# reemason's

# Chronicle.

### MASONIC INTELLIGENCE. RECORD OF

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SATURDAY, 6th MAY 1899.

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### THE GIRLS SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

THE Anniversary Festival on behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls will be held on Wednesday next, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Viscount Dungarvan, D.L., Provincial Grand Master of Somerset. We are pleased to know there is every probability that the meeting will prove a success, and will provide the necessary funds for another year's work of this most useful Institution, where upwards of 260 daughters of deceased Brethren are being clothed and maintained, besides receiving an education which it is quite right to say prepares them for any station in life they may be called upon to fill.

With so many children to provide for, and an assured income which, although sufficient to be very proud of, yet does not provide any considerable portion of the year's necessary expenditure, it naturally follows that on the result of the Anniversary Festivals very much depends, and this being so anxiety generally arises as to what each in turn will produce. This year

a goodly number of Brethren have been enrolled as Stewards, and there is little reason to think they will be less successful than many who have gone before them, although it must be borne in mind that very heavy calls have recently been made upon Brethren in support of Masonic Education. We can but hope the Stewards have been fortunate in their appeals, and that the result of next week's Festival will be to add another to the already long list of triumphs secured by the Masonic Brethren of England in support of the

Charitable Educational Institutions associated with their Order.

We direct special attention to the report given elsewhere, We direct special attention to the report given elsewhere, in connection with the account of the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, as to the work of the Glasgow Lodges during the past year. Not only are some interesting details given as to the number of members in the Province, but we also learn that the thirty-seven Lodges possess funds amounting to £16,770, not always including movable property, the average showing over £416 for ordinary funds, and £62 for Benevolent funds. A very large number of English Masons have been accustomed to regard their Scottish friends and their Lodges with a certain amount of scorn, but we should like to see the English Province which scorn, but we should like to see the English Province which could show such figures as those just quoted. On the English side of the border there is usually so narrow a margin between subscriptions on the one side of the account, and refreshment on the other, as to make it often a difficult matter to keep current expenses within the available balance. We do not wish to see English Masonry turned into a mere benefit society, but as things are now conducted there is a very wide difference between Masonic preaching and Masonic practice.

Another point in connection with this report. It is therein stated that none of the thirty-seven Lodges meets on licensed premises, or in connection therewith; on the contrary, they all have halls, specially built or adapted for Masonic purposes.

### ROYAL ARCH.

### GRAND CHAPTER.

HE Quarterly Convocation was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, London, under the presidency of Earl Amherst Pro Grand Z.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was proclaimed as reinstalled Grand Z., while the subordinate Officers were appointed as follow:

appointed as follow:

The Earl Amherst
The Earl of Warwick
W. W. B. Beach, M.A., M.P.
Edward Letchworth, F.S.A.
Rev. W. Gardiner, B.D.
Sir George D. Harris
Alfred H. Bevan
John Strachan, Q.C.
Edward Beaumont
Alderman Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale
Rear-Admiral W. H. C. St. Clair
P. Colville Smith Pro Z. Scribe E. Scribe N. Pres. Com. Gen. Purps. Registrar Deputy Registrar Principal Sojourner Assistant Sojourners P. Colville Smith
Lieut.-Col. George F. Parkyn
Lieut.-Col. George W. Dixon Sword Bearer Deputy Sword Bearer Edmund Roberts
James W. Burgess
W. Cleghorn
John Kenyon
John Welford Standard Bearers John Welford
Major Henry Wright
Frank Richardson
Dr. A. G. Standberg
Charles T. Tyler
W. Wright
C. J. R. Tijou
W. Fisher
W. H. Thomas Director of Ceremonies Deputy Dir. of Cers. Assistant Dirs. of Cers. Organist Assistant Scribe E. William Lake

Past Grand rank was conferred by the Prince of Wales upon Sir John Edge, Q.C., the Revs. R. Peck and E. Parr, Captain C. H. Garnett, Comps. C. A. B. Bignold, J. H. Handyside, W. F. Lamonby, James Fernandez, C. D. Hoblyn, James Newton, P. C. L. Crump, and Hermann Klein.

### NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE.

THE Provincial Grand Chapter was held on Wednesday, and inst. at the Masonia Hall Country 3rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Scarborough, over which the Provincial Grand Superintendent, the Marquis of Zetland presided.

There was a large attendance of Companions from Hull, Whitby, Malton, Middlesbrough, &c. The officers for the year were invested, and a banquet followed at the Balmoral Hotel.

### SUFFOLK

Was held on Eriday 20th with Chapter was held on Friday, 28th ult., at the Town Hall, Halesworth. The occasion was the more important, as the opportunity was taken of consecrating the new St. Edmund's

Chapter, No. 1983.

After the Provincial Chapter had been formally opened, under the presidency of Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.Prin.Soj. Provincial Grand Superintendent, the minutes were read and confirmed. The rolls of the Officers and Chapters were called, and the reports received showed a satisfactory increase of membership during the year. After the report of the Board of General Purposes had been read and ordered to be entered on the minutes, the Chapter unanimously elected Comp. J. M. Canova St. Edmund's, 1983 to be Treasurer for the Province. Comps. H. J. Wright and A. A. Bennett were re-elected Auditors.

The Grand Superintendent of the Province then appointed and invested his Officers, as follow:

Comp. A. E. Smith B. S. Bradbeer B. S. BrauceN. Tracy
G. P. Price
J. M. Canova
C. H. Youngman
Rev. J. H. Pilkington
R. J. Carthew
F. Spashett Scribe E. Scribe N. Treasurer
Registrar
Principal Sojourner
1st Assist. Sojourner
2nd Assiet. Sojourner F. Spashett -G. F. Hawkins H. C. Rance -J. M. Franks -Sword Bearer Sword Bearer
Standard Bearer
Director of Ceremonies
Assist. Dir. of Cers.
Assist. Scribe E. A. Cocks A. Spalding Geo. Gould Janitor.

Comp. John Thompson, 225, superintended the musical

arrangements of the service, and presided at the organ.

After the closing of the Provincial Chapter the ceremony of consecrating the St. Edmund's Chapter was proceeded with, the Rev. C. J. Martyn being the Consecrating Officer. After the ceremony of dedication and constitution Comp. A. E. Smith P.Z. 376 P.G.H. Suffolk was installed M.E.Z., Comp. E. M. U. Adnams H., and Comp. G. H. Garrett J. In the evening, a banquet was held at the King's Arms Hotel, to which the Provincial Grand Officers and Officers

and Companions of St. Edmund's Chapter sat down. After dinner, the usual Arch and other toasts suitable to the

occasion were duly honoured.

### WEST LANCASHIRE.

THE Reverend T. Barton Spencer Past Grand Chaplain presided on Thursday night at a meeting of Past Masters of Preston Lodges, held at the Masonic Rooms, Bull Hotel, Preston, to receive a report respecting the installation of the Earl of Lathom as Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire, in succession to the late Earl.

Brother Oakey reported that Lord Lathom had fixed

rst June for the ceremony, and had accepted an invitation to the Public Hall, Preston, where the Earl of Amherst Pro Grand Master would perform the ceremony at two o'clock, Lord Lathom being previously installed as Grand Super-intendent at one o'clock. The report was received with gratification.

The Chairman and ten representatives of the five Preston Lodges were appointed a Committee to make local arrangements, sub-committees being formed for each installation and the subsequent banquet, of all Past Masters of the Preston

Lodges, with auxiliaries to act as Stewards.

The Provincial Grand Master-elect has already served as Provincial Grand Senior Warden. He has selected Preston Public Hall for a ceremony usually seen only about four times in a century in each Province—because the Hall is the most central in the largest English Province, which extends from Liverpool to Barrow in European or clong the whole from Liverpool to Barrow-in-Furness, or along the whole coast of Lancashire, and half way across the county.

### NEW HALL AT PORTLAND.

N the 20th ult. the handsome new Hall which the Brethren of Portland have built near the Railway Station was formally opened. The local Lodge is in a flourishing condition, the membership having increased so rapidly that it became necessary to erect new buildings to carry on the work. The large hall will be available for public meetings and entertainments, and will thus supply a long-felt need in the Underhill district, thanks to the public spirit and enterprise of the promoters.

There was no formal opening, but a regular Lodge meeting was convened to which invitations were extended to the other Lodges in the Province, with the result that a gathering of some 150 Masons assembled to inaugurate the new building, including the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Col. Brymer, M.P., and other Provincial Grand Master Bro. Col. Brymer, M.P., and other Provincial Officers present and past. The chief business was an initiation ceremony, and Mr. A. C. Higgs, auctioneer, of Weymouth, had the distinction of being the first candidate initiated in the new Lodge. The W.M. Bro. R. Score performed the ceremony, assisted by Bro. E. Mills.

Subsequently the Brethren adjourned to the Hall below for the banquet, for which Bro. Sandbrook, of Weymouth, was the caterer. The W.M. occupied the chair, and the usual toast list was gone through.

In proposing the health of the W.M., Bro. Brymer referred in eulogistic terms to the energy which Bro. Score had displayed in connection with the Lodge scheme, of which he has been the mainspring, and on behalf of the visiting Brethren wished the Lodge every success in the future

The W.M., in replying, expressed his pleasure at the completion of the work, and acknowledged special gifts to the Lodge from Bro. Brymer (who gave the handsome tesselated carpet), and Bros. Middleton, Freeman, Mills, Gregory, Wallis, and Dovey, also thanking Bro. Elford, the Hon. Architect.

### KNIGHT TEMPLARY.

A PRIORY of the united religious and military orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, was held at the Central Hall, Acresfield, Bolton, on Thursday, the 20th ult., under the command of Sir Knight Clement Robert Nuttall Beswicke-Royds Prior of the County Palatine of Lancaster, &c. The whole of the Preceptories of the Province were represented, a good muster being the result. An appointment of Officers took place, the same being duly invested by the Very Eminent Prior.

A Priory of the Order of Malta was afterwards held

A Priory of the Order of Malta was afterwards held, under the banner of St. James of Jerusalem Preceptory, there being six candidates for admission.

These proceedings over, an adjournment was made to the Angel Hotel, where an excellent banquet was provided, the chair being occupied by the Very Eminent Prior.

Following an example set by "old boys," particularly in the north, the "old boys" of the Royal Masonic Institution held an inaugural dinner recently in Manchester, under the presidency of Bro. John Slyman, since elected Vice-Chairman of the Stretford Urban District Council. The personnel of the gathering was excellent, and did credit to the efficient training received in the magnificent establishment at Wood Green.

