

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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OUR WATCHWORD.

ANY member of our Craft who can look back Masonically for twenty-four years, and call to mind the position of the Order at the time when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, having just been installed Grand Master of the English Freemasons, made the famous pronouncement that the two watchwords of the Craft were Loyalty and Charity, can but be struck with the very great difference existing to-day in connection with the work carried on by the Craft in furtherance of the latter of those two Watchwords, as compared with what was being done when the Grand Master made his first reply as head of the English Brotherhood.

At that time we had the Girls, the Boys, and the Benevolent Institutions, just as we have now, but the number of independent Provincial Funds could probably have been counted on the fingers of one hand, in those earlier days, whereas at the present time it is the exception for a Province to be without some special local organisation, established for the purpose of supplementing the good work done by the Central Institutions; while in several cases there are now two and even three such independent combinations in a Province, all running side by side with the older Institutions, and zealously acting up to the Masonic Watchword of Charity. But it is not alone in the matter of quantity that the last twenty-four years has witnessed such marked progress, as will be seen if we compare the three chief Festival announcements of 1875 with those of the present year; even though it must be particularly borne in mind that this year is regarded as certain to be below the average, as a "sad year of distress" for the Boys School, perhaps as a natural sequence to the marvellous good fortune which attended the celebration of its Centenary twelve months back.

We find that in the first year of the Grand Mastership of the Prince of Wales the receipts at the Festivals of the three Central Institutions showed a total of about £26,600; made up of £6,630 13s 6d announced by Bro. Terry on behalf of the Old People, £7,269 3s announced by Bro. Little as contributed for the Girls, and £12,700 which fell to the lot of Bro. Binckes to proclaim as Secretary of the Boys School, the marked difference in this latter total, as compared with the other two, being in great measure explained by the fact that the then Pro Grand Master of England, the much respected Earl of Carnarvon, took the chair as President of its Anniversary Festival.

These figures sink into comparative insignificance when compared side by side with the totals of the current year, the two Festivals so far held being alone answerable for an aggregate of £39,261; £18,216 8s 6d being announced by Bro. Terry on behalf of the Benevolent Institution in February last, and £21,045 by

Bro. Hedges on behalf of the Girls School in May. The very problematic total yet to be announced on behalf of the Boys School—in all the agony of distress variously estimated by its supporters at any amount between five thousand and twenty thousand pounds—remains to complete the total, which, without being over sanguine, we may safely say will not be far short of double the amount which was announced less than a quarter of a century back, under what were then regarded as most favourable conditions, and at a time, too, as we have said, when the three Central Institutions were, to all intents and purposes, the sole outward and visible signs of Masonic Charity in this country, very different to what is the case now, when we have local Funds in all parts.

It is, however, no use standing still and admiring the splendid records of the past—much has been done, it is true; but we have the present with us, and the future to look forward to, and whichever way we regard the matter we must recognise the necessity of meeting the claims of the one, and, as far as possible, make provision for the other. This view of the case explains the position which makes it imperative to issue another appeal to the English Craft, and hold yet another Anniversary Festival on behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, despite the fact that last year it achieved so much, and secured so handsome a donation under the presidency of the Grand Master.

This stupendous glory of the past is a fine thing to admire, even at this distance, but we are afraid the three hundred lads who are being maintained by the supporters of the Boys School would feel rather faint if they had it served cold for breakfast, warmed up for dinner, and given as a delicacy for tea—no, more substantial fare is imperative, and it is in the hope of enlisting the sympathy of our readers on behalf of the Institution, either to-day, or in the near future, that we have undertaken this appeal on its behalf, and now express the hope there will be a sufficiently strong following in support of Bro. C. E. Keyser P.G.D. Patron and Treasurer of the Institution—who has kindly consented to preside at the Anniversary Festival to be held on Wednesday next, at Brighton—to render the working of the Institution easy for the current year, and put the Charity once more on the steady road of progress, after the enormous lift, and consequent disorganisation, associated with its Centenary celebration of last year.

R. M. I. B. PRIZE DAY.

THE annual visit of Stewards to the Schools of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, at Wood Green, will take place on Tuesday next, when Mrs. Charles E. Keyser will present the prizes, and the usual entertainment will be provided. The proceedings will commence at 3 o'clock, admission being by ticket only, issued by the Secretary to the Stewards and their friends.

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge will be held on Tuesday, 8th August, at Southampton.

KENT.

AS we stated last week, the annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Sevenoaks, under the banner of Knole Lodge, No. 1414, of which Bro. C. Essenhigh Corke is W.M.

The proceedings commenced with a Lodge meeting at the Constitutional Club Hall, at which some three hundred Brethren from all parts of the Province attended.

The following were appointed the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year :

Bro. Alfred Laurie 1414	Senior Warden
W. O. Kennett 1208	Junior Warden
Rev. Dr. W. H. Robins 1174	} Chaplains
Rev. S. P. H. Statham 2195	
W. Russell 77	Treasurer
Alfred Spencer 1063	Secretary
C. W. Blaxland 709	Registrar
F. B. Howlett 1725	} Senior Deacons
F. W. H. Penfold 1174	
R. V. F. Seton 1965	} Junior Deacons
W. J. Dickens 1692	
C. F. Quicke 1531	Superintendent of Works
Geo. Church 199	Director of Ceremonies
F. Francis 558	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
F. Snowden 299	} Assistant Dirs. of Cers.
A. H. Hale 1209	
O. H. Smith 1436	Sword Bearer
W. A. Phipps 2404	} Standard Bearers
E. W. Sinnatt 1536	
J. Neale 429	Organist
J. Coombes 829	Assistant Secretary
W. T. Wiggins 20	Pursuivant
G. H. Letton 615	Assistant Pursuivant
W. S. Baldwin 184	} Stewards
J. Solomon 77	
W. C. Stunt 133	
B. Rix 874	
L. Seager 1273	
H. B. Mace 1854	
Sergt-Major H. G. Drake 2195	Tyler.
J. Owen 20	

After the Lodge meeting the Brethren proceeded to the Parish Church of St. Nicholas, kindly placed at the disposal of the Brethren by the Rector of Sevenoaks, where an excellent sermon was preached by Brother the Rev. W. H. Robins, D.D., Provincial Grand Chaplain, he being assisted in the service by the Rev. A. E. Brown, Curate of Sevenoaks. Bro. C. Banson ably presided at the organ, and the service was very tastefully rendered by the full choir, appropriate hymns, lessons, and psalms being used.

Later in the day, with Earl Amherst in the chair, the Brethren banqueted at the Drill Hall, Argyle Road, which was kindly lent for the occasion by Captain Holcroft, commanding the G Company Volunteers. The banquet was ably served by Bro. F. Robinson, proprietor of the Royal Oak Hotel, the menu being an excellent one. During the banquet the Bijou Orchestra played a selection of music, and after the repast Bro. A. Schartau, assisted by Bros. Fells and Churcher, rendered a series of songs and recitations.

The offertory at the Church realised nearly £15, half of which was given to Masonic Charities, and the remaining half in equal shares to the Sevenoaks Hip Hospital and the St. Michael's Orphanage, Sevenoaks.

MARK MASONRY.

CORNWALL.

THE Provincial Grand Mark Lodge met on Monday, under the banner of St. John Baptist Lodge, No. 404, at Penzance. Bro. P. Colville Smith P.M. P.G.D. of England Deputy Prov. Grand M.M.M. presided, in the unavoidable absence of the Earl of Halsbury Prov. G.M.M.M. of Cornwall.

The Prov. G. Treasurer Bro. Milford reported that the financial condition of the Province was satisfactory.

The reports of the W.M.s of the Lodges in the Province showed that the degree had increased twenty in the last year. Bro. Milford was re-elected Prov.G. Treasurer for the eighth time.

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

Bro. R. P. Couch 87	Senior Warden
W. L. Chegwidan 73	Junior Warden
Sholto Hare 101	Master Overseer
J. M. Cornish 417	Senior Overseer
E. Benney 78	Junior Overseer
Rev. C. F. Mermagen 78	Chaplain
R. P. Pease 325	Registrar
W. J. Johns 78	Secretary
E. M. Milford	Treasurer
Milford Abbott	Senior Deacon
F. J. Lee 379	Junior Deacon
C. H. Wetter 275	Inspector of Works
C. D. Smith 379	Director of Ceremonies
J. G. Blight 375	Sword Bearer
J. M. Blamey 94	Standard Bearer
Gundry 94	Assistant Secretary
J. James 175	Inner Guard
T. Docton 87	} Stewards
R. Walters 404	
S. J. Partridge 101	
J. E. Rogers 404	Tyler.

Bro. Sholto Hare offered his services as Steward for the Mark Benevolent Fund, and they were accepted.

An interesting feature was a presentation to Bro. W. J. Johns Prov.G. Sec., "By the Mark Masons of Cornwall on his appointment to the office of Grand Standard Bearer of England, 1898, in appreciation of his long and valued services to Mark Masonry." The present consisted of Grand Mark clothing for the Office of Standard Bearer, a P.M.'s jewel, and a silver salver (both inscribed). A diamond ring for Mrs. Johns accompanied the gift. Bro. Colville Smith made the presentation, and it is believed that every Lodge and member of the Province subscribed.

Loe invited the Lodge to hold their meeting at that town next year.

The business of the Lodge having been concluded, light refreshments were served to the Brethren and lady friends, and later St. Michael's Mount was visited by brake. At the Mount the party were received by the Hon. Piers St. Aubyn, who conducted them to the many places of interest on the historic old pile, but the pleasure of the trip was somewhat marred by the rain which commenced soon after the party reached the Mount. On the return journey the Brethren and ladies partook of dinner at the Western Hotel.

