

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE SCHOOLS QUARTERLY COURTS.

THE Quarterly General meetings in connection with the two Educational Institutions of the Craft will be held next week, on Thursday and Friday respectively, there being little to be done on either occasion, beyond the usual formality of settling the lists of candidates for the October elections.

The exceptional Notices of Motion in the case of the Girls School refer to the election of a Trustee in the place of the late Earl of Lathom, his son and successor in the title being proposed; and the election of an Honorary Surgeon Oculist, in place of the late much respected Bro. Jabez Hogg P.G.D., Bro. Walter H. Jessop, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S.E. being suggested.

In the case of the Boys School a minor alteration in the Laws is proposed, so as to exclude Minors from attending and voting at Quarterly or Special Courts.

A member of the Clydesdale Lodge, No. 556 (S.C.), who is at present serving in H.M. Navy, has had the privilege of visiting some Lodges in England recently, says "The Mallet." Among the experiences which he relates is his meeting with the Colonel of a line regiment. Being a young member of the Craft, he was at a loss how to comport himself, but his superior officer quickly put him at his ease by inviting the Brother from Scotland to take a seat next him, with the remark, "Ranks are levelled here, you know."

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I had the honour of piloting a happy launch party on Saturday, 24th ult., of the members and lady friends of the Savage Club Lodge of Freemasons, from Maidenhead to the French Horn at Sonning, where a charming semi-al fresco dinner was served under the presidency of Bro. Harry Nicholls P.M. (officiating for the absent Master of the Lodge). We had a most delightful trip through the beauties of the most beautiful river in the world, and when we had refreshed, steamed back to Henley, where we took the train to town. Amongst the members present were Bro. Ravenstein, past president of the Royal Geographical Society, Bro. Cheesewright, F.R.G.S., Surgeon-Major Lewis Thomas, Bro. Chance, Bro. Herbert Johnson ("Graphic" special artist), and Bro. Ingram (the well-known sculptor). The weather was delightful.—"Merrie Villager," in "Islington Gazette."

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At a recent City dinner Brother Hole, Dean of Rochester, said he once knew a most estimable man, a brother clergyman and a Brother Mason, who occupied the largest circumference of ground of any man he ever met—the broadest Churchman he ever saw. He was what the lawyers call a "corporation sole." At a public dinner he was called upon, being a Past Grand Chaplain, like himself, of the Grand Lodge of England, to return thanks for that Society. He was received with acclamation, but when he proceeded to say, "Attached as I have been for so many years to this great Corporation," he induced a perplexity among his audience which was very painful. They wished to laugh, but durst not. There was a battle between mirth and manners. At last, happily, the Brother uttered a feeble joke, which was regarded as an outlet. The reservoir burst, and that man never before knew what a breadth of humour he had—larger even than his breadth of person.—"Westminster Gazette."

CONSECRATIONS.

ST. MICHAEL LODGE.

ONE of the most imposing ceremonies in the annals of Freemasonry in Newquay, and perhaps in the Province of Cornwall, was enjoyed on Saturday, when the Grand Secretary Bro. Letchworth consecrated and constituted a new Lodge in the town, St. Michael, No. 2747. The ceremony was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, by special dispensation, the Lodge-room not being sufficiently large to hold the numerous company present.

It was the first time in the annals of Cornish Freemasonry that the Grand Secretary conducted the ceremony of consecrating a new Lodge in the Province. A telegram was read from the Prov. G.M. the Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe regretting his inability to attend, and wishing every prosperity and success to Lodge St. Michael. Letters were also read regretting absence from Bro. Sir Graves-Sawle D.Prov.G.M., and many others.

The ceremony, conducted so very ably by the Grand Secretary, must have left a lasting impression on the minds of those privileged to witness it, and the eloquent oration by Bro. Rev. C. F. Mermagen on the Principles of Freemasonry was attentively listened to and appreciated by the Brethren, and was especially noticed by the Grand Secretary at a subsequent stage of the proceedings. The onerous position of D.C. was occupied by Bro. B. F. Edyvean Prov. G.Sec. Cornwall, who carried out the duties in a most able and efficient manner.

Bro. Colonel George J. Parkyn presented the Lodge with a handsome set of collars and jewels. The gold consecrating vessels were much admired by the Brethren. Bro. Silas Rickeard W.M. designate was installed by the Grand Secretary, and the Officers appointed.

A number of candidates for initiation and joining members were proposed and seconded, amongst the latter being Bro. P. Colville Smith S.G.D. England.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Brethren retired to the Victoria Hall (kindly lent for the occasion by Bro. Huxtable, and tastefully decorated by Mesdames Edyvean, Rickeard, and Hardwick) for luncheon, when Loyal and Masonic toasts were given, the Grand Secretary expressing his great pleasure at the reception given him, and at the splendid and successful inauguration of the new Lodge, which he hoped to visit again at no distant date.

Interesting speeches were made by Bro. Stocker P.G.Sec. Devon, Brother Capt. Eary, of Dominica Lodge (who responded for the Grand Lodge of Ireland), Bro. Pearce Couch, and others.

The members expressed their great indebtedness to Bro. Col. G. Parkyn, for his generosity and energy in establishing Lodge St. Michael under such brilliant auspices, and also to Bro. B. F. Edyvean for the great interest he had taken in the matter, and for the admirable arrangements he had made for carrying out the ceremony, which must have entailed a good deal of hard work on his part.

