had votes to spare like to know of the great good the Association was doing they had only to send a post card to Bro. Arthur Williams, 83-85 Hammersmith Road, W., and he would supply them a full explanation of its usefulness.

Among the list of honours bestowed by Her Majesty on the occasion of the New Year, there is no name more conspicuous—unfortunately by its absence—than that of our worthy Bro. Henniker Heaton. No citizen of this country has more faithfully fulfilled his duty to his fellow men than Bro. Heaton, and the latest postage concession to Great Britain and her Colonies has been the result of many years work on his part. It is not too late to repair such an oversight, and we trust that before these words are read by our readers the omission may have been rectified by those in authority.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

AS briefly announced in our last issue Bro. Theophilus Inman Bird passed away on the 3rd, at his residence, 18 Rectory Road, Stoke Newington. Our deceased Brother was Secretary of the Elliot Lodge, No. 1567, of which he was W.M. in 1885 and 1895; Senior P.M. and founder of the Citadel Lodge, No. 1897, of which he was first J.W.; P.Z. of the Sir Hugh Myddleton Chapter; Treasurer of the Citadel Lodge of Instruction and the Masonic Charities Association in connection therewith; Vice President and a member of the Board of Management of the Benevolent Institution, and a Subscriber to both the Boys and Girls Schools. He was initiated in the Elliot Lodge, in February 1880, and, as we have said, twice filled the chair of that Lodge. He was appointed Provincial Grand Sword Bearer of Middlesex by the late Sir Francis Burdett. Our deceased Brother was the son of the late Mr. Charles Bird, of Rochester, who was for fifty-one years Outdoor Superintendent of the Rochester, &c. Gas Company, while Bro.

Bird was himself connected with the Gas Light and Coke Company, of London, for upwards of thirty-seven years, during the last twenty-one of which he occupied the important position of Divisional Chief Inspector. He leaves a widow and four daughters to mourn his loss, two of the latter being married: to Bro. Tom Matthews, of the Royal Commemoration Lodge, Sec. of the New Concord Lodge of Instruction; and Brother Harry Willsmer, of the Elliot Lodge, No. 1567, Secretary of the Citadel Lodge of Instruction and its Masonic Charities Association. The funeral took place at Abney Park Cemetery, on Saturday, 7th inst., a very large gathering who attended to pay the last tribute of respect including a number of Officers and representatives of the Gas Light and Coke Company, and members of each of the Masonic Lodges with which Bro. Bird was associated. The principal mourners were Bros. T. Matthews and Harry Willsmer (sons in law), A. Wyatt, J. Cattle P.M. (cousin), John Mason P.M. Elliot Lodge Past Grand Standard Bearer of England; Messrs. G. Wright and C. V. Andrews (cousins), P. Fox, J. Fox; and Bro. Dr. Sandiland (medical adviser for very many years). Those present at the cemetery included the following Brethren, who are also principal officers of the Gas Company: Bros. G. F. Z. Foulger Chief Distributing Engineer, A. Bevis Accountant, J. H. Pearson Chief Coke Manager, W. C. Wigley, J. J. Horstead, G. Marvin, T. V. Fenn Divisional Chief Inspectors, and T. Rayner Secretary and General Manager's Department. From the Elliot Lodge: Bros. W. C. Tyler W.M., S. J. Millin I.P.M., John Mason P.M. P.G.Std.Br. England, J. H. Pearson, G. R. Nichols, A. Bevis, W. T. Dillon P.Ms., E. W. Winter, Weedon, Dailey, Glover, A. E. Mason, Fagan, Wyatt, Willsmer, Fenn, S. Pardoe, Ditchman, W. H. Tilley, Keighley, Marvin, Hood, Baron, Coley, Meadwell, Day, Wadson, Langdon, Webster. From the Citadel Lodge: Bros. Wrathall W.M., J. Osborn P.M. and Sec., W. Wright P.M. and Org., Ball, Gaskin, Young, Davidson P.Ms., Pilon, Whiteside, R. Horstead, A. E. Horstead, Stubington, Wilson, Barker, W. Wright, &c. Comp. Jones M.E.Z. Sir Hugh Myddleton Chapter. From the Citadel Lodge of Instruction: Bros. F. Dunstan P.M. Prec., Rusby, Jeaves, Jackson, Platt, Witte, Strang, Poodjer, Newman, Hazel, Cook, P. Davis, Witte, Feistel, F. Kebbell. About sixty wreaths were received from, among others, the Elliot Lodge, Citadel Lodge, Citadel Lodge of Instruction, and the New Concord Lodge of Instruction; the Stoke Newington, Hackney, Camden and Kilburn Offices of the Gas Company, the workmen from different offices, the Contractor, the family, &c. The following "In Memoriam" was written by Bro. John Mason P.G.Std.Br. senior P.M. of Bro. Bird's Mother Lodge:

Those who were privileged to call thee friend,
Had none more true, save the Eternal God.
Ever prepared thou wert to do the kindly deed,
O'er failings of a Brother shed the silent tear,
Pouring the balm into the wounded soul,
Hearts, oftimes gladdened by thy helping hand.
Inter we now in sorrow, this thy house of clay;
Left in His hand who made thee, till the day
Unfolds all secrets, and at the great assize,
Standing erect and innocent may'st thou appear.

In sadness and sorrow in Lodge we shall meet,
No words or look of kind greetings from thee.
May those thou hast left, be from harm ever kept,
And prepared for that summons away
None can hinder, for all must obey.

Beloved ones leave us, one by one,
In the valley we,—in the light they'll be
Receiving their welcome; "Well done,"
Death the Leveller, is swallowed up in Victory!

A memorial card was sent out by the Elliot Lodge to each of its members, in the following terms, and we take the opportunity of recording the fact thus fully, because it is so seldom our Lodges adopt such a course, although it seems to us it has much to recommend it, especially when one of the leading members is taken away:

I.T.N.O.T.G.A.O.T.U.

In Affectionate and Fraternal Remembrance
of

W. BRO. THEOPHILUS INMAN BIRD,

P.P.G.S.B. Middlesex, P.M. and Sec. 1567, P.Z. &c.

From the W.M. and Members of the Elliot Lodge, No. 1567, Feltham,
In which he was Initiated February 1880, and twice held the position
of its Worshipful Master; who by

Square Conduct,

Level Steps,

and Upright Intentions,

won the love and esteem of all who knew him.

Laid to rest, 7th January 1899.

MASONRY'S CONSUMMATION.

By W. D. Henderson, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Tennessee.

MASONRY is an institution of education by precept and example. It has nothing to fear from its enemies without, so long as Masons are true to those noble principles within, which constitute its foundation and which give strength and support to every stone of this beautiful, mystic Temple, even up to the capstone itself. But to be true to them they must have a thorough knowledge of their import, and this information is essential to a proper discharge of their duties as Masons. In Operative Masonry no one can become a skilled workman who does not apply himself diligently during the time of apprenticeship. Look abroad over our land to-day at the many schools of technology established for the purpose of imparting a thorough knowledge of any particular branch of industry, whereby the workman may travel as a master workman and draw master's wages. So it is equally true in Speculative Masonry. Masons must study the principles of their Order, and be enthused with an interest founded upon love, which ever seeks after truth, before they can properly practice it themselves or teach it to others.

Masonry is not a mere form which can be learned in a day, but a principle which progresses by extending its tenets from mind to mind, cultivating those tenets in the soul, and by evermore disseminating and practicing that glorious principle upon which all Masonry is founded, the sublime and everlasting principle of truth divine.

A knowledge of Masonry imbues the mind with a sense of stability, confidence and love, while ignorance is the mother of innovation, distrust and hate. This discredit of ignorance, though, lies not in an inability to learn, but either in unreflecting refusal or in thoughtless indifference.

And, in my humble judgment, in this lack of Masonic knowledge among so large a portion of the membership, lies the greatest danger to the Institution itself. The same danger menaces our republican form of government to-day, by the daily number of emigrants thrown upon our shores; people who have with us no sympathy of purpose—for good; who do not understand our institutions, and care not to, and who have no reverence for the memory of the heroic dead, no love for our traditions, no conception of American patriotism, because they have had no part in the glorious past and care not for the hope of the future. They are to-day an element of uncertainty which our wisest statesmen are endeavouring to mould into a homogeneous population, failing in which, this unassimilated mass may one day turn and rend to destruction the very institutions that have fostered and protected them from weakness to strength, and the only way possible to avert the dangers incident to the introduction of this foreign element into our commonwealth is to teach and educate them up to a thorough knowledge and love of our institutions and unparalleled history. It is equally true in our beloved Order. Those becoming allied with us must be assimilated by the body, for it is as clear as the light of the meridian sun, that not only should every member love the Institution of Masonry, but he should be taught its principles, which alone and truly make him a Mason, until he knows why he loves it. And unless Masons are imbued with such a knowledge and love of their Order we will ultimately have, instead of a shapely pile resembling the Temple in the Apocalypse of John, the falling walls and broken column of an unsightly ruin.

Another danger to which I desire to call attention is the disinclination to attend ordinary meetings, and the non observance of a legal notice. We know that a summons will not be issued except from necessity or some extraordinary circumstance, and when so issued it is our duty, not only in compliance with our obligation, but from a sense of charity and love of the Order, to extend and lengthen rather than contract or limit our cable tow.

Masonry is an Order pre-eminently founded upon the recognition and observance of law, order, peace and harmony. It is to-day a condition and not a theory. Its extension and usefulness are dependent upon its inculcation and practice of all those principles of the Order which tend to unity hearts, build homes, and keep the hearthstone warm. It should rock the cradle of the orphan, soothe the weary brow of the widow, and water with tears the sweet flowers of gentleness, mercy and love. God's word of truth is the rock upon which it is founded, and therein we are enjoined to the proper observance of all those principles of right doing, tending to the development of the individual, the protection of childhood, and the stability of the home.

But Masonry is not exhausted in its care for the individual, nor do its foundations of solicitude run dry in ministering to the weak and weary.

True Masonry inculcates a love of and fosters a determination to maintain the laws of our country. It is law abiding, patriotic

and peaceful—ever seeking to sustain the right, uphold the law and preserve peace. And it should be a matter of profound congratulation to every Mason to observe the obedience and submissive spirit of the people of our grand, united country, to the political change of government from one great political party to another. "Without a jar, without the stoppage of a single wheel, in the twinkling of an eye, the government of seventy million proud people will be changed, and our national machinery will go on as smoothly and as irresistibly as it has from its beginning." Back to their peaceful vocations in life the millions of American freemen return after the result of a Presidential contest is known, as silently and submissively as sank the brave Highlanders of Roderick Dhu into the banks of heather. This fact should be a fruitful source of encouragement to our Order, when we can point with patriotic pride to our organisation as a moving and influential factor in promoting peace, obedience to law, and love of country.