CHESHIRE.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was held at the Mechanics Institute, Stockport, on Saturday, 10th inst., the Provincial Grand Master the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., P.G.W. in the chair, he being saluted with Grand honours, while a similar compliment was paid to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and other Grand Officers present.

The roll of Lodges was called over by the Prov. Grand Secretary, and all were found to be represented, after which the minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge were read and confirmed, and the Treasurer's accounts submitted and adopted. On the motion of Bro. H. Powell-Jones, seconded by Bro. James Cookson, Bro. J. R. R. Jeffrey was unanimously elected Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed a few words to the assembled Brethren, and after thanking them for their support mentioned that the Province was making steady progress, which was most marked in its wealthier portions. He thought the older Mark Masons ought to impress on their younger Brethren of the Craft the charm and beauty of the Mark Degree. It was, in fact, the duty of all Mark Masons to urge all worthy members of the Craft to become acquainted with the Degree. It was a most regrettable circumstance that the Grand Master had had at last to take action against the body calling itself "The Hon. United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Mark Master Masons, Ashton District," which operated to the detriment of regular Mark Masonry in the whole of the eastern parts of Cheshire. Their loyalty to their Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales made it essential that in England and Wales at least, there must be no opposition to his sway as supreme ruler of the Mark Degree. This Ashton body had been approached on several occasions, and requested to own allegiance to H.R.H., and the most kindly consideration promised them, but all communications from the Grand Lodge they had treated with silent contempt. Bro. R. Loveland-Loveland, Q.C., President of the General Board, at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge moved a resolution declaring the body spurious and clandestine, which after full discussion was unanimously agreed to. He must enjoin upon all the Brethren to carefully act on that resolution,

and to take special care neither to receive as visitor nor in any way to countenance any member of this clandestine Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master also referred to the circumstances which led him to accept the Chairmanship of the last Mark Festival in London, in face of the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and was successful. He expressed his thanks for the great support received, which was as good as he could possibly expect under the circumstances.

Bro. Newhouse Prov. Grand Secretary reported that he had had a communication from Bro. Letchworth Grand Secretary of the Craft, who, while taking no cognisance of the Mark Degree had requested him to make enquiries from the several Craft Lodges in the eastern division of Cheshire, which are alleged to have opened their Lodge on a Sunday to further the proceedings of the Ashton Mark Lodge, and thus being parties to a grave irregularity, that the conduct of the several Lodges so offending may be brought before the Board of General Purposes of the Craft.

Bro. G. Hammond-Danby was re-nominated Auditor by the Provincial Grand Master, Bros. E. Marston W.M. 11 and Peter Davies W.M. 165 being elected Auditors by Prov. Grand Lodge.

A vote of condolence with the family of the late Bro. John Clayton P.P.S.G.W. was unanimously agreed to on the motion of the Prov. Grand Master, and the Prov. Grand Secretary was requested to communicate it in suitable terms.

The Prov. Grand Master appointed and invested his Officers, as follow:—

Bro. Col. C. S. Dean	-	-	-	-	Deputy
James Cookson	-	-	-	-	Senior Warden
Frank W. Moore	-	-	-	-	Junior Warden
R. L. Bourne	-	-	-	-	Master Overseer
L. Crosthwaite	-	-	-	-	Senior Overseer
H. P. Jones	-	-	-	-	Junior Overseer
Rev. J. R. Nunn	-	-	-	-	Chaplain
J. R. R. Jeffrey	-	-	-	-	Treasurer
J. Laurische	-	-	-	-	Registrar
H. Newhouse	-	-	-	-	Secretary
A. Ferguson	-	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
A. Rutherford	-	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
W. J. Newton	-	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
Stewart Edwards, M.A. Oxon.	-	-	-	-	Inspector of Works
J. S. Derbyshire	-	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
W. Dykes	-	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
Captain F. R. Oke	-	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
J. H. Beynon	-	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
Wm. Hudson	-	-	-	-	Organist
T. W. Foster	-	-	-	-	Inner Guard
J. Hawker	-	-	-	-	} Stewards
J. Walkden	-	-	-	-	
A. Huxley	-	-	-	-	Tyler.

On the cordial invitation of Bro. Frederick Broadsmith, on behalf of the Stamford Lodge, No. 148, the Provincial Grand Master decided to hold the next annual meeting at Altrincham.

The Brethren afterwards dined together at the Warren Bulkeley Arms Hotel, under the presidency of the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, the Vice-chairs being occupied by Bros. James Cookson Prov. S.G.W., and Frank Moore Prov. J.G.W. All the usual Loyal and Mark toasts were honoured. The greatest credit is due to Bro. H. Powell Jones for the admirable manner with which all the arrangements were carried out.

SECRET MONITOR.

ALTHOUGH the title of the "Order of the Secret Monitor" sounds very cabalistic and recondite, it nevertheless simply means a modern off-shoot of Freemasonry. It only dates back to 1887, but already it has several well-known members of the Craft, and its present "Grand Supreme Ruler" is the Earl of Warwick. It held its annual convocation of Grand Council on Wednesday evening, in the Hotel Cecil, at which his lordship presided, and at this particular meeting the custom is to elect, instal, and proclaim the Grand Supreme Ruler for the year, the Grand Treasurer, and appoint and invest the new Grand Officers. The result of this convocation, as far as regards Officers, was that the Earl of Warwick again became Grand Supreme Ruler, and that next in rank to him was Dr. Issachar Zacharie. Judge Philbrick, Q.C., the Earl of Halsbury, Dr. Mugliston, Mr. C. E. Keyser (High Sheriff of Berks), Deputy-Inspector General Dr. Belgrave Ninnis, Mr. Frederick West, Judge James Copley Moyle, Mr. George Richards (Transvaal), and many others received "Grand Office." Benevolence, the great principle of Freemasonry, is not forgotten in this degree,

and a motion was on the business paper to support the "Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund Festival" in the autumn, at which the presence of ladies is to be invited.—"Daily Telegraph."

PASSMORE EDWARDS CONVALESCENT HOME.

ON Monday, 12th instant, the foundation stone of the Convalescent Home for Railway Servants, founded through the generosity of Bro. J. Passmore Edwards, and which is about to be erected at Beltinge Estate, near Herne Bay, adjoining the Convalescent Home for the Friendly Societies, which was also erected through the munificence of the same donor, was laid with full Masonic honours by the Provincial Grand Master of Kent Earl Amherst Pro Grand Master of England.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of emergency having been opened by the Pro Grand Master in the Friendly Societies' Home, a procession was formed and proceeded to the site, where the Brethren took the positions assigned them by the Acting Director of Ceremonies Brother Horatio Ward P.G.D.Swd.B. of England. The 100th Psalm was sung, Bro. Dr. W. H. Longhurst P.P.G.Orgt. presiding at the grand organ.

Bro. Passmore Edwards then requested the Pro G.M. to lay the foundation stone, and asked his acceptance of a silver trowel for that purpose. The Pro Grand Master having addressed the assembly, the acting Grand Chaplain Bro. A. Jackson P.P.G.Chap. offered prayer.

The Prov. Grand Secretary having read the inscription on the plate, deposited the same on the lower stone. The Prov. Grand Treasurer also deposited the phial containing coins, in the receptacle provided for that purpose. The cement having been duly spread by the Pro Grand Master, the stone was lowered. The Pro Grand Master having proved the stone by the plumb, rule, and level, which were delivered to him severally by the Prov. J.G.W., Prov. S.G.W., and Prov. Deputy Grand Master Bro. J. S. Eastes, gave three knocks on the stone, and declared the same to be well and truly laid. The Pro Grand Master having strewn corn and poured wine and oil, in accordance with ancient custom, the architect delivered to him the plan of the intended building, which, having duly inspected, he returned to him and desired him to proceed with the completion of the work. The acting Prov. Grand Chaplain then pronounced the Blessing, after which the National Anthem was sung, including the birthday verse.

The procession then returned to the Home, and the Prov. Grand Lodge was duly closed, after which the Brethren attending the ceremony were invited to luncheon in a marquee on the site of the intended building, which was excellently served by Mrs. F. E. Gaywood, of the Canterbury Restaurant.

CHURCH SERVICES.

A MASONIC Service, promoted by Brother Charles H. Griffiths Worshipful Master, and members of the Lodge of Faith, No. 581, was held at St. Barnabas Parish Church, Openshaw, on Sunday, 11th instant.

The Brethren, a number of whom represented neighbouring Lodges, assembled at the Lodge house (the Bradford Hotel, Mill Street, Manchester) and having donned their Masonic clothing, &c., for which a special dispensation had been obtained, a very imposing procession took place to the Church, the route being lined by interested spectators.

Bro. Rev. John Kelty, M.A., P.M. P.P.G.C. had been announced to preach the sermon, but was prevented from doing so by a domestic bereavement, he having in the period of a few days lost both parents by death. At the last moment, however, Bro. Rev. E. Bigoe Bagot P.M. 2322 P.P.G.Chap. consented to act, and he delivered a powerful exhortation on behalf of the Masonic Charities, giving special prominence to the East Lancashire Systematic and Benevolent Institution, to which it was intended to devote the offertory, the latter, we may add, being a fairly satisfactory one. The preacher made a touching allusion to Bro. Kelty, and said he deeply sympathised with him in the double loss which he had recently sustained. After explaining that the Church had its own institutions for assisting members, he reverted to the fact that the outside world ascribed to Freemasons the practice of signs and symbols which, he explained, originated in olden times, and by which men were enabled to commune with each other. When he was asked what were

the secrets of Freemasonry, he pointed with pride to the Boys and Girls Schools and other kindred Institutions of the Order, the existence of which proved that man was born for something higher than to be satisfied with the discontent and ennui of life. Freemasonry sought to unite its members in one comprehensive whole; it taught them that the more good they performed the happier they would be; it was not political except in one sense, that it taught a member to be a faithful subject of his country; it was a guarantee for large-heartedness and morality; and did not desire anything but strengthening.