The Consecration of the Charles Dickens Lodge, No. 2757, will take place at the King's Head Hotel, Chigwell, Essex, on Tuesday next, 11th inst., at 4 o'clock. A convenient train will leave Liverpool Street Station for Buckhurst Hill at 2:38 p.m., and conveyances will meet it upon arrival to take visitors to Chigwell.

The City is essentially the home of Masonry, and few, indeed, are the City men occupying any position who cannot claim kinship with the Craft. It is not surprising, therefore,

that amongst the Masons who are members of the City of London Tradesmen's Club a suggestion has been made in favour of the formation of a Lodge, to consist exclusively of members of the Club. The initial steps have already been taken, and it is probable that the Prince of Wales will be asked in a very short while to grant a dispensation for the formation of the Lodge. Upwards of twenty members, I understand, have already expressed their willingness to become founders, while nearly as many more have put their names down as initiates. Naturally, no decision has been come to in reference to the place of meeting, but I understand that it is not improbable that the home of the Lodge will be the Cripplegate Institute. A more convenient spot it would be difficult to find.—“City Press.”

IRISH CHARITY.

THE cause of charity, and those noble institutions—the Masonic Orphan Schools for Boys and Girls—are especially dear to all Freemasons, and, in common with their Brethren all over Ireland, the members of the Craft in Lisburn and in the neighbourhood are deeply interested in the progress of the “Century Fund” in connection with the Masonic Orphan Boys School. The history of that Fund is soon told. Shortly after the Centenary celebration (in 1892) of the Masonic Female Orphan School the Governors resolved to make a similar effort on behalf of the Boys School, and to that end applied to the Royal Dublin Society for terms for use of the premises at Ball's Bridge. The rent paid for the premises in 1892 was £100, in addition to the payment of all expenses and cost of repairs consequent upon the celebration. The Governors tried to arrange similar terms for the 1900 celebration, but to this the Society would not agree, and the Governors subsequently increased their offer to £300. Still the Society did not consider this sufficient, and fixed terms at £500 down, or, as an alternative, £100 down and 3 per cent. on all profits. After lengthy consultation and discussion of ways and means the Committee in charge of the affair reluctantly came to the conclusion that with such a tax upon it the idea was not practicable, and the proposal to hold a bazaar was abandoned. Meanwhile, the School is in urgent need of additional funds. The School now numbers eighty, and it is hoped that this number may be increased, as the number of female pupils has been, to one hundred. The existing schoolrooms, however, are wholly unfit for their purpose. Plans and estimates have been obtained for the buildings which are indispensably necessary, and a capital sum of £5,000 is needed to provide additions and improvements suitable to the rest of the School, and worthy of the Order.

While £5,000 is thus essential, any additional funds would be most useful for the maintenance and enlargement of an Institution where nothing is allowed to go to waste, and where the results attained are as good with regard to economy as they are with regard to efficiency and beneficence. The decision of the Committee to abandon the proposal to hold a celebration was approved of by many generous supporters, who instead contributed to what is described as the Century Fund. Over £2,500 has already been promised, and the Governors have issued an appeal to all Lodges to help on the work. In response to this appeal Lodge No. 178, Lisburn, ever foremost in deeds of charity, determined to hold a grand service in Christ Church, at the same time generously undertaking to pay all expenses, so that the whole of the offertory should go to augment the fund. The idea was warmly received, enthusiastically carried out, and Sunday, 18th ult., saw it an accomplished fact. Bro. the Rev. R. S. O'Loughlin, D.D., Rector of Lurgan, consented to preach, and a large number of Provincial Grand Officers announced their intention of being present. The Brethren assembled and donned regalia in the Nicholson Memorial Schoolhouse, and, preceded by Bro. the Rev. J. Irvine Peacock (incumbent) and Bro. the Rev. Dr. O'Loughlin, marched to the Church.

Our reverend Brother took for his text 1 Corinthians xiii. 13—“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

In the course of his sermon he said—“Our institutions and our buildings always reflect the influences operating amongst us, and unconsciously they also often become interpreters to men of the forces controlling them. As a consequence, we frequently find similes and illustrations taken from the material to express the spiritual, or from the mechanical to express the moral. No better example could be adduced than the history of the Institution to which we

belong. Founded probably in those ages when those mighty Minsters were erected by devout souls to the glory of God, and for the service of His church, when by the necessity of the case, for mutual protection and comfort, the Craftsmen who built them would join themselves in guilds, under duly appointed officers, who would rule, protect, and direct them. When the strength that came from this union, and the help from mutual service, would be realised, the corporations would become more attractive, and therefore larger and more powerful, and when its powers would attract men to seek admission who were not really Craftsmen, but who for assistance would give assistance, the enlarged grasp of the union would speak of a larger union still, on a broader basis than that of a common Craft, or a common interest—a union for a common service; and in the struggles and confusions of life, its buffets and adversities, they would in their Craft find a suggestion of their purpose—a union for the glory of God, best realised in a Divine service.

Everywhere around them were suggestions and prophecy—in the chipping and fitting of stones to stones, in the mutual relationship of dependence and support, in the stately edifice that was being in the process of erection, but hidden in the forest of scaffolding, they read the purpose of life battered and shaped and polished by the stroke of adversity or the stress of tribulation. In the broken arch, the fretted roof, the towering spire, they found a continued parallel to their life's conditions; and when they saw the scaffolding removed, the confusion gone, and the noble pile stand out in its calm completeness to the glory of God, they saw a description and a parallel in the struggles and the confusion of life—a life and character being shaped for the glory of God, and in this thought school of theoretic Masonry would grow the formation of the material, and great moral and spiritual lessons bearing on this formation of character would be laid to heart. How best then to express the glory of God? is the question before our Craft? Is it not by expressing it through the Divine attribute of love? How far we come short in the performance of the duty is much to be deplored.