The Masonic Fraternity, in exercising its broad spirit of charity among the people, has ever been an active force in counselling peace to disturbing elements, sowing seeds of good will among men, extending higher forms of civilisation, and establishing a deeper and purer morality among the people.

Political changes, marked by peace during their exciting activities, truly indicate the stability of our institutions. And specially is this true when we observe the onward progress of a higher intelligence, a loftier code of morals, and a more devoted spirit of patriotism.

The change of administration of public affairs from one great political organisation to another, has become as quiet and peaceful as the delicate hues blend in the bow of promise on the bosom of the cloud. In enunciating and emphasising the fundamental principles which brought together the sisterhood of States into one Federal unity, no organisation has, doubtless, been more active in promoting the harmonious co-operation of our nationality than Masonry itself. It has ever been a leading factor in cultivating peace, upholding justice, and strengthening all moral forces which make for the safety, the happiness and the national glory of the people.

An Order which has accomplished so much good in promoting national existence should ever be watchful and ready to occupy advanced ground and broader fields of usefulness for national prosperity. Where the vanguard tents to-day the rear guard should camp to-morrow. Renewed energy and well-directed efforts should characterise our future history in spreading far and wide the cardinal principles of our Order, having for its ulterior purpose the good of our race and the ultimate glory of our nation.

And now, what is the chapter to the pillar, the key to the arch, the conclusion of the whole matter? It is not needful that I should remind you that the foundation and crown of our Order is the peerless virtue of Brotherly love. Without that bond of union we are as atoms of dust blown by the winds. If we are not watchful and solicitous of each other's honour, and esteem not each other better than ourselves, but devour and rend, and for peace sow discord, for love breed hate, we shall not only destroy each other, but in this mutual destruction imitate in our blindness Samson of old, who, pulling down the pillars of the temple, was himself buried amid its ruins.

Contention begets contention, strife but adds to strife, crimination courts recrimination, but love disarms, and like the sweet, bright shining of the sun, when winter is passed, fills all hearts with gladness and brings to the blossom all that is noblest and most blessed in the heart of man. Cherish this virtue. Be strong in Faith, radiant with Hope, invincible in Love. For until the temple not made with hands be seen in resplendent glory in the opening heavens, Faith, Hope and Charity shall endure, standing ever triumphant, like whitewinged angels of light over the weak and fleeting; yet, let it be remembered, that in the inscrutable will of Him who has fashioned all worlds, it has been eternally decreed that the greatest of these shall be charity.

Again, it is a trite, oft-repeated, and largely a true saying: "First impressions are the most lasting." We all know this from personal experience. Some beautiful bit of landscape, when first seen, the sweet and hallowed memories of childhood, some magnificent work of art, some sweet vision of beauty, dream of genius, either on canvas or in stone, when first we stand before its overpowering grandeur, all make first impressions as lasting as life. Therefore, let us endeavour to make the first impressions in Masonry good.

If, when the candidate is first met, he is received in a light and frivolous manner; if the Officers are careless, ignorant of the work and unconcerned; if the members are rude and boisterous; if the beauty, dignity, and solemnity of the degree are to be sacrificed to a spirit of ill-advised and half-suppressed merriment, then, indeed, are its beauties and symbols so marred, and its truths left so obscured, as to totally impair the harmony and usefulness of not only itself, but all subsequent degrees.

Remember you are to make first impressions; therefore let

every Officer and member endeavour to impress upon the candidate the lesson of the degree—that he hath a name which no man knoweth save he that receiveth it, and that the stone set at naught by the builders has indeed become the chief stone of the corner.

Some one has related a beautiful tradition, which states that the site of King Solomon's Temple was originally owned by two brothers—one being married and the other single—and that after harvest the elder brother said: "My younger brother is unable to bear the burden and heat of the day; therefore, I will take of my shocks and without his knowledge place them over among his shocks." The younger brother being actuated by similar thoughts of love and Brotherly relief, said unto himself: "My brother has a family. I have none. I desire to contribute to their support; therefore, I will take of my shocks, and without his knowledge, place them over among his shocks." This occurred several nights in succession, and great was the surprise of the brothers upon the succeeding mornings to find that their shocks had not diminished. They resolved to watch and solve the mystery. They did so, and upon the succeeding night the two brothers met half way, each with his arms laden with the golden sheaves. And it was upon this spot, hallowed by such association, the temple of King Solomon was erected—that temple, so spacious, so magnificent, the wonder and admiration of the world. And it is only upon ground hallowed by such associations, the best and purest impulses of the human heart, that any enduring structure can be erected.

The Temple of King Solomon has long since been destroyed, but Freemasonry, which exemplifies the location of the temple, and transmits the legend of its building, has defied the ravages of time, withstood the persecutions of ignorance, bigotry and intolerance, and to-day stands in its beauty like a Corinthian column in a desert of ruin, without a rival in point of numbers and stability of organisation.

Freemasonry, whose foundations are laid deep in the God given principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, whose empire is the world, whose canopy is the blue vault and the star-decked heavens, will live as long as a flower shall bloom, as long as men love virtue, as long "as the cloud shadows shall rest upon the mountains and the rivers roll to the sea." Yes, Love, the sweetest messenger of Peace, Joy and Happiness, would girdle the world as with a zone of light—would pervade all hearts, and is the sweet halo of joyful, happy life. It conquers all and survives all. Then why do violence to this great law of Nature and Nature's God?—"Voice of Masonry."

MASONIC AMBITION.

THERE is nothing so pleasing to the venerable Masters in Masonry as that ambition in the young which tends to assist the advancement of the Fraternity and expand the genius of the Craft. The flowers of evening are gathering about the hoary locks of those beloved sires, and they look upon aspiring young with more than a fraternal interest and gratification. As the valley they are descending grows deeper, and the paths they tread are becoming greener, they look back on the light of the past and behold with rapture their young friends pressing after them in the Temple. Their mantles are about falling, and a score would lift them reverently and with honour ere they touch the ground. Their jewels are still blazing, but the hand trembles as it reaches them, and many a vigorous, hearty grasp is put forth to steady, and, if need be, to becomingly assume them. The various paraphernalia of office must descend to other shoulders, and if youth preserves its spotless integrity with the same care that age has guarded its sacred instalments, then the Craft will do itself infinite credit in the future, and reflect a blazing splendour on the past.

Ambition in any station of life, in any condition of circumstances or education, when untrammelled by insatiate greed, is always a noble element of the mind. Without it the world would not have moved one degree beyond the barbaric ages, and all the conveniences of civilisation would be still the secret of another sphere. Without it advancement would never lift its eye to heaven, but rank obscurity would fetter the incoming multitude. Helpless, mild, unchristian and deformed, humanity would have abruptly terminated in savage dens by violence and bloodshed, where now the peaceful strains of saint-like music accompany the departing soul into a future life. How may we then thank the "Allseeing One" for His great beneficence in implanting in our bosoms a desire of prominence?

If other men in the ordinary channels of life are impregnated with the aspiring element, and if it is necessary to the success of the world that man in general should be inoculated with ambition, how much more necessary is it for the Craft to possess the elevating motives of a soaring mind? In works of benevolence we should be known by all, while words of comfort should drop from our lips which should reconcile the fevered patient to his

lot, even as the flowers cast at the feet of the weary, sun-bronzed soldier remind him of home and love and peace. It we were as ambitious to do good to others as we are to benefit ourselves, how many more weak hearts would flutter up to bright Hope and ask a boon of Fortune; how many eyes would shine forth with the assurance of Faith in the future which now only dimly reflect the sad despair of the present.

How important, then, is it to keep ourselves awake and fully alive to passing events in the existing, active, state of the world. We may be humble, but if we are ambitious and watch closely for an opportunity, our turn will come when we may cast off the shackles of ignoble origin, and leap into the company of the distinguished: when we can exchange ideas with noted statesmen, sip a genial bowl of wine with the celebrated artist, or have thought wrestles with a famous Grand Master.

If we be not ambitious, then a thousand opportunities may come and pass and no reckoning be made of them. Our plummet then seeks only to measure the depth of the brooklet, when we should be sounding the restless sea; our axe aims only at the sapling of learning when we should be hewing at the great poplar in search of secret truth. Without ambition we are mere instruments without the ability to expand or soar; the tools of others, fit only to serve at the footstool on which greatness steps in its mighty effort to reach the highest round of the ladder. We may be strong, but we only lift our neighbour up; our voices may be sweet, but we only sing another into fame; our brain is active only at a friend's bidding. Living thus, we fill but a line in the world's record, when our history should occupy a page; we are one of the leaves of the forest, when we should be the stately trunk itself.

Let us all, therefore, take on some aspiration in the Brotherhood. Let us have an aim, and that a high one. In seeking to reach the opposite shore of light we may arrive at the island midway in the stream; in aiming at the eagle we may hit the hawk, and in striving for the office of "Worshipful" we may at least reach the Warden's chair.—"Keystone."

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A FREEMASON.