The late Provincial Grand Master Col. Starkie had taken more than an ordinary interest in the Charities, whose claims he continually advocated. Bro. Bagot asked the question, "what joy would be greater, what hope purer, than that of sharing a blest eternity, and a knowledge that one had ungrudgingly stretched out a hand in charity," and concluded an excellent address by reciting a very apposite and touching poem.

A special musical programme had been provided, in which two well-known Brethren (who had given their services) took part. Bro. J. W. Maltby rendered the solo from the Creation, "And God shall let the earth bring forth;" Bro. W. T. Haworth gave the solo, "O Lord have mercy upon me" (Pergolesi); whilst Mr. Bertram Smith sang the solo "Ye people rend your hearts" (Elijah). Brother A. Mellow was the Organist.

ON Sunday afternoon a special Masonic Service was held under the auspices of St. John's Lodge, No. 178 (I.C.) in Christ Church, Lisburn. There was a crowded attendance. The Brethren assembled in the Nicholson Memorial School-house, and, having donned regalia, proceeded to the church in processional order. The lessons, I Kings viii and I Corinthians xiii, were read by Bro. Rev. R. S. O'Loughlin, D.D., who afterwards preached a lucid and impressive sermon from I Corinthians xiii, 13—"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." In a most eloquent manner our Rev. Brother dwelt on charity, and, in conclusion, said the spirit of their Order was the spirit of Christianity, and the spirit of charity was the purpose of their Order. There were opportunities round them everywhere of displaying their charity. They knew that the children of their deceased Brethren had a strong claim on the members of the Order. The children were the jewels of Masonry, and Brethren who had made no provision for their children when they were called away left them to their Brethren to care for, and further their future welfare. The preacher strongly appealed for generous contributions to the collection. They could point to the practical work carried on in their orphanages and in their schools, and he asked them to pour out richly their offerings as offerings to God for the orphans of their deceased, and given because of the divine love in their hearts for the orphans of their deceased Brethren. Might the spirit of charity continue to grow amongst the members of the Masonic Order.

We are pleased to learn that the Lodge primarily interested in this Service, No. 178, undertook to pay all the expenses, leaving the offertory entire for the benefit of the Masonic Orphan Boys School.

A MASONIC Service will be held to-morrow (Sunday), at the Parish Church, Hornsey, at 3.30, in aid of the Church Tower Building Fund, under the auspices of the Alexandra Palace Lodge, No. 1541, a dispensation having been obtained from the Prince of Wales Most Worshipful Grand Master for the Brethren to appear in Craft or Royal Arch clothing. Brother the Venerable William Sinclair D.D., Past Grand Chaplain, Archdeacon of London, will deliver an address on the occasion. Bro. J. Terry P.G.S.B. will be the Director of Ceremonies, and the Musical arrangements will be under the direction of Bro. Willie Wright P.M. 1897 P.Z. 1602 P.P.G. Organist Middlesex, assisted by a Masonic choir. The Brethren will be admitted on production of their badges, and will assemble in the old church at 2.45 p.m., the procession being formed at three o'clock.

Satisfactory progress is being made towards the provision of a Masonic Hall at Aldershot, the plans for which will be ready by the end of the month, it being proposed to proceed with the erection of the building at an early date.

A dinner will be given on the 29th, at the Café Royal, by members of the Masonic Lodges and Chapters in the

Province of Surrey, to Mr. Justice Bucknill Past Provincial Grand Warden Surrey, Past Grand Warden England, on his appointment as one of Her Majesty's Judges. The chair will be taken by the Earl of Onslow Provincial Grand Master.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THE funeral of the late Bro. Robert Gough P.M. 68 P.Z. 68, &c., took place on Friday, 9th inst. The first part of the service was conducted at Holy Trinity Church, Hotwells, Bristol, and was largely attended. The officiating clergymen were the vicar (the Rev. G. Hemming) and the Rev. G. D. Oakley. The hymns sung were "Peace, perfect peace" and "Thine for ever." The vicar, in the course of his address, mentioned that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had sent a telegram expressing sympathy and condolence with the widow of the deceased. At the conclusion of the service the Organist (Mr. Stephenson) played "O rest in the Lord." The Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 68, of which deceased was a Past Master, was represented by Bros. G. J. Machon W.M., J. Gard P.M. Treasurer, E. J. Grubb P.M., J. Courtice P.M., W. K. Thomas P.M., F. G. Hatton P.M., C. J. E. Grubb P.M. Secretary, W. Galpin P.M., T. H. Jennings P.M., J. Amos, R. C. Smart, Wiles, A. F. Villiers, G. Myers, C. Harris, T. Davey, W. C. Jarrett, S. Doresa, and Commander Cawley; the R.A. Chapter was represented by Comp. E. G. Machon; the Canynge Mark Lodge by Bro. J. Lloyd, and the other Brethren present included Bros. W. Jeffries, J. Owner, M. Clark, Makepeace, W. C. Bamfield, Hickman, and A. Fedden. Messrs. E. B. Wood and C. H. Mayo attended as the representatives of the Bristol Board of Guardians; and Messrs. C. P. Billing P.M. and S. Shirley represented the Town Council. The interment was made at Ashton Churchyard, where the second half of the service was performed in the presence of a large assembly. The floral tributes were numerous, and included wreaths from the Royal Clarence Lodge, the Royal Clarence Chapter, the Canynge Mark Lodge, Clifton and Hotwells Conservatives, the Ancient Order of Foresters, the clergy of Holy Trinity Church (Hotwells), Mr. Mullaney (Bro. Gough's co-churchwarden), and Bro. Gough's employes. At a joint meeting of the Clifton and Hotwells Conservative Associations, held at the Hotwells, on Wednesday evening, 14th inst., Mr. J. H. Manning, Chairman, expressed his great regret at the sad loss which had happened to the neighbourhood and the Conservative Associations, and proposed "That this joint meeting of members of the Ward Committee and the Hotwells branch of the Conservative Working Men's Association beg to express their great sorrow at the death of Mr. R. Gough, who was Vice-Chairman of the former and Treasurer of the latter, and tender to Mrs. Gough and family their heartfelt sympathy in the sad bereavement which has so unexpectedly befallen them." Councillor Billing, Mr. E. G. Tyrrell, Mr. T. J. Hill, and others having spoken in the highest terms of the late Bro. Gough, the resolution was carried in silence, all the members rising in their places.

IT is with great regret we announce the death of Bro. W. H. Causton, M.D., of St. Peter's Square, Hammersmith, which took place on the 14th inst. Our late Brother had been suffering for some time from an incurable malady, and passed peacefully away in the fifty-sixth year of his age. He was initiated in the Dalhousie Lodge many years since, took great interest in the Craft, and was rewarded with Provincial honours in the Province of Middlesex. He had an extensive practice, and was greatly respected in the neighbourhood in which he resided, by both rich and poor.

THE remains of Bro. Charles H. Woodhouse Barnard, late Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police, were interred in the Churchyard of St. Peter's, Felsham, on Tuesday. The deceased was thirty-three years of age. About seventy members of the force assembled at the deceased's residence, in London, as did also a deputation from the two Lodges with which he was associated; these followed in procession to Liverpool Street Station, from whence the body was conveyed by train to Cockfield. Many floral tributes were sent, including tokens from the officers and men of the Walton (sub-Division B), Metropolitan Police, the officers and men of the Gerold Road Station, the Brethren of the Henry Muggeridge and Eccleston Lodges (of the first of which the deceased was a member), and from relatives and others.

In Memoriam.

MORGAN.—In memory of Brother William Wray Morgan, founder of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, who died 23rd June 1893.

CONSECRATIONS.

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THOMAS A BECKET LODGE.

THIS new Lodge, No. 2754, was consecrated at the Thomas a Becket Tavern, Old Kent Road, on the 9th inst., by Bro. Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Secretary, assisted by Bros. Alfred H. Bevan G. Treasurer as S.W., W. H. Bailey P.G. Treasurer as J.W., Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg, M.A., P.G.C. as Chaplain, Frank Richardson P.G.D. as D.C., and James Stephens P. Dep. G.D.C. I.G. Bro. H. Carman P.M. 548 P.P.G.O. Norths and Hunts was installed as the first Master.

RICHARD EVE LODGE.

WE understand a compliment is about to be paid to Bro. Richard Eve by his Brethren in London. A Lodge, which will meet at Freemasons' Hall, is to be named after him. It is being formed to meet the requirements of Brethren who are specially connected with the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, of the Committee of which Bro. Eve is Chairman.

We referred last week to the circular-letter addressed by the Grand Secretary of English Freemasons to the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges of the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, in common with the other Provinces of the kingdom, deprecating the now frequent practice of Masons appearing in public in regalia, and stating that in future the Grand Master would grant dispensations for such displays only under very exceptional circumstances. The United Grand Lodge of New South Wales has issued a much more decided pronouncement on the same subject, having at a Quarterly Communication in March adopted a resolution to the effect "that the practice of attending church services in regalia meets with the disapproval of this Grand Lodge, and should be discontinued." This shows that the practice, which has latterly attained to such dimensions as to lead to the deprecatory intervention of our Grand Lodge authorities, is not confined to the jurisdiction of England, and that our Grand Lodge does not stand alone in its desire to discourage it. The "Australasian Keystone," in an article on the subject, stoutly opposes "the parading in public with regalia and jewels," and declares that it "cannot be too strongly condemned," on the ground that "it appeals to two very ignoble emotions of the human mind—that of vanity in the wearer and of curiosity in the spectator. It concludes its remarks by expressing the hope that a similar resolution will be adopted by the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.—"Hampshire Independent."

o o o

When Lord Sandhurst was chosen, writes a correspondent of "The Mallet" (Glasgow Evening News), to fill up the office of District Grand Master of Bombay and Grand Master of A.S.F.I., the Grand Master Mason of Scotland made certain observations as to the unwisdom of selecting one person to be the head of Freemasonry of the two Constitutions in one Province. Lord Sandhurst vindicates, in the following words, which I quote from his speech at the consecration ceremony:—"Without alluding to myself in any way, I do not think it an exaggeration to say that as regards Freemasonry in this Presidency the more these two Constitutions are united in their head the better it will be for the Craft, and in every respect. I do not believe that there exists a vestige of anything but the most generous and most brotherly feeling between the two Constitutions, and when I am able, with your consent, to lay down the dual office I have held for four years, with your assurance that that good feeling is maintained, I shall feel that at any rate I have not been unworthy of the trust unanimously placed in me by the two Constitutions."