The Kingsland Lodge attained its majority last month; and Bro. Arthur White, who is W.M., scored best of all with the charity box. There was a banquet, of course (at the Holborn Restaurant), at which nearly a hundred Brethren assembled; and they netted just £52 in charity money to add to the other £48. This was decidedly good, thanks muchly to Mr. Otley (a brother Pressman), who is Mr. White's sonin-law; and to Mr. Porter, of the Aldersgate Ward, who scored twenty-one to make the century in pounds. Even Bro. Anthony broke his honeymoon to be present at this auspicious function; and Bro. Dimes, who follows in the chair, agreed that he had something to beat. And may I add, for the satisfaction of the ladies, that there is to be a repetition of their especial night before Worshipful Master White vacates the chair. Music there was of excellent quality, not the least of the contributors to which were Bro. Herbert Linwood and Bro. Potter. A real "King's Land."—The "Merrie Villager," in "Islington Gazette."

The other day a gentleman called at the vestry of a church where a Masonic Service was announced, and told the vicar he was particularly desirous of attending. When the reverend gentleman promptly handed him a card the stranger drew close to him and whispered "I think it right to stranger drew close to him and whispered "I think it right to tell you that I am not a Freemason myself, although I am a great admirer of the Order, and I believe there is a secret password required. May I ask you how it can be got?" The vicar seized the humour of the situation at once. "Ah! yes," he replied; "that's a rather difficult point. Still, it would be a pity to deprive an earnest inquirer of the opportunity of attending an inspiriting service for want of a password. Let me just whisper to you. If you are challenged by anyone when you present this card, murmur into his right ear the word 'Backsheesh,' and if he looks at you with amazement in his eyes, pass on, for that proves you with amazement in his eyes, pass on, for that proves that he knows it is all right." The gentleman repeated the word several time to make sure that he had it correctly, and then went away uttering profuse thanks to his Masonic Mentor. When he turns up at the Service he will probably be taken for a lunatic.

### IRISH CHARITY.

THE 107th annual report of the Dublin Female Orphan School just issued by the C School, just issued by the Governors of the Institution, shows that there are 104 pupils in the School, the total expenditure on which was £2,103, and the office expenditure £197, thus showing that the average cost of boarding, lodging, elothing, educating, and maintaining each pupil resident in the School throughout the year was £20.45 fd

in the School throughout the year was £20 4s 6d.
With respect to the educational results for 1898, of 35 pupils prepared for the intermediate examinations 29 passed, and honour marks were obtained in nearly every subject, and honour marks were obtained in nearly every subject, while in the middle grade Helen Vance gained an exhibition of £30, and Ellen Cullinan a £3 prize, retaining her jumor exhibition of £20; and in the junior grade Georgina Armstrong obtained an exhibition of £20, and Millicent Ryan, Marion Vance, and Edith Coulson were awarded prizes of £1 each. Again, at the examination held by the Board of Religious Education of the General Synod, of 71 pupils entered 70 passed, and of these 36 were awarded prizes, and Marion Vance won the gold medal. At the Presbyterian examinations 12 pupils presented themselves, all gaining prizes. Of the 17 prepared for the Trinity College, London, music examination all but one passed, Marion Vance obtaining honours in the senior division and Elizabeth Murphy in ing honours in the senior division and Elizabeth Murphy in the junior. The health of the girls was excellent.

In the Male School there are 83 pupils, and another appeal is made to mark the Centenary of the School by contributing to the Century Fund, so that 100 pupils may be maintained.

THE Committee of the bazaar recently held in Belfast in connection with the Crumlin Road Masonic Hall entertained on the 21st ult. the ladies who had assisted at the various stalls, and also the stewards and friends who had helped to bring the matter to a successful issue. A large party had assembled in the hall at eight o'clock, tea being served in the refreshment-room on the ground floor. A conversazione followed, during which an opportunity was given to the guests to inspect the building. At ten o'clock a short meeting was held in the large hall, presided over by Bro. R. J. Hilton, J.P.,

Dep. Prov. Grand Master Antrim.

The Grand Honours having been given, the Chairman addressed the meeting. He congratulated the Brethren on the final consummation of their work in that connection. was most creditable that a sum of £2,200 should have been raised in such a short time. Of this sum, he understood £1,200 had been made by the bazaar alone. They were now in the enviable position of being absolutely clear of debt, and having, moreover, a substantial balance vested in their Now that their own labours were over, he hoped they would throw themselves heartily into the several urgent schemes of charity being promoted by the general body of the Order. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim had guaranteed a sum of £2,000 towards the Victoria Hospital scheme; two large instalments had already been paid over to the hospital authorities, and he hoped to see the Brethren of the Lodges meeting in that hall written largely amongst the subscribers of the final instalment. Then there was also the Centenary scheme in connection with the Masonic Boys School, which was about to be enlarged. A considerable number of the children in those schools came from the North of Ireland, and the Brethren should consider it their duty to support them in a corresponding degree. Reverting to the bazaar, the chairman commented most favourably on the measure of its success attributable to Bro. R. B. Andrews, the Honorary Secretary. Bro. Andrews was always very energetic in his efforts on behalf of the Order, but this time he had surpassed himself. He was happy to be the medium of conveying to Bro. Andrews and his wife the splendid presentation which his colleagues in the work had prepared for him. In conclusion, the Chairman called on Bro. D. J. Barry Secretary of the Presentation Committee, to read the address.

The presentation, which consisted of a purse of sovereigns for Bro. Andrews, and a handsome marble clock and ornaments for Mrs. Andrews, having been made, Bro. Andrews replied. Gold medals, with a suitable design and inscription were then presented to:—Bros. George Andrews, J.P., P.P.S.G.W. Chairman of Committee, J. H. Gault P.P.S.G.W. and Thomas Campbell P.M. P.Z. Vice-Chairmen Arthur Martin P.P.S.G. D. Happerer, P. Z. men, Arthur Martin P.P.S.G.D. Honorary Treasurer, R. B. Andrews P.P.G.S.B. Honorary Secretary, S. Pink and W. Minshell Honorary Architects, D. H. Matthews Chairman Ladies Committee. Bros. Gault and Matthews suitably

responded.

Votes of thanks to the ladies who assisted at the bazaar and to the Chairman brought a most interesting ceremony to a close. Dancing then commenced, and continued until an advanced hour.

The "Celebrity at Home" in the "World" this week is Mr. W. W. Bramston Beach, M.P., the new "Father of the House of Commons," in succession to the late Sir John Though the name of Beach (we are told) is now Mowbray. quite a household word in the northern and western parts of Hampshire, the family has not been connected with the county for many generations. Mr. Beach, who is now in his seventy-fourth year, is the son of the late Mr. William Hicks-Beach, M.P. for Malmesbury, who was himself the son of Mr. Michael Hicks-Beach, a well-known Gloucestershire squire. He is a cousin of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose family has been a leading one in Gloucestershire for a great number of years, while his wife, Mrs. Beach, was a Chichester of the Devonshire branch. But your host regards himself as essentially a Hampshire man among Hampshire men; and he certainly has a right to do among Hampshire men; and he certainly has a right to do so, considering that he has almost continuously resided, worked, and sported in the county, since leaving Oxford in the early fifties. He possesses, it is true, a second place in the south of England—namely, the old Elizabethan manor house of Keevil, in Wiltshire; but it is at Oakley Hall that the member for the North-West or Andover Division of Hampshire is really at home. In addition to his political activities, Mr. Beach has at one time or other served in many different capacities. He has taken his share of Hampshire different capacities. He has taken his share of Hampshire Yeomanry work; has been—and is still—a Deputy Lieutenant for the county, as well as an Alderman on its Council; then for twenty-one years he acted as president of the County Cricket Club, and for almost as long a period was president of the Hampshire Chamber of Agriculture, which, by the way, he himself established. Nor will it be forgotten that Mr. Beach has long been a prominent figure in the world of Freemasonry. A year or two ago he was deputed to take the Prince of Wales's place on the occasion of a great gathering of Masons in London. His career in the Craft commenced upwards of fifty years ago, when he took up the art and mystery with zeal while yet an undergraduate. After leaving college, Mr. Beach became more and more closely identified with Freemasonry, and he was in 1861 made Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Wight.

Earl Egerton of Tatton Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire was, we regret to hear, taken suddenly with illness in Paris, on his homeward journey from a tour in the east. Fortunately, it was of a temporary, though at the time severe, character, and his lordship is now discharging his public duties with his accustomed energy.

### FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

The vote on an application for affiliation in New York is taken by a show of hands, and a majority governs.

While a candidate was being initiated into a secret society in Chicago some time ago he was led around the Lodge room blindfolded, and was directed to leap into an imaginary lake of liquid fire. He leaped with such force that he broke his leg, and afterwards sued the Lodge for \$25,000 damages.

There is a proposition before the Grand Lodge of Switzerland for giving the Government pecuniary assistance in the maintenance of its Public Schools. It is to be hoped that our Swiss Brethren will adopt the proposal. Intelligence and intellectual culture are the handmaids of Masonry, and they will surely be benefited thereby.

The Grand Lodge of Cuba is to meet next month in Havana, and it will, no doubt, be a memorable event to hold a communication undisturbed by the awful menace of Spanish persecution. There will be some American Masons Spanish persecution. present as visitors.

### ATTACK ON THE CRAFT.

SHORT time since, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Wyndham A Street, Auckland (N.Z.), the Rev. Father Dawson preached a sermon in reply to the speech made by Bro. C. C. McMillan D.G.M. (E.C.), representative of the Masonic Lodges at the recent opening of the new Costley wards at

the Auckland Hospital.

Father Dawson said Mr. McMillan stated that the chief of the Order was His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that the bluest blood of the British aristocracy filled important positions in the Grand and Provincial Lodges-statesmen, warriors, lawyers, bankers, merchants, traders—and that all classes and conditions of men owed allegiance to the Order; yet, said the preacher, with all this "blue blood," their contributions to charitable institutions amounted to not

more than £65,000 in one year.