EVERY Mason is obligated to be a good citizen. This obligation can only be fulfilled by an earnest activity in everything that vitally concerns the welfare of the individual as represented in good government. It is well for us now and again to stop our boasting and, roused from our selfish complacency, remember how much our civil and religious liberties have cost in treasure and blood. Freemasonry owes it to itself and to humanity to put a stop to the glaring sins that invite the certain forfeiture of that heritage. The work of sin has ever been to destroy law, order, harmony. Lawlessness and sin are identical, and mean bondage. Freemasonry has become rich and powerful and vain. "Pride goeth before a fall," we are told. It is true, because the proud man becomes giddy at his height and is no longer safe in his moral vision. So with the Institution. Marching under the banner of the only true God, in the blazing light of His Word, yet it proclaims a gospel so vague and uncertain that its novitiates stumble in doubt and uncertainty into the dark ditch of infidelity, and are led willing captives of a corrupt imagination. The work of reformation must begin at Jerusalem, and that, too, at once. The message which the old Scotch woman gave to Dr. Norman Macleod, when he came to his first parish, must be heard and obeyed. The wise old woman told him to "Gang o'er the fundamentals." The great fundamentals must be emphasised again and again, until every doubting heart shall be inspired with the divine certainties of Freemasonry. The "Tyler" still confesses to a feeling of intense abhorrence at a plea for the destruction of Christianity and the rejection of that religion by the Masons of to-day, in order to have a religion "in which all men can agree," whatever that may mean. If that religion, in order to be universal, is forced to tolerate blasphemy, drunkenness, lewdness, Sabbath desecration and all manner of unholy living, then it is the worship of Satan, and not the religion of Eden, the Tabernacle and Temple. It was Jesus Christ and not some infidel philosopher who planted the parable of the "Good Samaritan" in the heart of the race, and first gave to the world, speaking as never man spake, the thrilling gospel of the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man." The religion of Jesus Christ alone was instituted to restore law, order, harmony; in short, to give back that liberty that went down amid the ruins of the Fall, and left man, had the Spirit of God never reached him, an object slave forever. Civil liberty is its gift; and is, as well as spiritual liberty, a thing divine. So within the points of the compasses and underneath the exposed ends is found "The Way, the Truth, and the Life." In Lodge, Chapter and Council the great lesson to be learned is that Christ was the centre and germ of life in the preceding dispensations; that He was the object of faith of the patriarchs as they stood by the altar and the bleeding sacrifice. That to Him the faith breathed through the services of the tabernacle and temple looked

forward; that He was the substance of which the law had a shadow; that He was the object that prophets foretold; that in Him both were united and fulfilled.

The first duty of a Mason is to God, next to his neighbour, then to himself. Controversy ends with this statement. Then what higher love could the creature manifest for his Creator than his acceptance of the Son of whom it is declared: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Do Masons point to John the Evangelist as a patron saint? Then hear his message from the Father: "He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son."

To fail in the performance of the first duty as a Mason is to fail in the duties that follow, and come to the end of life a miserable bankrupt.

Freemasonry must ever be the bulwark against which absoluteism shall come to grief; it must be the fostering parent of free speech and free thought throughout the world. It was Christian Freemasonry that planned and gave the Declaration of American Independence, and it has ever been both the fulcrum and lever in upholding the liberties guaranteed to the people by that Declaration. It ought also to be the first to extend its hand wherever there is death and want and sorrow. Having been poor and blind and naked, every Mason ought to know how to sympathise with the afflicted ones of this sin-cursed world. When he forgets this lesson he is mean, sordid, selfish, devilish. No matter how he may clothe himself he can have no lot or part in the inheritance of the faithful.

While politics should never be discussed in a Masonic Lodge, it is demanded of every Mason that he carry his Masonry—its truths and principles—into politics, as well as into business and society, for the reason that every Mason is sent into the world with a mission from Almighty God: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." His ambassadorship is unmistakable and absolute. There may be differences of opinion as to the ways to be chosen for the speedy accomplishment of that mission, but there can be no question as to the objective point; the glory of God in that righteousness which exalteth a nation. It is now generally conceded that to be a Mason is to possess a passport to the confidence of the suffrages of the people. Even the greatest foe to the Institution recognises this fact in the selection of her political labourers; but she makes decoy ducks of them, by first taking them up upon a high mountain and getting them to fall down and worship her, for the glory of the kingdoms of power shown them. This recognition of the principles of honour and integrity in the disciples of Freemasonry is laudable, and the Institution must safeguard her honour when such disciples become betrayers—making compromises with the powers of darkness—by cutting them off for ever. Their leprosy is contagious and Masonry cannot afford to cover up the diseased body with her sacred garments. In the recent elections have been seen Brother pitted against Brother—but you would never have known of the relationship if conduct had alone been left to impart the knowledge. Deceit, trickery, slander, and, if hatred in the heart be murder, then murder can be added to the crimes perpetrated in the shadow of the Five Points of Fellowship. Now, Masonry cannot be blind to these crimes without becoming a hiss and a byword to all people, and instead of a temple filled with the beauty of holiness of the Lord, a sepulchre filled with all rottenness.

The faithful performance of the first two duties incumbent upon every Mason guarantees to him and his children the wisest protection of all interests in this world and the world to come.

A Mason's day of twenty-four hours is divided into three equal parts, whereby are found eight hours for the service of God and a distressed worthy Brother; eight for his usual avocation, and eight for refreshment and sleep. What a useless parade to talk of these things within the walls of the Lodge if they are never carried out in the life?—"American Tyler."

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES IN 1898.

NOTWITHSTANDING that the past year, taken as a whole, was a remarkably fine one from a Life-Boat point of view, there was at times, during the few fitful gales which were experienced, plenty of work for the Life-Boats and their crews to do. The heaviest gales of the year occurred on the 24th to 28th March, the 16th to 22nd October, and the 22nd to 24th November. In the first case thirty-six Life-Boats of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution were launched on service, resulting in the saving of ninety lives, and the landing of five other persons from vessels in dangerous positions; in the second case twenty-eight Life-Boats were launched, resulting in the saving of thirty lives and the safe landing of nine other persons from vessels in peril; and in the third case there were twenty-six launches, resulting in the saving of sixty-nine lives. In the March gale several of the Life-Boats out on service were unable to return to their stations, and were compelled to put in elsewhere until the weather had moderated. During the month of August there were no less than thirty-seven Life-Boats launched on service, by which means thirty-four lives were

saved. This number of launches was altogether abnormal, having regard to the time of year. The long list of gallant services rendered by the Life-Boats of the Institution during the year included the rescue of 682 lives, besides much valuable property, twenty-two vessels having been saved from total or partial loss. In addition, the Life-Boats landed 137 persons, some of whom had taken refuge on light vessels, and others coming ashore as a precautionary measure, their vessels being in danger in stormy weather. Great assistance was also given in many cases to fishing boats returning from the fleets or fishing grounds, but unable to make a harbour without help from a Life-Boat, owing to the badness of the weather. During the year the Life-Boats were launched 357 times on service, besides which the crews were assembled on seventy-six other occasions, when it was thought that their services might probably be required. Rewards were also granted by the Institution for the saving of seventy-four lives by shore-boats or other means during the year, bringing up the total number of lives for the saving of which the Society granted rewards in 1898 to 756, and to 41,233 since 1824. The cost of maintaining the Institution's fleet of 294 Life-Boats in thorough efficiency is increasingly heavy, and the amount received in annual subscriptions and accruing from assured income is insufficient for the purpose. Further financial help is therefore much needed by the Institution.

CRITERION THEATRE.—From grave to gay is the order at this theatre, and thus the tears evoked by the tragic "Jest," are easily assuaged by the roars of laughter aroused by Messrs. Alfred Maltby and Frank Lindo's farcical comedy "My 'Soldier' Boy." The piece had already achieved a favourable reception upon its production at the Fulham Theatre last year, but the cast of characters having been revised by the addition of more experienced artistes its success was assured at once. A great deal has to be accepted in "farcical comedy," and it requires a lively imagination to clothe the "Boy" with a semblance of possibility, but taking the piece as it comes there is an immense amount of fun in it. Mr. Maltby himself sustains one of those characters which fit his peculiar humour exactly, though the burden of work falls upon Mr. Weedon Grossmith as Mortimer Mendle, who is indefatigable and as amusing as ever. Miss Ellis Jeffreys as Mrs. Mendle, who previous to her marriage has had a successful breach of promise action and is anxious to conceal the fact from her husband, is also excellent, and Messrs. Ivan Watson, Roper Spyers and E. A. George, together with handsome Miss Jenny McNulty all give assistance in making the farce hum. The farce is preceded by a pathetic little curtain raiser entitled "Nicolette," by Mr. Edward Ferris and Arthur Stewart, in which the first named sustains the principal personage. It was also well received.

We congratulate our neighbour, Bro. J. Hamilton Craig, proprietor of the Hadley Hotel, New Barnet, on his promotion to the chair of Junior Warden of his Mother Lodge—the famous Joppa, No. 188—and hope he may in due course rise to the dignity of Master therein.

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JAMES TERRY (Pat., P.G.Swd.B.), Secretary,

by whom the same will be gladly received, and who will thankfully acknowledge same.

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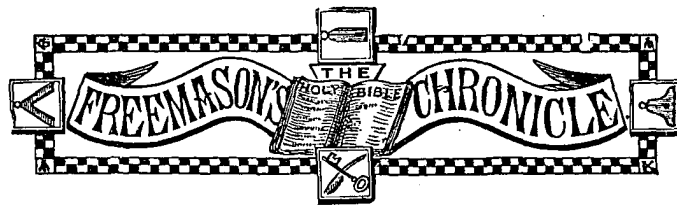
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SATURDAY, 14TH JANUARY 1899.

DEVON AND CORNWALL LAST YEAR.

THE Masonic Craft in Devon and Cornwall has been very prosperous during 1898, and, save the occasional disregard of the preliminary conditions of membership as to fitness, financially, and socially, for its privileges, the Lodges generally have been more than usually successful, numerically and generally.

The Province of Devon has again added another Lodge to its roll, by the constitution of No. 2725, Yelverton, which has already made an excellent start. The number on the register is now fifty-eight; so that there are close on 100 Lodges in the two Western counties.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon was held at Paignton, presided over by the Prov. G.M. the Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., C.B., M.P.; and that of Cornwall assembled at Falmouth, the Right Hon. the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe (Past Deputy Grand Master of England) being in the chair as Provincial Grand Master. All the reports were of a very satisfactory character, and the various funds for educational and annuity purposes, locally raised and expended, are all in a very healthy condition, every year increasing the interest in these excellent and ably-managed Institutions.

The Mark Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon met at Plymouth, Bro. G. S. Strode D. Prov. G.M. presiding, in the unavoidable absence of the Provincial Grand Master. The meeting of the sister society for Cornwall was a brilliant function, being for the installation of the Earl of Halsbury (Lord Chancellor) as the Provincial Grand Master, in succession to Bro. Sir Charles Brune Graves-Sawle, Bart., whose increasing years led him to resign, much to the regret of all the Brethren. The Installing Officer was Lord Skelmersdale (now the Earl of Lathom), and Bro. P. Colville Smith was re-appointed Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. W. J. Johns, lately invested as Standard Bearer of the Grand Lodge, was again appointed as Provincial Grand Secretary. An address was voted and presented to the retiring Prov. G. Master.

The Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., has been installed as Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry for Devon, and Lord Mount Edgcumbe is Grand Superintendent for Cornwall; a meeting of the latter having recently been held.