Alhambra.—On Monday next two interesting items are to be added to the programme by the appearance, for the first time in London, of Signora Guerrero, a young and fascinating artist, who is said to rival in many respects "La Belle Otero," and also of Les Dantos, a troupe of dancers who will introduce into the Casino scene of the ballet "A Day Off" a new Parisian waltz named "Tourbillon."

The Corporation of the City of London have entrusted the manufacture of the gold casket to be presented to Bro. J. Henniker Heaton on 20th July to the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company (Limited), 112 Regent Street, W., whose design was selected in open competition.

SCOTTISH FREEMASONS AND THE KILT.

REQUESTS from different parts of the United States and Canada are being received by members of Kilwinning Lodge, New York, which is made up exclusively of Scotsmen, to make a regular feature of wearing kilts at their sessions. The Kilwinning Masons wore the national costume the other night, says the "Tribune," much to the amusement of their friends. It is suggested that such a costume for the regular sessions would prove immensely interesting and instructive to visitors in New York, who would make it a point to visit Brooklyn in order to catch a glimpse of a body of Highland costumes.—"Aberdeen Journal." [We trust our Scottish Brethren across the water will not bring Freemasonry into disrepute in their over zealous use of the national costume.—Ed. F.C.]

NEW HALL FOR LURGAN.

AT a meeting of the members of the three Lurgan Lodges last month it was unanimously agreed that the recommendation of the Building Committee to appoint Mr. Thomas M'Mullan, Ormeau Road, Belfast, contractor for the erection of the new Masonic Hall, on the site recently secured from the Lurgan Real Property Company, in Windsor Avenue, be adopted. The contract price is £1,286 odd. The edifice, which has been designed by Mr. Godfrey W. Ferguson, Belfast, will be a handsome structure and replete with every modern convenience. It is expected that the foundation stone will be laid with full Masonic ceremonial towards the end of July.

For indomitable energy commend us to the Masons of Texas. At the recent convocation of Grand Chapter in Houston, the Order of High Priesthood met at 5 a.m. and conferred the Order on eighteen candidates. It would be hard to find anywhere but in Texas a Masonic body that would get up at 5 o'clock in the morning to begin work, although we think we would not have to look far to find a few that would stay up all night.—"Tyler."

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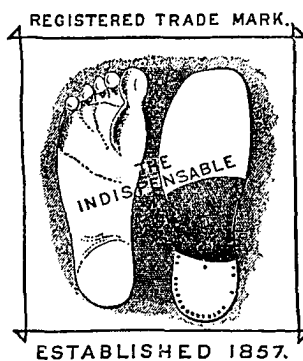
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RHEUMATISM last three years, having taken your pills, I have
GOUT. always been free from it, and am never without
RHEUMATISM them in the house. I can highly recommend them
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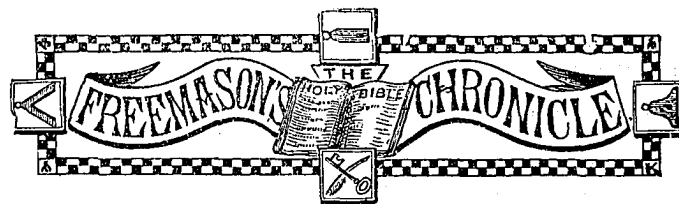
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SATURDAY, 24TH JUNE 1899.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE President of the Board Bro. J. H. Matthews
occupied the chair on Wednesday evening, at the
monthly meeting, while Bros. D. D. Mercer Senior Vice-
President, and Henry Garrod Junior Vice-President were
in the other two chairs.

The Board, which was well attended, confirmed the
recommendations which they had sent to the Grand Master
at the May meeting, to the amount of £260, and in dealing
with twenty-three new cases recommended Grand Lodge to
approve of gifts of £75 each in two cases, and £50 each in
two others. They asked the Grand Master to approve of
donations of two sums of £40, and four sums of £30 each.
They gave £20 in two cases, £10 in two other cases, and £5
to one person. Five petitions were dismissed, and three
deferred.

R. M. I. GIRLS.

IT is with great pleasure we are able to announce that the
Earl of Dartmouth Prov. G.M. Staffordshire has most
kindly consented to preside at the 112th Anniversary Festival
of this Institution, to be held on Wednesday, 9th May 1900,
when we trust his lordship will be well supported by members
of his own Province, as well as every other division of English
Masonry.

DURHAM CHARITY.

THE report presented to the meeting of the Finance
Committee of the Durham Masonic Charities, at which
Bro. T. Coulson, of South Shields, presided, on Saturday,
10th inst., was highly satisfactory. The report referred to
the recent Festival, by means of which it was hoped to raise
the Masonic Education Fund and the Hudson Testimonial
Fund to £3,000 each. The success of the Festival exceeded
all expectations, and after the Funds had been raised to the
desired amount, there was still a balance of £80 in hand.
The Committee decided to add this amount to the Education
Fund.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Monday.

- 26 Castle Harmony, Savoy Hotel
1910 Shadwell Clerke, M'kmasons'-h.
2397 Columbia, Criterion
270 R. Faith & Friendship, Berkeley
302 Hope, Bradford
307 Prince Frederick, Hebden Bridge
388 Prudence, Halesworth
491 Royal Sussex, Jersey
557 Loyal Victoria, Callington
699 Roscawea, Chacewater
827 St. John, Dewsbury
999 Robert Burns, Manchester
1110 Tyrian, Eastbourne
1168 Benevolence, Sherbourne
1177 Tenby, Tenby
1258 Kennard, Pontypool
1271 F'dship & Unity, Bradford-on-Avon
1272 Tregenna, St. Ives
1325 Stanlev, Liverpool
1399 Marlborough, Woodstock
1486 Duncombe, Kingsbridge
1688 Buxton, Buxton
1748 Castlemartin, Pembroke
1752 Ogmore, Bridgend
1753 Obedience, Okehampton
1861 Claremont, Croydon
1977 Blackwater, Maldon
1991 Agricola, York
2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.
2279 Thornham, Thornham
2363 Minnehaha Minstrel, M'chester.
2373 Hardwick, Chesterfield
2547 Llangattock, Cardiff
2553 Rufford, Nottingham
2582 Lewisham, Smethwick

Tuesday.

- 14 Tuscan, Freemasons'-hall
1158 Southern Star, Southwark
2108 Empire, Criterion
253 Tyrian, Derby
299 Emulation, Dartford
335 Rectitude, Corsham
378 Loyal Welsh, Pembroke Dock
386 Unity, Wareham
448 St. James, Halifax
506 Mundy Grove, Shipley Gate
564 Stability, Stourbridge
788 Crescent, Hampton Court
954 St. Aubyn, Devonport
1007 Howe & Charnwood, Loughboro
1016 Elkington, Birmingham
1052 Callander, Manchester
1309 Acacia, Hampton Court
1358 Torbay, Paignton
1390 Whitwell, Millon
1536 United Military, Plumstead
1580 Cranbourne, Hatfield
1650 Rose of Raby, Staindrop
1675 Ancient Briton, Liverpool
1779 Ivanhoe, Sheffield
1834 Duke of Connaught, Landport
1942 Minerva, Fenton
2025 St. George, Plymouth
2154 Joshua Nunn, Halstead
2328 Albert Victor, York
2404 Lord Charles Beresford, Ch'tm.
2405 Ionic, St. Helen's

Wednesday.

- 2 Antiquity, Freemasons'-hall
898 Temperance in East, Poplar
82 Foundation, Cheltenham
163 Integrity, Manchester
187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol
220 Harmony, Garston
257 Phoenix, Portsmouth
290 Huddersfield, Huddersfield
304 Philanthropic, Leeds
321 Unity, Crewe
439 Scientific, Bingley

- 461 Fortitude, Newton
724 Derby, Liverpool
750 Friendship, Cleckheaton
778 Bard of Avon, Hampton Court
1039 St. John, Lichfield
1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
1219 Strangeways, Manchester
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
1296 Vale of Brislington, Brislington
1529 Duke of Cornwall, St. Columb
1633 Avon, Manchester
1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool
1760 Leopold, Scarborough
1775 Leopold, Church
1868 Unity, Oldham
1967 Beacon Court, New Brompton
1984 Earl of Clarendon, Watford
1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
2019 Crook, Crook
2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
2149 Gordon, Hanley
2186 Striguil, Chepstow
2216 Egerton, Swinton
2259 St. Nicholas, Thorne
2320 St. Martin, Castleton
2357 Barry, Cadoxton
2385 Godson, Oldbury
2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames
2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs
2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne

Thursday.

