

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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GRAND LODGE NEXT WEEK.

THERE is a full agenda of what we may term routine business to come under the notice of Grand Lodge on Wednesday next, although happily there is little of a controversial or unpleasant nature.

Members of different Boards have to be first elected, and then Grand Lodge will consider the Report of the Board of Benevolence, in which are recommendations of five grants of £50 each, one of £60, and one of £150.

The Report of the Board of General Purposes contains a reference to an appeal to Parliament which was rendered necessary in order to maintain the rights possessed by Grand Lodge in property scheduled in the "London Improvements Bill." Happily an amicable arrangement was arrived at, and it may be possible at no very distant period for Grand Lodge to secure a much better frontage for its property than it at present enjoys, but even if this does not happen, Grand Lodge will certainly reap some benefit from the improvements contemplated by the London County Council in its neighbourhood. The improvement has been talked of for twenty years and more, but appears to be now likely to be carried into effect.

New Trustees of the personal property of Grand Lodge being required, to fill vacancies caused by death, the Board recommends the election of the Earl of Lathom and Viscount Dungarvan.

Bro. Frank Richardson proposes to expunge Rule 137 of the Book of Constitutions, which requires the Master and Wardens of London Lodges to sign their names in a book at the office of the Grand Secretary, and the Board approves the suggestion—a very wise course, we consider, seeing that the Rule is more often honoured in the breach, than the observance.

We give a full copy of the Agenda elsewhere in this issue, as also of that in connection with the Grand Lodge of Mark Masons.

WEST LANCASHIRE.

THE Provincial Grand Lodge met on Thursday at the Public Hall, Preston, for the purpose of installing the Right Honourable the Earl of Lathom as Provincial Grand Master, in succession to his father, the late Earl. Earl Amherst Pro Grand Master presided, and among the chiefs of the Craft present were Bros. E. Letchworth G. Sec., R. Wylie P.G.D. D.P.G.M., J. D. Murray P.G. Treas., J. J. Lambert P.G.D., Rev. T. Barton Spencer P.G. Chap., John Houlding P.G.D., G. S. Sinclair P.G.D., W. F. Smithson P.G.D., R. Newhouse P.G.S.B. Prov.G. Sec. Cheshire, James Newton P.G.S.B. Prov.G. Sec. East Lancashire, W. Goodacre P.G.S.B. Prov.G. Sec. West Lancashire, J. M. M'Leod P.G.S.B., and J. J. Thomas P.G.S.B.

The Earl Amherst installed Lord Lathom in regular form, and, in addressing the Brethren, referred to the very valuable Masonic work which the late Earl performed during his occupancy of the same position, extending over a period of 25 years. He expressed the hope that the Province as a

whole would give its new Grand Master the support which he thoroughly deserved.

At the close of the installation ceremony the Provincial Master appointed and invested Bro. Robert Wylie as his Deputy.

The roll of Provincial Grand Officers and Lodges, the latter numbering 121, was read by the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. W. Goodacre, and showed that all the retiring principal Officers were present with three exceptions, and that all the Lodges were represented with one exception—the Sefton, No. 680.

The minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge and the accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer were taken as read, and passed. The financial statement showed that the income on the Charities Fund, the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund, and the Fund of Benevolence amounted to £1,965 5s, and the disbursements to £799 19s 7d, leaving a balance in hand of £1,165 6s 5d.

Bro. Dr. R. Prosser White was unanimously elected Provincial Grand Treasurer, and the Auditors for the ensuing year were appointed.

On the motion of Bro. R. Wylie, it was resolved that 200 guineas be voted from the Charities Fund of West Lancashire to the Lord Lathom Memorial Fund, in connection with the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, for the purpose of securing the presentation of candidates on the foundations of the London Schools for Boys and Girls, and the Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, in his report, remarked that in mourning the loss of their late Provincial Grand Master the lining of the cloud was brightened by the choice of His Royal Highness the Grand Master, who, in selecting his lordship to fill the position held by his revered father, had carried into effect what those of them who were privileged to enjoy the confidence of their late Provincial Grand Master knew to have been one of the dearest wishes of his heart. During the year over 800 candidates had been initiated, and the roll of members had been increased to over 8,000, an average of 67 per Lodge. The Benevolence and Charity Committee had made grants to Brethren and Widows amounting to £95. The West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution had now invested about £23,000. Its income for the year 1898 was £2,000, and its expenditure upon 215 children on the foundation amounted to £1,500. The Hamer Institution had vested funds amounting to £5,200. Its income in 1898 was £700, and it assisted 25 Brethren by grants and annuities amounting to £463. The Alpass Institution, with vested funds amounting to £7,000, and an income of £1,200, had 65 Widows on its foundation, who received annuities amounting to £1,300; whilst the Victoria Fund had made grants to several deserving cases, to the amount of £70.

The Provincial Grand Officers were invested.

In the evening a banquet was held, and during the proceedings an excellent selection of music was performed by the Euterpean Ladies' Orchestra, under the direction of the Misses Scott.

THE Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was held in Preston, on Thursday morning, at which the Earl of Lathom was installed Provincial Grand Superintendent in succession to his father, the late Earl.

R. M. I. GIRLS.

WE are asked to announce that Thursday, 8th inst., is the last day for receiving petitions for the October election of this Institution.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Cirencester, on 23rd ult., under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Bart., Her Majesty's Chancellor of the Exchequer. The gathering is usually an incident of Whitsun-week, when the brief Parliamentary recess permits of Sir Michael's personal attendance; and rarely, if ever, since the Right Hon. Brother accepted the Provincial Grand Mastership fifteen years ago, has he failed to avail himself of the opportunity of meeting his Brethren in Gloucestershire on the occasion of their annual assembly.

It has also grown into a pleasant custom of late years that the Brethren of the town honoured with the Provincial visit should offer their guests the allurements of a "Lodge of recreation" as a prelude to the more formal business of the day; and on Tuesday the custom was not departed from. Indeed, the Brethren of Cirencester are as generous in their hospitality as they are favoured in the facilities for offering it. The beautiful Park has always been at their disposal for the reception of their visitors, even when no active connection existed between the noble owner of the estate and the Masonic body; and this year such connection does exist in a remarkable degree. The present Earl Bathurst, though still in a subordinate office, is working steadily up to the chair of the Cotteswold Lodge, which meets in the town of Cirencester; whilst his brother, the Hon. Benjamin Bathurst, M.P., has just passed through the Mastership of the same Lodge, and takes this year the highest disposable office in Provincial Grand Lodge, successively held in previous years by the present Mayors of Tewkesbury and Cheltenham. Under these circumstances there was a peculiar fitness in the invitation given by the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Cotteswold Lodge to the visiting Brethren from the other Lodges of the Province, that they should attend a recreation Lodge "in the grounds of Cirencester House," and in the intimation that Brother the Earl Bathurst would himself entertain the visitors at luncheon. That a large party availed itself of the invitation, and that it had a "good time," notwithstanding the showery weather that prevailed, need hardly be said. The private grounds of Cirencester House are worthy of the park that surrounds them, and more could scarcely be said of them. The luncheon was an abundant one, and was partaken of by nearly 200 of the Brethren, the band of the 4th Batt. G.R. playing a suitable programme of music during the "recreation." In addition to the entertainment at Cirencester House, and Brother Lord Bathurst's hospitality, the Brethren were given facilities for visiting the old Parish Church of the town, where they were welcomed by Bro. the Rev. J. Stewart Sinclair, the Vicar. The Corinum Museum, with the collection of Roman remains, invited the inspection of the many interested in such matters, and the Officers of the Gloucestershire Regiment courteously received those who chose to supplement archaeological investigation by a knowledge of the daily life of a modern camp. The period of "recreation" ceased at 1.30, and the Brethren then wended their way towards the Town Assembly Rooms, where the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was appointed to be held.

Provincial Grand Lodge was late in marshalling, in consequence of the late arrival of the train bringing the D.Prov.G.M. and Brethren from Tewkesbury and Cheltenham. It did not meet until 2.40 instead of 2. The Provincial Grand Master entered the Lodge Room with the customary formalities. He was attended by his Deputy Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith P.G.D., Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.Chap., Rev. Canon Childe P.G.Chap., the Baron de Ferrieres P.G.D., Sir Brook Kay, the Earl Bathurst, Dep. Surg.-Gen. Ringer P.G.S.B., &c.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the Lodge held at Tewkesbury on the 31st of May last year, and those of the special meeting held on the 6th of October, on the occasion of the consecration of the Lodge Royal York, having been read by Bro. Winterbotham and confirmed, the Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy and the other Officers of Grand Lodge of England were saluted with the customary honours.

The Prov.G. Treasurer Bro. Bruton gave an account of his stewardship, the report presented by him showing that after payment of the contribution of 100 guineas to the Centenary Festival fund of the Boys School, ordered last year, there still remained a balance to the credit of Prov.G. Lodge of £51. The report was received and adopted, with a cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Bruton for his continued

services, and subsequently, on the motion of Bro. Hatton P.Prov.G.W., seconded by Bro. Jennings, Bro. Bruton was re-elected by acclamation to the post he has so worthily filled for the past five years.

The report of the Charity Committee, of which the D.Prov.G. Master is the Chairman, was next read by Bro. R. P. Sumner Charity Secretary.

The report was received and adopted, with a warm acknowledgment of the services Bro. Sumner had rendered in his management of the Committee's affairs. The personal expenses of the Charity Secretary were, in accordance with usual custom, ordered to be paid out of the funds of Provincial Grand Lodge, and a vote of ten guineas was made, to be placed on the list of Bro. Sumner, for one of the Masonic Charities. The D.Prov.G. Master explained that the period for which he was elected the representative of the Province on the Boys School Committee expired next October, and suggested that the appointment of his successor should be left to the Charity Committee. Bro. Baron de Ferrieres proposed that, instead of adopting this suggestion, Prov.G. Lodge should forthwith re-elect Bro. Vassar-Smith to the position he had so well filled. This was seconded by Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, and at once adopted, by acclamation.

The Prov.G. Master then referred to the restoration of Tewkesbury Abbey as a suggested work of "operative Masonry." It was a work that peculiarly appealed to the feelings of Gloucestershire Masons, and though they were unable to undertake anything in connection with it last year, there was a general feeling that something might be attempted in the near future. Though they were still unable to do much out of the funds of Provincial Grand Lodge, he suggested that a Committee should be appointed with a view to bringing up a definite proposal next year, and undertaking some distinctive part of the restoration.

On the invitation of the Prov.G. Master Bro. Baker (Mayor of Tewkesbury) and Bro. F. Moore P.Prov.G.W. spoke warmly in support of the suggestion, Bro. Moore suggesting that one, or perhaps two, of the bays of the cloister might be undertaken, in succession to that which had already been so generously restored by Bro. Collins.

Ultimately a Committee was nominated, to consist of the Prov.G.M., the Deputy Prov.G.M., Prov.G. Treas., Prov.G. Sec., and Assist.G. Sec., Bros. Sumner, Moore, Collins, and the Mayors of Tewkesbury and Cheltenham (Bros. Baker and Norman).

The Prov.G. Master brought the informal business of Provincial Grand Lodge to a close by conveying to Bro. the Earl Bathurst the thanks of Provincial Grand Lodge for the hospitality he had so generously extended to the Brethren at Cirencester House.