In the Central Masonic Charities the Counties of Devon and Cornwall have been very successful, as usual, in securing the return or election of their candidates, through the well-directed exertions of Bros. Westlake and Edyvean, who were supported by the local bodies as customary. The three annual Festivals have been held, that for the Boys putting the other two for this year in the shade. Devon sent up about £1,800, and Cornwall over £780. It is expected that the grand total of sums raised for all the Masonic Charities established in England, local and general, will amount to some £175,000, being the largest raised in any one year, and likely to remain so for many years to come. Devon and Cornwall have also contributed to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and the Benevolent Institution, but not in proportion to the benefits received. The Mark Benevolent Fund realised £1,735, Devon and Cornwall contributing over 100 guineas together.—“Western Morning News.”

IMPOSING ON FREEMASONS.

A MAN giving the name of James Warburton was brought up in custody at Retford Police Court, on Monday, charged with obtaining alms by fraudulently representing himself to be a Freemason. Captain Thomas, Superintendent of the Retford Police, said the prisoner called upon him on Saturday night, about nine o'clock, and asked him as the Almoner for the Retford Lodge of Freemasons to give him relief. He challenged his statement as to being a Freemason, and he said he was a member of the Blagdon Lodge, Blyth, Northumberland, No. 659, and had been for twenty-eight years. He tested this statement, and the prisoner admitted that he was not a member of the Blagdon Lodge. He found a letter in his possession purporting to be from the Secretary of the Blagdon Lodge, enclosing him £3 on the 4th November 1898, and signed Wm. Smithson. There was no Secretary of that name, the Secretary being Mr. Walkensize, who had telegraphed to say that Jas. Warburton was not, and never had been, a member. Prisoner said he was guilty, and he was further charged with being the man who, at Cheadle, in Staffordshire, under the name of Bradburn, was convicted of a similar offence, and sent to gaol for seven days, with hard labour. The Superintendent of Police said there was so much of this sort of thing going on that he had been instructed to prosecute everyone of the impostors who came round. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he knew he had done wrong. Sentenced to fourteen days imprisonment, with hard labour.—“Nottingham Guardian.”

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Fuller particulars as to place of meeting of the undermentioned Lodges are given in the Freemasons' Calendar and Pocket Book (published by Grand Lodge for the benefit of the Charity Fund).

Monday.

1 Grand Masters, F.T.
21 Emulation, Albion
185 Tranquility, Guildhall Tavern
720 Panmure, Balham
862 Whittington, Freemasons'-hall
901 City of London, Guildhall Tav.
907 Royal Albert, Freemasons'-hall
1537 St. Peter, Westminster, Crtrn.
1694 Imperial, Westminster
1728 Temple Bar, Anderton's
2060 La France, Café Royal
2489 Willesden, Willesden Green
2545 Iris, Rainbow Tav., Fleet St.
2563 Justicia, Freemasons'-hall
37 Anchor and Hope, Bolton
77 Freedom, Gravesend
148 Lights, Warrington
236 York, York
248 True Love & Unity, Brixham
312 Lion, Whitby
359 Peace & Harmony, South'pton
377 Hope & Charity, Kidderminster
382 Royal Union, Uxbridge
424 Borough, Gateshead
455 Perseverance, Kettering
466 Merit, Stamford Baron
840 Scientific, Wolverton
872 Lewis, Whitehaven
925 Bedford, Birmingham
949 Williamson, Monkwearmouth
986 Hesketh, Croston
1030 Egerton, Heaton Norris
1113 Anglesea, Manai Bridge
1141 Mid-Sussex, Horsham
1146 De Moulham, Swanage
1170 St. George, Manchester
1199 Ariculture, Yatton
1208 Corinthian, Dover
1255 Dundas, Plymouth
1337 Anchor, Northallerton
1443 Salem, Dawlish
1502 Israel, Liverpool
1631 St. Andrew, Gorleston
1674 Carodoc, Rhyl
1814 Worsley, Worsley
1909 Carnarvon, Nottingham
2069 Prudence, Leeds
2074 St. Clare, Landport
2081 Golden Fleece, Leicester
2114 Prudence, Liverpool
2208 Horsa, Bournemouth
2289 Blundellsands, Great Crosby
2295 Scarisbrick, Southport
2327 St. Oswin, North Shields
2349 West Lanc. Century, Blackpool
2425 Ecclesburne, Duffield
2482 Duchess of York, Manchester
2557 Temperance, Newcastle-on-T.

Tuesday.

Board of General Purposes, F.M.H. at 5.
30 United Mariner, Guildhall Tav.
73 Mount Lebanon, Southwark
95 Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle
162 Cadogan, Freemasons'-hall
194 St. Paul, Cannon St. Hotel
435 Salisbury, Freemasons'-hall
704 Camden, Anderton's
857 St. Mark, Camberwell
1805 Bromley St. Leonard, Bromley
2021 Queen Westm'ster, Holb'n R'st.
2022 Haven, Ealing
2265 Barnato, Piccadilly
2408 Hampstead, Haverstock Hill
2500 Old Boys', Criterion
213 Perseverance, Norwich
223 Charity, Plymouth
384 St. David, Bangor
402 Royal Sussex, Nottingham
414 Union, Reading
418 Menturia, Hanley
432 Abbey, Nuneaton
468 Light, Birmingham
476 St. Peter, Carmarthen
551 Yarborough, Ventnor
560 Vernon, Stourport
667 Alliance, Liverpool
681 Scarsdale, Custerfield
830 Endeavour, Dukinfield
958 St. Aubin, Jersey
1006 Tregullow, St. Day
1046 St. Andrew, Farnham
1075 St. Maughold, Ramsey, I. of M.
1089 De Shurland, Sheerness

1096 Lord Warden, Walmer
1225 Hindpool, Barrow-in-Furness
1276 Warren, Seacombe
1424 Brownrigg of Unity, Old B'pton
1427 Percy, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1551 Charity, Birmingham
1570 Prince Arthur, Liverpool
1621 Castle, Bridgnorth
1764 Eleanor Cross, Northampton
1787 Grenville, Buckingham
1893 Lumley, Skegness
1894 Hershel, Slough
1903 Pr. Ed. Saxe Weimar, P'tsm'th.
1941 St. Augustine, Rugeley
2146 Surbiton, Surbiton
2155 Makerfield, Newton-le-Willows
2316 Princes, Liverpool
2360 Victoria, Southport
2407 Hicks-Beach, Stroud
2521 Noel-Money, Weybridge
2530 Shirley Woolmer, Sidcup
2536 Staines, Staines
2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

Wednesday.

Gen. Committee, Grand Chapter, 4.
Board of Benevolence, F.M.H., 5.
Grand Stewards, Freemasons'-hall.
7 Rl. York Perseverance, Albion
140 St. George, Greenwich
169 Temperance, Deptford
174 Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern
190 Oak, Freemasons'-hall
619 Beadon, Upper Norwood
700 Nelson, Plumstead
969 Maybury, Lincoln-Inn's-Fields
1044 Wandsworth, Wandsworth
1278 Burdett Coutts, London Tavern
1349 Friars, Ship and Turtle
1382 Corinthian, Cubitt Town
1507 Metropolitan, Anderton's
1539 Surrey Masonic Hall, C'mb'rw'll
1571 Leopold, Southwark
1624 Eccleston, Criterion
1673 Welcome, Holborn Viaduct H'tl.
1677 Crusaders,
2241 Cordwainer Ward, C'non St. Ho
2345 Duke of Fife, Clapham Common
2348 Lombardian, Ship and Turtle
2361 Cricklewood, Frascati
2409 Woodgrange, Forest Gate
2456 Chan'cy Bar, Hall Lincolns Inn
2589 Borough, Bridge House Hotel
20 Rl. Kent Antiquity, Chatham
121 Mount Sinai, Penzance
127 Union, Margate
137 Amity, Poole
175 East Medina, Ryde
178 Antiquity, Wigan
200 Old Globe, Scarborough
210 Duke of Athol, Denton
221 St. John, Bolton
243 Loyalty, Guernsey
246 Royal Union, Cheltenham
261 Unanimity & Sincerity, Taunton
285 Love & Honour, Shepton Mallet
311 South Saxon, Lewes
325 St. John, Salford
342 Royal Sussex, Landport
376 Perfect Friendship, Ipswich
451 Sutherland, Burslem
537 Zetland, Birkenhead
581 Faith, Openshaw
591 Buckingham, Aylesbury
592 Cotteswold, Cirencester
610 Colston, Bristol
662 Dartmouth, West Bromwich
68 Isca, Newport, Mon.
726 Staffordshire Knot, Stafford
823 Everton, Liverpool
874 Holmesdale, Tunbridge Wells
889 Dobie, Kingston-on-Thames
934 Merit, Whitefield
938 Grosvenor, Birmingham
950 Hesketh, Fleetwood
962 Sun and Sector, Workington
972 St. Augustine, Canterbury
1019 Sincerity, Wakefield
1040 Sykes, Driffeld
1086 Walton, Liverpool
1114 Joppa, Fakenham
1129 St. Chad, Rochdale
1136 Carew, Torpoint
1161 De Grey & Ripon, Manchester
1179 Rutland, Ilkeston
1212 Elms, Stoke Damerel

1246 Holte, Aston, Warwicks
1294 St. Alban, Grimstby
1301 Brighthouse, Brighthouse
1323 Talbot, Swansea
1334 Norman, Durham
1774 Mellor, Ashton-under-Lyne
1797 South Down, Hurstpierpoint
1973 Saye & Sele, Belvedere
1988 Mawddach, Barmouth
2050 St. Trinians, Douglas, I. of M.
2135 Constance, Consett
2153 Hope, Gosport
2203 Farnborough & N.C., Farnboro'
2258 West. Dist. U.S., E. Stonehouse
2412 Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield
2434 Anderida, Eastbourne
2514 City, Liverpool
2475 Border, Blackwater
2587 Radnor, Folkestone

Thursday.