The Catholic Church in New Zealand, the poorest of her order, devoted that amount annually to education. "At death the rites of Christian burial were denied to a Roman death the rites of Christian burial were denied to a Roman Catholic Freemason, and he was allowed to be buried like a dog," said Mr. McMillan. There could be, Father Dawson said, no such thing as a Catholic Mason. The moment a man became a Mason he ceased to be a Catholic. If the Masonic burial was only fit for a dog—well—he left that for Mr. McMillan to consider. From the Church's point of view Freemasonry demoralised social life. It was anti-Christian, and tended to the destruction of home life. It was also a standing menace to civilised States. They had just seen the conclusion of a disastrous war between America and Spain. The Masons of Spain had lost her the last of her colonies. The Grand Master of the Spanish Masons (having destroyed his country and obliterated her commerce), when he heard that the Spanish forces had been defeated, fighting against every odds, gave a sardonic laugh and remarked, "Spain is a decaying country." So much for the patriotism of Masons. Don Carlos, of Portugal, lost his throne through the treachery of the Masonic Lodges. The Emperor of Brazil, a highly educated man, and the most enlightened ruler that the world had seen in this age, would not appoint Freemasons to political positions, nor to Catholic bishoprics, saying that he had enough sins to answer for, but he would never answer to God for appointing Masons to such positions. The Brazilian revolution was purely a Masonic revolution.

Masonry was inimical to good order and government, and was opposed to every kind of law in the Church, and to Church education. There was no degradation that they had not striven to inflict upon the Church. The temple to infidelity being erected in France had cost millions of Catholic money, and the French Masons were going to convert it into a Masonic temple. Did they wonder that the Masons were anti-Christians? But they (the Masons) were almost more, for they aimed at the destruction of Christianity—it was publicly proclaimed on the Continent of Europe. The policy, drift, and the whole heart of English Masonry was the same as Continental Masonry. This point, when Bradlaugh challenged the Prince of Wales to deny it, was admitted, it being stated that the English body was not sufficiently

advanced for that fact to be generally known.

The Catholic Church condemned Masonry, but not She had done so for many good reasons. Masonry was powerful enough to destroy commerce and the education of the youth. It poisoned the wells of justice, by influencing judge and jury. The Church opposed the Order on religious, social, and political grounds. In concluding, Father Dawson said, perhaps there were a few Masons in Auckland cognisant with all the tricks of the Order, but he had sought not to level a word against any individual. The Church solely condemned Masons for the well-being of society, and the stability of the throne."—"New Zealand Herald."

### "A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THE death is announced of Brother Robert Davies, for-merly head master and proprietor of the Cl. merly head master and proprietor of the Chorlton-cum-Hardy High School, which took place at Southport, at the age of 56. He was a P.M. of Chorlton Lodge, No. 1387, and also a P.P.G.Std.B. of West Lancashire.

DISTINCTLY mournful function was the funeral of Bro. John Jordrell P.M. of the Callender Lodge, No. 1052, which took place recently at Withington. He had He had served the various offices, and was highly respected by all the Brethren. The Rev. D. T. Reece Chaplain of the Lodge officiated, and many members of the Craft were present.

### CATHOLICS AND FREEMASONRY.

THE following additional letters on this subject are extracted from the "Catholic Times":

SIR,—For a Catholic, one would have supposed that the Pope's Encyclical condemning Freemasonry would have settled the question about the "craft" once and for all. Let Father Wyndham's anti-Masonic Catechism be studied by those who would write on the subject.

Your correspondent "G. F. R." misses the point at issue. Freemasonry is condemned by the Catholic Church because Freemasonry is a "religion." It is therefore rightly termed a sect by Frenchmen and Italians.

Now if a religion it must have a foundation, and "other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Is Freemasonry based on Christ? If not, the words of Christ condemn it and show its anti-Christianity: "He that is not with Me is against Me."

Even were Freemasonry moral and law-supporting, it must come under the ban of the Church as much as Ritualism does for "other foundations," etc.

GILBERT HIGGINS.

SIR,—Will any Freemason give your readers the "verse and chapter," as it were, for establishing that Freemasonry existed, as an institution—if at all—before the sixteenth century, say before Lælius Socinus, its founder; or existed, in England, before the year 1640?

My argument against the antiquity (!) of Freemasonry, against the absurd allegation that it has any connection with the Knights Templar, or with the Temple of Solomon, or the Tower of Babel, or with Noah's Ark, if not with the Garden of Eden itself, but that it is of much more recent growth is in my mind very simple.

with the Temple of Solomon, or the Tower of Babel, or with Noah's Ark, if not with the Garden of Eden itself, but that it is of much more recent growth is, in my mind, very simple.

It is this; that I do not see of any Pope before Clement XII. (who denounced "the contagion" of the Society of "liberi muratori," or Freemasons, "who bind themselves, by a rigorous oath upon the Bible, and under the most terrible penalties, to keep concealed the secret practices of their association") denouncing such a society. Gonsidering that the Popes are placed as "watchmen on the top of towers, never holding their peace"—and precious little, you may depend, escapes their attention, in this world, from those heights!—some Pope, long before the last named, would, surely, on detection, and upon the first appearance of such a society, have sounded the clarion note of alarm, in his time, like vigilant chanticleer at the approach of the bird of prey. But I hear of none throughout the centuries; unless, forsooth, the Popes themselves happened to be all Freemasons!

This, in my opinion, is about the best, or, at any rate, a good proof of the non-existence of Freemasonry before the sixteenth century.

On the other hand, one of your correspondents says that Freemasonry is not the same in England as on the Continent, inferring that it is of a milder type, more gentle, bucolic and contemplative, I suppose. But let us talk common sense. Is the oath the English Mason takes of a milder type than that of his Continental Brothers? Is there in the English oath nothing binding, equally with the Continental one, under the most terrible penalties, "to keep concealed the secret practices of this association?" If the terrific oath be the same here, in order to guard exactly the same secrets, where is the difference between English and Continental Freemasonry?

Of course, I am merely groping for light; should some Freemason, or your correspondent, kindly answer preceding two points in my communication satisfactorily I shall freely acknowledge that I s

Yours, etc.,

SIR,—Your correspondent "G. F. R.," also "London Catholic" and other Catholics who may desire to know the reasons why Catholics are forbidden to be Freemasons, will find such reasons amply given in a book published by Messrs. M. H. Gill and Sons, 50 Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, 1876, entitled "Irish and English Freemasons and Their Foreign Brothers: Their System, Oaths, Ceremonies, Secrets, Grips, Signs, and Passwords." By Michael Di Gargano. With coloured illustrations.

Yours, etc.,

AN IRISH PARISH PRIEST.

SIR,—Father Wyndham (Bayswater) published a catechism on Free-masonry lately. It can be had at most Catholic booksellers, price 1d. Freemasonry has been frequently condemned by the Holy See. The last was the Bull "Humanum Genus," by Leo XIII. No Catholic worth the name can advocate that universal secret society, the real object of which is the same all over the world, whatever certain persons may assert to the contrary.

Sir,—If "London Catholic" be not content with your editorial reply, but wishes to study Freemasonry for himself, I would refer him to Reeves and Turner, Strand, and Kenning, Great Queen Street, London, both publishers of many works on Masonry. For works written from a Catholic standpoint I would refer him to "Robertson's Lectures," "Secret Warfare," "Freemasonry, by Dupanloup," all published by Burns and Oates. Also "English Freemasonry," by Fouquet, Cadieux, and Derome, Montreal (1898), Father Wyndham's pamphlet (Washbourne).

Your correspondent "G. F. R.," of 14th April, belongs to the Radical school: by one stroke of his pen he would repeal the deliberate condemnation of five Popes. "Assured" by Masons, it is "clear" to him that English Masonry is beyond reproach. Is he aware that Masons of a higher degree are bound not only not to reveal their secrets to the uninitiated, but not even to Masons of an inferior order? He is mistaken when he thinks that modern Masonry does not differ from the Catholic guilds of a few centuries ago. If he study the history of Freemasonry he will find that these guilds at first concerned themselves solely with architecture; afterwards, to acquire influence and patronage, they received as associates persons who knew nothing about the craft, and in the course of time they became purely social and political societies, and as such were suppressed in Holland, Bavaria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Russia, in the eighteenth century. "G. F. R." is "assured" that Masonry contains nothing detrimental to any form of religion. Let him but read any Masonic ritual and he will find it filled with blood-curdling oaths. "Freemasonry should be condemned," says O'Connell, "for its irreligious use of holy things, and for its frequent and blasphemous oaths."

I agree with "G. F. R." that there are good men Masons, because Masonry contains social and commercial advantages; but they are in the "inner circle" of Masonry, or that they realise the gravity of the step they are taking in becoming Masons, I am not prepared to believe. For example, a manager of an establishment, sworn to help a Mason, has hundreds of employees under his control: how can he give justice to non-Masons who may be among the number?

employees under his control: how can he give justice to non-Masons who may be among the number?

"G. F. R." is not correct when he says that Freemasonry is not condemned because it is a sccret society. All societies bound by oath to secrecy, excluding as they do the supervision of civil and ecclesiastical authority, are condemned by the Church on account of the danger (supposing no other evil) of unsound doctrine or immoral practices creeping in.

Lastly, "G. F. R." thinks the presence of representatives of all denominations—Jews, Mahommedans, etc.—in Masonic Lodges is a guarantee of safety. Benedict XIV. thinks otherwise. He says: "The union of men of every or any sect or religious persuasion, and of men indifferent to all religion—heretics, deists, atheists, etc.—is highly dangerous to the purity of Catholic faith and morals."

Yours, etc.,

Yours, etc,,

C. M. O'B.

SIR,—The reasons why the Church condemns Freemasonry as a system are given in the present Pope's Encyclical on the question, and are as follow:

1. That it is a system of "pure naturalism" in religion. 2. That it reduces matrimony to a mere natural contract, revocable at will. 3. That it upholds in education pure secularism; 4, and that no moral instruction ought to be given to the young which is to bind man to God by the sanctity of religion.

5. That it has the right to proclaim that there is no God. 6. That it treats as idle fables the redemption of the human race and other mysteries of religion. 7. That it aims at corrupting the masses of the people so as to advance the interests of the sect. 8. That it labours to overturn that discipline and social order which Christianity has founded, and erect upon their ruins a system after its own principles and foundations of disorder.

The Pope is, of course, dealing with the system of Freemasonry as a whole, and the experience of sincere Christians is that Freemasons are, as a rule, not only anti-Catholic but anti-Christian, both in religion and politics. Lord Carnarvon, in his reply to the Pope, was forced to admit that this indictment is not without its truth. He said: "I am not here to-night to defend all Masonic bodies in all parts of the world. . . . . I grieve to think that there are some Masonic bodies that have laid themselves open to many of the charges which this Encyclical letter contains. . . . Four years ago, I think it was, this Grand Lodge, having taken into consideration in the calmest and most solemn manner the course of action which had been pursued by a large proportion of the French Lodges, who erased from their title-deeds and charters the affirmation of the immortality of the soul and the belief in a Supreme Being . . . . then resolved to break off—painful though it might be—all communion with the French Lodges "("Daily Telegraph," 5th June 1884).