The Provincial Grand Master appointed and invested the following as Provincial Officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. Hon. A. B. Bathurst 592	-	-	-	Senior Warden
S. P. Ryland 246	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. H. K. Adkin 82	-	-	-	Chaplain
W. C. Ferris 1005	-	-	-	Registrar
Jas. Bruton 839	-	-	-	Treasurer
J. B. Winterbotham 82	-	-	-	Secretary
H. R. J. Braine 493	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
W. H. Bishop 702	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
M. W. Dunscombe 1363	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
J. G. Wenden 761	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
W. C. Bannister 2407	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
A. Jotcham 855	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
H. Stallard 951	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
W. A. Turner 1067	-	-	-	
W. H. Morgan 493	-	-	-	Organist
M. Llewellyn Evans 82	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
A. R. Meyer 900	-	-	-	Pursuivant
W. Crosbie Coles 592	-	-	-	Stewards
T. Hobbs 592	-	-	-	
Sidney S. Starr 1005	-	-	-	
Window	-	-	-	Tyler.

The roll of the Lodges was then called and the reports taken. The latter were without exception satisfactory, every one of the seventeen Lodges under the Provincial jurisdiction being in a strong condition, both financially and as to membership. The numbers present from the several Lodges were as follow, the roll being called in order of seniority in Provincial Grand Lodge, viz.:—Royal Faith and Friendship Lodge, Berkeley, No. 270—12; Royal Union Lodge, Cheltenham, No. 246—20; Foundation Lodge, Cheltenham, No. 82—18; Royal Lebanon Lodge, Gloucester, No. 493—32; Cotteswold Lodge, Cirencester, No. 592—31; Sherborne Lodge, Stroud, No. 702—14; St. John's Lodge, Dursley, No. 761—11; Royal Gloucestershire Lodge, Gloucester, No. 839—9; Lodge of Sympathy, Wotton-under-Edge, No. 855—10; St. George's Lodge, Tewkesbury, No. 900—19; Prince of Wales Lodge, Stow-on-the-Wold, No. 951—12;

Zetland Lodge, Gloucester, No. 1005—25; Royal Forest of Dean Lodge, Newnham, No. 1067—11; Tyndall Lodge, Staple Hill, No. 1363—4; Hicks Beach Lodge, Stroud, No. 2407—18; St. Andrew Lodge, Avonmouth, No. 2541—2; Royal York Lodge, Nailsworth, No. 2709—18.

Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form. There were about 250 Brethren present during the proceedings.

Subsequently the Brethren, to the number of nearly 200, partook of an early dinner in the Corn Hall.

The Provincial Grand Master, in proposing the Queen's health, said he had the honour of being very near her at the ceremony at South Kensington, and was glad, on the eve of her 80th birthday, to say how well she appeared to be. He hoped it would still be a long time before her happy and glorious reign was brought to a close.

Later, in acknowledging the toast of his own health, he said he had never felt prouder of his Lodge than he had that year, and he spoke warmly of the pleasure he felt in these meetings with his Gloucestershire Brethren, away from the atmosphere and surroundings of party strife and politics.—"Cheltenham Examiner."

THE PORCH OF THE TEMPLE.

MOST striking and beautiful was the porch of King Solomon's Temple, worthy in itself of a journey to Jerusalem to behold. King David gave to King Solomon the pattern of this porch (I Chronicles xxviii, 11), and Solomon was chosen by the Lord to build it—together with the entire Temple. The two chief features of the porch were the two famous pillars, named by Solomon Jachin and Boaz. Whether these two pillars stood in the porch, or in front of it, has always been a vexed question—I Kings vii, 21 stating that "he set up the pillars in the porch of the Temple," and II Chronicles iii, 17, that "he reared up the pillars before the Temple." These two pillars, of brass, were the work of Hiram, the architect of Tyre, and cast under his direction, with chapters of molten brass upon the tops of the pillars as capitols, with nets of checker work and wreaths of chain work, and upon their tops was lily work. Such, in brief, was the porch of the Temple, "a thing of beauty," and through its verbal delineation "a joy for ever."

Suppose a stranger had come to Jerusalem after the completion of the Temple on purpose to see it, and had viewed and admired its wonderful porch, but after doing so had turned his back on the Temple itself, after having been invited to enter it and behold all of its wondrous beauties! What would be thought of the good sense, or the fine taste, of such a one, and if he were a mystic disciple of King Solomon, what would be thought of his Freemasonry? Standing in the porch, with the privilege of familiarising himself with all the marvels of construction and ornamentation of the Temple interior, and refusing to enter, such a one might be denominated intellectually blind, morally lame, and Masonically dumb.

Brother reader, have you not seen this blind, lame and dumb man, this blind, lame and dumb Freemason? More than the schoolmaster he is abroad in the world. Men who have eyes and see not, ears and hear not, minds and understand not. Men who have feet and walk not from the outer porch into the inner temple. Men who are initiates but not adepts. Brethren who are familiar with the exoteric, but ignorant of the esoteric. None of these things should be. The eye was constituted to be the organ of sight, the ear to hear, the feet to walk, the mind to think. He who abridges his physical, mental or Masonic ability drags around with him for life a dead member, and makes himself a spectacle for men and angels.

Now we have reached the heart of this subject. Every Freemason is entitled, completely entitled, to enter not only the porch of the mystic Temple of the Craft, but to penetrate into its holy place, and its holy of holies. The entire triad is his. Especially is it his privilege to enter the penetralia, the adytum, the most holy place. No Masonic secret is lawfully denied him. The complete secret, art and mystery is his, to master and enjoy—if he will; but he must will if it is to be his. "Whosoever will" is the language of Freemasonry, as well as of Holy Writ.

What a rich reward does the Fraternity bestow upon every initiate who seeks to know the entire mystery! We would that it were in our power to make this so clear that every Brother might comprehend its truth and force. We would that every initiate might understand that one may be a Master Mason without being a Master of Masonry. To be the latter is the work, the pleasure, the reward of a life-time's study. The student of the mystery of Freemasonry is no mere book-worm, no antiquated pedagogue, but an intelligent tourist through an intellectual paradise which is watered with silvery streams, flowing through flowery meads, shaded with stately trees, through which balmy

zephyrs play, birds of rich plumage sing, and every prospect is one of enchantment and beauty. This is the interior of the Masonic Temple. Those who remain in the porch of the Temple never behold it. The porch is the sign, it is the thing signified. The porch is the type, it is the anti-type. The porch is the symbol, it is the symbol's hidden meaning.

Yes, the joys of the porch are great. All the initiated resort there. There are social pleasures, and there is Masonic recognition. But why remain there? Why be satisfied? Why not enter the Temple? Why not become more than mechanical Masons? Why not discover the hidden beauties and excellencies of Masonry? Why not understand and enjoy the meaning of our symbolism? If you are a Mason, why not be a thorough one?

There is a sublimity in Freemasonry which justifies the phrase, "sublime degree of a Master Mason." Every Brother should be a sublime Mason, and he may be if he will. There is ravishment for the sight, enchantment for the imagination, satisfaction for the understanding. All are invited to this intellectual banquet. The gates of Corinthian brass in the porch of the Temple are thrown wide open, and every Master Mason is invited to enter the Temple itself.—"Keystone."

ROYAL ARCH.

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SYMPATHY CHAPTER, No. 483.

THE annual installation of the Principals of this Chapter took place at a convocation held at the Royal Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, on 23rd ult., when a full muster of the members and their friends assembled to take part in the proceedings. The Chapter was formally opened by the M.E.Z. Comp. J. P. White, and the Companions were admitted.

After the minutes had been confirmed, the ballot was taken for Bro. Edward Caspar Paine, of the Lodge of Freedom, No. 77, as a candidate for exaltation. Bro. Paine having been approved, was admitted and regularly exalted into the Holy Royal Arch degree by Comp. White, whose working of the ceremony was everything that could be desired. The lectures were delivered by Comps. R. J. Beamish, Orlton Cooper, and John Read P.G.O. Eng., the last named Companion giving the mystic lecture at the request of the M.E.Z.

A Conclave of Installed Principals having been formed under the presidency of Comp. John Read, the ceremony of installation was commenced. Comp. White presented Comp. Orlton Cooper M.E.Z.-elect, who was duly obligated, invested and installed as First Principal. Comp. R. J. Beamish was afterwards inducted into the chair of H., and Comp. William Hawker into that of J. The various ceremonies were beautifully rendered by Comp. Read, who was subsequently accorded a hearty vote of thanks by the Chapter.

The Companions having saluted their new Principals, the following Officers were invested, viz., Arthur Ronaldson S.E., Ernest Ingman S.N., Thos. T. Hogg Treasurer, W. Spencer Bowen P.S., J. A. Gillett and Percy Bowen Assistants, T. A. Mummery D.C., A. J. Walklin and Geo. Masters Stewards, and George Martin Janitor. A candidate was proposed for exaltation at the next meeting, and the Treasurer's report was presented.

Comp. Ronaldson announced that the Provincial Grand Master and Superintendent Earl Amherst would lay the foundation stone of the Passmore Edwards Hospital, at Herne Bay, on 12th June; that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent would be held at Sevenoaks, on the 14th June; and that on the 23rd his Lordship would consecrate a new Lodge at Margate. Also that the Provincial Grand Chapter would meet on 14th July, at Plumstead.

The Chapter was then closed and the Companions subsequently dined together, when the customary complimentary speeches were given.

An improved service of trains has been arranged by the Great Western Railway Company between Paddington and Henley, commencing on 3rd June. Extra trains will also be run on Mondays and Saturdays, leaving Paddington at 10.10 a.m. and Henley at 9.0 p.m. On Sundays an extra train departs from Paddington at 9.55 a.m., and Henley at 9.0 p.m.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

WE much regret to announce the death of Mrs. Hemmens, widow of the late Bro. Henry Hemmens, which occurred at "Calabar," Coronation Road, Bristol, on Wednesday evening, 10th ult. Since the death of her husband, some seven years ago, the health of Mrs. Hemmens has only been moderately good, and an utter collapse appears to have followed on the death of her eldest son, Bro. George Hemmens, on the 3rd ult., as reported in our recent issue. During his illness his mother undertook a journey to Bourne-mouth for which she was physically unfitted. The whole of the mental strain, anxiety, and grief finally culminated in complete prostration, and resulted in the actual and immediate cause of death, a clot of blood upon the brain, and failure of the heart. Mrs. Hemmens will be long remembered as an agreeable and accomplished lady, and one of the most genial and entertaining of hostesses. To mourn her loss and respect her memory, she leaves a numerous family of sons and daughters, her mother (Mrs. George Williams), and her only surviving sister (the wife of Bro. A. J. Tonkin), and many friends and relations. The funeral took place at Arno's Vale, on Monday afternoon last week.

MARK MASONRY.

CHESHIRE.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons has been fixed to be held at Stockport on Saturday, 10th June.

ESSEX.

SINCE the year 1883 the Mark Masons of the county of Essex have formed a portion of the Province of East Anglia, under the presidency of Lord Henniker, the Province comprising the four counties of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Cambridgeshire, there being in all thirteen Lodges—seven of which are situate in Essex.