House Committee, Girls School, 4.30.
6 Friendship, Criterion
23 Globe, Freemasons'-hall
55 Constitutional, Cannon St. Ho.
63 St. Mary, Freemasons'-hall
179 Manchester, Anderton's
181 Universal, Albion
813 New Concord, Guildhall Tavern
1227 Upton, Great Eastern Hotel
1287 Great Northern, Freemasons'-h.
1365 Clapton, Great Eastern Hotel
1420 Earl Spencer, Lavender Hill
1598 Ley Spring, Anderton's
1623 West Smithfield, Freemasons'-h.
1901 Selwyn, Peckham
2310 London Scottish Rifles, Crit'ion.
42 Relief, Bury
56 Howard B'ly Love, L'hampton
57 Humber, Hull
98 St. Martin, Burslem
100 Friendship, Great Yarmouth
203 Ancient Union, Liverpool
230 Fidelity, Devonport
245 Mechanics, Jersey
267 Unity, Macclesfield
268 Union, Ashton-under-Lyne
280 Worcester, Worcester
286 Samaritan, Bacup
322 Peace, Stockport
343 Concord, Preston
350 Charity, Farnworth
353 Keystone, Whitworth
367 Probity & Freedom, Rochdale
394 Southampton, Southampton
425 Cestrian, Chester
430 Fidelity, Ashton-under-Lyne
489 Benevolence, Bideford
523 John of Gaunt, Leicester
600 Harmony, Bradford
605 Combermere, Birkenhead
659 Blagdon, Blyth
663 Wiltshire of Fidelity, Devizes
758 Ellesmere, Runcorn
777 Royal Alfred, Guildford
802 Repose, Derby
833 Afan, Aberavon
900 St. George, Tewkesbury
939 Pelham, Worksop
940 Philanthropy, Stockton
993 Alexandra, Levenshulme
1000 Priory, Southend
1011 Richmond, Manchester
1037 Portland, Portland
1042 Excelsior, Leeds

1184 Abbey, Battle
1247 St. John, Plymouth
1299 Pembroke, Liverpool
1332 Unity, Crediton
1386 St. Hugh, Lincoln
1393 Hamer, Liverpool
1432 Fitz-Allan, Oswestry
1459 Ashbury, West Gorton
1470 Chiltern, Dunstable
1512 Hemming, Hampton Court
1534 Concord, Prestwich
1562 Homfray, Risca
1594 Cedewain, Newtown, Mont.
1776 Landport, Landport
1821 Atlingworth, Brighton
1869 Sandown, Sandown, I. of W'ht.
1872 St. Margaret, Surbiton
1887 St. Hilda, Wallingford
1892 Wallington, Sutton
2107 Etheldreda, Newmarket
2158 Boscombe, Boscombe
2226 St. David, Rhymney
2268 Hallamshire, Sheffield
2305 Stour, Ashford, Kent
2325 Rose of Lancaster, Southport
2341 Clemency, Oldham
2390 Exmoor, Minehead
2523 Roll Call, Hounslow
2555 England Centre, Weedon

Friday.

Board of Management, Boys School, 2.30.
143 Middlesex, Albion
1118 Oxford and Cambridge, F.M.H.
1962 London Rifle Brigade, And'tn's.
2157 St. Mark's College, H'lbom Rest
2243 Argonauts, Putney
2346 Warrant Officers, F'masons'-hall
152 Virtue, Manchester
271 Royal Clarence, Brighton
347 Noah Ark, Tipton
541 De Loraine, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1108 Royal Wharfedale, Otley
1295 Gooch, New Swindon
1311 Zetland, Leeds
1330 St. Peter, Market Harborough
1357 Cope, Sale
1389 Fenwick, Sunderland
1644 Alma Mater, Birmingham
1773 Albert Victor, Pendleton
1794 De Vere, Nottingham
2063 St. Osyth Priory, C'ct'n-on-Sea
2231 Talbot, Stretford
2447 Palatine, Manchester

Saturday.

715 Panmure, Cannon Street Hotel
1139 South Norwood, S. Norwood P.
1185 Lewis, Wood Green
1329 Sphinx, Camberwell
1364 Earl of Zetland, Guildhall Tav.
1732 King's Cross, Anderton's
1767 Kensington, Kensington
2308 Viator, Anderton's
416 Surrey, Reigate
811 Yarborough, Brighton
1126 Oakwood, Romiley
1556 Addiscombe, Croydon
1871 Gostling Murray, Hounslow
1897 Citadel, Harrow Station
2035 Beaumont, Kirkburton
2318 Lennox Browne, B'khuurst Hill
2437 Downshire, Wokingham
2458 Eton, Eton

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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.

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CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

THE members of this flourishing and highly popular Lodge—consecrated in the reign of King George the 3rd, in the year 1790—assembled to celebrate their annual installation on Monday, at the regular quarters, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, when a most successful meeting was the result, there being a large attendance of visitors, as well as members of the Lodge, to participate in the full amount of work which was set down on the agenda of the day.

An early start was made, Bro. E. Pennock, the Worshipful Master, opening his Lodge at 3 o'clock, supported by Bros. T. Kington I.P.M., G. Spice W.M.-elect S.W., John W. Simeons J.W., John Fells P.M. Treas., E. J. Davey P.M. Sec., W. Cutting S.D., Sidney W. Fells J.D., M. Baillie I.G., E. H. Lough Organist, L. G. Reinhardt Tyler; Past Masters Samuel Webb (one of the oldest members), G. P. Nightingale, S. Smithers, F. S. Plowright, W. Cubitt, F. Haines, J. K. Pitt P.P.G.D. Surrey (Hon. Member), &c., together with Bros. L. Parker, W. Houghton, W. Carr, J. Staal, J. C. Turner, F. Pirbul, M. Madders, S. Forman, G. Barrett, G. Baker, G. Cornish, A. Mignot, A. Gordon, T. Salomon, M. Mendoza, A. Jacobs, A. Delmonte, G. Barlow, F. E. Fells, G. Favrand, G. H. Brain, W. Flannery, C. Way, H. Jones, J. Bushell, E. Gosheron, and several others.

After the formal opening of the Lodge the minutes were confirmed, and, a Lodge of Fellow Crafts being opened, Bros. Carr, Fells and Favrand were examined as candidates for the third degree. They answered the questions in a very satisfactory manner, and were entrusted.

The Lodge was advanced to the third degree, and the same Brethren were raised as Master Masons, and regularly received in the Lodge as such.

Lodge was now resumed to the first degree, and Bros. W. Flannery and G. H. Brain were examined and entrusted previous to passing, which ceremony was in due course performed on their behalf.

Once again the Lodge was resumed to the first degree, when the ballot was taken for Mr. Arthur John Gordon and Mr. William Hattersley, as candidates for initiation. The result was unanimous in their favour, and the two gentlemen had the privilege of being initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry.

The report of the Auditors was received, and proved the Lodge to be in a sound financial condition.



BRO. GEORGE SPICE,

W.M. OF THE CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

Now came the great event of the year, the installation of Bro. George Spice as Worshipful Master. The W.M.-elect was presented by Bro. Past Master Plowright, signified his assent to the ancient charges in the regular way, and then, in a Board of some twenty installed Masters, he was elevated to the proud position of ruler of the Lodge, receiving the salutations of his Brethren in the three degrees. Bro. Kington P.M. made a perfect Director of Ceremonies during this part of the day's work, while Bro. Plowright displayed his usual care and capability in presenting the working tools, &c. to the new Master. In handing him the Warrant of the Lodge he impressed upon him the fact that it had been in the possession of the Lodge for a hundred and nine years, and he hoped it would lose none of its lustre while entrusted to the keeping of Bro. Spice, who thereupon proceeded to invest his Assistant Officers for the year, as follow: Bros. J. W. Simeons S.W., W. Cutting J.W., J. E. Fells P.M. Treasurer, E. J. Davey P.M. Sec., S. W. Fells S.D., Metcalfe Baillie J.D., T. Wiffen I.G., W. Belchamber P.M.

D.C., F. Haines P.M. and A. Mignot Stewards, E. H. Lough Organist, R. M. Owen A.D.C., and L. G. Reinhardt Tyler.

Bro. Pennock brought his year's work to a most successful termination by the delivery of the address to the Worshipful Master, while Bro. Plowright delivered those to the Officers and Brethren generally, the whole of the work, including the investiture of the Officers by Bro. Spice, being most ably gone through.

A letter was read from Bro. Kershaw the late Treasurer of the Lodge, stating his inability to attend, on account of ill health, and it was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent, wishing him a speedy recovery.

The sum of ten guineas was voted to a Brother in distress, and a further sum of ten guineas towards a testimonial for a prominent Officer of the Lodge. No further business offering, the W.M. received well deserved "hearty good wishes" from those present, and proceeded to close his Lodge.

Much to the regret of the whole party the new Worshipful Master was now compelled to leave, on account of his sister's recent death, and he handed over his authority to Bro. Pennock I.P.M., who did his best to fill the void thus unfortunately caused at the festive board.

The banquet was one of those excellent repasts for which Bro. Clemow's establishment is so famed. The tables were tastefully decorated, with electric lights, flowers and ferns artistically blended, the service being supervised by Bro. Thom Collings the Superintendent, who was most attentive to the wants of the guests.

In due course Bro. Pennock introduced the toast of the Queen, following on with that of the Grand Officers, coupling the name of Bro. J. K. Pitt with the latter.

Bro. Kington proposed the health of the Immediate Past Master. He would have preferred that their new ruler Bro. Spice should have been in his place to discharge this duty, but they all knew the reason of his absence, and most heartily sympathised with him in the loss he had recently sustained. The proposition of the toast afforded him very much pleasure. The members all knew that Bro. Pennock had been a hard working member of the Lodge, and had done everything that could be desired of a Worshipful Master. He had given satisfaction all round, and it was indeed a pleasant duty to be the means of presenting to him the Past Master's jewel which had been provided by the Lodge—well earned, and coupled, as it was, with the good wishes of every member of the Lodge, one and all of whom hoped Bro. Pennock might live to wear it in good health amongst them for many years yet to come. The jewel bore the following inscription:

Presented

by the Brethren of the Confidence Lodge, No. 193,

to

BRO. EDWARD PENNOCK,

for his able services as W.M.

January 1899.

Bro. Pennock thanked Bro. Kington for proposing the toast of his health in such a very cordial manner, and the Brethren for receiving the toast so heartily. He was proud to have occupied the position of Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and had tried hard to give satisfaction in the work that fell to him. He felt, from the heartiness of his reception, and from the very handsome jewel presented him that evening, that the Brethren had been satisfied with his efforts. He was sorry to have to vacate the chair of the Lodge, but his successor was far better qualified to occupy it than he was. He had the pleasure of looking back and finding that during his year of office he had initiated fourteen new members into the Lodge, but the success of the year had not been due to him alone. Rather it was due to Bro. Kington, who had in a kind and watchful manner helped him in all his offices. He most sincerely thanked the Past Masters and Officers for their kind interest, and sincerely hoped the members would give the present Master the same hearty support as they had accorded him during the past year. Bro. Pennock concluded with other expressions of his indebtedness to the members one and all.