This clears the English Lodges so far, but only so far, and if English

Supreme Being . . . . then resolved to break off —painful though it might be —all communion with the French Lodges" ("Daily Telegraph," 5th June 1884).

This clears the English Lodges so far, but only so far, and if English Masonry were only a philanthropic society would clear it altogether, but it is not. It is a religious "oult" with religious rites and ceremonies that are not only not Catholic but are not even Christian, and which no Christian man can take part in any more than he can take part in the rites and ceremonies of any other false religion. In principle the religious "cult" of Freemasonry is pure naturalism.

Again the practice of individuals administering oaths is forbidden by the law of the land as well as by the law of the Church. Every time a Freemason administers an oath he performs an illegal act for which he could be prosecuted. Again the principle of a secret society is against public policy and a danger to society. The State as well as the Church has a right to know what all its subjects are doing, and the object of the Freemason oath is to keep this knowledge from the authorities in Church and State and even from ordinary members of the association.

It may be that English Freemasonry is not used for any illegal purpose, but there is always the danger that a secret society, if it gets into the hands of unprincipled men, may be used for illegal purposes, and there can be no doubt that Freemasonry is and has been used for such purposes. There is always a distinction to be made between legislation based upon the "presumption of fact" and that based on the "presumption of danger." The former does not bind where the presumed danger is believed not to exist, and for this plain reason. If every man were to disregard a law based upon the "presumption of danger" which the legislator believes to exist because he believes it not to exist in his case the law would become a dead letter. Secret societies are in principle dangerous and as such are forbidden by the law both of Church and State, and that

Yours, etc.,

J. D. BREEN.

Grayshott, Haslemere.

SIR,—A letter from "G. F. R." in your issue of 14th April evidently shows that he is one of those Catholics who find a difficulty in explaining to non-Catholics on moderate and reasonable grounds the real objections there exist in the way of preventing "loyal and practical" Catholics being Freemasons even in England.

there exist in the way of preventing "loyal and practical" Catholics being Freemasons even in England.

I have much pleasure in giving a few, which non-Catholics and Freemasons whom I know admit to be conclusive.

1. Every Catholic is bound to absolute loyalty to the Church in religious matters. Granted this, it follows that it would be a contradiction to put himself by oath under obedience to the unknown leaders of a secret society to carry out orders the nature of which are unknown. Such orders might or might not be against the Church, or he may never be called upon to carry out such orders; but that is beside the point. All reasonable men see that an organisation like the Catholic Church, that claims not merely outward loyalty, but also absolute internal submission to its teachings, cannot without stultification allow its subjects to freely become oath-bound members of an independent society that possibly some day might be inimical.

De facto also, I think I am not mistaken that all Freemasons individually and as a body are vehemently opposed to the Church's claim to be the sole religious teacher of mankind, and the English Masons would be in no way less energetic than foreign ones in fighting against the claim of a purely Catholic State to repress any rising heresy. The main reason why English Masons are not violent against the Church is that in England the Church, as such, has no political power, and circumstances make it impossible for her to assert her rights, whilst in Italy, France, and Spain if restraints imposed by Masonry were removed, the Church would immediately once more adopt repressive measures as the sole religious teacher having any right to exist,

All Masons boast that the putting down of the power of the Church to enforce conformity is their work (Cf. "Encyclopædia Britannica," article "Inquisition," at end).

2. Another reason is not that Masonry numbers amongst its members "Jews, Mahommedans, and representatives of all denominations," and considers their various views no bar to their membership, but if I am not mistaken it goes further and "definitely teaches" that, granted that a man believes in God and avoids wrong-doing as defined by it, "it does not matter what religion he belongs to." No Catholic can belong to a society that holds this as a fundamental principlé.

3. A third reason why the Church forbids Catholics to become members of the Masonic body is that they cannot do so without taking an oath. It is also an illegal oath administered by a body that has no right to impose it. The Church itself can impose oaths; it also allows the State to exact them, but it can never recognise any right to the secret chiefs of a private organisation, "independent of her authority," to bind to themselves by oath subjects of the Church. Were Masonry a guild in dependence on the Church, the Church might well authorise oaths to be admistered by her authority, but Masonry glories in being independent. Some Masons allege that the oath is not really serious, but this only makes things worse, as it surely cannot be right to take an oath in jest. The Church is thus obliged to teach that it is certainly a mortal sin to become a Freemason on the score of the oath alone.

I am quite prepared to find that Catholics who see no harm in Masonry

alonc.

I am quite prepared to find that Catholics who see no harm in Masonry are not prepared to admit the full claims of the Church to their absolute submission to her, but they can hardly in this case have any valid claim to the name of Catholic. It is always something of a mystery to me why so many nominal Catholics assert their claims with such vehemence to the title of being members of a Church whose fundamental principles they as vehemently reject. I cannot see where the attraction lies. The only possible explanation seems that they have inherited the name as a sort of family tradition without ever actually realising what the Church is, such is the deplorable nature of much of the religious instruction in our schools. Whatever ideas they have are those of the world around them, and when one day, finding what a worldly advantage it would be to be a Mason, they wake up to find the Church is in irreconcileable opposition to the world, it comes upon them quite as a surprise and they ask if there cannot be some way of combining the two. The honest thing for such men would be either to become real Catholics or to frankly give up the name of Catholic.

Yours, etc.,

Yours, etc.,

W. M. CUNNINGHAM.

The Southern Star Lodge of Instruction, No. 1158, has been removed from the Sir Sidney Smith, Chester Street, Kennington, to the Ship Tavern, Kennington Road, S.E., where future meetings will be held every Thursday evening.

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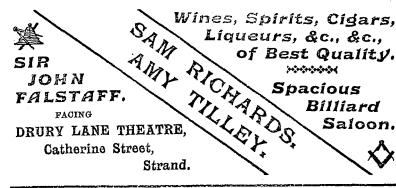
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W. Bro. John Northcott (Daily Chronicle), P.M., 2190.

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W. Bro. E. E. Peacock (Morning Post), P.M. and P.Z., 1928, I.G., 2190.

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SATURDAY, 6TH MAY 1899.

### MUNICIPAL FREEMASONRY.

SOMEWHAT heated discussion anent Freemasonry took place at the quarterly meeting of the Tamworth Town Council on Thursday.

The Marmion Lodge of Freemasons applied for the use of

the State Dining Room at the Castle, and the Oak Drawing Room adjoining, for the purposes of a Lodge meeting once a month. The Castle Committee recommended that the Lodge be allowed the use of the rooms at a rent of £16 per annum.

Mr. Dyer said although he seconded the resolution in Committee he had since found that there was a strong feeling against letting the rooms to the Freemasons, and he accordingly wished to withdraw from it. Alderman Starkey said two of the best rooms in the Castle would be occupied by the Freemasons, and visitors would be precluded from seeing those. Mr. Luby said he supported the motion in Committee, but had since heard there was a great deal of objection to letting the rooms, and he should not now support it. Mr. Salt pointed out that if they

admitted the Freemasons they would be bound also to allow the Oddfellows, Foresters, and kindred societies the same privilege.

The Mayor supported the adoption of the report, and was proceeding to give his reasons for doing so, when Alderman Starkey said: I think it is a question whether you are in order, Mr. Mayor, as you are a Mason. The Mayor: I may say it is quite immaterial, but I am sorry this little animosity against Freemasonry should arise. Alderman Starkey: I must object to that remark; it is not animosity. Alderman Hare: There has been animosity, and you yourself have made remarks about it.

Alderman Starkey: I do say that there has been too much Freemasonry here on certain occasions. Alderman Hare: There

has been no introduction of Freemasonry into public business. You have no right to say such a thing. Prove it! The Mayor said his only object in desiring to let the rooms was to add to the revenue from the Castle. The rooms would be used only nine times in the year, and mainly in the winter months, when there would be few visitors. At the last municipal election a candidate, who happened to be a Mason, was defeated mainly because the electors had been stirred up against Freemasonry on the Council. Eventually the minute was rejected.—"Birmingham Daily Gazette.'

### FOREIGN FREEMASONRY.

THE Pope has been visited by a French Catholic of distinction and His Holy Eminence has and His Holy Eminence has unconsciously made one more pronouncement in favour of liberty of conscience and opinion. Incidentally, he made more than one admission, but, as often happens, the open and intentional statement was of less value than that for which we have to seek. For instance, the Pope sees no harm in a Republic. His predecessors saw deadly harm there, and did not hesitate to say so, or to curse with very heavy emphasis the men who substituted that form of Government for Monarchy. But as Galileo said of the world, "il se muove," even Popes must move with it. His eminence can tolerate a Republic, and can, in fact, "conceive nothing grander than a powerful and really Christian" Government of that form, but he remains convinced that neither Italy nor France can fully prosper until they have freed themselves of the evil of Freemasonry. And thereby hangs a lesson.

Freemasonry, as it exists in England and in other free countries, has two purposes. It studies to promote friendship and good fellowship, and on that side of it it is neither more nor less than a vast club, every branch of which is closely affiliated to every other branch throughout the world. Here its aims are merely social. On its more serious side it is one of the most valuable of philanthropic agencies, and it does a quite incalculable amount of good in the way of charity. It founds orphanages and maintains them. It sustains almshouses without number. It succours distress in a thousand ways which are never made manifest to the outer world. That it is not at war against thrones and dominations is made evident by the fact that in England princes of the blood royal are among its most honoured That it is not inimical to religion is proved by the existence within its borders of many of the most illustrious of those who make the propagation of the Christian faith the business of their lives. The secrets of the Craft are known, and have long been known, to politicians of all parties, to thinkers of every grade, to controversialists of every colour of opinion. That its hidden ceremonial and meaning are, to say the very least of them, entirely harmless to good government and religious belief is so very obvious that it would be almost absurd to argue to

At the time when the architectural expression of faith had its greatest value in Europe, and more especially in Germany, the knowledge of the Masonic signs and passwords was beyond doubt shared by Prelates and Princes of the Catholic Church, some of whom were amongst the designers and executants of those majestic edifices which dignify and make beautiful a thousand centres of religious life. But when the Craft of Masonry, as then understood, drifted gradually into its modern form, when it ceased to be associated with the building of cathedrals, or the erection of sacred shrines, the clergy not merely ceased to take a friendly interest in it, but to perceive in it a something inimical to their own pretensions. And so it has gradually come about that a suspected society has grown to be worthy of suspicion. In England Freemasonry is known not merely to be harmless but practically benevolent, and being so regarded it includes within its ranks men of such varied professions and beliefs that any combination except for ends entirely beneficent is impossible and undreamed of. In France and Italy the clerical suspicion has created the very bugbear of which it was afraid, and in both countries a Freemason is a freethinker, and is in enmity with the Church because the Church will have it so. And here is the head of the great Catholic Church, wise in the affairs of the world, and approaching the end

of a life which has been already lengthened beyond the common span, still preaching that doctrine of enmity which is in itself the creator of enmity, and by his very defiance and suspicion helping to perpetuate the warfare he deprecates. Of course, no real friend of Liberty would have it otherwise. The rescript of the intellectual tyrant is the charter of freedom. The Papal refusal of recognition to Continental Freemasonry is the very thing to make Freemasonry on the Continent the enemy of that spiritual domination which would fain enslave it.