How much has been attained is the cause of deep thankfulness to the earnest Mason; not merely the good fellowship our Lodge meetings engender; not merely the kindly action which is promised and expected; but more by far than these the fraternal thought for the weak and distressed Brother; the anxious thought for the widow and orphan. This is the professed purpose of Masonry. Its elaborate ritual, its signs and passwords, its Lodge gatherings, its tiled doors, are but the accidents—the millinery of the Order. The spirit of philanthropy is its spirit and life. It is an order for edification, for building up, and therefore we point to its large charities as the true exponent of its spirit. The Masonic jewels we most value are the children of deceased Brethren residing in our orphanages. This is the expression of true religion. Pure and undefiled religion, said St. James, is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. And this spirit of charity manifesting itself in benevolence is the Divine Spirit; God is charity; charity is eternal; charity never faileth. As true Masons, as devout Christians, let us realise in living actions and loving thoughts more of its powers, and then we are realising more fully the purpose of our lives—the glory of God.

After the sermon the offertory was taken, and after the Benediction by Bro. the Rev. J. Irvine Peacock, the procession was reformed, and returned to the adjoining schoolhouse, thus bringing to a close a most impressive service.—“Lisburn Standard.”

The Columbia Lodge, No. 2397, which consists of English and American Brethren, held its ninth installation meeting on the 26th ult., at the Hotel Cecil, under the Mastership of Bro. R. Newton Crane, Barrister-at-Law, the president of the American Society in London. A large and distinguished company of home and Transatlantic Brethren attended, including several Grand Officers, among them being the Archdeacon of London, Bro. Gordon-Miller, and Bro. Imré Kiralfy. Colonel James Loockermann Taylor, Past President of the American Society in London, was installed Worshipful Master. The gallant Brother has also had a large experience of office in American Lodges. Bro. Newton Crane was invested as Immediate Past Master, and was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel. After the banquet the first toast was the Queen and the Craft, and the second the President of the United States and the Craft in America.

R. M. I. BOYS.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on Friday, 30th ult., at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Richard Eve Patron and Trustee in the chair. Amongst those in attendance were Bros. Everett, LeFeuvre, A. J. Thomas, Campbell-Johnstone, W. H. Kempster, M.D., Thos. Taylor, H. A. Tobias, J. W. Burgess, R. D. Cummings, R. Manuel, G. M. E. Hamilton, E. Hobbs, W. Rule, H. L. Davis, Geo. Chapman and J. M. McLeod Secretary.

On the report of the Petitions Committee twenty-four new cases were accepted, and the list for the October election was closed with thirty-six candidates for fifteen vacancies.

The Secretary mentioned that it was probable two of the cases would be withdrawn to fill vacant presentations, leaving thirty-four to proceed to election.

The report of the result of the 101st Anniversary Festival was received, and a hearty vote of thanks accorded to the Treasurer of the Institution Bro. Charles E. Keyser, for his able and generous presidency.

An interesting autograph letter of the late Duke of Sussex M.W.G.M., President of the Institution, was presented by Bro. Trehawke Davies, of the Drury Lane Lodge, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for same. The letter is as follows:—

To the Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

GENTLEMEN,

In acknowledging the receipt of certain Resolutions passed at your late meeting, and which have been forwarded to me by your direction, and concurring with you in the regret expressed on that occasion as to the retirement of the W. Bro. Moore from the office of Treasurer, which he has filled for so many years with equal credit to himself and advantage to the Charity, I have to observe that the post of Treasurer is elective, and therefore it becomes the duty of the supporters of the Institution in virtue of such right to exercise that power, while it behoves me only to suggest the name of an individual whom I conceive may be a fit and proper person to discharge the duties of that office; under this impression I venture to propose the name of the W. Bro. the Rev. Mr. Rodber, as one fully qualified for the purpose.

I am, Gentlemen,

(Signed), Augustus Fk. G.M. Pt.

Kensington Palace, 8th February 1841.

A MASONIC TRIP.

A BIG Masonic event is promised in the land of "big" ideas, as the following, cut from a Kansas paper, explains:

"The most unique event in the Masonic history of the west will be the pilgrimage we are arranging for next August, when we will take about 3,000 Masons from all over the country to Colorado, and confer the Cryptic degrees while on the summit of Pike's Peak," said Edward Wellington, of Ellsworth, Kansas.

"While all of the work will not be done at the summit, the Masonic obligations will be assumed by the candidates there, in a complete revival of the ancient customs of the Craft, when the degrees were conferred either in some lonely valley or in the mountain retreats.

"The plan was arranged first for the pleasure of the Kansas Masons, but when made public it attracted such widespread attention it became even more than national. I have already on hand over 300 applications, scattered from California to St. John, New Brunswick, and Montreal, Canada. During this week I will issue the invitation to join the party, and I expect to send out 20,000 of them.

"The pilgrimage will start from Kansas City on the morning of 6th August, and will last eight days. We go to Colorado Springs, then to Denver and up to the Peak. For the two days we will be there we will own the Cogwheel road and can handle over a thousand a day to the Peak. There will be an address by the Grand Master of California on the ancient customs. A big vault will be cut in the solid rock there, and in it will be placed the record of the event, the list of candidates and a lot of souvenirs. On top of the vault will be set a triangular plate bearing a suitable inscription that is being prepared by Dr. W. F. Kuhn, of Kansas City. The plate and vault will be put in charge of the war department signal station corps stationed there, and remain in its charge. After the ceremonies the party will return to Denver, where the remainder of the ceremonies will take place in the Tabor Grand Opera House. The fifty men who will have charge of the ceremonial work will be clad in ancient cryptic costume, with full scenic effects, and an orchestra of thirty Cryptic Masons will furnish the musical programme.