Bro. Samuel Webb P.M. in most eloquent terms proposed the toast of the initiates. He felt sure they would make worthy Freemasons, they having paid such marked attention to the initiatory work.

Bro. Gordon thanked the I.P.M. for having initiated him, and the Brethren for having received him with such marked cordiality. He hoped he should prove himself a worthy member of the Confidence Lodge.

Bro. Hattersley also expressed his thanks, and promised to do all that lay in his power to justify his admission to the Craft. He thanked the members for having accepted him as a Brother amongst them.

The next toast was that of the Visitors, given by Bro. Plowright P.M., and acknowledged by Bros. Gilmour P.M. 1950, Shadwell S.W. 2626, Morris, and several others.

The toast of the Past Masters was next given by the acting I.P.M. Bro. Kington, who said the members of the Lodge knew it would be a difficult matter to find a better set of Past Masters than those possessed by the Confidence Lodge. Whatever advice or help was needed they were always ready to give it. Bro. Kington also paid a well deserved compliment to Bro. Plowright, for the services he had rendered that day, and spoke of the special qualifications of others included in the toast.

Bro. Samuel Webb responded on behalf of himself and fellow Past Masters of the Lodge.

The toast of the Secretary and Treasurer was now proposed, followed by that of the Wardens and other Officers, but in consequence of the lateness of the hour the speeches were necessarily curtailed.

Bro. Simeons Senior Warden said it was with deep regret he rose to respond on behalf of the Officers, regret because of the sad bereavement that had befallen the Worshipful Master. Having been initiated, passed and raised together, and having followed Bro. Spice in all the various Offices he had filled, he knew with what enthusiasm he had looked forward to his installation, and the accompanying festivities. He hoped and trusted the Great Architect of the Universe would give their W.M. strength to carry out the duties of the chair during his year of office with that perfection of which he was so capable. With these remarks he begged to thank the members and visitors for the way in which the toast had been received.

The proceedings were brought to a conclusion by the Tyler's toast.

There was an excellent programme of music arranged for the evening, and carried out most satisfactorily under the direction of the Organist of the Lodge Bro. E. H. Lough, who was as good as usual in the different parts he filled. Among those who contributed to the harmony were Bro. J. W. Simeons the S.W., and Bro. Davey the Secretary.

Among the Visitors were Bros. J. Morris, R. Gilmour P.M. 1950, R. Blyth, W.M. 77, Stacey Pye 1500, C. Wetton P.M. 2087, T. E. Ladd P.M. 619, W. G. Shadwell S.W. 2626, F. Mead 112, F. Stallard P.M. 1613, J. Wynman, and others.

The new Master of the Lodge—Bro. George Spice—whose portrait we

have much pleasure in presenting to our readers, was born on the 21st January 1850, at Southwark. He was initiated into Freemasonry in the Lodge of which he is now the President, in October 1892, and was exalted into the Arch in the Fellowship Chapter, No. 2535. Bro. Spice was a Steward on behalf of the Boys School at the Festival of 1895, for the Girls in 1896, and a second time for the Boys at the Centenary celebration of last year. We wish him health and strength to perform the duties of his high office, and join our sympathy to that expressed by the members of his Lodge at the loss he has just sustained, and which compelled him to absent himself from the annual Festival of his Lodge.

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ST. MICHAEL LODGE, No. 211.

An ordinary meeting of this ancient Lodge was held at the Albion, Aldersgate Street, E.C., on Tuesday, over which Bro. Albert Collings W.M. presided.

There were also present Bros. Alfred Green P.M. Treasurer, W. Radcliffe P.M. Secretary, A. B. Spawforth I.P.M., E. C. Collings S.W., F. W. Berry J.W., H. E. Mullins J.D., C. J. Pennell I.G., Wm. Sutton Organist, P. J. King, D. F. Latham, James Lovegood, E. T. Stainforth, E. E. Berry, &c. Also the following visitors: Bros. G. W. Goss 176, F. J. Burton P.M. 1672, T. E. Roberts 1672, Harry Nash P.P.G.R. Cheshire, Herbert Linwood Organist 1381, Wallis Arthur 1706, and J. A. Collings 2705.

After the Lodge had been opened the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Mr. Joseph Spawforth, as a candidate, which proved unanimous. As this gentleman was a brother of the I.P.M. Bro. Collings courteously resigned the chair in favour of Bro. A. B. Spawforth, who thereupon initiated the candidate into the privileges of the Craft, and made him a Brother in a double sense.

This being election night according to the By-laws the ballot was taken for Master and Treasurer, the choice of the Brethren falling upon Bro. Ernest C. Collings as W.M. for the succeeding year. Bro. Alfred Green was re-elected as Treasurer, and Bro. J. Barnes P.M. upon a show of hands was appointed as Tyler.

The installation will take place on the Feast of St. Valentine, 14th prox. Several letters of interest to the Lodge were read by the Secretary, and the business being ended the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to supper. A pleasant convivial evening was subsequently spent.

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LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

THE installation meeting was held on the 5th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, W.C. Bro. Thomas Henry Clear W.M. presided for the last time at the termination of his year of office, and was supported by Bros. James Kench P.M. P.G.P., John Skinner P.M., T. W. Smale P.M., G. T. Augspurg P.M., Fred Cambridge P.P.G.O. Surrey, J. J. Pittman P.M., S. C. Cross, E. J. Pittman, J. H. Harrington, G. A. Sturgess, H. Rivett, A. H. Heron, H. Hipwell, J. Leather, &c.

The following visitors were also present: Bros. Herbert Kershaw P.P.G.D. Essex, Dr. Fred Nicholls P.P.G.D.C. Surrey, Henry Massey P.M. 1928, Frank Hall P.M. 403, H. Whitney P.M. 861, Joseph Pike P.M. 1639, John Paul P.M. 1287, James Manning P.M. 2298, W. J. Greig P.M. 65, C. B. Wilkinson P.M. 335, John Rickwood P.M. 192, J. W. Elvin W.M. 2395, Orton Cooper P.M. 211, William James 1471, L. A. Lockwood 2509, H. E. Mullins J.D. 211, W. E. Jones 206, Percy Jakins 1385, E. H. Thompsett J.W. 1505, A. H. Jones S.W. 206, J. B. Pinchbeck 2202, C. W. Saffell 860.

The Lodge was duly opened, and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The Report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted.

Bros. J. Bannister Howard and F. A. Zeppenfeld, of the Playgoers Lodge, No. 2705, and Bro. Joseph Leather, of the Great Northern Lodge, No. 1207, were accepted as joining members. Bros. Walter Hooker and William Webb, two old Past Masters of the Lodge, were elected as country members. The ballot was taken for Mr. Edward James Whittle and Mr. Sidney Worpell Harrington, who, having been regularly approved, were admitted and duly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Craft by Bro. Clear.

The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. P.M. Kench, who had kindly consented to perform the installation ceremony. Bro. Thomas Alfred Tidy was presented by his predecessor, and, having been duly obligated, was inducted into the chair of the Lodge, and the Warrant delivered into his keeping.

The Officers were invested as follow: J. Cumming S.W., G. A. Sturgess J.W., J. Kench Treasurer, T. W. Smale Secretary, Fred Cambridge Organist, J. J. Pittman D.C., G. T. Augspurg Steward, H. T. Hipwell S.D., S. C. Cross J.D., F. J. Pittman I.G., T. Bowler Tyler.

There being no other business of importance, the new Master received the congratulations of those present, and the Lodge was closed.

An excellent dinner followed, and during the evening a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Clear, as a mark of appreciation of the able manner in which he had carried out his duties during his Mastership. A still more interesting episode was the presentation of a handsome silver salver to Bro. James Kench, the Father of the Lodge, and Treasurer for the last thirty years, in recognition of the high esteem in which he is held by the Brethren.

A capital musical programme was provided by Bro. Cambridge, in which Miss Jessie Hotine, Miss Emily Foxcroft, Bros. Mandeno, Jackson and James Kift took part.

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PROVINCIAL.

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INTEGRITY LODGE, No. 163.

THE regular meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper Street, Manchester, on Wednesday, 28th ult. Lodge was opened at the early hour of 5 p.m., and an election of Officers took place, the result being that Bro. Hy. R. Yates S.W. was unanimously chosen as W.M.-elect, Bro. J. H. Scholfield P.M. P.P.G.R. was successfully balloted for as Treasurer, whilst Bro. E. H. Warburton P.M. P.P.S.G.D. was elected Charity Representative of the Lodge.

The installation of Bro. Yates will take place on Wednesday, 25th inst.

At 6.30 Bro. Frederic Walmsley Worshipful Master and his Officers held a reception of members and friends (including ladies), who had been invited to participate in the pleasures of a social evening. Bro. Walmsley, in a few well-chosen phrases, offered a cordial welcome to the visitors, whose hearty

acceptance of his complaisance proved that they were disposed to make themselves thoroughly at home.

The various selections were very charming, and deserve a permanent place in the records of the Lodge. The opening pianoforte duet "Qui Vive," by Bros. F. Simpson, and R. W. Nuttall J.D., was followed by songs "I'll sing thee songs of Araby," and "Angus McDonald," rendered respectively by Bro. Ben Williams P.M., and Mrs. S. Williams, the latter delighting the audience later on by "Wishes and Fishes." Bro. Fred M. Whittle Organist gave an oboe solo "Fantasie," with a daintiness of execution which invariably characterises his efforts on this instrument. Mrs. Nuttall's song "Daddy" was in pleasing contrast to the humorous eccentricity "Moriarty," of Bro. Fred W. Millington. Bro. Alfred Eastwood, one of the latest additions to the Lodge of Integrity, sang "I trust you still," and further distinguished himself with Bro. Nuttall in a duet "The battle eve," whilst Bro. Herbert A. Owles I.P.M. sang the seasonable "Christmas comes but once a year" in his usual breezy style. To Bro. Samuel Gaskill P.M. was assigned the dramatic portion of the programme, his recitation "The Game of Life" being very well received.

An excellent supper was sandwiched into the proceedings, the segregated portion of the evening being afterwards spent in dancing.