The lesson is twofold at the least. Entire freedom has not merely left a secret society in our own midst harmless, but has permitted it to develop on natural lines into an association of active benevolence, for the existence of which thousands have daily reason to be thankful. The same society, formed with the same harmless and benevolent initial objects, is forced by suppression and suspicion into conflict with the suspecting and oppressive force. The Pope has no more chance of putting an end to Freemasonry than he has of arresting the earth in its orbit, because he and the Church of which he is the head have themselves endowed it with fighting powers, and have converted a social into a warlike movement. It is but an eddy in the great tide of rising freedom the wide world over, but it has its own significance, and is worth looking at if but for a moment only.-David Christie Murray, in "Morning Herald."

The following anecdote is told by the Rev. Thos. McNamara, one of the band of the Catholic Missionary Union in the United States, in the current number of the "Missionary." Father McNamara in the course of a missionary tour, was preaching in and about Scranton, on the Gulf of Mexico: In Scranton (he says) the Freemasons are very strong, and they had succeeded in making people there believe that Freemasonry owed its origin to Solomon, "the wisest man who ever lived." One night I received this question: "Is it not a proof that the Catholic Church wishes to keep her children ignorant when she forbids them to is that any degeneration. join that grand organisation, Freemasonry, instituted by the wisest and best man that ever lived, King Solomon?" I traced their origin, and quoted Protestant authorities, showing how the organisation obtained its name, and that it was but a child of the seventeenth century of the Christian cra. "Finally," I said, "let us see who this wise and virtuous man, King Soloman, was, I opened the Protestant edition of the Bible at the 11th chapter of the First Book of Kings, and read how Solomon had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines, and then merely remarked that if the Freemasons wished to take him as their founder and patron saint we Catholics had no objection. Two days afterwards a Protestant young gentleman and Freemason met Father Ten-Brinck, Scranton's devoted pastor, and said: "Father, the young lady to whom I am engaged accompanied me to your church the night before last, and on our way home from the church she gave me to distinctly understand that I had my choice between her and Freemasonry; and let me tell you that I do not intend to give her up. I am astonished that I was duped so long."—" Tablet."

It was the Freemasons who first set the example of monster bazaars, by their fete held at Ballsbridge in 1892, when the enormous profits—nearly £22,000—were given to the Girls Orphan School, and they had then determined in 1900, when the public's pockets were a bit replenished, to hold a similar affair in aid of the Boys School. But when the arrangements were commenced with the Royal Dublin Society this year they demanded a rent of £500 down, or a sum down and a percentage of the profits. This the Engagement declares consistent and of the profits. This the Freemasons declare exorbitant, and there has been much bitter wrangling between the two powerful bodies, to the extent that the Freemasons now declare the bazaar off,' though at the most it is not a matter of £300 between them —a trifle, one would think, in view of their past profits. But a little bird whispers that many influential Masons are heartily glad to have a valid excuse to get out of the bazaar, and will subscribe a large amount toward the School to make up for it. Many of the richer tradesmen in Ireland are Masons, and the tax of bazaars on shopkeepers in Dublin has become unbearable. A tradesman cannot ri-k offending his best customers, who come to him and ask for articles in the name of charity, and the custom has almost amounted to blackmail in some cases, while the bazaar itself means the dislocation of trade among the shopkeepers for a week at least. Then many mothers have quite decided against letting their daughters sell at these fetes, in consequence of the talk that went on in connection with some of them; while there is hardly an influential dame in Dublin who is not heartily sick of ladies' committees and their inevitable wrangles. Otherwise, with so many Masons members also of the Royal Society, matters could easily have been arranged between the two disputant bodies."—" Eileen" (Dublin), in "Modern Society."

### GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

THE Quarterly Communication was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on Thursday afternoon. Considering the lack of controversial business there was a good attendance. The chair was occupied by the Grand Master Mason Lord Saltoun, and Major F. W. Allan, Glasgow, and the Hon. Charles Maule Ramsay, Brechin Castle, were in their places as Senior and

Junior Grand Wardens respectively.

The Grand Master drew attention to the approaching tercentenary banquet of the Lodge of Edinburgh, No. 1, and said he regretted that the Prince of Wales would not be able to attend it, nor to visit Grand Lodge, owing to business engagements. His Lordship had intimated that he would attend, and he was sure they were all agreeable that the patronage of the Grand Lodge should be given to the entertainment. The Grand Master also intimated that, in answer to his appeal on St. Andrew's Day, the Masonic Lodges and bodies of Scotland had contributed £300 towards the memorial college at Khartoum, and that he was to forward the sum to Lord Kitchener.

On the motion of Brother Henry Roberts, Bridge of Allan, seconded by Brother P. L. Henderson, Master of No. 1, Edinburgh, it was remitted to Grand Committee to approach the Railway Companies in Scotland with a view to the issue of cheap tickets mentioned that members might derive benefit from such facilities

as are afforded to golfers.

It was reported that the income for the first five months of this year had been £3,450, as against £3,328 for the corresponding period last year—increase, £122. The income for the quarter ending 15th April had been £2,129, and the expenditure £1,008—excess of income, £1,121. During the quarter there had been 2,200 entrants to the Order. About £160 had been given from the fund of Scottish Masonic Benevolence in grants to distressed Masons or widows of Masons Grand Socretary submitted a Masons or widows of Masons. Grand Secretary submitted a tabular statement of the number of entrants recorded in the books of Grand Lodge in each year between 1800 and 1898, both inclusive, showing a grand total of 259,397, and 2,620 as the average annual registration in these ninety-nine years. number last year was 7,068, the highest on record.

It was resolved to issue charters to four new Lodges, at Ophirton, Transvaal; Germiston, Transvaal; Invergordon, Ross and Cromarty; and South Fremantle, Western Australia.

The Grand Secretary reported that agreeably to instructions from Grand Committee he had asked Brother the Marquis of Breadalbane to reconsider his decision to retire from the Provincial Grand Mastership of Perthshire East, but that his Lordship had replied—"I think having served as Provincial Grand Master of Perthshire East for so long I have done very well, and it is therefore high time that I should retire in favour of some other Brother." On the recommendation of Grand Committee, Grand Lodge accepted his Lordship's resignation, and thanked him for his long and faithful services as Provincial Grand Master. On the unanimous recommendation of the Lodges in the Province, Lieutenant-Colonel John Campbell was appointed in his room.

The Provincial Grand Secretary of the Province of Glasgow City (Brother G. C. H. MacNaught), in name of the Provincial Grand Master, reported as follows: The annual visitations have been completed to the thirty-seven Lodges forming the Province. In the year reviewed, from the elections of 1897 till 1898, the number of entrants was 1,252, as compared with 1,096 in the previous year, being an increase of 156, and again a record year by the number stated. There are four more Lodges in the Province now than there were ten years ago, but, deducting the number of initiates in these Lodges, it is interesting to note that the bare doubled their work in that period. The highest number initiated in any Lodge was seventy-three (twice), and the lowest six (thrice), the average being 33 31. The Lodges are all in a healthy condition, and only in one case had an irregularity to be pointed out, which has since been rectified. During the year 739 regular meetings were held by the various Lodges, and 42,879 Brethren signed the sederunt books, being an average of over fifty-eight per meeting. According to the balance-sheets the Lodges have funds to the amount of £16,770, not always including movable property, the average showing over £416 for ordinary funds, and £62 for benevolent funds. None of the Lodges meet in licensed premises, or in connection therewith; on the contrary, they all have halls specially built or adapted for Masonic purposes.

The following motion, by Brother James Smith, seconded by Brother C. Carthew-Yorstoun, was carried unanimously in Grand Committee:—(1) "That Provincial Grand Masters be requested to furnish Grand Committee with a list of the Lodges in their respective Provinces still holding their meetings in licensed premises;" and (2) "Report if any steps have been taken by these Lodges to give effect to the recommendation and suggestion on this subject by Grand Lodge, on 6th November 1890.

Visitation Committee reported that the Lodges in the Metropolitan district meet in suitable premises, with the exception of one, which holds its meetings in a licensed hotel. This showed marked progress in the realisation of Grand Committee's desire, that Masonic meetings in such places would ere long be entirely

### CATHOLICS DRIFTING TO MASONRY.

OR more than a century the ban of the Roman Catholic Church has been set upon Freemasonry. No Catholic can be a Mason and remain in fellowship with the Church. Affiliation with the Craft means excommunication. Several times there have been statements current that, owing to the difference in the ethical and active principles guiding Continental and American Masonry, the bars were to be let down here. But these rumours were never well founded.

Now, however, a secret organisation, planned on Masonic lines, with similar distinctive characteristics, is having an amazing success among Catholics. It is called the Knights of Columbus. There are more than twelve thousand members in this city alone,

most of them having joined within the last two years.

In the year 1882 the Rev. M. J. McGivney, pastor of the little country church at Thomaston, Conn., organised the first council of the Knights for the young men of his clock. These pioneers never imagined that the society would reach its present proportions. They laid down an elaborate ritual, after a Masonic pattern, eliminating, of course, whatever in it and its other constitutional rules had received ecclesiastical disapproval.

When Cardinal Satolli came here as the Pope's Delegate this ritual was submitted to him for inspection and approval. In a letter to the Supreme Knight he gave it his sanction and added:-

"We also wish to express our great pleasure, after learning the merits of this great Catholic organisation, that in the present active period of social and fraternal alliance in America there exists a society of practical Catholics which offers them the best advantages of insurance, benevolence and fraternity proffered by the most popular secular societies without any of the disadvantages of prohibited companionship."