Some months ago a meeting of representatives of the Essex Mark Lodges was held, with a view to consider the advisability of promoting the formation of a separate Province for the county, and as the result a petition to H.R.H. the Grand Master was drawn up and unanimously signed, praying that the Essex Lodges might be formed into a Province, and recommending the Earl of Warwick as the first Prov. Grand Master. The prayer of this petition having been granted, Wednesday, 24th ult., was fixed for the constitution of the new Province at Colchester, under the banner of the senior Mark Lodge, the Constantine, No. 145.

The Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons Bro. the Earl of Euston, accompanied by the Earl of Warwick, Col. Lockwood, M.P., and several other eminent members of the Grand Mark Lodge, travelled by the 11.45 a.m. train from London, a special saloon being attached to the train for their accommodation. They were met at the Colchester Station by Bros. Claude E. Egerton-Green W.M. 145, John J. C. Turner P.M. 145 P.P.S.G.W., Richard Clowes P.M. 145 Prov.G.J.O., and J. H. Salter P.M. 145 P.P.G.D.C., and most of the party proceeded to East Hill House, where they were entertained to luncheon by Bro. and Mrs. Egerton-Green.

The Masonic proceedings were timed to commence at 2.30, and by that hour the representatives of the Mark Lodges of the county had assembled in the Board Room of the Corn Exchange, which, under the direction of Bros. Bailey, Eustace, Skingley, and Cheese, had been transformed into a very handsome Lodge Room. On the entry of the Pro Grand Master the Lodge was formed, as follows:

The Right Hon. the Earl of Euston as Grand Master, Sir Reginald Hanson P.G.W. as S.W., Frank Richardson P.G.W. as J.W., Rev. Wm. Cree P.G.C. as Chaplain, C. Fitzgerald Matier G.Sec. as Sec., Major C. W. Carrell G.D.C. as D.C., and Rowland Plumbe as I.G. The other Grand Officers present were Bros. J. Strachan, O.C., G.M.O., Richard Clowes P.G.J.O., A. H. Bowles P.G.D., V. P. Freeman P.G.D., and T. J. Ralling P.G.D.

Grand Lodge having been duly opened, the Earl of Warwick was escorted into the Lodge Room by Masters of the Essex Lodges, and was then installed into his office by Lord Euston, and on taking the chair was heartily applauded.

The first official act of the new Provincial Grand Master was to appoint Col. Lockwood, M.P., as his Deputy, and that popular Brother had a most hearty reception on his being installed into his Office.

The roll of Lodges having been called by the Acting Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. T. J. Ralling, and all being found to be fully represented,

The Earl of Warwick addressed the Brethren. His Lordship commenced by asking the indulgence of those present, as he had been doing military duty as an officer of the Warwickshire Yeomanry, and as most of their drills had taken place in a gale of wind he had almost lost his voice. Their meeting that day marked an epoch in the history of Mark Masonry in the county, and he felt quite sure that the effect of the formation of that Provincial Grand Lodge would not only be to strengthen the existing Mark Lodges, but also to extend the working of the degree in the county. He was well aware that for about sixteen years the Brethren had belonged to the Province of East Anglia, and that they all held in high esteem the worthy Brother who had during that time presided over them. He thought it right to say that the Province had not been started with any feeling of antagonism to Lord Henniker—they all felt the highest respect for his lordship—and he (Lord Warwick) would not have been a party to the proceedings of that day if Lord Henniker had not given the movement his fullest sanction. In starting a project of the kind there was naturally several matters which

required putting on a business footing, and he had therefore invited several experienced Brethren to form a Board of General Purposes to consider those matters, and their report was in the hands of all the Brethren. He considered the report a most excellent one, and he personally thanked the Brethren for the trouble they had taken in the matter. He should like to emphasise one paragraph of the report, namely, the one referring to the forthcoming Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund. He had been honoured by an invitation to take the chair on that occasion, and he ventured to express a hope that the members of their new Province would support him in the way that Essex Masons had always done whenever he made a call upon them. He was pleased that the Constantine Lodge was setting a very good example to the other Lodges, as they had already collected amongst their members about £30.

Bro. Richard Clowes moved the adoption of the report of the Board of General Purposes. He said one of the chief matters that occupied the attention of the Board was the provision of ways and means to provide for the necessary expenses which had to be incurred in starting the Province. They had gone very fully into the matter, and trusted the Brethren would adopt their suggestion that each Lodge should contribute at the rate of 5s per member. He was pleased to have to announce that their new Provincial Grand Master had most kindly contributed twenty guineas to the fund, and that their worthy Deputy had added ten guineas. He thought, therefore, they had started under the most favourable auspices, and he hoped it would be found at the next meeting that the Province was in a sound financial position.

The motion having been seconded by Bro. Geo. Graveley Lord Warwick put it to the meeting, and it was carried by acclamation.

The next business was the choice of four elective members of the Board of General Purposes, and the following Brethren were duly elected:—Bros. F. W. Imbert-Terry P.M. 377, Wm. Shurmur P.M. 461, John J. C. Turner P.M. 145, and A. J. H. Ward W.M. 413.

Bro. J. H. Salter P.M. 145 having been unanimously elected Provincial Grand Treasurer,

The Earl of Warwick appointed and invested the first Officers of the new Province, as under:

Bro. Claud Egerton Green 145	-	-	Senior Warden
Col. Landon 377	-	-	Junior Warden
James Speller 461	-	-	Master Overseer
G. H. Scrutton 467	-	-	Senior Overseer
John W. Moss 145	-	-	Junior Overseer
Rev. Canon Quennell 377	-	-	Chaplain
W. S. Wright 205	-	-	Registrar
Thos. J. Ralling 145	-	-	Secretary
W. Scott Macdonald 467	-	-	Senior Deacon
J. M. Murphy 205	-	-	Junior Deacon
Robert Cook 342	-	-	Inspector of Works
R. Clowes 413	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
J. G. Mackenzie 342	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Ceremonies
G. M. E. Hamilton 205	-	-	Sword Bearer
J. E. Pegram 342	-	-	Standard Bearer
W. G. Puttick 467	-	-	Organist
R. Haward Ives 145	-	-	Assistant Secretary
Martin Bleick 461	-	-	Inner Guard
A. S. B. Sparling 145	-	-	Stewards
John E. Cheese 145	-	-	
Arthur Wright 145	-	-	Tyler.

Votes of thanks were then passed to Lord Euston and the Grand Officers who had assisted in the ceremony of the day, and to the Constantine Lodge for their excellent arrangements.

About fifty Brethren afterwards dined together at the Cups Hotel, under the presidency of the Earl of Warwick, an excellent repast being well served by Mr. and Mrs. Woodward. During dinner the string band of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment performed a selection of choice music, which was much appreciated.

An interesting feature of the day's proceedings was the presentation to Bro. T. J. Ralling, the first Grand Secretary of the new Province, of the undress clothing and jewel of a Past Grand Deacon of England.

The presentation was made by Bro. R. Clowes, who explained that himself and a few friends of Bro. Ralling desired his acceptance of these gifts, with their sincerest wishes for his welfare, and the hope that he might long be spared to wear them.

Bro. Ralling feelingly acknowledged the presentation.

It should be added that a liberal supply of flags for the decoration of the Lodge Room were lent by Bro. Fieldgate, of Brightlingsea, while Mr. Lewis, of East Hill House Gardens, supplied some handsome plants, which added greatly to the adornment of the room.

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.

- 16 Royal Alpha, Metropole
- 1319 Asaph, Freemasons'-hall
- 2098 Harlesden, Harlesden
- 113 Unanimity, Preston
- 119 Sun, Sq. & Compass, Whiteh'v'n
- 154 Unanimity, Wakefield
- 156 Harmony, Plymouth
- 199 Peace and Harmony, Dover
- 251 Loyal, Barnstaple
- 328 St. John, Torquay
- 331 Phoenix Ho. & Prudence, Truro
- 395 Guy, Leamington
- 422 Yarborough, Gainsboro'
- 431 St. George, N. Shields
- 482 St. James, Handsworth
- 622 St. Cuthberga, Wimborne
- 850 St. Oswald, Ashbourne
- 928 Friendship, Petersfield
- 959 Prince of Wales, Ipswich
- 977 Fowey, Fowey
- 1045 Stamford, Altrincham
- 1051 Rowley, Lancaster
- 1071 Zetland, Saltash
- 1077 Wilton, Blackley
- 1180 Forward, Birmingham
- 1211 Goderich, Leeds
- 1239 Wentworth, Sheffield
- 1254 Semper Fidelis, Exeter
- 1264 Neptune, Liverpool
- 1452 St. Margaret, Lowestoft
- 1573 Caradoc, Swansea
- 1954 Molesworth, Wadebridge
- 2039 Londonderry, Sunderland
- 2166 Cotchele, Calstock
- 2497 Carville, Wallsend-on-Tyne
- 2520 P. of Wales, Newcastle-on-Tyne
- 2533 Fitzwilliam, Peterborough
- 2586 St. Nicholas, Scarborough

Tuesday.

- 171 Amity, Ship and Turtle
- 1715 U. N. Counties, Inns of Crt. Htl
- 2190 Savage Club, Freemasons'-hall
- 2524 Train Bands, Finsbury Barr'ks.
- 70 St. John, Plymouth
- 103 Beauford, Bristol
- 124 Marquis of Granby, Durham
- 158 Adam, Sheerness
- 252 Harmonic, Dudley
- 265 Royal Yorkshire, Keighley
- 340 Alfred, Oxford
- 364 Cambrian, Neath
- 393 St. David, Berwick
- 421 Loyal of Industry, S'thmolton
- 510 St. Martin, Liskeard
- 558 Temple, Folkestone
- 615 St. John & St. Paul, Erith
- 660 Camalodunum, New Malton
- 673 St. John, Liverpool
- 734 Londesborough, Bridlington
- 794 Warden, Sutton Coldfield
- 304 Carnarvon, Havant
- 847 Fortesque, Honiton
- 948 St. Barnabas, Linslade
- 960 Bute, Cardiff
- 974 Pentalpha, Bradford
- 995 Furness, Ulverston
- 1002 Skiddaw, Cockermouth
- 1096 Lord Warden, Walmer
- 1222 Saint Kew, Weston-super-Mare
- 1244 Marwood, Redcar
- 1310 Harrow, Harrow
- 1509 Madoc, Portmadoc
- 1726 Gordon, Bognor
- 1780 Albert Edward, Southampton
- 1785 St. Petroc, Padstow
- 1807 Loyal Wye, Builth
- 1970 Hadrian, South Shields
- 1981 Arnold, East Molesey
- 2129 Dorothy Vernon, Bakewell
- 2133 Swan of Avon, Stratford-on-Avon
- 2260 Ridley, Newcastle-on-Tyne
- 2290 Fairfield, Fairfield
- 2490 Amphthill, Amphthill

Wednesday.