- General Committee, Girls School,
F.M.H., 5.
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
215 Commerce, Haslingden
324 Moira, Stalybridge
475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
590 La Cesaree, Jersey
625 Devonshire, Glossop
636 De Ogle, Morpeth
807 Cabbell, Norwich
904 Phoenix, Rotherham
971 Trafalgar, Batley
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
1313 Fernor, Southport
1514 Thornhill, Huddersfield
1519 Albert Edward, Clay'n-le-Moors
1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
2418 Hedworth, South Shields
2518 Chas. Ed. Keyser, Hoddesden
2549 Benevolentia, Woodford

Friday.

- Council Boys School, Freemasons
Hall, at 4.
602 North York, Middlesbrough
810 Craven, Skipton
1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
2415 Tristram, Shildon

Saturday.

- 1928 Gallery, Anderton's
2182 Sterndale Bennett, Camberwell
1223 Amherst, Riverhead
1460 Thames Valley, Hampton Ct.
1550 Prudence, Plymouth
1567 Elliot, Feltham
1929 Mozart, Croydon
2054 Wilson Iles, Rickmansworth
2077 Epping, Chingford
2148 Walsingham, Wilmington
2205 Pegasus, Gravesend
2331 Ravencroft, Barnet
2323 Bushey Hall, Bushey
2442 St. Clement, Leigh
2473 Molesey, East Molesey
2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

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Adelphi.—7.45, Cyrano de Bergeras. Matinée, Saturday.
Avenue.—8.15, Pot Pourri. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
Court.—8.30, Wheels within Wheels. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Covent Garden.—Grand Opera Season.
Criterion.—8.20, The Tyranny of Tears. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Daly's.—8.15, A Gaiety Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Duke of York's.—8.15, An American Citizen. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
Gaiety.—8.15, A Runaway Girl. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Garrick.—8.15, Our John. 8.45, Halves. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
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, The Musketeers. Matinée Wednesday, 2.15.
Lyceum.—8, Robespierre. Matinée Saturday, 2.
Lytic.—8.15, Cupid and the Princess.
Prince of Wales's.—8.15, The Only Way. Matinée, Saturday, 2.15.
Princess's.—8, One of the Best.
Royalty.—8.15, In the eyes of the world. 9, A Little Ray of Sunshine. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Savoy.—8.30, H.M.S. Pinafore. Trial by Jury. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
Strand.—8.15, Bob Bradshaw's Dream. 8.45, Why Smith Left Home. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Vaudeville.—8, A Woman's Love. 9, On and Off. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Alexandra.—Next week, Jim the Penman.
Grand.—Monday, Madame Sarah Bernhardt Co. Remainder of week, The Middleman.
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.
Alexandra Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Fireworks, Thursday and Saturday, &c.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Fireworks, Thursday.
Earl's Court.—Savage South Africa, &c.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
Madame Tussaud's (Baker Street Station).—Open daily. Portrait models of modern celebrities, &c.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

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ROYAL WHARFEDALE LODGE, No. 1108.

THE Brethren observed the festival of St. John, and commemorated the 33rd anniversary of the consecration of their Lodge on Friday, 16th inst., at Otley, in the presence of a numerous gathering of members and visiting Brethren from the Leeds, Bradford, Harrogate, and Ilkley Lodges. The W.M.-elect was Bro. F. T. Coupland, who was duly installed by Bro. Wm. Laycock P.M. P.P.G.St.B., assisted by Bro. Strain P.M.

The Lodge has been twice visited by Royalty, and has, in consequence, the requisite warrant for using the word "Royal" as a prefix to its name, says the "Leeds Mercury."

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DORKING LODGE, No. 1149.

THE annual meeting took place at the Public Hall, Dorking, on Monday, 12th inst., when Bro. J. W. Palmer was installed.

The customary banquet was subsequently served at the White Horse Hotel, under the presidency of the new W.M. The proceedings were marked by the usual toasts, and some excellent singing was contributed, notably by Bro. Masters. A number of visitors from neighbouring Lodges were present.

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ST. KEW LODGE, No. 1222.

CYNICAL people are apt to remark that the principal feature of Freemasonry is the banqueting. There may be a modicum of truth in this, but the annals of Weston-super-Mare Freemasonry—at least those for many years past—show that next to the installation ceremony the annual picnic is the chief item in the year's programme. Indeed in some respects this is more fraternal than the proceedings at the installation of the Worshipful Master, inasmuch as the Brethren's wives, sisters or daughters, can participate in the pleasures of the picnic, whereas they can only become interested in the installation ceremony from hearsay. The members of St. Kew Lodge, No. 1222, had their annual picnic on Wednesday, 14th inst., and thanks to the facilities afforded by the Great Western Railway Company, and to the indefatigable services of the Secretary of the Lodge Bro. W. E. Perrett the outing was exceedingly enjoyable. As has been the case for many years past, the vicinity of London was chosen, and Ascot week was selected, to enable those who cared to to spend a pleasant holiday in town and attend the fashionable race meeting of the year. An excursion train had been arranged to run from Bristol to Windsor on Wednesday, but to oblige the Brethren of Weston-super-Mare the Great Western Company started the train from Weston, and placed a saloon carriage at the disposal of the Brethren of St. Kew Lodge. At 7.20 a.m. a party of about thirty Masons assembled at the Weston-super-Mare station, the Brethren being accompanied by ten or twelve ladies. The journey from Weston to Windsor was accomplished in good time, and was rendered very pleasant, the saloon carriage being well stocked with creature comforts for the guests. This provision was much appreciated, especially by those Brethren—and there were certainly two or three—who, unaccustomed to early rising, had to call in the services of a policeman to enable them to catch the train. Reaching Windsor at 11.45 a.m., the company proceeded at once to the Castle. Special permission had been obtained to view the private and State apartments, and even St. George's Chapel, which usually is closed on Wednesdays, was opened for inspection. This and other concessions were made largely through the intervention of Brother the Hon. H. G. H. Jolliffe (the member for the Wells Division) and Bro. Ernest Marshall Secretary of Windsor Castle Lodge. In the Castle, the Vandyke room and the Zuccarelli room were inspected, and the paintings &c. greatly admired, after which the party were conducted through the State ante-room to the grand staircase, thence to the great vestibule, and into the Waterloo chamber or grand dining room, the Throne room, Reception room, St. George's Hall, the Guard chamber, the Queen's Presence chamber, and the Audience chamber. The guide gave the company some very valuable and interesting information, and the stroll through these rooms proved highly enjoyable. The Round Tower was next visited, and those who took the trouble to climb to the summit of the Keep were well rewarded for their pains, not only by grand panoramic views which were presented in all directions, but by the humorous description which was given of the chief points of interest by an old soldier, who seemed to know something of everything. He even ventured to correct one of the Brethren's pronunciation of the word "Weston-super-Mare," and in this way and others caused a fund of merriment. On retracing their steps, the party's next object of interest, St. George's Chapel, was visited, and needless to say this majestic structure was minutely inspected and greatly admired.

Shortly after two o'clock the company proceeded to the White Hart Hotel for dinner. Here they were joined by Bro. the Hon. H. G. H. Jolliffe, M.P. The party sat down to an excellent dinner in the Shakespeare room, the W.M. Bro. W. C. Thomas presiding. After dinner a short toast list was presented, but the ladies being present the toasts were not honoured in the customary Masonic manner.

In proposing the health of Bros. Perrett and Marshall Secretaries of the St. Kew and Windsor Castle Lodges respectively, the W.M. referred to the eminently satisfactory arrangements which had been made in connection with the outing, and said these were in a large measure due to the efforts of the Brethren he had named.

Bro. Perrett said if anything he had done had contributed to the enjoyment of the party he felt repaid, but they were more indebted to Bro. Marshall and Bro. the Hon. H. G. H. Jolliffe for their good offices.

Bro. Marshall replied and invited the Brethren and their friends to visit the Windsor Castle Lodge. Bro. Jolliffe also briefly acknowledged the toast.

The company then separated, some going to Virginia Water or to the Lodge Room, and others going on to London.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE last meeting previous to the recess was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, 2nd instant, Bro. John Mann Crone Worshipful Master.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, Bro. W. T. Hesketh P.M. Secretary read letters from Bro. F. D. Panday, Bombay, and observations on Scottish Freemasonry in India, and himself favoured the members with some account of a visit paid to a Scottish Lodge.

The W.M. very touchingly reverted to the fact that a few days previously Bro. Henry Nall P.M. P.P.G.Treas. had sailed from Liverpool by steamship Tainui for Montreal, the journey being undertaken on account of ill health, and a general hope was expressed that he might benefit by his trip.

At the festive board, Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to, these being interspersed with songs, &c., and the reading of a very interesting Ode, the composition of Bro. Tallent-Bateman Organist.

We may state with regard to Bro. Nall that on the morning of his departure from Manchester, the Worshipful Master, together with several Past Masters and Brethren of the Architect Lodge, evinced their respect by meeting him on the platform of the Exchange Station, a few of them accompanying him to Liverpool.

Dinner was provided at the Bear's Paw Hotel, and Bro. Crone W.M. in the principal post-prandial speech, said that it would be unfair to allow such an occasion to pass without expressing regret that Bro. Nall would be compulsorily severed from them, if only for a limited period. The Brethren had accompanied him thus far by way of testifying their good opinion of him, and he only echoed the sentiments of the whole Lodge when he hoped that Bro. Nall's journey would be a safe one, that the G.A.O.T.U. would speed him on his way, and that he would ultimately return to them thoroughly restored to health.

Bro. Nall, who was visibly affected by this manifestation of kindly regard, said that at that particular moment he was scarcely capable of expressing his feelings towards the Brethren, who had travelled to Liverpool for the purpose of seeing him off, and it was to him one of those instances which proved what Freemasonry really was.

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HIGH PEAK LODGE, No. 1952.