This ritual establishes two kinds of membership, insurance and associate, both of equal grade in Knighthood. There are grips, passwords, initiations and all the other occult and mystic paraphernalia so dear to the male biped, who is, as the great philosopher tells us, ever "pleased with a rattle and tickled with

Three degrees are conferred—first, minor and major. The Grand Knight, from whom I received my information, solemnly assured me that "the larger part of the singular development and accompanying success of the Knights of Columbus is due to the beauty of our ritual and the attractiveness of our degree work. Each step inculcates a moral or impresses on the candidate some

ennobling principle bearing on faith or charity or goodwill."

The policy of the order is "the evolution of the Catholic gentleman in fraternity;" its aim, "the promotion of good fellowship among the Catholic gentleman in fraternity;" its aim, "the promotion of good fellowship among the Catholic gentleman in fraternity;" its aim, "the promotion of good fellowship among the Catholic gentleman in fraternity;" its aim, "the promotion of good fellowship among the Catholic gentleman in fraternity is a first a first and the catholic gentleman in fraternity is a first a firs

ship among the Catholic people of the country."

The councils are grouped in districts and these by States.
The officers of a council are the Grand Knight, a Deputy, Chancellor, Lecturer, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Advocate, Inner and Outer Guard, Warden, Chaplain and Each State has a State Delegate, who administers its general affairs, assisted by a staff made up of a Treasurer, Secretary, Advocate, Warden and Chaplain. There are similar officials to aid the Supreme Grand Knight in the conduct of the National Council. The Supreme Knight receives a salary of 1,000 dols. a year, the National Secretary 1,500 dols., and the Treasurer 500 dols. The headquarters are located at New Haven, Conn. The social and intellectual standards of membership have been of the best. It is now the control of the best. have been of the best. It is now thoroughly representative. Many priests have also joined the society. A National Convention was recently held and officers elected.

For several years after its organisation the Knights were confined to the small towns of Connecticut. Then Rhode Island followed, with Massachusetts next. In 1892 Maine and New Hampshire affiliated, and three years later New York and New Jersey were added to the list. Since then, especially in the last two years, the increase in membership has been astounding. At the National Convention just held the membership was reported to be 43,000. This was a ne 1898 and of 14,903 members. This was a net gain of eighty-seven councils in

Besides the usual routine business the most important detail of the National Convention was the donation of 50,000 dollars for the endowment of a chair of history at the Catholic University at Washington, D.C., and the consideration of a plan to collect from the members 11,000 dollars to complete the building fund of 25,000 dols. necessary for the Catholic chapel at the West Point Military Academy.—" New York Herald."

2523 Roll Call, Hounslow 2555 England Centre, Weedon

12.

2.30

Friday.

Annual General Meeting Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Tavern,

Board of Management, Boys School,

143 Middlesex, Albion 1118 Oxford and Cambridge, F.M.H. 2157 St. Mark's College, H'lborn Rest 2346 Warrant Officers, F'masons'-hall

541 Noan Ark, Tipton
541 De Loraine, Newcastle-on-Tyne
933 Alexandra, Levenshulme
1108 Royal Wharfedale, Otley
1311 Zetland, Leeds
1330 St. Peter, Market Harborough

1330 St. Peter, Market Harborough
1357 Cope, Sale
1389 Fenwick, Sunderland
1773 Albert Victor, Pendleton
2005 Brooke, Chingford
2063 St. Osyth Priory, Cl'ct'n-on-Sea
2231 Talbot, Stretford
2447 Palatine, Manchester

Saturday.

1329 Sphinx, Camberwell 1767 Kensington, Kensington 2041 West Kent Volunteer, Plums'd. 2308 Viator, Anderton's

416 Surrey, Reigate
811 Yarborough, Brighton
1126 Oakwood, Romiley
1326 Lebanon, Feltham
1556 Addiscombe, Croydon
1871 Gostling Murray, Hounslow
2035 Beaumont, Kirkburton
2318 Lennox Browne, B'khurst Hill
2381 Bushey Park, Hampton Court
2437 Downshire, Wokingham

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### 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.

Monday.

1 Grand Masters, F.T.

8 British, Freemasons'-hall

21 Emulation, Albion

720 Panmure, Balham

1694 Imperial, Westminster

2060 La France, Café Royal

2489 Willesden, Willesden Green 2060 La France, Café Royal
2489 Willesden, Willesden Green
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
382 Royal Union, Uxbridge
424 Borough, Gateshead
455 Perseverance, Ketering
466 Merit, Stamford Baron
840 Scientific, Wolverton
872 Lewis, Whitchaven
925 Bedford, Birmingham
949 Williamson, Monkwearmouth
986 Hesketh, Croston
1030 Egerton, Heaton Norris
1113 Anglesea, Manai Bridge
1146 De Moulham, Swanage
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
2049 Ellan Vannin, Douglas, I. of M.
2069 Prudence, Leeds
2074 St. Clare, Landport 2049 Ellan Vannin, Douglas, I. of M.
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
2557 Temperance, Newcastle-on-T.

Tuesday.
Board of General Purposes, F.M.II. at 5.

at 5.

704 Camden, Anderton's
857 St. Mark, Camberwell
1805 Bromley St. Leonard, Bromley
2045 Wharten, Willesden
2191 Anglo-American, Criterion
2265 Barnato, Piccadilly
2408 Hampstead, Haverstock Hill

213 Perseverance, Norwich

2408 Hampstead, Haverstock Hill
213 Perseverance, Norwich
223 Charity, Plymouth
384 St. David, Bangor
418 Menturia, Hanley
432 Abbey. Nuneaton
452 Frederick of Unity, Croydon
476 St. Peter, Carmarthen
851 Yarborough, Ventnor
560 Vernon, Stourport
660 Camalodunum, New Malton
667 Alliance, Li. rpool
681 Scarsdale, Chesterfield
814 Parrett and Axe, Crewkern
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
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
1764 Eleanor Cross, Northampton
1787 Grenville, Buckingham
1893 Lumley, Skegness
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
2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

Wednesday.

619 Beadon, Upper Norwood 700 Nelson, Plumstead 700 Nelson, Plumstead
969 Maybury, Lincoln-Inn's-Fields
1278 Burdett Coutts, London Tavern
1382 Corinthian, Cubitt Town
1539 Surrey Masonic Hall, C'mb'rw'll
2140 Hughenot, Criterion
2241 Cordwainer Ward, C'non St. Ho
2345 Duke of Fife, Clapham Common

2345 Duke of Fife, Clapham Common
20 Rl. Kent Antiquity, Chatham
121 Mount Sinai, Penzance
127 Union, Margate
137 Amity, Poole
178 Antiquity, Wigan
200 Old Globe, Scarborough
221 St. John, Bolton
243 Loyalty, Guernsey
246 Royal Union, Cheltentham
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
581 Faith, Openshaw

376 Perfect Friendship, Ipswich
451 Sutherland, Burslem
581 Faith, Openshaw
591 Buckingham, Aylesbury
610 Colston, Bristol
662 Dartmouth, West Bromwich
68 Isca, Newport, Mon.
726 Staffordshire Knot, Stafford
795 St. John, Maidenhead
823 Everton, Liverpool
865 Dalhousie, Hounslow
874 Holmesdale, Tunbridge Wells
889 Dobie, Kingston-on-Thames
934 Merit, Whitefield
950 Hesketh, Fleetwood
962 Sun and Sector. Workington
972 St. Augustine. Canterbury
1019 Sincerity, Wakefield
1040 Šykes, Driffield
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
1301 Brighouse. Brighouse
1323 Talbot, Swansea
1324 Norman, Durham
1355 Duke of Lancaster, Lancaster
1511 Alexandra, Hornsey
1634 Starkie, Ramsbottom
1774 Mellor, Ashton-under-Lyne
1842 St. Leonard, St. Leonard's
1988 Mawddach, Barmouth
2050 St. Trinians, Douglas, I. of M.
2050 Starker, Consett
2051 Farnborough & N.C., Farnboro'
2052 West Dick U.S.

### Thursday.

House Committee, Girls School, 4.30.

6 Friendship, Criterion
813 New Concord, Guildhall Tavern
1227 Upton, Great Eastern Hotel
1365 Clapton. Great Eastern Hotel
1420 Earl Spencer, Lavender Hill
1623 West Smithfield, Freemasons'-h.
1963 Duke of Albany, Camberwell
2310 London Scottish Rifles, Crit'ion.

Relief, Bury Howard B'ly Love, L'hampton

56 Howard B'ly Love, L'hampte 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 Warcester, Warcester 286 Samaritan, Bacup 322 Peace, Stockport 343 Concord, Preston 345 Perseverance, Blackburn 350 Charity, Farnworth

350 Charity, Farnworth

363 Keystone, Whitworth
367 Probity & Freedom, Rochdale
430 Fidelity, Ashton-under-Lyne
489 Benevolence, Bideford
523 John of Gaunt, Leicester
600 Harmony, Bradford
605 Combermere, Birkenhead
659 Blagdon, Blyth
758 Ellesmere, Runcorn
777 Royal Alfred, Guildford
802 Repose, Derby
833 Afan, Aberavon
939 Pelham, Worksop
940 Philanthropy, Stockton
1000 Priory, Southend
1011 Richmond, Manchester
1037 Portland, Portland
1042 Excelsior, Leeds
1184 Abbey, Battle

1037 Portland, Portland
1042 Excelsior, Leeds
1184 Abbey, Battle
1247 St. John, Plymouth
1299 Pembroke, Liverpool
1327 King Harold, Waltham Cross
1332 Unity, Crediton
1368 St. Hugh, Lincoln
1393 Hamer, Liverpool
1459 Ashbury, West Gorton
1464 Erasmus Wilson, Gravesend
1470 Chiltern, Dunstable
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
2158 Boscombe, Boscombe
2226 St. David, Rhymney
2268 Hallamshire, Sheffield
2302 St. Mary, Southwell
2305 Stour, Ashford, Kent
2325 Rose of Lancaster, Southport
2341 Clemency, Oldham
2352 Universities, Durham
2374 Shurmur, Chingford
2390 Exmoor, Minehead
2430 Runnymede, Wraysbury

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
2475 Border. Blackwater
2514 City, Liverpool

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#### REPORTS MEETINGS. OF

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

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#### METROPOLITAN. CRAFT:

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### HONOUR AND GENEROSITY LODGE, No. 165.

HONOUR AND GENEROSITY LODGE, No. 165.