- Quarterly Communication, United Grand Lodge, 6 for 7.
- 74 Athol, Birmingham
- 94 Phoenix, Sunderland
- 137 Amity, Poole
- 159 Brunswick, East Stonehouse
- 168 Mariner, Guernsey
- 279 St. John, Leicester

- 282 Bedford, Tavistock
- 287 Unanimity, Stockport
- 298 Harmony, Rochdale
- 326 Moira of Honour, Bristol
- 327 St. John, Wigton
- 406 N'thern Counties, N'castle-on-T.
- 417 Faith & Unanimity, Dorchester
- 429 Royal Navy, Ramsgate
- 471 Silurian, Newport, Mon.
- 545 Humphrey Chetham, M'chester
- 678 Earl Ellesmere, Farnworth
- 838 Franklin, Boston
- 970 St. Anne, East Looe
- 992 St. Thomas, Manchester
- 1003 Prince of Wales, Jersey
- 1010 Kingston, Hull
- 1013 Royal Victoria, Liverpool
- 1085 Hartington, Derby
- 1167 Alnwick, Alnwick
- 1205 Methem, E. Stonehouse
- 1206 Cinque Ports, Sandwich
- 1274 Earl Durham, Chester-le-Street
- 1333 Athelstan, Atherstone
- 1354 Marquis of Lorne, Leigh
- 1431 St. Alphege, Solihull
- 1461 Clausentum, Woolston
- 1532 Bective, Carlisle
- 1620 Marlborough, Liverpool
- 1660 Arlecdon, Frizzington
- 1736 St. John, Halifax
- 1862 Stranton, West Hartlepool
- 2024 Raymond Thrupp, Hampt'n Ct.
- 2193 Queen Jubilee, Nelson
- 2330 St. Lawrence, Pudsey
- 2368 Alan, Alderley Edge
- 2382 Loyal Hay, Hay
- 2391 Orde-Powlett, Middlesborough
- 2464 Longsight, Longsight
- 2556 Glyn Ebbw, Ebbw Vale

Thursday.

- 2417 Bolingbroke, Lavender Hill
- 2509 Barnet, New Barnet
- 35 Medina, Cowes
- 97 Palatine, Sunderland
- 130 Royal Gloucester, South'mpton
- 139 Britannia, Sheffield
- 333 Royal Preston, Preston
- 344 Faith, Radcliffe
- 369 Limestone Rock, Clitheroe
- 381 Harmony & Industry, Darwen
- 437 Science, Wincanton
- 477 Mersey, Birkenhead
- 546 Etruscan, Longton
- 725 Stoneleigh, Coventry
- 739 Temperance, Birmingham
- 816 Royd, Littleboro'
- 973 Royal Somerset, Frome
- 991 Tyne, Wallsend
- 1035 Prince of Wales, Liverpool
- 1055 Derby, Manchester
- 1098 St. George, Tredegar
- 1099 Huyshe, Stoke, Devonport
- 1144 Milton, Ashton-under-Lyne
- 1145 Equality, Accrington
- 1147 St. David, Manchester
- 1182 Duke of Edinburgh, Liverpool
- 1204 Royd, Malvern
- 1213 Bridgewater, Eccles
- 1273 St. Michael, Sittingbourne
- 1587 Chorlton, Chorlton-cum-Hardy
- 1416 Falcon, Thirsk
- 1495 Arkwright, Matlock Bath
- 1583 Corbet, Towyn
- 1697 Hospitality, Waverfoot
- 1750 Coleridge, Clevedon
- 1863 Priory, Tynemouth
- 1915 Graystone, Whitstable
- 1992 Tennant, Cardiff
- 2016 Shaldon, Alton
- 2038 Portcullis, Langport
- 2109 Prince Edward, Heaton Moor
- 2218 Rickmansworth, Rickmansw'rth
- 2234 Onslow, Guildford
- 2262 Dagmar, Wraybury
- 2278 Kingswood, Broxbourne
- 2285 Eden, Workington
- 2343 Sir William Harpur, Bedford
- 2420 Fd. de Rothschild, Waddesdon
- 2449 Duke of York, Manchester
- 2501 Ixion, Buckhurst Hill
- 2529 Abbey, Whalley
- 2568 Deleval, Newcastle-on-Tyne

Friday.

- 780 Royal Alfred, Kew Bridge

- 2399 Ordnance, Plumstead
- 64 Fortitude, Manchester
- 81 Doric, Woodbridge
- 458 Aire and Calder, Goole
- 526 Honour, Wolverhampton
- 786 Croxeth United Service, L'pool
- 815 Blair, Manchester
- 1001 Harrowgate & Claro, Harr'wg'te
- 1087 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard
- 1102 Mirfield, Mirfield
- 1121 Wear Valley, Bishop Auckland
- 1428 United Service, Landport
- 1605 De la Pole, Hull
- 1661 Newton, Newark-on-Trent

- 1676 St. Nicholas, Newcastle-on-Tyne
- 1826 Parthenon, Croydon
- 1983 Martyn, Southwold
- 2554 Manchester, Manchester
- 2558 Furnival, Sheffield

Saturday.

- 1685 Guelph, Leyton
- 869 Gresham, Chestnut Park
- 1637 Unity, Harrow Station
- 2096 George Price, Croydon
- 2105 Cama, Hampton Court
- 2246 Cyclist, Croydon

The Fraternity has a strong following with the Barnum and Bailey Show, says the "Manchester Herald." There are some thirty Master Masons among the officers and artistes, eight of whom are Companions of the R.A., while two of the Directors of the Company, Messrs. Joseph T. McCaddon and George O. Starr, and press representative Harvey L. Watkins, claim the distinguished honour of having had the thirty-second degree conferred upon them. The Barnum and Bailey people all hail from American Lodges. They have frequently visited meetings at various cities in Great Britain, and are very enthusiastic over the working of the Craft in this country.

A RONDEAU.

ACT on the Square O Brethren mine,
Let Truth and Right your act define;
May all your words and works portray
Wisdom and Mercy's hallowed ray.
May Faith and Hope and Love combine
To lead you upward to that shrine
Where dwells our Architect Divine.
And if you'd choose the safest way
Act on the Square!
All pens are powerless to define
The blessings of each Mystic Sign;
Prudence and Justice is their stay—
They lead to realms of endless day.
And if you'd keep their blest design
Act on the Square!

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EVERY THURSDAY MIDNIGHT, to **CHESTER**, Birkenhead and **LIVERPOOL**, for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT (commencing 2nd June), to **EXETER**, Dawlish, Teignmouth, **PLYMOUTH**, Fowey, Newquay, **TRURO**, Falmouth, St. Ives, **PENZANCE**, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY MIDNIGHT and **SATURDAY MORNING** (commencing 26th May), to **DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN)**, for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY SATURDAY (commencing 27th May) to Swindon, Bath, **BRISTOL**, **GLOUCESTER**, Cheltenham, Frome, Wells, **YEOVIL**, Dorchester, Bridport, **WEYMOUTH** (for the **CHANNEL ISLANDS**), **WESTON-SUPER-MARE**, Bridgwater, **TAUNTON**, Minehead, Lynton, Lymington, Barnstaple, **ILFRACOMBE**, Tiverton, **EXETER**, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, **PLYMOUTH**, Yealmpton, Launceston, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, **TRURO**, Falmouth, St. Ives, **PENZANCE**, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

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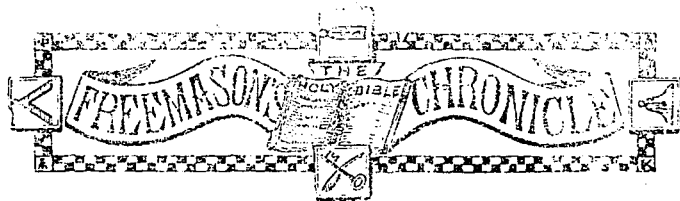
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SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE 1899.

GRAND OFFICERS AT BUCKHURST HILL.

SATURDAY was a red letter day for **Thomas Ralling Lodge**, No. 2508, when the Provincial Grand Master honoured the **W.M. Bro. Frank Griffith** and the members with a visit. His Lordship was accompanied by the **Earl of Stradbroke** Senior Grand Warden, and among those present were the **Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair, D.D.**, Past Grand Chaplain, the **Ven. Archdeacon Stevens** Grand Chaplain of **Essex**, **Thomas Ralling P.A.G.D.C.** Provincial Grand Secretary, **James Boulton P.G.P.**, **Albert Lucking P.G.P.** and **Prov. G.D.C.**, **Richard Clowes P.G.Std.Br.**, **G. H. Annetts P.M. 340 P.P.S.G.W.**, **J. Chaney P.P.S.G.W.**, **H. E. Hennan Prov. J.G.D.**, **Major Vane Stow P.M. and T. 2578**, **D. Grinsted P.M. 1692 P.P.J.G.D.**, **M. J. Dickins P.M. 1692** **Prov. G.S. Kent**, **George Corble P.P.G.W.**, **Joseph Cohen** **Prov. Dep. G.D.C.**, **Rev. William Cree P.P.G.C.**, **Dr. J. H. Salter P.P.J.G.W.**, **W. E. Dring P.M. 453 P.P.S.G.D.**, **E. J. Bowmaker P.M. 1000** **Prov. Grand Treasurer**, **A. G. Hayman P.P.S.G.D.**, **J. W. McD. Shelley P.M. 160**, **M. J. Freelove Prov. S.G.D.**, **J. Woodrow Matthews P.M. 23**, **J. R. Hill P.M. 1572**, **John Ramsey P.M. 214**, **C. Cobb P.M. 51**, **E. Barlow P.M. 180**, **T. P. Trounce P.M. 453**, **R. J. Davis P.M. 1269**, **R. J. Hemmings P.M.**, **W. J. Tull P.M.**, **G. E. Gratton W.M. 2654**, **Orlton Cooper P.M. 211**, **Capt. Edward Postans 34**, **H. Turner Emery W.M. 1789**, **H. Massey P.M. 1928**, **James Rendall P.M. 1719**, **Sidwell Jones W.M. 1900**, **W. T. Snell P.M. 1818**, **James Aker W.M. 55**, **E. Bramble W.M. 2182**, **R. C. Davies I.P.M. 1963**, **C. H. Kempling I.P.M. P.G.O.**, **Percy Griffith S.W.**, **Harvey Lohr J.W.**, **Matthew Clark P.G.D. D.C.**, **F. W. Ward Secretary**, **Charles Gough S.D.**, **Geo. Rankin J.D.**, **H. W. King I.G.**, **G. Mudgley Taylor 142**, **Thomas Powell J.W. 2182**, **E. J. Lea S.W. 2484**, **C. E. Smith S.D. 2182**, **W. Powell 1692**, **Captain Hager 913**, **Col. Thomson Wilson S.D. 388**, **F. Feistel Org. 1692**, **C. L. E. Ingall 1692**, **W. W. Holdaway**, **A. E. Goodey**, **Walter Churcher**, **A. G. Wedmore J.W. 1791**, **J. Wesley Ward**, &c.

The Lodge was formally opened by the **W.M.**, and the minutes were read and confirmed.

The ballot was taken and proved unanimous in favour of **Messrs. George Edgar Urch** and **Henry Robert Appleton**.

The **Earl of Warwick**, attended by the rest of the Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, then made his entry, amid the applause of the Brethren, and was received by **Bro. Frank Griffith** at the foot of the pedestal. The **W.M.** presented his gavel to the **Prov. G.M.**, who returned it with a request that he should resume the chair. His lordship was first saluted as **Deputy Grand Master of England**, then as **Provincial Grand Master**, and the other Grand Officers were also saluted.