THERE was a large gathering of Brethren from Buxton, New Mills, Glossop, and other places, at the Town Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith, on Monday evening, 12th inst., on the occasion of the annual festival of this Lodge.

Bro. Walter Lingard was installed W.M., and afterwards invested his Officers.

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SPENCER WALPOLE TEMPERANCE LODGE, No. 2197.

A MEETING was held at the Masonic Hall, Douglas, on Monday, 12th inst., when there was a large attendance of members, and business in the third degree, which was worked by the W.M. Bro. W. Newby.

The elections of W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler for the next year took place, and resulted as follow: W.M. Bro. F. Watson, Treasurer Bro. J. Lewin, Tyler Bro. T. Hampton.

At the close of the business a Past Master's gold jewel was voted to Bro. Newby, in recognition of his great services as Master of the Lodge. The installation takes place in October.

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SHURMUR LODGE, No. 2374.

THE W.M. Bro. Joseph Holland presided at a meeting of this Lodge held on Friday, 9th inst., at the Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford, Essex. He was supported by Bros. William Shurmur P.G.S.B. Eng., S. C. Kaufman I.P.M., Charles Bestow P.M., Walter Fortescue S.W., Percy Trickett J.W., James Clark P.M. Secretary, G. H. Pizey S.D., William Gower J.D., M. Bleick I.G., John Hamilton D.C., T. How, R. Eustace, T. Body Stewards, C. Pateman, E. J. Elder, L. Grove, W. M. Beck, F. Inch, J. R. Friend, T. R. Nosworthy, C. Berry, F. G. Newman, M. and A. Moseley, James Newlands, and others.

The following visitors also attended: Bros. A. J. Street P.M. 1679 P.P. G.S.B. Essex, C. C. Potter P.M. 299, E. C. Holmes Org. 1227, W. W. West S.D. 1662, George Brown 65, W. Shuttleworth D.C. 781, &c.

For the convenience of the business the Lodge was opened in the three degrees and resumed to the first, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The chair was then taken by Bro. S. C. Kaufman, when Bro. W. J. F. Palowkar proved his proficiency as a Craftsman and was subsequently raised to the rank of a Master Mason. Bros. E. Lake, E. Betts and C. E. Morris were passed to the second degree. These two ceremonies were admirably worked by Bro. Kaufman, who adopted the sectional explanation when presenting the working tools to the Craftsmen. The ballot was taken for Mr. Horace George Ramsden, and Mr. Frederick James Cope, and proved unanimous. By special request Bro. William Shurmur then assumed the chair, and performed the ceremony of initiation which, needless to say, was faultlessly rendered, and made an evident impression both upon the candidates and others present. We were pleased to notice that the Ancient Charge, so frequently forgotten, was not omitted on this occasion.

This being election night, in accordance with the Bye-laws, the Brethren proceeded to choose the Master, Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year, with the result that Bro. Walter Fortescue S.W. was elected to the Mastership, Bro. William Shurmur as Treasurer, and John Ives as Tyler. Upon the official announcement being communicated to those Brethren they all briefly returned thanks for their appointments. The two initiates were nominated as Auditors of the Lodge.

The addresses of Bro. Thomas P. Trounce W.M. of the Chigwell Lodge, and of Bro. Charles James Smith of the Earl of Warwick Lodge, candidates for the post of Provincial Treasurer were read. A candidate was proposed for initiation at the next meeting; a Past Master's jewel was voted to Bro. Holland upon his retirement from the chair; and the visiting Brethren tendered their hearty good wishes. The Lodge was then closed and the company adjourned to dinner.

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FERDINAND DE ROTHSCHILD LODGE, No. 2420.

THE annual installation meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Aylesbury, on the 15th, when there was a good attendance of Brethren, amongst the visitors being Bro. James Terry P.G.Sword Bearer Eng. Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Bro. Henry Turnham was installed as W.M., the Installing Master being Bro. J. Stephens P.M. Dep.G.D.C. Eng.

A banquet was afterwards held, under the presidency of Bro. Turnham, Mr. F. Ritchings catering in excellent style. The musical portion of the programme was under the direction of Mr. Val. H. Jarvis.

THE MANCHESTER LODGE, No. 2554.

THE regular meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Friday, 9th instant, Bro. Wm. Alderley Boyer Deputy Provincial Grand Registrar W.M., the principal business of the evening being that of electing Officers.

For the position of W.M. Bro. A. C. K. Smith S.W. was the unanimous choice of the Brethren, and his installation will take place on Friday, 15th October. Bro. J. A. Thompson Secretary was elected Treasurer, Bro. Wm. B. Akerman P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. Charity Representative, Bros. P. Z. daCunah I.G. and A. W. Bentham Auditors.

At the festive board which succeeded, Loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. Bro. Wm. Charlton, J.P., I.P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., reverted to the importance of the work which he had performed, not only in the Manchester Lodge, but also in the Province of East Lancashire, and mentioned that he had recently been appointed to the position of Dep. Prov. Grand Reg. He wished him health and long life to enjoy the distinction.

METROPOLITAN : INSTRUCTION.

RANELAGH LODGE, No. 834.

AT the Six Bells Hotel, Hammersmith, W., on Friday, 16th inst., Bros. R. H. Williams P.M. W.M., M. F. Wilkins S.W., J. H. Cumming P.M. J.W., A. Williams P.M. Prec., W. Hinds P.M. Treas., F. Craggs P.M. Sec., K. M. Ross S.D., G. J. Meek J.D., H. Sellick I.G., S. J. Parker P.M., H. J. Cousens W.M. Old Concord Lodge, R. Reid W.M. Star Lodge, H. Bone, and others.

Bro. Parker having proved his proficiency was entrusted, and the Lodge being advanced to the second degree the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bro. Williams gave the Lecture on the Tracing Board in a faultless manner, which elicited the approbation of all present. Lodge was opened in the third degree and closed to the second, when the first section of the Lecture was worked by the Brethren, the questions being put by the Preceptor. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and the Brethren elected Bro. Wilkins to act as W.M. at the next meeting.

LONDESBOROUGH LODGE, No. 1681.

ON Wednesday, at the Criterion, Piccadilly, W., Bros. J. Freer W.M., T. Kelly S.W., W. Hill J.W., G. Wood P.M. Prec., J. Hewett acting Sec., F. Mills S.D., Brooks J.D., B. H. Springett I.G., Wethcull P.M., E. Ortnier Franklin, J. Wynman.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Wynman candidate. Bro. Kelly worked the first and second sections of the lecture. Bro. Franklin answered the questions leading to the second degree.

Bro. W. C. Franklin, of the Hyde Park Lodge, No. 1425, was elected a member, which compliment was duly acknowledged. Bro. T. Kelly will preside on Tuesday next. Bro. Hewett was unanimously elected Assistant Secretary of the Lodge.

CHISWICK LODGE, No. 2012.

AT the Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith, on Saturday, 17th inst., Bros. Robert Reid W.M., W. Hide P.M. S.W., M. F. Wilkins J.W., Arthur Williams P.M. Prec., F. Craggs P.M. acting Sec., W. Hopkins S.D., G. J. Meek J.D., K. M. Ross I.G., W. Hellier P.M., M. Speigel P.M., P. Cronin P.M., R. H. Williams P.P.G.J.D. Middx., J. H. Cumming P.M., H. J. Cousens, H. Bone, W. Herring, and others.

Lodge was opened to the second degree, when Bro. Arthur Williams, acting as D.C., presented Bro. Hide for the benefit of installation. Lodge was opened in the third degree and closed in that and the second degree. The W.M. was saluted by the Brethren, after which the ceremony of the investiture of Officers was rehearsed. The first and second sections of the lecture were worked by the Brethren, under the direction of the Preceptor.

Bro. Hide P.M. was elected to fill the office of W.M. at the next weekly meeting.

ROYAL ARCH.

BEDFORD CHAPTER, No. 157.

THE annual installation of this Chapter took place on Thursday, 25th ult., at the Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street, W.C. The convocation was opened by Comp. C. O. Burgess M.E.Z., and among those present were Comps. W. S. Hooper H., W. Baddeley J., Imré Kiralfy S.N., W. O. Welsford I.P.Z., C. Pulman P.Z. A.G.D.C., W. H. Roach P.Z., J. R. W. Soper, J. Peter Robinson, E. J. Mills, Jas. Mander, D. C. Robinson, Col. Charlton Humphreys, G. S. Webb, J. Stuart Walker, W. Rapley, H. W. Dyne, F. H. Bowater, G. Neil Finlay, H. Dangerfield M.E.Z. 2488, E. Beeson 1st A.S. 1321, Thomas Whitford J. 1321, Arthur H. Scurrah P.Z. 2047, J. R. Cleave M.E.Z. 2030, Fredk. Kedge P.Z. 1614, E. A. Berry M.E.Z. 1321, Orilton Cooper M.E.Z. 483, and others.

The only business before the Chapter was the installation of the Principals, and the investiture of the Officers for the year. A Board of Installed Principals was therefore formed, when Comp. W. Singleton Hooper M.E.Z.-elect was presented by Comp. Pulman, and having been duly obligated was regularly installed into the first chair. Comp. William Baddeley was inducted into that of H., and Comp. Imré Kiralfy into that of J. The ceremonies were admirably rendered by Comp. C. O. Burgess, and elicited the hearty approval of those present.

Comp. Hooper invested the following Officers:—W. O. Welsford S.E., Edward James Mills S.N., D. C. Robinson Treasurer, Godfrey Pritchard P.S.,

Col. Humphreys and William Rapley Assist. Sec., H. W. Dyne D.C., J. M. Bathgate and F. V. Bowater Stewards, and H. O. Moulton Janitor.

The Audit Committee presented their report, and announced a highly satisfactory balance, in spite of many extra expenses during the year.