The toasts were very limited in number, and with the exception of that devoted to the visitors, were proposed by the W.M. Bro. Yates S.W. introduced the latter, which also included the fair sex, being responded to by Bro. B. Wilmot. The speaker said that having performed this duty last year, he could scarcely tell why he was called upon to repeat it, unless it was because he had then made a pledge that he would not remain in the position of single blessedness.

As representing the ladies he added the latter were always willing to visit such meetings, so that they might see in what company their husbands mixed. He explained that he had not yet become a Benedict, but, being interrogated by Bro. Robert Race Secretary, as to whether he would renew his pledge of last year, dared not to make the venture. The ladies were very much obliged to the W.M. and his Officers for providing such an excellent entertainment, and he took that opportunity of thanking them. Bro. Ben Done also said a few words on behalf of the visitors.

Before closing our report, we must not omit to add a word of praise on behalf of the Committee instrumental in furnishing the admirably designed programme. The colours, which were not in excess, were nicely blended, the whole being to our mind a work of art.

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LODGE OF FAITH, No. 581.

THE annual meeting and Festival of St. John took place at the Bradford Hotel, Mill Street, Manchester, on Wednesday, 21st ult., Bro. Robert Adshead W.M.

There was a very good attendance both of members and visitors.

The principal business of the afternoon was that of installing Bro. Chas. H. Griffiths J.W. as Worshipful Master of the Lodge. Bro. Joseph Truelove Richardson P.M. P.P.S.G.D. took the W.M.'s chair at an early hour, and was supported by the following Installing Officers, viz., Past Masters George W. Scott as S.W., John Greenup as J.W., R. Adshead as I.G., and Thomas Tyers P.P.G.Swd.Br. as Deacon. The ceremonial as performed by Bro. Richardson has so often been reverted to in these columns that further comment is unnecessary, other than to say that on this occasion he fully maintained his reputation.

The working tools of each degree were presented and explained by Bro. William Jones P.M.

Bro. Griffiths the newly-installed W.M. invested the Officers, whilst Bro. J. H. Smith P.M. P.D.G.S.B. (Bombay) explained the various jewels. Subjoined is a list of the new Officers, viz: Bros. Dr. E. E. Jones S.W., S. Andrews J.W., Hy. B. Brown P.M. Treasurer, George Ogden Secretary, J. Greenup P.M. Dir. of Cer., Arthur Mellor Organist, Jos. Harrison S.D., Matthew Goth J.D., C. Carruthers I.G., J. Hutchison, F. Andrews, T. G. Swarbrick, J. T. Wilkinson Stewards.

The Festival of St. John was afterwards held in the Lodge room, which had been handsomely decorated, and presented altogether an affluent appearance, the banquet being served with a sumptuousness, with a luxury and recherche, which left no doubt as to the good intentions of the host Mr. Whittaker.

Loyal and Masonic toasts were pleasantly varied by the musical and recitative efforts of Bros. J. T. Moorhouse, M. Goth, Edward Roberts P.M. 1459, Henry Bentley 1459, Kenneth Stewart J.W. 1140, and others, the accompanist being Bro. Arthur Mellor.

Bro. Capt. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds P.M. 64 Deputy Provincial Grand Master (E.L.) responded to the toast of the Grand Officers in a very excellent speech, which, from the exalted position he holds in the Province, was naturally of a didactic character.

The health of the Installing Master was proposed by Bro. Scott, and duly responded to by Bro. Richardson, who, in the course of his remarks, said he had been initiated in the Lodge of Faith in the year 1863, that he had been their Worshipful Master three times, and had performed the ceremony of installation on many occasions. He was glad to hear that he had given satisfaction, and at any future time he would willingly lend them what assistance he could. He had done much for Freemasonry, was a Grand Officer, and had passed through many of the higher degrees, but he could assure the Brethren that if he had his time to go over again, he would try to do even more than he had already achieved.

In responding to the toast of his health, Bro. Griffiths W.M. said he was not by any means an old Mason, having been initiated by Bro. Barnes only six years ago, his rise in the Lodge had therefore been a very rapid one. Many of the Officers appointed that day were particular friends of his, and he therefore had no misgivings with regard to the forthcoming twelve months. Unfortunately they had been without ceremonial for some little time, and they might be a bit rusty, but they would soon have a chance of some work, and, he contended, this was a happy augury for the new year.

Bro. Griffiths then proposed the health of the I.P.M., and reverted in warm terms to the excellent service he had rendered the Lodge. It had been the usual custom to present a gold jewel to the retiring Master, and on this occasion it was not intended to make any new departure. Bro. Griffiths then pinned a handsome Past Master's jewel upon the breast of Bro. Adshead, expressing a sincere hope that his good lady might cherish it when he took it home, and that he himself might live many years to wear it.

Bro. Adshead I.P.M. said, in reply, that he received the jewel with the greatest amount of gratification, feeling assured that the Brethren would not have presented it to him if he had not deserved it. He would therefore go from that meeting filled with delight in the knowledge that they had appreciated the conduct of their late Worshipful Master.

Amongst other toasts which followed was one to the host and hostess

(Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker), not only for the very excellent manner in which they had catered during the banquet, but for the care and attention which they had bestowed upon the room and its surroundings. The toast was replied to by Mr. Whittaker, who promised that he would not relax any efforts which might conduce to the future comfort of the members of the Faith Lodge, or indeed of any Lodge which might hold its meetings on his premises.

Besides those already mentioned there were present Bros. Wm. Whyte McLeod P.M. 1166 Prov. G. Supt. of Wks., Walter Newton P.M. 1322, &c., P.P.G.D. (Mayor of Ashton-under-Lyne), John Jee P.M. 1459, W. Gregg P.M. 2144, Geo. T. Lenard P.M. 1177, Geo. W. Davies P.M. 1459, Thomas Chorlton 1166, and others.

LONDESBOROUGH LODGE, No. 734.

ONE of the most successful events in the annals of this Lodge took place on Tuesday, 3rd inst., when Bro. Chas. Nicholson, who has served the office of Senior Warden of the Lodge during the past year, was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The esteem in which Bro. Nicholson is held, not only in his own Lodge, but also by the Brethren of other Lodges in the Province, was evinced by the very large attendance at the installation, which took place at the Masonic Hall, St. John's Avenue, Bridlington.

The Lodge was opened by the out-going Master Bro. Thomas Hunter, who has had a most successful year of office, and has fulfilled his duties as W.M. of the Lodge to the entire satisfaction of the Brethren. The ceremony of installation was most admirably and efficiently performed by Bro. F. Creaser P.M. P.P.G.St.B., who has gained a well deserved reputation for his ability in this branch of the Craft, and who has performed the ceremony to the admiration of the Brethren for about twenty years, not only in the Londesborough, but in other Lodges in the Province of North and East Yorks.

The Lodge having been closed in ancient form, the Brethren proceeded to the Station Hotel, where the installation banquet was held, the company numbering between forty and fifty.

PRUDENCE LODGE, No. 1550.

THE members of this Lodge held their annual banquet on Saturday evening, 7th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, when about sixty were present, including a large number of visiting Brethren. Bro. Pryor W.M. presided.

The speeches were commendably short, but special reference was made to the admirable manner in which Bro. Pryor had discharged his duties during the time he had filled the W.M.'s chair, and to the gratifying progress the Lodge was making under his guidance. Bro. Philip mentioned that he had been Treasurer of the Lodge for sixteen years, and he was glad to say that it was never more prosperous than at the present moment. Bro. Selleck Secretary gave similar testimony. They were, he said, not only adding to their numbers, but the new members they were introducing were of the right class, and likely to uphold the best traditions of Freemasonry.

WOLSELEY LODGE, No. 1993.

THE regular meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Monday, 2nd inst., Bro. George Hargreaves W.M.

Although this day was practically considered as the New Year's holiday, and the members had been summoned for the early hour of 10.30 a.m., there was an attendance of nearly forty.

Two ceremonies had been announced, but one, that of raising Bro. C. H. Ramsbottom to the third degree, was deferred. Successful ballots were taken for Bro. Frederick George Anton Ballantine, Longsight Lodge, No. 2464, and Mr. George Beaman, Salesman, Patrieroff, the former as a joining member, and the latter as an initiate, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Wm. Harris P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C.

MARISTOW LODGE, No. 2726.

THE first meeting since the consecration was held on the 4th inst., at Mr. Yelverton.

Mr. Y. B. Lopes, M.P. for Grantham, and Mr. W. H. Mitchell were initiated.

After a very impressive delivery of the lecture on the tracing board by Bro. Lord, and the receipt of several proposals, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the Yelverton Hotel for supper.

CURIOS WAGERS.

ONE of the earliest instances of a wager is recorded in Judges xiv, 12, 13. Samson propounds a riddle to his thirty companions, at the same time proposing a wager:—"I will now put forth a riddle unto you. If ye can certainly declare it me . . . and find it out, I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments."

This incident proves at least that the time of the ancients was not entirely taken up with war, and by the absorptions of study, but that they could enjoy a joke with the zest of a modern. King Solomon was of this class, and seems to have possessed a wonderful faculty for solving difficult problems and emblematical sayings. Josephus, the Jewish historian (Antiq. Book 8, Chap. 5, Par. 3) relates how Hiram, King of Tyre, and the son of David, once engaged in a riddle contest, when Solomon won a large sum of money, but on the authority of Dios, he subsequently lost it to Abdemon, a Tyrian—in fact one of Hiram's subjects. "Solomon, who was then King of Jerusalem, sent riddles to Hiram, and desired to receive the like from him; but that he who could not solve them should pay money to them that did solve them; and that Hiram accepted the conditions; and when he was not able to solve the riddles (proposed by Solomon), he paid a great deal of money for his fine; but that he afterward did solve the proposed riddles by means of Abdemon, a man of Tyre, and that Hiram proposed other riddles, which, when Solomon could not solve, he paid back a great deal of money to Hiram."

Wagering his Reputation.—Asclepiades, of Bithynia, the most famous physician of his time (B.C. 90), who founded a sect in physic, displayed one supreme act of foolishness. Relying so much upon his own skill, he

wagered against Fortune, that he would never be sick during his life, under penalty of forfeiting the brilliant reputation which he had acquired in Rome. The amount of the wager is not stated, but whatever it was he won it, for he lived to a very advanced age, his death being caused at last by a fall.

Slavery, versus Freedom.—Gaming was introduced into England by the Saxons; the loser in most cases being made a slave to the winner, and sold in traffic like other merchandise. This we have on the evidence of Camden and Stow. The etymology of the word wager has been traced to gager, or gage, proving that something must be deposited. Still it is rather hard when a man's freedom is the thing staked.