"It will be as imposing an event as has ever been seen

in Masonry. A banquet at the Brown Palace will follow, and later a special programme at the Tivoli gardens. Then we have a trip on special trains around the loop, and to other places, and back to Kansas City about 15th August.

"Kansas City will be the gathering place of the Masons for the trip, and we expect to take out four or more special trains with dining and commissary cars. I feel safe in saying no such interesting and pleasant trip has ever been planned before for Masons, and Kansas City will have a big delegation, I expect not less than 3,000 people to go, and expect a class of fully 1,200 to take the degrees."

It reads strange to see it recorded, as it is in the Masonic column of the "Glasgow Evening News," that two daughters of Bro. D. Murray Lyon Grand Secretary of Scotland were married in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, last Friday evening. Bro. Lyon is so respected by the Brethren of his Jurisdiction that we can well understand special arrangements being made in this case to pay him and his family a compliment. Our hearty good wishes to the chief figures in the interesting ceremonies.

Recently the Prince of Wales very properly discountenanced the appearance in public of "Masons clothed with the badges of the Order," but His Royal Highness relaxed this draconic but necessary command in favour of a fund which is now being raised for building a tower to the parish church of St. Mary, Hornsey. To aid this object a Masonic service was arranged, a dispensation having been granted for the Brethren to appear in Craft or Royal Arch "clothing," and the service was held on Sunday, 25th ult., by permission of the rector, the Rev. J. Jeakes, M.A., who is not a Mason. Some 1,500 persons, the majority being ladies, attended. The arrangements were admirable. The Brethren "clothed" in the old church, and marched in procession through a covered way to the new edifice, which is built in the same churchyard. Grand Lodge was represented by Bros. Littler, C.B., Q.C., W. J. Crump, J. Boulton, and James Terry (who acted as Director of Ceremonies); Mr. H. C. Stephens, M.P., represented Parliament; and, among others, Mr. Osterstock and Mr. J. Tollworthy, the City. A choir of seventy voices—forty-four of them boys—sang the processional, recessional, and offertory hymns and the anthems.—"Daily Telegraph."

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

A LARGE section of the community in North Wales, Freemasons especially, will learn with regret of the death, which occurred soon after ten o'clock on Saturday morning, at his residence, High Street, Bangor, after a short but severe illness, which, however, was practically hopeless from the first, of Bro. E. W. Thomas, professor of music, at the age of 61 years. Bro. Thomas was a quiet, unobtrusive man, but of the most genial temperament, and was loved as well as respected by a great number of people. He had at the time of his death the appointment of organist at St. Ann's Church, Bethesda, which he had held for forty years; the local Secretaryship of the Trinity College musical examinations, and registrar of marriages. In Masonry, Bro. Thomas was a Past Master of St. David's Lodge, No. 384, Bangor, the oldest in the Province, and he held rank as Provincial Grand Organist. He was W.M. of St. David's thirty-one years ago. He leaves a widow and four children to mourn his loss.

THE death of Bro. Thomas Barnes occurred somewhat suddenly at his residence, Heathercliffe, Walton Park, Clevedon, on Saturday afternoon, at the age of eighty-six. Bro. Barnes was appointed manager of Messrs. Stuckey's Banking Company, Clevedon branch, when it was opened in 1874 (having been in the company's service since 1842), which appointment he held until March 1884, when through advancing years he retired, much regret being felt at this decision. He was a prominent member of our Order, which he joined in 1838, being a member of the Grand Lodge of England, a P.P.G.W. of the Province of Somerset, P.M. of the Clevedon Coleridge Lodge (of which he was Secretary and Treasurer, and which he was largely instrumental in founding), P.Z. of the Adair Chapter (Clevedon), a member of the Knights Templars, &c. He was a director for many years of the Clevedon Gas Company, was a churchwarden of St. Mary's, Walton Park, for seventeen years, and took a great interest in the maintenance of that church, at which touching references were made to his death.

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FREEMASONRY IN MALTA.

A MALTA correspondent forwards the "Pall Mall Gazette" the following article from the "Gazzetta di Malta" of 26th May, which he thinks may be of interest to many readers in this country:—

The executive committee of the Anti-Masonic League has just been formally constituted under the high patronage of his Excellency the Archbishop of Malta, and its elements are such that they ensure its eminence and the earnestness of its work. Its object is, in view of local circumstances, to keep a watch on the Press and the people, without, however, losing sight of the corrupt doctrines and ideas that are stealthily creeping under different forms into the islands. The league holds its meetings in the Bishop's Palace, where he, besides his patronage, takes an active part in the proceedings.

Among its Officers we note Dr. P. Debono, one of Her Majesty's judges in the Superior Courts, President; the Hon. P. Trapani, a head of a department in the Civil Service, Vice-President; ordinary members, Judges Ganado and Pullicino, Magistrate P. Frendo Azzopardi; Drs. V. Frendo Azzopardi and S. Castaldi, Deputy Crown Advocate in Her Majesty's Criminal Court; F. Mizzi, editor of the "Gazzetta di Malta" and member of Government Council; Chevalier Galizia, late superintendent of Public Works, and others, in all, thirty-four members, of whom most are clergymen.