Bro. Frank Griffith W.M. said on such an occasion, when the **Earl of Warwick** Deputy Grand Master and **Prov. Grand Master for Essex**, and the **Earl of Stradbroke** Senior Grand Warden, had visited the **Thomas Ralling Lodge**, he felt that the records of the Lodge would be incomplete if he did not express on behalf of the members and the visitors a hearty welcome to the distinguished Brethren who had honoured the Lodge with their presence. As in every Masonic Lodge loyalty to the Grand Master was one of their great privileges and pleasures he expressed that feeling now to **Lord Warwick**, and with the name of his lordship he would couple that of the **Senior Grand Warden of England**, for the Lodge felt it a very high honour that he had been kind enough to visit the Lodge. He did this in Lodge in order that it might stand as one of their most important records that they had had the privilege of welcoming such distinguished Brethren, and that they did so with all their hearts.

The **Earl of Warwick**, in response, said that to the gracious words the **W.M.** had been kind enough to address to him and **Lord Stradbroke** he could only reply that it had given him great pleasure to be present and to congratulate **Bro. Frank Griffith** on presiding over a Lodge which, although not of great antiquity, was one of the most successful Lodges in the Province of **Essex**; it was a Lodge bearing the most respected name of **Ralling**, and on that account should be in the satisfactory condition that it was. Of course he knew that on all occasions when he came among the Brethren they were good enough to give him a loyal and hearty Masonic reception as their **Provincial Grand Master**; and now that he had been promoted to higher honours by the **Grand Master** it still more became his duty to be with the

Brethren as much as possible, and to take part in the Masonic proceedings of his Province. He also must join with the Brethren of the Lodge in the cordial greetings which they extended to Bro. Lord Stradbroke S.G.W. of England. Lord Stradbroke was an Essex man, and they must welcome him most heartily on joining the Province. He only hoped it would not be the last time they would have his lordship among them. He did not know what the future might have in store for Lord Stradbroke, who was known for Masonic work; but he might say with confidence that the interest Lord Stradbroke took in Masonic work would no doubt entitle him to still higher rank than that he now held. He was glad to see the two Archdeacons present. Specially did he think it very desirable that they should recognise the pleasant manner in which they were supported by the Church. They should all consider that Charity was the first thing that every Mason should have at heart, and therefore it was most becoming they should be supported by distinguished Churchmen such as they had there that evening. He congratulated the Lodge greatly on the number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers present, and as he would not have another opportunity of offering his congratulations to the Thomas Ralling Lodge, he desired to take the present opportunity of thanking the Brethren very much for the cordial welcome they had given him.

The Earl of Stradbroke also thanked the Brethren, and said it had given him great pleasure to take part in the day's proceedings, and he thanked the Brethren very much for their hearty welcome. He could not equal the record of Lord Warwick in Masonry, but he felt exceedingly proud of attaining to the high position he now occupied in Grand Lodge, for he was comparatively a young Mason. It was a great pride to him to be in such a high position in the Craft as W.M. of the National Artillery Lodge. Thanking them again for their welcome he echoed what Lord Warwick had said that another opportunity might occur before long for his meeting the Brethren.

The business of the evening was then proceeded with. The candidates, Messrs. Urch and Appleton, were introduced and regularly initiated into Freemasonry. The ceremony was performed in a masterly manner by Bro. Griffith, who was assisted by excellent Officers. After the ancient charge had been delivered, the Master received the hearty good wishes of the visiting Brethren, and the Lodge was closed with prayer and praise.

The company then assembled in the grounds, where a photograph, to perpetuate the event, was taken by a local artist.

The banquet was served in the large dining hall of the Roebuck Hotel, by Bro. A. C. Smith, the ornate menu cards being designed by Bro. Griffith. At the termination of the repast the Charity Box was passed round, and a handsome addition was made to the Lodge Benevolent Fund.

Bro. Frank Griffith W.M., in proposing the Pro Grand Master, &c., said the Grand Officers took an interest in the work of Masonry. The Archdeacon of London had shown an interest in the Kirby Lodge of Instruction, of which there were many members present, and had conducted them round St. Paul's Cathedral; this they appreciated very much.

The Earl of Stradbroke S.G.W. first regretted that Lord Warwick had been obliged to go away. He added that Freemasonry was very active in Essex, and especially since Lord Warwick had been Provincial Grand Master, for during that time the number of Lodges in Essex had increased from nineteen to forty-three. All the Visitors were delighted at the way the work of the Lodge had been that evening performed; nothing could have been done better, and the W.M. was to be most heartily congratulated on the way he performed the work.

The Archdeacon of London said with regard to the Kirby Lodge of Instruction, the Grand Officers were pleased to take part in any work that would keep up the old traditions of Masonry. There was a great deal of work to be done month by month, and fortnight by fortnight by Grand Officers, and a large number attended the Board of General Purposes, and the Board of Benevolence and took a wise and practical interest in Masonry. Respecting what had been said about St. Paul's Cathedral, he would say a new Lodge had been started called the Cathedral Lodge, which was composed of members of the choir and staff of St. Paul's Cathedral. It was a very interesting Lodge, and he had received a large number of congratulations upon it.

The Archdeacon of Essex P.G.C. responded to the Provincial Grand Officers' toast, and said he had had the honour of being Provincial Grand Chaplain of Essex for two years, and that was his first step on the Masonic ladder, but he was astonished when he was asked to be Grand Chaplain in United Grand Lodge. He felt, however, that it was not only a compliment to him, but a compliment to the Province of Essex.

Bro. Albert Lucking P.G.P. also replied.

Bro. Charles Lewis P.P.J.G.D. P.M. proposed the W.M., and said that he and the W.M. were cousins, and they had been friends ever since they were little children; for many years they met every day; they spent many of their holidays together; they

had travelled together at home and abroad; and eventually they married into the same family. Bro. Griffith was a most popular and genial man in the family circle, in the social circle, in club life, in his military duties—although at Shoeburyness Lord Stradbroke could speak more about that—but at Shoeburyness and elsewhere he had always proved himself a most kindly, genial and popular man. He was pleased there were so many representatives of Lodges present to testify to the popularity of the W.M.

Bro. Frank Griffith W.M., in reply, said he thanked the Brethren for coming in such numbers to assist in welcoming the distinguished Masons who had honoured the Thomas Ralling Lodge with their presence. It was a red letter day for the Lodge. There was not a member of the Lodge who did not feel it a great honour to come and take part in the ceremonies that evening. He felt it a pride and honour that Lord Stradbroke accepted the invitation. The events of that day would be looked back to by many generations with pleasure, and he thanked Lord Stradbroke for coming. He hoped the Brethren had spent a pleasant afternoon, and he thanked all the Brethren for the cordiality with which they had received the toast. He took it as an honour to be Master of the Lodge. Although a young Lodge it had already acquired traditions. It had had excellent work. Good work in Masonry invariably produced good work. The first Master of the Lodge, Bro. Thomas Ralling, whose name it had the honour to bear, did his work well, and he was followed by other good workers, Bros. Lewis, Hennings, Tull, and Kempling. All these Brethren had laid the foundation of good work in the Lodge, and he hoped and believed that the influence which compelled him, naturally an indolent man, to work, would act upon others, so that they might uphold the traditions of Masonry, and that the work of their Lodge would always be done in a good Masonic way. In saying this he was trying to throw the good work on the Past Masters, who had set a good example which every succeeding Master might be proud of, and he was very glad to pay this tribute to the Masters of the Lodge.

The W.M. here announced that the Charity Box had yielded five pounds.

The W.M., in giving the toast of the Initiates, said he believed that the two newly admitted Brethren would uphold in their natural lives the traditions of Masonry.

Bros. Urch and Appleton acknowledged the toast, and Bros. Lewis, Kempling, Hennings, and Tull responded to that of the Past Masters, which was proposed by the Senior Warden. Bro. George F. Smith, Guildhall School of Music, P.M. Past Grand Organist, among others, replied to the toast of the Visitors, and the remaining toasts were given before the Brethren separated.

The musical programme, which was printed on a card in the shape of a Master's jewel, attached to the menu, another happy design of Bro. Griffith, was under the direction of Bro. Charles Kempling I.P.M., and among those who took part in the entertainment were Bros. Etherington Smith, Horace Reynolds, W. Churcher, S. Jones (who sang a song, "The Eternal Spring," composed by Bro. Harvey Lohr J.W.), T. Powell, and the Lyric Vocal Quartette. A feature of the programme was a pianoforte duet "Rhapsodie Hongroise" No. 2, performed by Bros. Kempling and Lohr, who, together with all the artistes, were received with great applause.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

-:o:-

CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

-:o:-

WAVERLEY LODGE, No. 1322.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Rooms, Queen's Arms, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Thursday, 27th April, Bro. Alfred Cooper presiding over a very large number of Brethren and Visitors.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Alfred Chapman expressed his desire to be passed to the second degree, and was entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the second degree and Bro. Jno. Smith P.M. P.P.J.G.D. passed Bro. Chapman, with his usual impressiveness and dignity. Bro. the Rev. Wm. Titterington Chaplain of the Lodge gave the charge, with his usual eloquence.

After all business had been attended to and "Hearty Good Wishes" been expressed by the numerous visitors present, the Lodge was closed. Among those present were Bros. A. Cooper W.M., J. Travis S.W., Tom Ogden J.W., M. Newman I.P.M., J. Riley P.M., A. Sumner P.M., A. B. Wilkinson P.M., Alfred Adams Sec., A. Chapman, A. Slater S.D., Geo. Parry J.D., J. T. Coles I.G., John Gamble, Jas. W. Hunstone, Arnold E. Fowden, George W. Davies P.M., Harry Andrew, Walter Scholes, Charles Plant, and Dan Birkby Tyler.

Visiting Brethren: John Bottomley P.M. 824 P.P.G.S.B., Herbert Fuller 324, J. O. Lowton P.M. 1408, Tom Cheetham I.P.M. 89, Joe Horsfall 490, H. K. Bradley 430, William Farrell 2156, and Charles Saunders 730.

At the festive board, the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with requisite honours.

Towards the close, and at the call of the W.M. Bro. J. Mercer Jones P.M. P.P.G.A.P. proposed a special toast, viz., the health of Bro. Samuel Grundy P.M., in the following terms:

The toast to which I have the pleasure to invite you to drink might justly be termed the toast of the evening, and will, I am sure, be received with acclamation. It is a toast in honour of one of the Past Masters of this Lodge, who has endeared himself to the hearts and affections of all his Brethren by his affability, candour, sincerity and simplicity—which seem to be some of the striking features of his character. Since his initiation, ten years ago, Bro. Grundy P.M. has been a pattern to us all, in uprightness, wisdom, and zeal; his virtues, which are many, are fragrant with the odour of good deeds. As a man he is gentle and kind, sincere and faithful as a friend, of the most restless energy, and never wearying industry, of irreproachable integrity, and undaunted fortitude, and when occasion offers he displays the most determined bravery and masterly soldiery. This was amply verified in the Lodge on one occasion when he was the Inner Guard.

At our annual festival of St. John in the year 1891, when I had the honour to be installed into the chair of K.S., it was my misfortune to be deprived of the guidance and assistance of our highly esteemed and much respected Schoolmaster Bro. Newton P.M., who is prevented from being with us to-night by sickness, which we all regret. Then he gave us an example of his untiring energy. But as some of the best and sweetest songs are the expressions of truth wrung from the human heart in the agony, and the excitement of the battle of life, so, Brethren, was the toast of "the Boys of our Young Brigade," the result of the anguish of my soul on that memorable day. I do not regret that event, Brethren, as since that night Bro. Grundy and I have been faithful companions and friends in the cause of Masonry.