Comp. Burgess mentioned that since the last convocation a well deserved honour had been conferred by the Grand Master and Z. upon their worthy Companion Imré Kiralfy, and he moved that a vote of congratulation be conveyed to the recipient, and the fact recorded on the minutes of the Chapter. Needless to say the proposition was carried with applause, and Comp. Kiralfy briefly returned thanks. There being no further business the Chapter was closed in ancient form, and the Companions adjourned to the Holborn Restaurant, where the banquet was served.

At the conclusion of the repast the customary Loyal and Arch toasts were submitted by the M.E.Z., Comps. Pulman and Kiralfy responding for the Grand Officers.

Comp. Burgess proposed the health of the Principals, which was answered in an unique and eccentric manner by the three worthies, which caused much merriment, and was received with loud applause.

Comp. Hooper, in another humorous speech, presented the I.P.Z. with an exceedingly handsome jewel, voted by the Companions, for his special services in re-organising and placing the Chapter in so excellent a position.

Comp. Burgess acknowledged the compliment, and gave an interesting account of his Masonic experience in Egypt, of which we have requested him to give a full description for the benefit of our readers. Other toasts followed.

The entertainment was provided by Miss Beatrice Cowley, Bros. Stuart Walker, Will Edwards, Soper, Roach, and others.

FITZWILLIAM LODGE, No. 277.

THE annual festival was held at Malton, on Tuesday, 13th inst., when Bro. S. Ridge P.P.G.D.C. was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year by Bro. J. W. Marshall P.M. P.P.G.J.D.

MASONIC OUTING.

THE members of the North Devon Lodges had a very pleasant excursion on Monday. Brethren from Bidetord, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, and South Molton, left their respective stations in saloon carriages, for Exeter, where they were joined by some members of the Okehampton Lodge. They proceeded to Totnes, where special boats were waiting to take them down the river Dart to Dartmouth, the beauties of the "English Rhine" being greatly admired. On reaching Dartmouth ample justice was done to the capably prepared luncheon at the Raleigh Hotel. The excursionists left by special train for Exeter, in good time to catch the North Devon trains for their various destinations. About eighty Brethren went with the excursion, many others being unable to go, some being prevented by important Masonic duties on the same day. Everything passed off most happily.

MASONIC PIC-NIC TO TINTERN ABBEY.

THE annual picnic of the Tennant Lodge, No. 1992, Cardiff, took place on Monday, when about 100 ladies and Brethren journeyed to Tintern Abbey, where sports and dancing on the lawn of the Royal George Hotel were indulged in.

A handsome marble timepiece was presented to Bro. B. D. Jenkins on the occasion of his marriage, a similar compliment being paid to Bro. S. O. Williams on his recent union to Miss Bryan.

The W.M. Bro. W. I. Vaughan, Bro. Sydney F. Bowling Secretary, and the other officials worked assiduously, and the picnic was a great success.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

A NUMBER of important alterations in their train service, such as usually occur at midsummer, are announced by the Great Western Railway, to come into operation on 1st July. The 10.30 express to the west country, with its convenient luncheon car, will again run to Exeter from Paddington without stopping, and improved services are announced over the whole system from Liverpool in the north to Penzance in the furthest corner of the Cornish peninsula. To the 4.5 p.m. train from Exeter to Paddington is attached a dining car. A special boat express in connection with a day boat to Guernsey and Jersey will leave Paddington at 8.50 a.m., connecting with trains from the principal stations on the line; and the usual night boat, in connection with an express which will leave Paddington at 9.45 p.m., will be continued, thus giving day and night services to the Islands, by which excursion passengers will be booked on Saturdays. A through express service, via Reading and the South-Eastern Railway, will be established between stations on the Great Western Railway north of Oxford, and Folkestone, Paris, Brussels and other places on the Continent.

THE Midland Railway Company announce that the full service of trains for the summer season will come into force on 1st July. The most notable features are the new corridor trains which the Company will run between London and Glasgow and London and Edinburgh respectively. The trains will be composed of new corridor carriages of the most modern type, including first and third class dining carriages. The improved services to Ireland, inaugurated in June, via Barrow-in-Furness (the picturesque route via the borders of the Lake district), and via Stranraer and Larne (the short sea route), will be continued.

A NEW feature has been adopted by the London and South-Western Railway, in conjunction with Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son, in arranging circular excursions, including thirty miles drive through the charming scenery of the New Forest. Passengers will leave Waterloo by special express train at nine a.m., and return to London at 7.36 p.m. These trips will run on Thursdays, commencing on 29th June, the return fare (first-class only), including rail, coach drive, and luncheon, being 20s.

NUMEROUS and important additions and improvements in the train service on the London and North Western Railway (the West Coast Royal mail route) are announced for the summer months, conspicuous amongst them being additional corridor trains, with luncheon and refreshment cars, between Euston and Edinburgh and Glasgow, in both directions.

HARMONY.

THE basis of Masonry is harmony. Whenever discord enters a Masonic Lodge confusion follows. Sometimes the members of a Lodge, through "private piques and quarrels," carry their personal differences into the Lodge and annoy their Brethren with matters which they themselves should reconcile in that spirit of brotherly love which is so forcibly taught in the Masonic ritual.

Differences among men must necessarily arise, because of the difference of temperaments, but if all Freemasons would but heed the lessons taught them, they might settle all their disputes outside the sacred precincts of the Lodge room, and by so doing avoid producing discord where harmony should always prevail.

Behold! how good and how pleasant is unity; greets the ears of the novitiate on the very threshold of Masonry. Why is it that so many Freemasons seem to let these words "go into one ear and out the other?"

Harmony is the support of all civil institutions, and they prosper in proportion to the degree in which harmony prevails.

Brethren of the Mystic Tie, contemplate with thoughtfulness this sublime truth, and see that your hearts foster not evil.

If you have a difficulty with your Brother, go to him and endeavour to effect a reconciliation. If he be a true Freemason he will meet you half way. If he does not, you may enjoy the supreme happiness consequent to the thought that you have done your duty.—"Pacific Mason."

JUSTICE.

AS one of the four cardinal virtues Freemasonry enjoins that justice shall be practiced among her votaries. She defines it as being "That standard or boundary of right, which enables us to render unto every man his just due, without distinction. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of civil society; and as justice in a great measure constitutes the really good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every Mason never to deviate from the minutest principle thereof." A great truth and an equally great lesson, but how has it been learned and observed?

In ordinary conversation and in every day life, there is no word more often used than that which heads this article. It is indeed "familiar to our mouths as household words," and every one in employing it believes that it expresses fully the idea intended to be conveyed. Yet how little exploration is made into the exact definition of the term. Webster defines it as "Rendering or disposed to render each one his due. Not doing wrong to any." In the Pandects of the great Justinian it is "The constant and perpetual disposition to render to every man his due." Aristotle presents its meaning to be the "granting to every person that share of good or evil to which his merit entitles him." Martineau, Sedgwick, Mill, Spencer and others have all subjected it to their various views, with the result that harmony of definition has never been altogether reached by the various schools of philosophy. This difference may, however, be accounted for in the fact that the word is so widely used; its thousand and one applications cannot be covered by any particular definition.

In an article as necessarily brief as this must be this virtue can only be treated in the most summary manner, and the excuse, if any be needed, for commenting upon this greatest of virtues, is that in the present day and generation its teachings have been overlooked and openly cast down, and selfishness and oppression hold sway. Men have not only neglected but absolutely tried to banish it from their lives. Their words and actions are not governed by the Golden Rule, but each puts forth every energy to overreach, and in some way get the better of his neighbour. Integrity and upright conduct has become a hiss and a byword in the world, and Freemasonry's skirts have been contaminated and made unclean by contact with the evil. But it shall not be always so. Retribution and outraged justice shall conquer at last. "The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small," and the oppressor and the wrong doer cannot escape just punishment. In considering this virtue we find that the English word Justice is derived from the Latin jus, meaning right, and signifies that which is right or due between parties. Thus in commercial dealings there is established the relationship of debtor and creditor, and Justice applies to the sum due from one to another and exacts that such debt be paid, causing the cancellation of such obligation.

It is, however, in the moral sense that this virtue takes its highest position. In the moral world Justice is as essential as space is to the material world; it constitutes its greatest requirement. We look at a well kept garden and observe how harmoniously each plant and flower receives life and warmth from the sun, all because they are properly spaced off from each other. If these flowers and plants were huddled against each other, the garden would soon become a place of wild confusion with no

semblance of order; so Justice is required in the human world to properly space off its various classes to diffuse the rights of each.

From the hour when Abel was brutally murdered by the pitiless hand of his brother, before the altar of his sacrifice, down through all the ages to the present day, the cry has been—not for pity, generosity or forbearance—but for Justice. This cry, as some one has said, has been wrung from "millions oppressed by despots, from battle-fields where men die in torture to help the ambition of tyrants and tighten the children's chains, from homes desolate and brutalised, from prison depths and wide wastes of ignorance and the crowded shops of half paid toil." Their cry is not for charity to lessen their misery, but for "simple justice, their rights and their liberties."

Justice is not confined to or limited to the use of property. The greatest of all English dramatists has said:

"Who steals my purse, steals trash: 'tis something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that, which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed."

A greater than Shakespeare has given us the injunction: "Render, therefore, to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour." Therefore the use of Justice is as applicable to a man's character as to his purse. Perhaps more applicable when we consider Justice as a moral attribute—the disposition to do what is just.