It appears that some believe, or pretend to believe, that the formation of this league was uncalled for and unnecessary, for they say that Masonry in Malta is purely a benevolent institution or, at worst, a toppers' club. Such is not the case. Freemasons aim at ousting the holy religion of our forefathers and supplanting it by Protestantism, and it is no exaggeration to add that the substitution of the English language in place of the Italian is another means of attaining that end. In fact, language is one of the insurmountable barriers against the extirpation of the Roman Catholic religion from these islands, therefore, there can be no doubt that there is not a single Mason, be he English or Maltese, who is not actuated by that motive in supporting so strenuously the introduction of the English language.

Moreover, let those who maintain, in good or bad faith, that no attempts were ever made to overthrow the Roman Catholic religion be reminded that ever since 1847 Freemasons took the trouble to scatter secretly among the lower classes, who swallow everything, a mutilated version of the Gospel in Maltese. We know for a fact that a tailor, who was supposed to be a very indifferent Catholic, received from London on several occasions packets containing scores of these spurious versions of the Gospel in Maltese, and it must be admitted these Maltese versions could not have been published for the use of English people or for the benefit of the Holy Church.

Undoubtedly they want to turn us Protestants, and they would surely have been far more successful if it were not for the great bulwark of the language. Let it therefore not be said, even for fun, that Masons in Malta are simply philanthropists or merry-makers. Masonry is one all over the world, and all Lodges are recognised by each other. Nay, according to history, English Masonry is the source of universal Masonry, although in Malta, for reasons easily understood, they try to pass it off as a harmless institution.

Meanwhile, the league, in order to warn the lower classes against subversive readings, have decided to renew the publication of a Maltese paper, formerly in great favour. The Bishop, to show his support to the publication of this paper, has addressed to Judge Debono, the president of the League, the following letter:—

MR. PRESIDENT,—The decision arrived at by the A.M.L. established by us over which you so worthily preside, to publish in Maltese a popular paper intended to diffuse sound notions among the people, and keep aloof from the errors which are spreading among us, is the proper means of fighting that wicked sect—the enemy of God and of mankind. In fact, this is the weapon which his Holiness Leo XIII., the reigning Pope, in his encyclical letter, "Humanum Genus," has strongly recommended to the Roman Catholic clergy and laity, so as to come out victorious in the great struggle between the powers of darkness and the children of light.

Although Masonry has not gained much ground here, still its spirit is pervading everywhere and everybody. Hence, religious indifference; hence, little regard, if not utter contempt, to constituted powers; hence, unbridled licentiousness in reading and conversation, and in the habits of life; hence the immorality which is eating away the very backbone of the Maltese upper classes. Your enterprise is holy and patriotic, and we not only bless it with all our heart, but recommend earnestly to all good Catholics to join you in supporting and encouraging your paper, &c.

As a mark of our goodwill and affection, we impart to you and all the members of the league our pastoral blessing.

P. ARCH. AND BISHOP OF MALTA.

To Judge Debono, President A.M.L.

CHESHIRE CHARITY.

A MEETING of the Committee of Benevolence of the Province of Cheshire was held at Crewe, on the 28th ult., Colonel Dean presiding. Several petitions for relief were considered, and grants made in necessitous cases.

Bro. Armstrong thought the time had come when the Committee might enlarge their work in this direction. Hitherto they had only made grants out of their interest on invested capital; but their income now was something like £300 or £400 a year, and he thought that to limit their grants to £120 a year was only stultifying the Charity Institution. In London the Masonic Fund yielded an income of about £2,000 a year, but the grants made in "needy" cases were five or six times that amount.

Bro. F. Broadsmith emphasised this, remarking that as far as possible any uninvested capital should be applied to relief cases. Bro. H. Jackson Vice-Chairman expressed his sympathy with the opinions of Bros. Armstrong and Broadsmith, and said the question for them to consider was whether they had sufficient now invested in the funds of the Institution, and whether it would be wise to trench upon their income from the Lodges. Bro. Byrom asked whether anything had been done in the direction of appealing to the Lodges in the Province for an annual subscription of two guineas to supplement the fund for the relief of necessitous cases. The Chairman said that the Charity Council had had the subject under consideration, and were quite unanimous in their opinion that it was one of the best things that had ever been proposed in the Province. An appeal had been made to the Lodges, and several had already responded to it. The question of enlarging the number of relief cases by four was deferred to the next meeting for consideration.

The chairman announced that the Earl of Egerton had exercised his power, as Provincial Grand Master, to present F. W. Potter on the foundation of the Boys Institution, and the meeting resolved to accept a boy and a girl for election to the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls.

Messrs. J. Lyons and Co. are prepared to provide dinners at the Crystal Palace, on Sundays, at the usual Table d'Hôte prices, 5/- and 7/6, between the hours of 6 and 8.30 p.m., in the Garden Hall. Tables will be reserved if ordered in advance. The Picture Gallery, with new collection of pictures, is now open on Sundays.

THE CRITERION RESTAURANT, PICCADILLY.

THE EAST ROOM RE-OPENED

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Cuisine and Wines.*

The East Room has been entirely Re-modelled and Re-decorated in Louis XV. style, and the windows lowered to the ground.

The East Room, approached either from Piccadilly or Jermyn Street, is now one of the most comfortable and elegant salons in Europe.

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The Criterion Restaurant,
PICCADILLY.

ROYAL

MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS, Wood Green, London, N.