He was afterwards appointed "Captain of the Young Brigade" which position he held with credit and honour, until he became the Commander in Chief of all the forces of the Waverley Lodge; and the more I know of him as a Brother Mason, and the more closely I am associated with him as a friend, the greater is my confidence in inviting you, one and all, to heartily drink with me long life, health, and happiness to our Brother Past Master Samuel Grundy. The toast was received with loud applause. The Brethren heartily sang "Auld Lang Syne," when Bro. Jones continued: Brethren, one thing more, not having a record of the genealogy of our Brother Samuel I am unable to give you his pedigree, so as to trace his lineage in the direct line back to "Samuel," of ancient historical fame, but we have only to look at his benign and cheerful countenance, to perceive that he is a worthy son of a noble ancestry. And to-night we do not drink to his health in mere words alone, we are prepared to prove our affection for him in a more solid and tangible form. I therefore have very much pleasure to call upon Bro. Grundy to rise and to receive at my hands, in the name and on behalf of every Brother of Lodge Waverley, this handsome Past Master's jewel, of solid gold, of beautiful design and exquisite workmanship, on the back of which is engraved the following inscription, viz:—

Presented to

BRO. SAMUEL GRUNDY P.M.

by the Brethren of the Lodge, as a mark of esteem.

27th April 1899,

as some token of our regard, and I can assure you, Bro. Grundy, it is a most pleasurable duty to pin this jewel on your breast; and may the G.A.O.T.U. grant unto you many years of life to wear this ornament, in honour of this day, and in memory of your Brethren of the Waverley Lodge.

A letter which was received from Brother Newton, the Mayor of Ashton, was read, as follows:—

To the WORSHIPFUL MASTER, Waverley Lodge, No. 1322.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—One more disappointment, another apology, I am tired of them, I cannot tell you and the Brethren how disappointed I am in consequence of my absence from the Lodge to-night. However, if I am not with you in the flesh, consider that I am not far from you, and that my thoughts are with you. I know to-night is to be of an exceptional character, honour is to be done to one of our Past Masters, by the presentation to him of a P.M.'s jewel. I should have been proud of being present, and to have pinned that jewel to his breast and to have said to him, "Well done thou good and faithful servant," and to all those below the salt, "go ye and do likewise" if you desire and deserve it.

Bro. Grundy is deserving of the honour conferred upon him to-night. He fulfilled the respective offices which he held below the chair, and discharged the duties appertaining to each office with every satisfaction to his superiors, as to merit the distinguished honour of being appointed "Captain of the Young Brigade," which position he occupied with distinction until he was elevated and transferred from the West to the East (never to return).

As Master he was efficient, performing the different ceremonies required of him with precision and exactness; as President of the social board rather impetuous, ignoring the Prince of Wales, Grand, and Prov. Grand Officers, and even at times omitting to sing one verse of the Queen, to the great disgust of Bro. Jones, ever anxious was he that the Brethren might smoke. Well, with all his faults we love him still.

Then, as Installing Master, installing his successor in such a masterly manner, with every satisfaction to all present, especially to the members of Waverley, and more particularly to the Schoolmaster. This is strong proof that we have another Pillar, to which the Young Brigade can look up to for strength and support, and the Lodge another Rock and Foundation to give it strength to continue to be the best and most efficient Lodge in the town,—nulli secundus.

Brethren, I hope you will have a very happy and enjoyable evening, and beg to say farewell, good-night, good-night, once more repeat the farewell strain, happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again.

I am, Yours fraternally,

WALTER NEWTON P.M. Treasurer D. of C. P.P.J.G.D. E.L.

Richmond Hill, Ashton-under-Lyne,

27th April 1899.

The W.M. next called upon Bro. the Rev. W. Titterington Chaplain of the Lodge to utter a few words. Brother Titterington said—Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, and Brethren all. It is with feelings of peculiar and most intense satisfaction that I rise at the command of the W.M. to say a few words on this very interesting occasion. There are several reasons why I am proud to take a part in the proceedings this evening. In the first place I owe my introduction to this Lodge to Bro. S. Grundy, and to him I am also indebted for the privilege and honour of now being a member of Waverley. From him I received for the first time the solemn charge when I was appointed by the I.P.M. the Chaplain of this Lodge. But besides all this Bro. Grundy is a member of the congregation in Dukinfield whom it is my delight to serve in the gospel. In our hymn book there occurs this line—"If one member honoured be, all rejoice most heartily." This is true of the members of that church with which we are connected—the church of the United Brethren, or Moravians—and it is also true of the members of that ancient and honourable Fraternity met here to-night. Once when Christ was upon earth some people came to Him asking Him to confer a great blessing upon one whom they respected, and the argument they used was "He is worthy for whom He should do this thing." We use the same argument in reference to Bro. Grundy, and we say he is worthy of this honour. This sentiment will be shared not only by the members of Waverley Lodge present, but also by the members of the various other Lodges so largely represented here, all of whom we are glad to see. I feel that the honour which is being done to Bro. Grundy to-night is richly deserved, and is in a way which I cannot well express in words an honour done to my foster-father in Freemasonry, as well as to a member of my congregation, and therefore an honour conferred indirectly upon myself. I rejoice, too, to think that the secret of our special festivities this evening, which we have known for two months, has been kept with Masonic precision.

Brother Grundy, in responding, said: Brethren, if ever a person was placed in a most embarrassing position it is the humble individual who is now attempting to address you. I naturally assumed that the prefatory observations of Brother Jones alluded to our esteemed Past Master Brother Newton, who is, much to our regret, confined to his house through a renewed attack of illness, but who is happily making rapid progress towards recovery; and I cheered Bro. Jones's observations accordingly. As, however, he proceeded with his speech, and most pointedly alluded to me, I imagined that with his accustomed facetiousness he intended to trespass on your time and patience to pay me the compliment of asking you to drink to my health, which I did not think was at all advisable or necessary, having regard to the musical talent here assembled. Our Chaplain has said that the secret of the presentation of this jewel to me has been kept with Masonic precision, and I can testify to the accuracy of that utterance. Until the moment Bro. Jones pinned this handsome jewel upon my breast I had not the least idea that you intended to confer upon me so great and undeserved an honour. The eulogistic sentiments which have been given expression to both by Bro. Jones and our Chaplain to-night have been beyond my deserts, and I would venture to add, with all deference to them, altogether unmerited. I look back, Brethren, to the time when I made my advent into this Lodge, and I say that the years I have been connected with it always bring to my mind the most pleasant recollections. I well remember taking a somewhat prominent part in conjunction with our late and much lamented friend Bro. Wright Wood, when the Brethren of this Lodge presented Bro. Jones with a Past Master's jewel, and to the delight which that ceremony afforded us. Brethren, I cannot adequately express to you my deep sense of gratitude, at the totally unexpected honour you have conferred upon me to-night, an honour which, allow me to say again, was as unmerited as it is undeserved. But I accept it with gratefulness, and as a token of your kindly feeling towards me which I can never forget; and rest assured that this jewel will ever be treasured by me, my wife, and my family, and that this night will never be effaced from my memory.—Brethren, I thank you.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 1343.

THE annual festival of this prosperous and flourishing Lodge took place on Wednesday, 25th ult., at the Public Hall, Grays, Essex, a special dispensation having been granted for this purpose.

Bro. Joseph Weymouth the outgoing Master presided, and among those present were Bros. Thos. J. Ralling P.A.G.D.C. Provincial Grand Secretary, George Harlow 2147 P.G.S.B. Kent, J. W. Armour 2707 P.G.S.B. Essex, J. J. Hollis P.G.D. Kent, William J. Emberson W.M. 1817, B. G. Thomas W.M. 160, Charles Westwood P.P.G.D.C., F. W. Pelling Prov.J.G.D., F. S. Guy P.P.J.G.W., Edward Ayres P.M., H. C. Borradaile P.P.G.S.B., Thos. P. Trounce W.M. 453, W. J. Barnes I.P.M. 2501, Henry Hide I.P.M. 1227, C. J. Smith I.P.M. 2648, D. Harlow P.M. 65, S. G. Thorne 1425, Geo. R. Ceiley 1464, P. W. Wilson, J. W. Johnson, A. G. Knight, John Higgins, H. W. P. Hunt, H. T. Bisher, J. W. Bowton, E. Thomas, W. White, A. F. Blake, W. Mitchell, H. Tuson, J. Melvin, W. H. Brough, G. H. Jones, &c.

Upon this occasion the Lodge had wisely ordained that the only business to be transacted was that of the installation, and therefore after the minutes had been confirmed the Lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. Pelling presented Bro. George H. Silverwood, M.A., LL.B., the W.M.-elect, to his predecessor, to receive at his hands the benefit of installation. Having addressed the Brethren as has been the custom from time immemorial, Bro. Weymouth proceeded with the ceremony upon the usual lines, and placed Bro. Silverwood in the chair of the Lodge, and all present re-echoed the sentiment expressed that he would have a happy year of office.

The Officers appointed for the year were invested by Bro. Silverwood in a most original manner, his humorous remarks as each came before him causing much merriment. They were Bros. Charles Asplin S.W., P. Atkins J.W., Rev. F. Haslock Chaplain, Charles Westwood Treasurer, H. C. Borradaile Secretary, R. Walker S.D., J. Melvin J.D., W. Dorman I.G., F. W. Pelling D.C., R. Matthews Organist, W. H. Brough, G. H. Jones, and B. D. Borradaile Stewards, George Martin Tyler.

The addresses were creditably delivered by Bro. Weymouth, after which the Past Master's collar and the Lodge jewel were presented to him, for which he returned his grateful thanks.

The new W.M. having presented the Lodge with new gauntlets for the principal Officers, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for the same.

Bro. T. Ralling announced the Earl of Warwick had decided to hold the Provincial Grand Lodge at Tilbury, on 26th July next, and he hoped there would be a good attendance.

Bro. Ayres proposed and Bro. Pelling seconded a cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Weymouth, for his services as Installing Master, which was acknowledged by the I.P.M. in feeling terms. This concluding the business of the evening, the Visitors tendered their congratulations, the closing hymn was sung, and the Brethren adjourned to the Queen's Hotel, where the banquet was served.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, 5th ult., Bro. John Mann Crone Worshipful Master.

In lieu of other ceremonial, the traditional history, and explanation of tracing board in the third degree were rendered by Bro. Cyril H. Beever P.M. Charity Representative, principally for the benefit of Bros. T. C. Tallent-Bateman and G. H. Smith, to whom also Grand Lodge certificates were presented.

The fact was mentioned that Bro. Oliphant O. Brown had recently lost his father by death, and the Secretary was instructed to forward a letter of condolence to him.

Bro. Crone W.M. informed the members that Bro. Henry Nall P.M. P.P.G.Treas., unavoidably absent that night on business connected with the mercantile progress of Manchester, was about to proceed abroad for the benefit of his health, and asked the Brethren to join with him in wishing Bro. Nall a pleasant journey, restored energy, and a safe return to England. This proposition was enthusiastically accepted.