In Evelyn's Journal (21st Oct. 1644) is the following:—"Ligorne. Here, especially in this Piazza, is such a concourse of slaves, Turks, Moors, and other nations, that the confusion is prodigious. . . . Here was a tent where any idle fellow might stake his liberty against a few crowns at dice or other hazard; and if he lost, he was immediately chayn'd and led away to the gallys, where he was to serve a term of yeares, but from whence they seldom returned. Many sottish persons in a drunken bravado would try their fortunes in this way."

Jacob Grimm, in his "Deutsches Rechts Alterthümer," gives an instance where Morolf, playing at chess with the queen, staked his head against her stake of thirty golden marks, and there is an instance of a wager in Shakspeare's "Hamlet" (Act 5, Scene 2). The courtier Osric announces to the prince that Claudius, King of Denmark, has laid a wager on his (Hamlet's) head—"six Barbary horses against six French swords."

Cleopatra's Wager with Mark Anthony.—The following is an account of the celebrated wager of Cleopatra with Mark Anthony. During her stay at Tarsus, Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, invited Anthony, the Roman Triumvir, to supper, and wagered that she would swallow, at one meal, a sum equal to £80,729 3s 4d. Anthony during the symposium observed nothing extraordinary, and "began to rally the queen on the frugality of her table. She made no reply, but detached from her ears two pearls of great price, one of which she threw into a liquor prepared for the purpose. The pearl was speedily dissolved, and she swallowed it in the presence of Munatius Plaucus, the chosen arbiter of the wager." She was preparing in like manner to melt the other, when Plaucus snatched it away, acknowledging at the same time that she had already won the wager. The pearl was afterwards carried to Rome by Augustus, and being by his order cut in two, served for pendants to the Venus of the Julian family. Like a number of other good stories this one lacks the principal element for inspiring confidence in its truthfulness. It is quite unlikely that Cleopatra's colloquial knowledge was superior to that of scientists of the present day, who are unacquainted with any non-deleterious liquor or acid which would so quickly dissolve a pearl of such size, for it must have been large to have represented the value here stated.

Wager by King Henry the Eighth.—A very disgraceful transaction is related of Henry 8th, who was addicted to deep play. The story goes that once playing high with a Sir Miles Partridge, and having a run of ill luck, and also being at a loss for another venture, he wagered Jesus bells, as they were termed (the stake consisting of four bells hanging in one of the towers of Old St. Paul's Church), which were lost by the dice cast turning up in favour of his lucky adversary. An old author makes the following remark on Sir Miles's winning the bells, that though by such unworthy means he did cause the bells to ring in his pocket, yet he could not prevent the ropes twisting about his neck "for he was afterwards hanged for malpractices in the reign of Edward the Sixth.

Queen Elizabeth's Wager.—A wager is said to have been won by Sir Walter Raleigh from the Virgin Queen, on the question of how much smoke is contained in a pound of tobacco. "A pound of the article in question was weighed, burned, and then weighed again in ashes. The question was held to be satisfactorily settled by determining the weight of the smoke as exactly that of the tobacco before being burned, minus the residuum of ashes. The fact of the ashes having received an additional weight by combination with the oxygen of the atmosphere, and also the circumstance of numerous imperceptible gases being evolved by the process of combustion, were alike unthought of by Elizabeth and her knight."

A Diver's Foolishness.—The very climax of recklessness is attained when an individual allows himself to embark on a desperate venture for the sake of an amount which practically means a bet against his own life. A person named Day perished in a diving-bell or diving boat, of his own construction, at Plymouth, in June 1774, in which he was to have continued for a wager twelve hours, one hundred feet deep in water. Possibly he lost his life through not possessing all the hydrostatic knowledge that was necessary for such a perilous undertaking.

Selwyn and Dodsley at Fault.—The following proves the unwisdom of relying upon one's memory for facts, especially where very particular interests are at stake. The well-known lines

"For he that fights and runs away
Will live to fight another day,"

have been generally attributed to Butler, and nine out of ten critics would tell you that they occur in "Hudibras." "So confident have even scholars been on the subject that in 1784 a wager was made at Bootle, of twenty to one, that they were to be found in that celebrated poem. Dodsley was referred to as the arbiter, when he ridiculed the idea of consulting him on the subject, saying, "Every fool knows they are in Hudibras." George Selwyn, who was present, said to Dodsley, "Pray, sir, will you be good enough, then, to inform an old fool, who is, at the same time, your wise worship's very humble servant, in what canto they are to be found." Dodsley took down the volume, but he could not find the passage; the next day passed over with no better success, and the sage bibliopole was obliged to confess, that a man might be ignorant of the author of this well-known couplet, without being absolutely a fool. Butler has, indeed, two or three passages somewhat similar; the one that comes nearest is the following, in Hudibras, book iii, canto iii. verse 243:—

"For those that fly may fight again,
Which he can never do that's slain."

The fact, however, is, that the couplet, thus erroneously ascribed to the author of Hudibras, occurs in a small volume of miscellaneous poems, by Sir John Mennes, written in the reign of Charles the Second.

Betting on the Durance of Life.—In the early part of the present century, men were fond of betting on the duration of the lives of celebrities. It is related that at a dinner party in 1809, Sir Mark Sykes offered to pay anyone who would give him a hundred guineas down a guinea a day so long as Napoleon lived. The offer was taken by a clergyman present, and for three years Sir Mark paid him three hundred and sixty five guineas per annum.

Thinking he had thrown sufficient money away, the baronet disputed further payment. The recipient, unwilling to lose so rich an annuity, brought an action, which, after lengthy litigation, was decided in favour of Sir Mark.

Vieuxtemps.—This well-known violinist used to tell a strange story of a wager which he said he had really witnessed whilst on a visit to London. One day as he was walking across London Bridge, a man jumped up on the parapet and leapt down into the river. There was at once a rush of eager spectators, and a voice shouted, "I'll bet he drowns!" "Two to one he'll swim ashore!" "Done!" Vieuxtemps hastened to get a boat, and was rowing with a waterman to the rescue of the unhappy creature, who was floundering about, and just managing to keep himself afloat. As they reached him, and were preparing to pull him into the boat, there was a roar from the Bridge:—"Leave him alone, there's a bet on!" The waterman, says the narrative, immediately lay on his oars, refusing to make any further attempt to save the drowning man, and Vieuxtemps saw him sink before his very eyes.

Ugliness Matched.—It is said that a bet was once made in relation to Heidegger, Master of the Revels to George II., whose ugliness it was alleged impossible to surpass. The slums of London were ransacked from one end to the other, and at last, in St. Giles's, an old woman was found, who it was thought would rival this Thersites of the eighteenth century. On being confronted with Heidegger, the judges maintained that the latter, who made himself a party to the dispute with the greatest good-humour, had now fairly met with his match, when it was suggested that he should put on the old woman's bonnet. The additional hideousness thus imparted was such that Heidegger was unanimously declared as the holder of the championship of ugliness. It was Heidegger who claimed to be the most ingenious man in Europe, for, said he, "I was born a Swiss, and came to England without a farthing, but I have found means to gain £5,000 a year and to spend it. Now I defy the most able Englishman to go to Switzerland, and either to gain that income, or to spend it there." He died in 1749, aged ninety years.

(To be continued).

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The Theatres, &c.

Adelphi.—Twice Daily, Dick Whittington.
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 Comedy.—8'15, Milord Sir Smith. *Matinée*, Thursday and Saturday, 2'30.
Criterion.—8'15, Nicolette. 8'45, My "Soldier" Boy. *Matinée*, Saturday.
Daly's.—8'15, A Greek Slave. *Matinée*, Saturday, 2'30.
Drury Lane.—Twice Daily, The Forty Thieves.
Duke of York's.—8, Red Roses. 8'45, The Adventure of Lady Ursula.
Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2'30.
Gaiety.—8'15, A Runaway Girl. *Matinée*, Saturday, 2.
Garrick.—8, The Three Musketeers. *Matinée*, Wednesday and Saturday,
 2'15.
Globe.—8'15, School. *Matinée*, Saturday, 2'30.
Haymarket.—8'10, A Golden Wedding. 9, The Manceuvres of Jane.
Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2'15.
Her Majesty's.—8'15, The Musketeers. *Matinée*, Wednesday and
 Saturday, 2'15.
Lyceum.—8, Carl Rosa Opera Company. *Matinée*, Saturday, 2.
Lyric.—8, Little Miss Nobody. 9'30, La Loie Fuller. *Matinée*, Thursday
 and Saturday, 2'30.
Olympic.—8, East Lynne.
Opera Comique.—Twice Daily, Alice in Wonderland.
Prince of Wales's.—8'15, La Poupée. *Matinée*, Saturday, 2'30.
Princess.—8, The Crystal Globe. *Matinée*, Wednesday 2.
Royalty.—8'15, Confederates. 9, A Little Ray of Sunshine. *Matinée*,
 Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Savoy.—8'15, The Lucky Star. *Matinée*, Saturday, 2'30.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. *Matinée*, Wednesday and
 Saturday, 2.
St. James.—8'30, The Ambassador. *Matinée*, Wednesday and Saturday,
 2'30.
Strand.—8'15, An Empty Stocking. 9, What happened to Jones. *Matinée*,
 Wednesday and Saturday, 2'30.
Terry's.—8, The Lady Bookie. 8'45, The Brixton Burglary. *Matinée*,
 Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Vaudeville.—8, A Bad Penny. 9, On and Off. *Matinée*, Wednesday and
 Saturday, 3.
Alexandra.—7'30, Cinderella. Saturday, 1'30 also.
Dalston.—7'30, Aladdin. Thursday, 2 also.
Grand.—7'30, Babes in the Wood. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 1'30.
Parkhurst.—7'45, Aladdin. Wednesday and Saturday, 2 also.
Queen's Opera House, Crouch End.—7'45, Cinderella. Next week, Lord
 and Lady Algy.
Alhambra.—7'45, Variety Entertainment. Jack Ashore, &c.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily, Pantomime, Santa Claus.
Aquarium.—Varieties, Minting, Paula, The Great Dive, 10, 2 and 7.
Empire.—7'50, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet Alaska, &c.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.
Olympia.—Barnum and Bailey's Show.
Oxford.—Variety Entertainment.
Palace.—7'45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c.
Royal.—7'30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2'30 also.
Tivoli.—7'30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2'15 also.

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