Grand Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President: His Royal Highness THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

A QUARTERLY COURT of the GOVERNORS and SUBSCRIBERS will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Friday, the 14th day of July 1899, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Institution, and to confirm the Minutes of 14th April, so far as relates to the alteration in Law 30.

To consider the following Notice of Motion by the V.W. Bro. Richard Eve P.G. Treasurer, Patron and Trustee, Chairman of the Board of Management:—

"That Law 46 be altered as follows (the words in small capitals being an addition to the existing Law):—

"Patrons, Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents, Life Governors, Life Subscribers, and Annual Subscribers of One Guinea of at least two consecutive years' standing—NOT BEING MINORS, shall alone be entitled to attend and vote at Quarterly or Special Courts."

To decide upon the number of Boys to be Elected at the Quarterly Court on Friday, 13th October 1899, and to determine the List of Candidates.

The Chair will be taken at Four o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

By order, J. M. McLEOD, Secretary.

Offices: 6 Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.,
6th July 1899.

** The 102nd ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will be held in June 1900, under distinguished Presidency. The services of Ladies and Brethren as Stewards on the occasion are earnestly solicited, and will be gratefully acknowledged.

NEW PALACE STEAMERS, LTD.

Daily Sailings from Old Swan Pier, London Bridge,

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"KOH-I-NOOR," to Southend and Margate,
at 8.50 a.m. (Tuesdays and Fridays excepted).

By "ROYAL SOVEREIGN," to Margate and Ramsgate,
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Special Trains from Fenchurch Street at 9.45 a.m. for "Koh-i-Noor," and 10.28 a.m. for "Royal Sovereign," also from St. Pancras at 9.20 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and 9.50 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays.

"LA MARGUERITE," from Tilbury,

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, to Margate and Boulogne and back.
On Tuesdays to Margate and Ostend and back.
On Sundays to Southend and Margate and back.

Special Trains from Fenchurch Street Station—Mondays, 7.20 a.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6.15 a.m.; Saturdays, 7.45 and 8.3 a.m. (St. Pancras, 8 a.m.); Sundays, 9.35 a.m. and 9.45 a.m. (St. Pancras, 9.40 a.m.).

"LA BELGIQUE," from Tilbury,

to Southend, Margate, and Ostend, on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, returning following days. Special Train from Fenchurch Street, 8.38 a.m.

Return fares from Old Swan Pier or Fenchurch Street Station to Margate, 5s First Saloon, 4s Second Saloon. Boulogne or Ostend, 13s 6d.

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Week-days.

	Day Service.	Night Service.
PADDINGTON dept.	- 8.50 a.m.	9.45 p.m.
WEYMOUTH "	- 1.30 p.m.	2.15 a.m.
GUERNSEY arr.	- 5.30 "	6.30 "
JERSEY "	- 7.30 "	9.0 "
JERSEY dept.	8.30 a.m.	
GUERNSEY "	10.15 "	

PADDINGTON arr. 7.15 p.m. by Special Boat Train.

CHANNEL ISLANDS EXCURSIONS EVERY SATURDAY by DAY and NIGHT SERVICES, for a fortnight or less. Return Fare 24/6.

During JULY, AUGUST, and SEPTEMBER, SPECIAL FAST EXCURSIONS, for a week, a fortnight, &c., will leave PADDINGTON STATION, as under:—

EVERY WEDNESDAY, to SHREWSBURY, Welshpool, ABERYST-WYTH, Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Festiniog, DOLGELLEY, BARMOUTH, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bettws-y-coed, Carnarvon, Llanberis (for SNOWDON), &c.

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT, to Chepstow, Monmouth, Newport, CARDIFF, SWANSEA, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY, to Clevedon, Bridgwater, TAUNTON, Tiverton, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT, to CHESTER, Birkenhead and LIVERPOOL.

EVERY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHT, to WESTON.

EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY NIGHT, and SATURDAY, to Dawlish, Teignmouth, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY and SATURDAY, to MINEHEAD, TORQUAY, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY, to NEWBURY, Devizes, TROWBRIDGE, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT, to the SCILLY ISLANDS.

EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY, to SAVERNAKE, Marlborough, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT and SATURDAY, to EXETER, PLYMOUTH, &c.; and to DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN).

EVERY FRIDAY and MONDAY, to SWINDON, Stroud, GLOUCES-TER, Cheltenham, HEREFORD, &c.

EVERY SATURDAY, to FROME, Shepton Mallet, Wells, YEOVIL, Bridport, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH, Portland, Lynton, LYNMOUTH, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, Yealmpton, Tavistock, Launceston, &c.

EVERY SATURDAY and MONDAY, to BATH, BRISTOL, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY, HALF-DAY TRIP, to STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Banbury, and LEAMINGTON.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND, THURSDAYS, 20th July, 3rd, 17th, 31st August, 14th and 28th September, for CORK and KILLARNEY.

FRIDAYS, 21st July, 4th, 18th August, 1st, 15th, and 29th September, for WATERFORD, Dungarvan, Lismore Clonmel, Tipperary, Kilkenny, KILLARNEY, BELFAST, Armagh, Enniskillen, Larne, GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, &c.

CHEAP DAY THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS are issued DAILY by certain trains to WINDSOR (2s 6d), MAIDENHEAD (3s), Marlow (3s 6d), HENLEY (3s 6d), Goring (5s 6d), &c.

Tickets, bills, pamphlets and COUNTRY LODGING LISTS, can be obtained at the Company's Stations, and at the usual Receiving Offices.