A N emergency meeting was held on Tuesday, 25th ult., when the following Brethren were present: Alfred P. Crabb W.M., Frank E. Rosher I.P.M., F. Howard Rosher S.W., J. Woodhouse J.W., J. W. Howard Thompson P.M. Treas., Henry Times P.M. Sec., Godfrey Sykes S.D., W. de B. Herbert J.D., W. M. Thompson I.G., Henry W. Clarkson Org., G. E. Wainwright P.M., J. R. Drake P.M., Harry Bearman, Joseph W. Ellis, C. J. Andrews, William H. Burt, A. Spencer Ellam, Percy L. Ellis, Hayward J. Strudwick, John A. Dugdale, E. H. Palin Francis. Visitors: Lionel Cooke W.M. Empire, No. 2108, D. T. Tudor J.W. Caveac, 176.

The three degrees were worked in the excellent manner for which this Lodge is noted; after which the Brethren adjourned to a well served banquet.

banquet.

### PRIORY LODGE OF ACTON, No. 1996.

THE annual meeting was held on Monday, at the Berrymead Priory, High Street, Acton, when Bro. W. Eydmann jun. was installed as Worshipful Master by Bro. W. A. Board W.M. of the past year.

The following Brethren were appointed the Assistant Officers: T. E. Bardrick S.W., W. S. Wright J.W., E. Monson P.M. Treas., J. A. Cammell P.M. Sec., Rev. C. A. Lane Chaplain and S.D., F. Botley P.M. D.C., F. C. Erwin J.D., F. W. Doe I.G. and Organist, E. W. Stiles A.D.C., G. Harrison Tyler

A donation of five guineas was voted from the funds of the Lodge towards the Masonic Altar in the Chaplain's Church at New Barnet. The installation banquet followed, presided over by the W.M.

### 0 INSTRUCTION.

-: o:-

### PERCY LODGE, No. 198.

PERCY LODGE, No. 198.

N Saturday, at Bro. A. T. Hollingberg's, the Perseverance Hotel, Southgate Road, N., Bros. B. Barton W.M., J. P. Torlowsky S.W., J. Recknalls J.W., J. Anly jun. Treas., A. J. Powell Prec., F. Stallard P.M. Sec., D. Moss P.M., &c. S.D., E. Platt J.D., J. Wynman I.G., A. Lesser.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree, when the W.M. announced his intention of rehearsing the ceremony of raising. A candidate was entrusted, the Lodge was advanced, and the ceremony was rehearsed, in perfect style. By desire of the W.M. Bro. D. Moss, with the assistance of the Brethren, worked the second section, and Bro. Anly the third section of the lecture. The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree.

Bro. Lesser was proposed as a member and duly elected, while Bro. Torlowsky was chosen W.M. for the next meeting.

### RANELAGH LODGE, No. 834.

RANELAGH LODGE, No. 834.

A T the Six Bells Hotel, Hammersmith, W., on Friday, 28th ult., Bros. J. H. Cumming P.M. W.M., Robert Reid S.W., W. Atkinson J.W., R. H. Williams P.P.G.J.D. Middx. P.M. acting Prec., F. Craggs P.M. Sec., W. Hinds P.M. Treas., K. M. Ross S.D., J. J. Lewin J.D., G. T. Meek I.G., W. Coplestone P.M., J. Banks P.M., W. Hyde P.M., and several others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Hyde acting as candidate. Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. W. Atkinson was entrusted. Lodge was opened up and the ceremony of raising gone through. Lodge was resumed in the first degree, and the election of Officers postponed till next week, in consequence of the Preceptor being absent on his holidays.

Bro. R. Reid was unanimously elected to fill the position of W.M. at the next meeting. Bro. Craggs asked the Brethren to assist the West London Masonic Election Association at the May election for aged Freemasons.

### FRIARS LODGE, No. 1349.

N Thursday, at Bro. Abraham's, the Aldgate Distillery, Aldgate, E., Bros. W. Making W.M., L. Marks S.W., N. G. Goldman J.W., L. A. Da Costa Prec., J. Davis Sec., Sassienie S.D., T. P. Torlowsky J.D., Moses I.G., Phillips Steward, D. Moss P.M., B. Da Costa P.M., Corper W.M. 1349, Wynman, Crabb, Lotheim, Friend, M. Da Costa P.M., Gidney, Emden, Richmond, Simmonds, &c.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Friend acting as candidate. Bro. Making rendered the ceremony in a very satisfactory manner.

Bro. G. Normenton W.M. of De Warren Lodge, No. 1302, and J. Hird of the Royal Yorkshire Lodge, No. 265, were unanimously elected members, which compliment they duly acknowledged.

Bro. L. Marks was elected W.M. for next meeting, and returned thanks

for the honour.

It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously carried, that a letter of sincere sympathy and condolence be sent to Bros. L. and E. Mordecai on the death of their beloved father, who was a well-known Brother in the Craft.

After the closing of the Lodge Bro. D. Moss P.M. President of the Benevolent Association of the Lodge presided at a meeting of its members, when a ballot was taken and proved in favour of Bro. E. Valentine.

### WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

O<sup>N</sup> Monday, at Bro. Rudderforth's (Stone's) Restaurant, Panton Street, Haymarket, Bros. E. Nice W.M., W. West S.W., S. Firminger J.W.

C. Woodrow P.M. Prec., C. Wetton P.M. Dep. Prec., J. W. Simeons Sec., J. E. Culverhouse S.D., J. Ollington J.D., F. N. Louis I.G., H. J. Cousens W.M. 172, C. H. Perry, W. H. G. Rudderforth P.M.

The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Simeons acting as candidate. This being ended the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Wetton candidate. Bro. W. West was elected W.M. for the next meeting.

# CHISWICK LODGE, No. 2012.

CHISWICK LODGE, No. 2012.

N Saturday, 29th ult., Bros. F. Craggs P.M. W.M., Robert Reid S.W., W. Hide P.M. J.W., R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Middx. Acting Preceptor, R. Josey P.M. Secretary, M. F. Wilkins S.D., W. Herring J.D., W. Atkinson I.G., J. H. Cumming P.M. Steward, Maurice Speigel P.M., G. T. Meek, W. Handover, L. J. Powell, W. T. Ridgway, R. Woolfers, C. Ornstein, W. H. Jeffries, and several others.

Bro. Powell answered the questions, was entrusted, and, after the Lodge had been opened in the second degree, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. The first section of the lecture was worked by the Brethren, under the direction of Bro. Speigel, and the Lodge was resumed to the first degree when the second section was gone through.

A letter was read by the Secretary from Bro. Arthur Williams P.M. Preceptor, who gave a most interesting account of the many visits he had made to several Country Lodges during the extended tour he is making for the benefit of his health, and spoke of the extremely cordial manner in which he was received.

which he was received.

Bro. Ornstein, of the Covent Garden Lodge, No. 1614, and Bro. Jeffries, of the Ravensbourne Lodge, No. 1601 were unanimously elected members. Bro. W. Atkinson acts as W.M. at the next meeting.

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### BRONDESBURY LODGE, No. 2698.

N Monday, 11th ult., at the Earl Derby, High Road, Kilburn, Bros. A. F. Hardyment Prec. W.M., M. Spiegel P.M. S.W., G. D. Fraser J.W., Knowles S.D., Line J.D., Palmer I.G., Campbell P.M. Assist. Prec., Harry Willsmer Sec., Craig, Louis Cohen, Aylett, H. Crook, T. Goldby, G. Coxen, W. G. Coxen Organist, &c.

The installation ceremony was rehearsed, on account of the near installation of Bro. Hardyment in the Mother Lodge, by Bro. R. J. Campbell the W.M. at the time. The first ceremony was also gone through by the

W.M.

Bros. L. Cohen, T. Goldby and J. H. Craig were elected members, and
Bro. Spiegel chosen to preside at the next meeting.

N the 18th, Bros. M. Spiegel P.M. W.M., G. D. Fraser S.W., W. Knowles J.W., A. F. Hardyment W.M. 2698 Prec., R. J. Campbell P.M. Treas., Harry Willsmer Sec., W. J. Smith P.M., G. N. Coxen, W. G. Coxen, Harold Coxen, S. A. Pardoe, F. W. Bishop, E. J. Van Noorden, Dunnaway Organist, Aylett, Palmer, Craig, P. Davis, Clemens P.M., G. Wood P.M. Preceptor Prince Frederick William Lodge of Instruction, &c.

The ceremonies of initiation and passing were rehearsed. Bro. A. F. Hardyment received the congratulations of the Lodge of Instruction on his installation as W.M. of the Mother Lodge.

Bro. Geo. Wood P.M. was elected an Honorary Member, and Bros. Van Noorden and Dunnaway ordinary members of the Lodge.

A meeting of the Charity Association attached to the Lodge was afterwards held, two ballots for five guineas each being drawn for, with the result that Bros. W. G. Coxen and A. Schomberg were declared to be successful.

# PROVINCIAL.

### LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 581.

A T the last meeting of this Lodge, held at the Old Boar's Head Hotel, Manchester, under the Preceptorship of Bro. Alfred Hebden P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C., the ceremony of initiation and also that of passing were reheursed to a very good audience. In the first instance the candidate was Bro. Jas. E. Wolstenholme, No. 1011, the principal chair being occupied by Bro. Matthew Goth, Faith Lodge, No. 581, and in the second degree the candidate was Bro. Chas. A. Toyn 581, the principal chair being occupied by Bro. A. Longworth J.W. 1083, the other offices (in both degrees) being filled by Bros. H. Hill 2144 as S.W., Hy. Lord 2144 as J.W., and James Cooper 1459 as I.G. 1459 as I.G.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 11th inst.

### MINNEHAHA MINSTREL LODGE, No. 2363.

MINNEHAHA MINSTREL LODGE, No. 2363.

THE regular meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Monday, 24th ult., Bro. Thomas Hamnett W.M.

After the confirmation of minutes, Bro. F. W. Wollaston P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. Chaplain read one of the ancient charges, this being followed by the traditional history and explanation of the third degree tracing board, by Bro. Seth Wrigley P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Director of Ceremonies.

After some little consideration it was decided to have the usual summer picnic, the same to take place on Monday, 19th June. Bakewell is the place selected, with a drive to Haddon Hall, Rowsley, Chatsworth, Darley Dale, and Matlock; and given a fine day, a very great treat is in store for the members and their friends.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were varied by songs, recitations, &c., rendered by Bros. E. A. Smith I.P.M., S. H. Stubbs J.W., F. Todd S.D., Fred Hilton P.M. P.P.G.D.C., G. R. Ward, J. C. Woolstone, and Edwd. Roberts P.M. 1459.

Woolstone, and Edwd. Roberts P.M. 1459.

### PRESENTATION AND COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET TO BRO. J. H. DAY, MOUNT EDGCUMBE LODGE, No. 1446.