The festive board followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts being relieved by songs, &c., given by Bros. Wm. Rushton J.W., A. Redfearn Treas., W. T. Hesketh P.M. Sec., W. Lea S.D., T. C. Tallent-Bateman Org., Wm. Moul, and Edward Roberts P.M. 1459.

The function mentioned above was that of formally opening a new warehouse which has been erected at the corner of Princess Street and Whitworth Street, Manchester, for Lloyd's Packing Warehouses, Limited. Colonel Mellor, M.P., performed the ceremony. The building is seven storeys high, and is divided into twelve suites of rooms, each comprising a ware room and set of offices. These apartments will be let to business firms. The basement is fitted up with modern appliances for the packing of goods for export. The machinery is worked by hydraulic and electric power, and the building lighted by electricity. Passenger and goods lifts are provided, and protection against fire is afforded by the installation of an automatic sprinkler. The completion of this building, which bears the name of the Whitworth House, brings the total number of packing warehouses owned by the Company in the city up to ten. The architect is Bro. I. R. E. Birkett I.P.M. 1375, and Messrs. William Southern and Sons, of Salford, have carried out the building contract. Mr. Allan Norbury, one of the Directors of the Company, is the manager of the new warehouse. In addition to Colonel Mellor, the principal shareholder of the Company, there were present at Friday's function Messrs. William Wadsworth Chairman of the Company, Alfred Watkin Vice-Chairman, T. Davenport, W. L. and A. F. Norbury, John Loudon, Bro. Hy. Nall P.M. 1375 2363 P.P.G.Treas., T. Maybrick, R. M. Johnson Directors, and Mr. E. W. Mellor. The company made an inspection of the new building.

Colonel Mellor, in proposing the toast of success to Lloyd's Packing Warehouses, at the dinner at the Grand Hotel, which followed the formal opening, said that no finer establishment existed for the special business for which the warehouse was intended, and no business in Lancashire was controlled by a more capable board of Directors. He thought the Company might confidently look forward to a future of solid prosperity. They neither expected nor desired to make excessive or phenomenal profits, for such results were neither good for proprietors nor employees, and a career of excessive prosperity was generally transient. But with first-class premises, ample resources, and honest management they might depend upon permanent prosperity so long as the textile trade of the county lasted. Several considerations seemed to point to as great and prosperous a future for Lancashire as anything she had seen in the past. The one great necessity was the maintenance of the peace of the world, especially between the Great Powers. Those relations were at present on a friendly footing, and there seemed every prospect that they would remain so. He had travelled in Upper Egypt, and Nubia, and had even penetrated some little distance into the Soudan, and he could testify that there was plenty of room for Manchester calicoes in that region; in fact, the absence of textile fabrics in those parts had sometimes been positively embarrassing. There was a large field out there to which Lloyd's Packing Warehouses might send their bales, for to provide even the most elementary garments would keep them busy for a long time. Reverting to the management of the trade and manufactures of Lancashire, Colonel Mellor said that if strikes were to be resorted to every time a dispute arose they might as well put up their shutters and write "Ichabod" over their portals. Happily, in one most important branch of the textile trade, he meant the spinning department, a strike had been averted by mutual and timely concessions. How the crisis in the weaving department would end he could not say. There the interests were varied; in some branches of manufacturing there had been prosperity, in others serious losses were encountered. He hoped that by mutual forbearance the calamity of a strike might be averted. Happily the trade of the country as a whole had prospered, and in that prosperity the working people had shared.

ALBERT VICTOR LODGE, No. 1773.

THE regular meeting was held at the Town Hall, Pendleton, on Friday, 19th ult., Bro. W. Thos. Blease Worshipful Master.

As there was very little business to transact, an early adjournment was made to supper, this being followed by the festive board, where Loyal and Masonic toasts were relieved by songs, recitations, &c., the contributors being Brothers the W.M., A. T. Mills, Rev. W. G. E. Rees, M.A., J. Hart, and Edward Roberts P.M.

The toast of the Provincial Officers was proposed by the W.M., who spoke of the recent honour conferred upon the Albert Victor Lodge, at the Oldham meeting, held a couple of days previously. Bros. Thomas Threlfall P.M. Provincial Gr.P., and Edward Roberts P.M. Prov.Gr.Tyler responded, the former giving a short and interesting account of his connection with Freemasonry.

Bro. William Mosley P.M. proposed the health of the visitor, which was duly responded to by Bro. Robert Clayton, Harmony Lodge, No. 935, who, in a capital speech, complimented the members of the Albert Victor Lodge upon their admirable method of working, stating at the same time that he had that evening learned a great deal which was new to him.

ZION LODGE, No. 1798.

THE regular meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday, 10th ult., Bro. Mark Steel W.M.

The minutes of the former meeting having been read and confirmed, Brothers W. G. Lamb and Arthur Eppinger were raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the former by the W.M., and the latter by Bro. Bernhard Steel I.P.M., who also presented and explained the working tools to the candidates.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, varied by songs, &c., rendered by Bros. J. H. Phillips Sec., Hy. Norris S.D., J. B. Levey, S. Jacobson, and Harry C. Goldman J.D. 323, the latter also treating the company to a clever thought-reading exhibition.

THE MANCHESTER LODGE, No. 2554.

THE regular meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Friday, 12th ult., Bro. Wm. Alderley Boyer W.M.

Although there was no work of any importance to be transacted in Lodge, the W.M. was well supported by his Officers, and also by an array of influential visitors, among the latter being Brothers James Newton P.M. Past Gr. Sword Bearer Prov.G.Sec., O. D. Cheetham P.M. 993 P.P.G.W., Buckley Carr P.M. 1161 P.P.G.D.C., G. L. Vaughan P.M. 1030 P.P.G.Reg., H. J. Cutter P.M. 44 P.P.G.S.D., W. H. Jones Org. 2447, and W. J. Sherlock 2109.

At the festive board Bro. Newton, who has only recently received the more distinctive honour, responded on behalf of Grand Lodge in a very interesting speech, Bros. Cheetham and Carr more particularly representing Prov. Grand Lodge.

Bro. Wm. Charlton, J.P., I.P.M. proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, while Bro. W. Akerman P.M. Prov. G.A.D.C. D. of C. introduced that of the Officers, both receiving fitting responses.

WYTHENSHAW LODGE, No. 2688.

THE Brethren held their Festival of St. John at the Tatton Arms Hotel, Northenden, on Wednesday, 17th ult.

The Lodge was consecrated in May last, by the Right Hon. Earl Egerton, Bro. T. W. Markland P.P.G.R. being installed its first W.M. Beyond observing, however, that the benediction of the G.M. of the Province has been bountifully supplemented by the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe, and that the Lodge is consequently in a highly progressive condition, further reference to its formation and consecration is here unnecessary. Suffice to say that its first installation meeting since that eventful time furnishes a warranty for the continued hope that the Lodge will have a long and prosperous career in this salubrious section of the Province.

It was a regrettable circumstance that so many Brethren who had signified their intention of being present were prevented through sickness and other unavoidable causes from taking any part in the installation, especially as the Brother elected to the dignity of Master was the popular and esteemed member of the Craft Bro. Mark Oliver, who, as S.W. of the Lodge had unquestionably proved his worthiness for the higher position.

Bro. A. Keymer P.M. and C.R. was the Installing Master, and in his delicate and impressive manner performed the duty without a hitch.

The Lodge business concluded, the Brethren sat down to the orthodox banquet, the tabling and serving of which did high credit to Bro. A. C. Flint. The toast list was an exhaustive one, the W.M. first submitting the loyal list, and, later on, in proposing the Earl of Egerton, referring in highly eulogistic terms to the services that nobleman had rendered to Freemasonry generally, and to that Province in particular.

The Worshipful Master proposed the Immediate Past Master Brother T. W. Markland P.P.G.R., to whom in the name of the Lodge he presented a very handsome Past Master's Jewel, its engraved inscription in solid gold back explaining that it was presented to Bro. Markland by the Brethren of the Wythenshawe Lodge, as its first Master, and as a mark of esteem and respect.

In thanking the Brethren for this further mark of their goodwill, Bro. Markland, who had just returned from a long journey, taken with a view of recruiting his health, which, in parenthesis, we were glad to hear him say had largely accomplished that purpose, incidentally referred to the fact that he had discovered Masonic friends in Morocco, although they could only exchange signs, thus substantiating the legitimacy of the claim to an ever-present meridian sunshine on Freemasonry.

AUSTEN-GWELLO, RHODESIA.

AMONG Rhodesian shares we have frequently called attention to those of the Austen-Gwello Development Syndicate (Limited) as being well worth attention. As we predicted, they have risen in price, and look like going much higher. During the past week they have been largely dealt in by some of the most important members of the London Stock Exchange, and owing to the excellent reports coming forward both by cable and letter from the company's manager at the mines in Rhodesia, these shares closed better on the week. The total capital of the company is only £50,000 in shares of £1 each, fully paid, and it owns a farm of 6,000 acres and five hundred and seven claims in the best-known and most important gold mining districts of Rhodesia. In addition to the above very satisfactory information, intelligence has come to hand showing that as sinking proceeds the mines develop greater richness. Arrangements are being made to float one set of these claims as a company, which will enable the Austen (Gwello) Development Syndicate (Limited) to pay a handsome dividend. Speculative investors might do worse than pick up these shares at the present price of about £2 2s 6d, at which they are now dealt in on the London Stock Exchange.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

THE Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of England will be held on Wednesday next, 7th inst., at 6 for 7 p.m., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. The following is the Agenda of Business:

- 1.—The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 1st March for confirmation.
 - 2.—The Minutes of the Grand Festival of the 26th April for confirmation.
 - 3.—Appointment and Investiture of President of the Board of General Purposes.
 - 4.—Election of Members of the Board of General Purposes.
 - 5.—Election of Grand Lodge Auditor.
 - 6.—Election of Members for the Committee of Management of the "Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons."
- (Vide list of names of the Brethren nominated for the several Boards and Committees at foot.)

7.—Report of the Board of Benevolence for the past quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz.:

A Brother of the Chorlton Lodge, No. 1387, Chorlton-cum-Hardy	£50	0	0
A Brother of the Wanderers' Lodge, No. 1604, London ...	...	50	0 0
A Brother of the Lodge of Israel, No. 205, London ...	...	50	0 0
A Brother of the St. Cecilia Lodge, No. 1636, Brighton ...	...	150	0 0
A Brother of the Loyalty Lodge, No. 243, Guernsey ...	...	60	0 0
The Widow of a Brother of the Highgate Lodge, No. 1366, London	50	0	0
A Brother of the Royal Union Lodge, No. 382, Uxbridge	...	50	0 0

8.—REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board begs to report that in consequence of the property in Wild Court, recently purchased by Grand Lodge, being included in the schedule of "the London Improvements Bill," it became necessary to present a petition to Parliament against the Bill, and the Board is happy to report that, on representations made to the Committee by the counsel engaged, it was arranged to insert in the Bill a clause providing that the London County Council should not under the powers of the Act acquire any part of the property of Grand Lodge abutting upon Wild Court, nor stop up any part of Wild Court, until they shall have provided an equivalent access to the said property from Sardinia Place or the new Street and Great Wild Street.