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TRAIN SERVICE now in operation.— WEEK DAYS.**

**Corridor Trains, with Luncheon, Tea, and Dining
Cars, from Euston at 10.0 a.m., 11.30 a.m., and
2.0 p.m., for Edinburgh and Glasgow.**

	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	A	C	B	X	X
London (Euston) dep.	5 15	7 10	10 0	11 30	2 0				
Edinburgh (Princes St.) arr.	3 50	5 50	6 30	7 55	10 30			6 30	7 50
Glasgow (Central) ...	3 30	6 0	6 45	7 55	10 30			6 45	7 50
Greenock ...	4 22	5 7	7 40	9 13	11 17			8 0	9s22
Gourock ...	4 34	7 15	7 50	9 22	11 27			8s11	9s10
Oban ...	9 5			4 45			8 45	11s55	2s 5
Perth ...	5 30		8 0		12 20	4 45	5 20	7 50	9s10
Inverness, via Dunkeld ...					5 10	9 10		X	1s50
Dundee ...	7 15		8 40		1 5		6 30	8 50	9s45
Aberdeen ...	9 5		10 15		3 0		7 15	X	11s25
Ballater ...					8 55		9 45		2s 0
Inverness, via Aberdeen ...					7 50		12 5		4s38

s On Saturday nights the 8.50, and 11.50 p.m. trains from Euston do not convey passengers to stations marked s (Sunday mornings in Scotland).

X—Passengers for Inverness and Aberdeen must leave London by the 8.50 p.m. train on Saturday nights. The 11.50 p.m. has no connection to those Stations on that night.

A—On Saturdays passengers by the 2.0 p.m. train from London are not conveyed beyond Perth by the Highland Railway, and only as far as Aberdeen by the Caledonian Railway.

B—The Night Express leaving Euston at 8.0 p.m. will run every night (except Saturdays).

C—Passengers by the 7.45 p.m. from Euston will arrive at Inverness at 8.35 a.m. from 25th July to 12th August. This Train does not run on Saturday nights.

A Special Train will leave Euston (Saturdays and Sundays, and Friday, 4th August, excepted) at 6.20 p.m., up to 8th August, inclusive, for the conveyance of horses and private carriages to all parts of Scotland. A special carriage for the conveyance of dogs will be attached to this train.

On Friday, 4th August, Horses and Private Carriages for Scotland will not be accepted for loading at Euston Station, but arrangements will be made for dealing with them at Kensington (Addison Road) Station. A Special Train will leave Kensington (Addison Road) at 6.0 p.m.

For further particulars see the Companies' Time Tables, Guides and Notices.

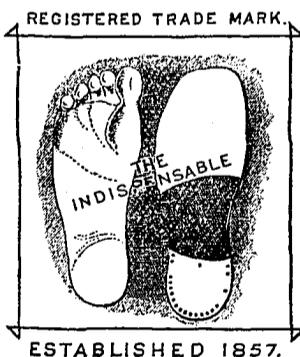
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Masonic Parties, Picnics, Summer Outings, &c., attended to or supplied on special terms. Families waited upon daily. Distance no object.

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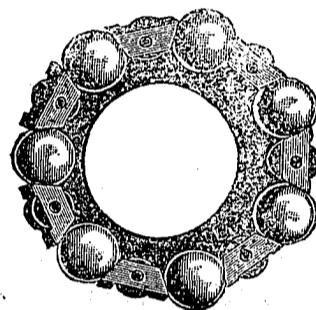
EVERY FRIDAY, at MIDNIGHT, and EVERY SATURDAY, from St. Pancras, at 5.15 a.m. and 10.5 a.m. each week, also at 9.0 a.m. until 2nd September inclusive, to DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN, for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days.

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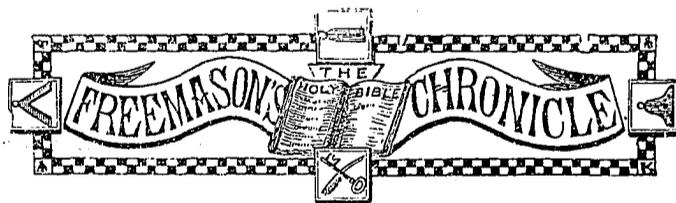
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SATURDAY, 8TH JULY 1899.

GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

THE Quarterly Communication was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on the 21st ult.

Comp. R. S. Brown Grand Scribe submitted an abstract of the general accounts for the year ending 22nd February last. It showed that the income had amounted to £858, and the expenditure to £508; that the general funds now amount to £7,822, and the Charity fund to £1,500. There had been 1,300 new members admitted to the Order.

ROYAL ARCH.

—:o:—

TRUTH CHAPTER, No. 1458.

A MEETING was held at the Mosley Hotel, Manchester, on Thursday, 22nd ult.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, a successful ballot was taken for Brother William Mosley P.M. Albert Victor Lodge, No. 1773, who was afterwards exalted into Royal Arch Masonry by Companion George T. Lenard Z., in his usual careful manner.

At the festive board which succeeded, Loyal and Arch toasts were honoured, the musical portion being furnished by Comps. Herbert G. Ward H., Thos. Threlfall P.S., Nelson Stokes 1st A.S., and John J. Dean 2nd A.S. Others present were Comps. W. Richardson S.N., T. H. Hall P.Z. Treas., Geo. F. Critchley. Visitors: Comps. John Williams P.Z. 935 P.P.G.S.B., and H. G. Walker S.E. 581.

o o o

LULLINGSTONE CHAPTER, No. 1837.