ON Thursday, 25th ult., at Bro. Charles Riemann's, the Spaten Restaurant, 33 Newgate Street, E.C., a distinguished company assembled to present Bro. J. H. Day with a handsome massive gold watch, the occasion being his retirement from the firm of Faudel, Phillips and Son, Newgate Street, after jourteen years faithful service. The testimonial was handed over by C. W. Bedwell, Esq., with an eloquent speech.

Bro. Day acknowledged the handsome present in fitting terms,

Some toasts were given and responded to. An excellent menu provided, and was admirably served under the personal supervision of Bro. Riemann, who was congratulated and thanked for the excellent manner in which he had provided the dinner. An exceptionally enjoyable evening was spent.

#### ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.

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Garrick.—As "Change Alley" has not proved acceptable to the public Bro. H. T. Brickwell has decided upon withdrawing it after the performance this evening (Saturday). The Theatre will then remain closed on Monday and Tue-day, and will re-open on Wednesday, 10th, with "A Court Scandal," transferred in its entirety, with the original company, costumes and scenery, from the Court Theatre, by arrangement with Messrs. Chudleigh and Boucicault.

By a friendly arrangement Bro. Charles Wyndham has sub-let the Criterion Theatre, with which he has been associated for the last twenty-three years, to Mr. Charles Frohman of New York, from October next, by which time Bro. Wyndham hopes to be in possession of his new Theatre in Charing Cross Road. In connection with the Criterion Theatre it may be mentioned that the late Mrs. Henrietta Gabrielli, of South Kensington, has bequeathed all her books to Bro. Wyndham; and her jewels, plate, carriages and horses, together with one half of her residuary estate to Mrs. Mary Albery (Miss Mary Moore). The value of Mrs. Gabrielli's estate is £14,087 188 9d.

Bro. Frank Ilmister, the able and courteous manager of the London Pavilion Music Hall, announces his first "benefit" at that popular place of amusement, for Monday afternoon, 29th inst.

### THE QUEEN'S HOTEL, LEICESTER SQUARE.

THE QUEEN'S HOTEL, LEICESTER SQUARE.

The Brothers Baker, so well known in Islington as the former proprietors of the "Angel" and the "Cock" at Highbury, have gone two hundred and one thousand better than anything they have ever done in the way of fashionable catering, in building a perfect palace of luxury in Leicester Square called the "Queen's" Hotel, says the Masonic writer in the "Islington Gazette." We are accustomed in these days to things magnificent in the surroundings of our catering establishments, but here we have a perfect dream of artistic splendour such as will draw all London. Leicester Square is a curious place. One half is taken up with hospitals, and the other with palaces of pleasure, so we have pleasure and pain at a glance. The "Queen's" is on the pleasure side, next door to the Empire, chock-a-block with the new circus, and Daly's, and with the Alhambra in its left eye. It is an immense building in cut stone in the French Renaissance style. On the ground floor there are buffets for all, with fittings of exceeding costliness and richness. In the rear is the most lovely dining-room in London, if not in the world, for not even in Vienna, where they do these things better than anywhere else, can there be found such a feast of gilt, delicate tapestries, and glittering lights. Here at separate tables is to be served a five shilling dinner by a chef whose quality was fully tested by a really delicious inaugural lunch on Tuesday, when all the quidnuncs came to test and view. Up in a gallery a delightful string band plays popular music all the time. Adjoining this magnificent hall is a similarly beautiful grill-room, and upstairs there are suites of princely chambers that charm one with their artistic beauty, the variety of their design, and the richness of their furniture. One drawing-room is an exact copy of one of Marie Antionette's rooms at Versailles, a dream in white and gold! There is a handsome Masonic suite where Lodges to the number of sixty-five persons can be served and closely tiled. and resources of the building.

### RHODESIAN SHARES.

IF we examine the London Stock Exchange list of quotations of mining and land shares, we shall find that the shares of the If we examine the London Stock Exchange list of quotations of mining and land shares, we shall find that the shares of those companies which are devoted to the exploration and dovelopment of lands and gold mines stand at far higher prices than those of mining companies proper. Among the companies carrying on this kind of work in Rhodesia, the prospects of the Austen (Gwelo) Development Syndicate, Limited, are second to none, taking into consideration the fact of the smallness of its capital, which is only £50,000, in £1 fully paid-up shares, and that it owns a farm of 6,000 acres and 507 claims in the best known and most important gold mining districts of Rhodesia. The latest reports from the manager in Rhodesia state that "during the week some rich float has been picked up on the strike of the reef at the 'Old Dog' Mine." "Have started to sink on that pay shoot on the Jackson, and it is paying wonderfully." "Have started some work on the Gwelo Main Reef and Clackmanan, and have a shaft going down on the Jackson, where good ore was found." "Found nice specimens of visible gold from the shaft on the Jackson. Greatly pleased with the appearance of the reef; it is rock which pans well." "Old Dog, Jessop and Jackson will make a very nice company, with four reefs and splendid site for reduction works and storage dams for water." "We have found good ore at Scouts in the old workings; excellent, shewing rich visible gold." The properties acquired by the Austen (Gwelo) Development Syndicate, Limited, as will be seen from the above, are of a magnitude which now places the company in a position to reap the great advantages and profits arising from subsidiary companies formed to work portions of their large estates. At the present price of about £2 per share, at which the shares are now dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, they should be a good speculative investment, as there is every probability of their very shortly improving to many times their present price.

The new loop line skirting Rotterdam, which has been made at considerable cost by the Dutch Government with the object of shortening the route between the Hook of Holland and the German frontier was successfully

inaugurated this week, when a party of English journalists were conducted over the line by Mr. C. Busk, tracil: manager of the Great Eastern Railway There were also present at the inspection several prominent officials of the Dutch Railway. Hitherto passengers booking by the Great Eastern Railway for North Germany have been compelled to proceed from Rotterdam to Amersfoort by a circuitous route via Amsterdam. The new connecting line obviates this, and effects a saving of twenty-five miles. The North German express will now run in an almost direct line from the Hook of Holland to the frontier, and thence for Berlin, North Germany, and Russia, constituting this the shortest route between England and that portion of the Continent. The improvement effected will not only result in an acceleration of the mail and passenger service between London and Berlin, but correspondingly improved connections have also been arranged with other parts of the Continent. Continent.

Yarmouth and London are not alone to benefit by the Great Eastern Yarmouth and London are not alone to benefit by the Great Eastern new breakfast and dinner trains. Norwich and Cromer are also to reap advantage from this latest piece of railway enterprise. Commencing on 1st May there will be a breakfast express run daily from Cromer at 8.5 a.m., save on Mondavs, when it leaves an hour earlier, calling at Norwich en route, and reaching London at 11.22 a.m. There will be a corresponding down train at 4.55 p.m. from Liverpool Street, on which a table d'hote dinner will be served, and the train will reach Cromer at 8.47 p.m., calling at Norwich (Thorpe) at 8 p.m. on the way. On Sundays, too, a luncheou train will leave Liverpool Street for Norwich, at 9.50 a.m. Clearly the G.E.R. is marching with the times. The restaurant cars will be both first and third class, so that the masses as well as the classes will be able to enjoy this latest luxury of travel.

The Midland Railway Company are now running a third-class luncheon carto Nottingham by the North Express, leaving London (St. Pancras) at 12.25, Kentish Town 12.29, and Kettering at 1.55 p.m.

Writing in defence of the Craft, the Chaplain of an Irish Lodge, says: "Since, generally speaking, our secrets are fairly well guarded, no one but a Mason can judge of Masonry. An outsider may pass his opinion, but such an opinion is not judgment, but prejudice in the worst sense of the term." Our Irish Brethren thank their Brother for this expression, and we think that vote of thanks worthy of endorsement.

### The Theatres, &c.

Adelphi.—8, A Kiss in the Dark. 8:30, The Man in the Iron Mask. Matinée Saturday, 2:30.

Avenue. -8.15, The Rift within the Lute. 8.50, The Cuckoo. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.

Comedy.—8:15, Great Cæsar. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.

Court.—Wednesday, 17th May, Wheels within Wheels.
Covent Garden.—Monday, 8th May, Grand Opera Season.

Criterion.—8:20, The Tyranny of Tears. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2:30.

Daly's.—8:15, A Greek Slave. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.

ce of York's.—8, Chums. 8:45, The Adventure of Lady Ursula. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2:30. Duke of York's. -8. Chums.

Gaiety.—8·15, A Runaway Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.

Garrick.-Wednesday, 10th May, A Court Scandal.

Globe.—8, The Gay Lord Quex. Matinée, Saturday, 2.

Haymarket.—8:10, A Golden Wedding. 9, The Manœuvres of Jane.

Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2:15.

Her Majesty's—8:30, Carnac Sahib. Matinée, Wednesday, 2:30.

Lyceum.—8, Robespierre. Matinée, Saturday, 2.

Lyric.-8, L'amour Mouillé. Matinée, Thursday, 2.30.

Lyric.—8, L'amour Mouille. Matinée, Thursday, 2:30.
Opera Comique.—8:15, A Good Time. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Prince of Wales's.—8:15, The Only Way. Matinée, Thursday, 2:15.
Princess's.—7:45, Woman and Wine.
Royalty.—8:15, Mr. Cynic. 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, 2.
St. James's.—8:30, In Days of Old. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2:30.

Strand.—8:15, A Man about Town. 8:45, Why Smith Left Home. Matinée,

Strand.—8·15, A Man about Town. 8·45, Why Smith Left Home. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday.

Terry's.—8·30, Sweet Lavender. Matinée, Saturday, 2·30.

Vaudeville.—8, A Woman's Love. 9, On and Off. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.

Alexandra.—Next week, Ma Mie Rosette.
Dalston.—Next week, What happened to Jones.

Grand.—Next week, What happened to Jones.

Grand.—Next week, The Brixton Burglary.

Queen's Opera House, Crouch End.—Next week, The Little Minister.

Alhambra.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. Jack Ashore, Red Shoes, &c.

Aquarium.—The World's Great Show. The Great Fight. Varied Performances, &c., twice daily.

Empire.—7·50, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet, Alaska, &c.

London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.

Oxford.—7·30, Variety Entertainment. On the Roofs. Saturday, 2·30 also.

Palace.—7·45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c. Saturday, 2 also.

Royal.—7·30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2·30 also.

Tivoli.—7·30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2·15 also.

Alexandra Palace.—Varied attractions daily.

Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.

Madame Tussaud's (Baker Street Station).—Open daily. Portrait models of modern celebrities, &c.