The Board has further to report that vacancies have occurred in the list of Trustees of the Personal Property of Grand Lodge by the deaths of—

The Earl of Lathom, G.C.B., and The Earl of Limerick, K.P., the surviving Trustees being—

The Duke of Abercorn, K.G., and the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, G.C.V.O.

The Board recommends that the following Brethren be now appointed to fill these vacancies:—

The Earl of Lathom and The Viscount Dungarvan.

The Board has very fully considered a notice of Motion proposed to be given by Bro. Frank Richardson to the effect that Rule 137 of the Book of Constitutions, which requires the Master and Wardens of every Lodge in the London District, after installation, to sign their names in a book at the office of the Grand Secretary, be expunged.

The Board, in view of the exemption from such liability of Masters and Wardens of Lodges without the 10 mile radius, is of opinion that the rule as it at present stands inflicts a hardship on many brethren who cannot without inconvenience attend at the Grand Secretary's office, and recommends Grand Lodge to expunge the rule from the Book of Constitutions.

The Board has to report that the following Presentations have been made to the Library and Museum since the last Meeting of Grand Lodge, all of which have been accepted with thanks:—

TITLE OR OBJECT. BY WHOM PRESENTED.

Photograph of Memorial Tablet of H.R.H. Prince Leopold.—Thomas Stokoe P.P.G.P. Suffolk.

Masonic Halfpenny Token.—A. J. Moyes P.M. No. 466.

Prov. Grand Master's Jewel, 1814.—Charles Letch Mason P.P.G.Treas., &c.

Curious Old Emblem, Double Triangle, &c.—Mr. Henry Chandler.

Medaillen Werk, Hamburg, Band 1.—C. Kupferschmidt A.G.S.G.C.

Three Old Masonic Books.—John Mason Past G.Stan.Br.

History of G.L. Royal York of Berlin.—The G.L. Royal York of Berlin.

Behold the East, and Duncan's Masonic Ritual and Monitor.—H. A. Tobias Past G.Stan.Br.

History of Lodge of United Strength.—James Terry Past G.Swd.Br.

Jachin and Boaz, 1776.—Albert F. Calvert P.M. No. 28.

Freemasonry for Ladies, &c.—F. B. Westlake Past D.G.D.C.

Masonic Musical Service.—P. Robertson MacArthur.

Deputy Grand Master's Jewel.—The Earl of Lathom.

Three Masonic Medals.—Gen. John C. Smith Past G.Master Illinois.

Early History of Knights of Malta Lodge.—John T. Thorp P.P.S.G.W.

Oration on Royal Arch Masonry.—John Armstrong P.P.G.H., &c.

LIST OF BRETHREN NOMINATED FOR THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

ABro. John Leach Barrett, 1201.
 ABro. William John Batho, 1708.
 Bro. Arthur Blenkarn, 2381.
 ABro. James Whittaker Burgess, 1328.
 ABro. William Cleghorn, 1287.

Bro. Arthur George Duck, 898.
 ABro. William Barnes Fendick, 1321.
 Bro. J. Vesey Vesey Fitzgerald, Q.C., 502.
 ABro. Colonel Francis W. Frigout, 171.
 Bro. Edward V. Graatbatch, 418.
 Bro. Joseph Brindley James, 2410.
 ABro. Captain Charles J. Knightley, 1744.
 ABro. Wm. Farquharson Lamony, 962.
 ABro. William James Mason, 1328.
 ABro. Frederick Atkinson Powell, 457.
 Bro. Charles Pulman, 1712.
 Bro. John Robertson Reep, 1260.
 Bro. Henry W. Roberts, M.D., 1293.
 ABro. Eliab Rogers, '60.
 ABro. J. Beresford Ryley, M.D., 1423.
 ABro. Arthur G. Sandberg, M.D., 3.
 Bro. Joseph J. Simcox, 1501.
 ABro. James Speller, 1677.
 ABro. Japheth Tickle, 1196.
 ABro. Charles J. Wilkinson-Pimbury, 1997.
 ABro. Arthur Williams, 834.
 ABro. James Willing, jun., 1987.

NOTE.—A Brethren who have during the past year served on the Board.
 B Past Master of a Colonial Lodge.

The Board also submit a Statement of the Grand Lodge Accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee held on Friday, the 12th day of May 1899, showing a balance in the Bank of England (Law Courts Branch) of £11,556 16s 5d, and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for Petty Cash £100, and for Servants' Wages £100.

(Signed) RICHARD LOVELAND-LOVELAND,

President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.
 16th May 1899.

This being the last Meeting of the present Board, it was resolved unanimously:

"That a most hearty and cordial vote of thanks be accorded the President, V.W. Bro. Richard Loveland-Loveland, Q.C., for the skill, ability, and courtesy displayed by him while presiding over the Meetings of the Board during the past year.

(Signed) WILLIAM JAMES MASON,

Vice-President.

16th May 1899."

9.—NOTICES OF MOTION.

(1) By W. Brother John Albert Farnfield, P. Assist. G.D. of Gers.:

"That the sum of £70 be given from the Fund of General Purposes for the purchase of coals for the residents in the Masonic Institution at Croydon during the winter season, and that the cheque be placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Institution."

(2) By W. Brother Frank Richardson P.G.D.:

"That Rule 137 of the Book of Constitutions, which requires the Master and Wardens of every Lodge in the London District, after installation and investment, to sign their names in a book at the Grand Secretary's Office, be expunged."

10.—The Annual Report of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, dated 19th May 1899, will be laid before Grand Lodge.

11.—APPEAL.

By W. Bro. Alexander Corrie P.D.G.W. Queensland, P.M. of General Gordon Lodge, No. 2119, Brisbane, against the ruling of the R.W. D. Grand Master of Queensland in declining to receive certain motions for proposed alterations in the by-laws of District Grand Lodge.

LIST OF BRETHREN NOMINATED FOR THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS.

Bro. Chas. A. Cottebrune	...	...	P.M.	733
William D. Child	...	...	P.M.	1719
Lieut.-Col. Alfred Durrant	...	...	P.M.	569
Constantine Doresa	...	...	P.M.	749
William H. Hubbert	...	...	P.M.	1625
Leonard Potts	...	...	P.M.	1716
John Robertson Reep	...	...	P.M.	1260
George Graveley	...	...	P.M.	898
Alexander C. A. Higerty	...	...	P.M.	2697
James A. Shilton	...	...	W.M.	2579

LIST OF LODGES FOR WHICH WARRANTS HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY THE M.W. GRAND MASTER SINCE THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

No. 2748.—The Clifton Lodge, Braamfontein, Transvaal.
 2749.—The Seven Kings Lodge, Romford, Essex.
 2750.—The Waltham Abbey Lodge, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
 2751.—The Arts Lodge, London.
 2752.—The Marlow Lodge, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
 2753.—The Saint John's Lodge, Margate, Kent.
 2754.—The Thomas à Becket Lodge, London.
 2755.—The Waller Rodwell Wright Lodge, Malta.
 2756.—The Hatchlands Lodge, Addlestone, Surrey.
 2757.—The Charles Dickens Lodge, Chigwell, Essex.
 2758.—The Fylde Lodge, Blackpool, Lancashire.
 2759.—The Rolle Lodge, Exmouth, Devon.
 2760.—The Aldermaston Lodge, Aldermaston, Berkshire.

MARK GRAND LODGE.

THE Quarterly Communication will be held on Tuesday next, 6th inst., at 5 for 6 p.m. The following is the Agenda of Business :

1. Read and, if approved, confirm minutes of Quarterly Communication of 28th February 1899.
2. Report of the General Board.
3. A motion will be made that the Report be taken as read.
4. A motion will be made that the Report be received and entered on the Minutes.
5. Recommendation arising out of the Report:—
"That the Body styling itself 'The Honourable United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Mark Master Masons, Ashton District,' is a spurious and clandestine Body, and all members of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, Wales, and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown, are hereby prohibited from visiting such Body, or from receiving any member thereof as a visitor in any Lodge of Mark Master Masons under this jurisdiction."
6. A motion will be proposed that the Report be adopted.
7. Installation of the M.W.G.M.
8. Appointment and Investiture of Grand Officers.
9. Nomination by the M.W.G.M. of six Members to serve on the General Board.
10. Election, by Grand Lodge, of five Members to serve on the General Board. (Bros. Richard Clowes P.G. Overseer, Frederick West Dep. Prov.G.M. Surrey, T. P. Dorman P.G.I.G., Alfred F. Church P.G. Overseer, and Col. and Sheriff Clifford Probyn P.G. Treasurer being the only ones nominated.)

The Theatres, &c.

Adelphi.—8th June, La Tosca.
Avenue.—7th June, Pot Pourri.
Comedy.—8-15, Great Caesar. Matinée, Thursday and Saturday, 2-30.
Court.—8-30, Wheels within Wheels. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
Covent Garden.—Grand Opera Season.
Criterion.—8-20, The Tyranny of Tears. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
Daly's.—Monday, 5th June, A Gaiety Girl.
Duke of York's.—8-30, The Cowboy and the Lady. Matinée, Wednesday, 2-30.
Gaiety.—8-15, A Runaway Girl. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Globe.—8, The Gay Lord Quex. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Haymarket.—8-10, A Golden Wedding. 9, The Manceuvres of Jane. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-15.
Her Majesty's.—8-15, Captain Swift. 10-30, The First Night. Matinee, Wednesday, 2-15.
Lyceum.—8, Robespierre.
Lyric.—8-15, L'amour Mouillé. Matinée, Wednesday, 2-30.
Prince of Wales's.—8-15, The Only Way. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-15.
Princess's.—8, One of the Best.
Royalty.—8-15, Mr. Cynic. 9, A Little Ray of Sunshine. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Savoy.—6th June, H.M.S. Pinafore.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
St. James's.—8-30, In Days of Old. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
Strand.—8-15, Bradshaw's Dream. 8-45, Why Smith Left Home. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
Terry's.—8-30, Sweet Lavender. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Vaudeville.—8, A Woman's Love. 9, On and Off. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Alexandra.—Next week, The Belle of New York.
Grand.—7-30, Kiss in the Dark. 8, The Man in the Iron Mask.
Queen's Opera House, Crouch End.—Next week, The Broken Melody.
Alhambra.—7-45, Variety Entertainment. Red Shoes. A Day Off, &c.
Aquarium.—The World's Great Show. The Great Fight. Varied Performances, twice daily.
Empire.—7-50, Variety Entertainment. Round the Town again, &c.
London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment. My little Octoroon, &c.
Oxford.—7-30, Variety Entertainment. 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. Ugo Biondi, &c. Saturday, 2-15 also.
Agricultural Hall.—Grand Military Tournament.
Alexandra Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Fireworks, Thursday and Saturday, &c.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. La Loie Fuller, &c. Fireworks, Thursday. Grand National Horse Show, 3, 5 and 6 June, &c.
Earl's Court.—Savage South Africa, &c.
Egyptian Hall.—8 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
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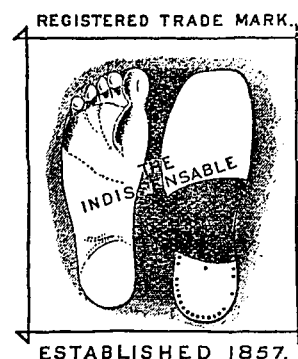
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