Taking our stand upon the great fact that this disposition to be just proceeds from the perfect wisdom of God, it becomes a form of benevolence just as grace and mercy. The latter indeed has no existence except from justice. Justice, then, is a part of God's holy character, being a modified form of His love. It is His benevolence that prompts Him to "do justly" as well as to "love mercy." That God is perfectly just is frequently and most explicitly set forth in the Scriptures. In Genesis xviii 25 we read, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" and in Deut. xxxii 4, "A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." Further He has expressly commanded His creatures to be just. Solomon says, "To do justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice."

The importance and far reaching character of God's command of justice upon mankind cannot be over estimated. To the individual it brings vexation or peace, as he departs from its path or steadfastly pursues its track. It manifests a bitter experience to him who deviates from it. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." The lack of peace is the first penalty the wicked have to endure who work injustice. The silent monitor, that "still small voice," of conscience, is the tribunal from which no doer of injustice can escape. Richard III., reckless of right, dead to all moral obligation and hardened to the voice of conscience, was at last brought to bay by the terrible dream he had on the night before Bosworth.

Thus is illustrated that the Divine injunction must be obeyed or punishment shall surely follow its infringement. Every other law, every other tribunal may be evaded but this. The history of nations illustrates the same truth, because of a long continued departure from justice they have been cast away, and the place where once they were known them no more. Sodom and Gomorrah, Nineveh, Babylon, Athens and Rome all have fallen from the same cause.

Men shudder and shrink in fear from the justice of God. But it is the knowledge of guilt that makes them do so. How else could they fear and shrink back before the One who will do exactly and forever right?

Of the many sides of God's character there is found mildness, forbearance, and compassion, in the exercise of which He forgives iniquity, and blots out transgression and sin. Suppose all of God's character was made up of these milder traits, so that injuries and offences could go unpunished. Such a character would not be perfect. Without justice as a balance He would be altogether one-sided. There would be no just proportion, no perfection. He could not be the Supreme Architect of the Universe. His character would be deformed and defective. Such a God is not the God of Nature or of Scripture, nor of Freemasonry, and has no foundation or existence outside of man's imagination. The great God of Heaven and earth is a just God. "Justice and judgment are the habitation of his throne." And His justice must be satisfied before He may exercise His mercy.—"American Tyler."

THE ALTAR IN MASONRY.

OF course this portion of the Lodge furniture is but one of the symbols of Masonic philosophy, and is not to be classed among the structures erected for strictly religious purposes, else would Freemasonry cease in its universality as the custodian of liberal conscience, and become a mere representative of sect or

creed, with a theological covenant and constitution and certain articles of religious belief, says an exchange in discussing "The Altar in Masonry."

But the distinctive line separating Freemasonry from sect or creed in the religious world is so fine as to be difficult to discern. The altar worship of the world, in all ages, has been clearly developed from the hour when the two first brothers built each an altar, down to to-day. Athens has 30,000 altars erected to the pantheology of its religious worship, and for fear some of the multitude of gods have been overlooked, an altar was raised to the "unknown god," whom these old Greeks ignorantly worshipped.

The Masonic altar is erected to God. This certainly gives to this piece of Lodge furniture a religious significance which should clothe it in a garment of veneration. Around it have knelt thousands of the brightest and best of humanity. Generations of men have come and gone, and cities have crumbled into ruins, but lo! here is an altar where you may bow and seek assistance of that Being who alone can protect amid dangers and difficulties.

It is a curious thing when we contemplate it, how this altar has been preserved. Creeds have battled against creeds, and the altars of each have in succession fallen, but the Masonic altar still remains. As each new generation comes the seriously bowed head takes its place at the altar. Shall this not give strong evidence that the altar shall remain? Does it not present silent testimony that the vows here spoken are the links which bind humanity into a band of common Brotherhood?

When Joshua crossed the Jordan he took twelve stones out of the bed of the river and built an altar commemorative of the entrance to the promised land.

The fathers were to tell the children, in the days to come, what these stones meant. How long this altar remained as a witness of this wonderful transaction is unknown, but we may surmise that the heap of stones would be guarded with jealous care for many generations to come.

And so with the Masonic altar. What mean ye by these vows pledged before Jehovah for the benefit of our common Brotherhood? What have you done, Brother, to fulfil these vows? Yes, you have kept the secret inviolate, but that was only the passive part of the obligation. What about the active?

Has the world in any manner been bettered by you since you bowed down at the Masonic altar? Has the cry of distress passed by unheeded, or the mute appeal for help been by you ignored? Has your hand reached out to stay a tottering Brother who has wandered by any forbidden paths? Have you laboured with yourself to subdue those passions that jar and clash with the elements of good within you?

In short, which is it; have the principles taught in Masonry taken full possession of your will power, or have you caged them, as birds of beautiful plumage and song, to contemplate, but not to utilise? Ah! what answer, Brethren?—"Square and Compass."

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

WORSHIPFUL was a mediæval title of honour and respect which our forefathers in the Craft justly deemed appropriate to the presiding officer of a Masonic Lodge. In Shakespeare we find the term used thus:

"My father desires your worship's company."
"This is worshipful society."

The title is not used in Masonry as a term of adoration, but of sincere respect and deference. It accords supremacy in the Lodge.

To leave no doubt of the power of the Lodge's chief officer, he is styled not only Worshipful, but Master. He is a Master of Masters—their Worshipful Master. His authority in the Lodge is unquestionable—there, where he not only has no superior, but no equal. As the orb of day sweeps majestically and beneficently through the sky, the ruler of the material universe, with all the starry hosts of heaven silently and willingly doing his bidding, so the Worshipful Master with equal regularity and wisdom, rules and governs his Lodge. And just as above that sun is the Sun's Creator—the Lord of all life and being, animate and inanimate, by whose infinity of wisdom the worlds were made, and in accordance with whose will are governed—so above the Worshipful Master is the Grand Lodge, with its Most Worshipful Grand Master—the constitutor of his Lodge, and to which alone an appeal to his action lies.

The Worshipful Master of a Lodge is infinitely more than the presiding officer of the Masonic Society. There is no officer that is his equal in privilege, power and honour. As a Master Mason all Freemasons are his peers, but he is the "first among his equals," Elevated by his fellows, through their exercise of that universal suffrage which embraces every affiliated member of the Craft, when installed in the Master's station his authority in the Lodge none there may question. Notwithstanding such

absolute power is accorded him, we have never known a case where that power was exercised to serve merely personal ends. Misjudgments, no doubt, there have been, but malicious judgments never. The Brother who feels the weight of responsibility resting upon him, as every Worshipful Master must, has too much heart in his office to permit his head to go wrong. The most radical Brother on the floor makes the most conservative Master of a Lodge.

The Worshipful Master has two fields for the exercise of his talents—in the Lodge when at labour, and in a banquet hall when a Table Lodge is open, or the Brethren are informally gathered to enjoy a feast of creature comforts and a flow of animal spirits. The ancient Romans had a *rex convivii*, or an arbiter bibendi, to preside over their banquets, and encourage hilarity or check excess. These officers are rolled into that of a Worshipful Master. At the banquet table, as in the Lodge Room, he is Master—Master everywhere. No Brother, however full of selfwill or of anything else, that would not obey the sound of the gavel. There is no severer test of authority. It is not surprising, therefore, that a W.M. should feel a laudable pride when he reaches that honourable station. Therefore let us maintain our devotion to our ancient and honourable Fraternity, and our respect for the Worshipful Masters who preside over the individual Lodges. King Solomon is dead, but his representative in the Masonic Lodge never dies.—"Free mason's Chronicle (Sydney)."

The religion of the heathen Chinese, to a large extent, consists in paying reverence to his ancestors. The classic Roman deified his, and even the Hebrew recorder wrote "there were giants in those days," "giants," in the original, meaning a semi-angelic being. While not going now to such lengths we delight in "looking backwards" to our ancestors. We sing of their deeds and inherit inestimable treasures handed down to us from them. But the W.M. of a Sydney Lodge, on a recent occasion in delivering their Grand Lodge Certificates to five Brethren of his Lodge, completely mystified them by expressing his hope that they would duly treasure these "diplomas" and hand them carefully down to their ancestors as heirlooms. Some Brethren smole a smile, but the unconscious perpetrator of this anachronism went calmly onward with his peroration, in blessed ignorance of the Herculean efforts made by some of his hearers to retain their gravity, which they, however, succeeded in preserving until they reached the banquet table.—"Masonry."

The basis of Freemasonry is indeed broad, very broad, but not so broad as to unite all men of all opinions. Masonry does not close the door against any man for his religion. When the Lodge has done this she has done all that her professions require her to do. But the mistake sectarians make is that they wish to have the ritual and usages of Freemasonry so changed that its ceremonial shall be perfectly agreeable to their religious views. This would make the society the very thing which they say it should not be, namely, a sectarian institution. While Freemasonry does not exclude any on account of their religion, she does not stultify herself by pretending that all her lectures and ceremonies are so constructed as to please every individual, by exactly according with every shade of his religious views. Such a pretension would be sheer folly, since no institution can do this, and no honest society would pretend to do it.—"American Tyler."

An unknown benefactor has donated to Humanity Lodge, Austria, the castle of Saubersdorf, to be used as a Masonic orphan asylum. It has a capacity of seventy inmates, and is situated at Schneeberg. There is also a Masonic orphanage at Kohlenbergdorf, which could not accommodate the demand upon it.—"New Zealand Craftsman."

A NEW CHAPTER.

THE consecration of the Triangle Chapter, attached to the United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence, No. 184, is arranged to take place on Thursday next, at the Masonic Temple, Park Road, New Brompton, at 3 o'clock. The Prov. G. Superintendent Earl Amherst Pro G.Z. will officiate, and will be supported by some of the leading Companions of his Province.

The Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P. is to lay the foundation stone of Boscombe Hospital, with full Masonic ceremonial, on Wednesday next, 28th inst., and it is expected there will be a large assembly of the Craft on that occasion.