ONE of the most convenient, yet unostentatious, little Masonic temples that we have had the pleasure to visit is situated at Wilmington, a suburb of Dartford, Kent, and it was to this place that several Companions of the district wended their way on Tuesday, to take part in the quarterly convocation of the Lullingstone Chapter. At the request of the M.E.Z. Comp. J. G. Turner, the Principals' Chairs were occupied by Comps. H. Forss, Orton Cooper and W. Hawker, as Z., H. and J. respectively. The first business was the installation of the H. and J.-elect, and therefore, before the admission of the Companions, a Board of Installed Principals was formed, when Comps. William Hawker and A. J. Engley were duly inducted to their seats in the Chapter. The Companions were then admitted, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed.

The ballot was then taken on behalf of Bros. George Chomlet Realf, of 483, and Frederick Lincoln Sutton, of 1329, which proving unanimous, they were introduced and subsequently exalted into the Supreme Degree.

All the ceremonies were admirably worked by Comp. Forss, at a very short notice, and elicited the approval of those present. A vote of thanks was subsequently accorded to Comp. Forss for his services, and the fact was ordered to be entered on the minutes. The work of Comp. Forss was ably assisted by the Officers, especially Comp. Spencer Bowen, who was a most efficient P.S.

Upon the termination of the business the Chapter was closed, and the Companions proceeded to the dining room, where an excellent repast was provided, and the evening was spent in pleasant converse.

Besides those mentioned above there were present Comps. Charles Hind P.Z., Ernest Ingman Scribe E., J. A. Gillett Scribe N., A. Langley, C. Percy Bowen 483, Richard Vivian 483, &c.

The Masonic Hall contains some rare old Masonic prints and curiosities, which are well worthy of inspection, and which Bro. George Randall, the caretaker, will be pleased to show to any inquiring Brethren.

ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR.

—:o:—

CHAMPION CONCLAVE, No. 26.

A MEETING of this Conclave was held at the Palatine Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday, 20th ult., Bro. Henry Taylor Grundy Supreme Ruler, there being a good attendance of members.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the Visiting Deacons delivered their report, mention being made of the honour conferred upon the S.R. (At a meeting of the Grand Conclave, to be held at the Hotel Cecil, London, on the following day, Bro. Grundy, who had been appointed Grand Bow Bearer, would be invested as such by the G.S.R. the Earl of Warwick Deputy Grand Master in the Craft, and Provincial Grand Master of Essex.) Bro. Grundy was warmly complimented on his accession to the roll of Grand Officers, and responded in suitable terms.

A very excellent dinner followed the proceedings.

An interesting ceremony took place in the New Masonic Hall, Worcester, on Monday, 26th ult., when Colonel Warner Ottley, late of Malvern, was presented, on behalf of the Worcestershire Brethren, by the Provincial Grand Master Sir A. F. Godson, M.A., M.P., with a silver tea and coffee service, together with candlesticks and bowls, in recognition of his faithful work as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Worcester, on his retirement from that office. There was a large gathering of Brethren from the various Lodges in the Province. Sir A. F. Godson made a very flattering speech in presenting the gift, and Colonel Ottley acknowledged it in suitable terms.

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£6 6s and £6 16s 6d Swiss Tours—Geneva and Grindelwald.

Extensions to Chamonix, Zermatt, Lucerne, and the Italian Lakes, the Tyrol, the Engadine, &c.

£3 13s 6d Paris Tour. £3 13s 6d Cologne and Antwerp Tour.

Norwegian Fjord Cruises, £10 10s and upwards.

Cruise to the Northern Capitals of Europe, £22 1s and upwards.

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Special Masonic Cruise to the Holy Land, Egypt, Athens, &c.

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Cycling Tours in Great Britain and on the Continent.

World's Tour 190 guineas.

Full particulars from the Secretary, 5 Endsleigh Gardens, Euston, London, N.W.

CATHOLICS AND FREEMASONRY.

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

SIR,—When "A. M." states that the "Oddfellows . . . are condemned by the Church" he speaks with more definitiveness than does the Church herself. Will he kindly enlighten us with his authority for the condemnation? Among the "Nobis Reservati" mentioned in my "Faculties" it says: "e.g., Massonica, vel alii ejusdem generis adscripti." Oddfellowship bears no possible resemblance to Freemasonry. It is not even a secret society.

I can easily understand why "Prophet" was not initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Freemasons are no dullards, and no doubt they not only detected "Prophet's" object in pretending to join them, but they also were keen to the knowledge that a man who could treat so flippantly the sanctity of his religion could be no fit custodian of the secrets of Freemasonry.

Nearly twenty years ago I had a very dear Protestant friend who was high up in the Masonic Craft, yet who would often say to me: "For God's sake, never be a Mason! Would to God I could have known what Masonry meant: I never would have joined; but it would mean ruin to my family to give it up now." I have another Protestant friend—also a Mason well advanced in the Craft, or rather he was—and he will put himself to any inconvenience to prevent young men from becoming Masons. The reason he gives for his inconsistency is that "The devil's in it!" I enclose my card and remain in more senses than one an

ODDFELLOW.

15th May 1899.

SIR,—I am sending you by this post a copy of the "Rivista Antimassonica Universale," published in Rome by the "Union Antimassonica Universale," in which you will find (see page 234) reproduced Mr. T. May's letter as it appeared in the "Catholic Times" not long ago, with a forcible reply to the same (see page 235 of the above-mentioned periodical) from the pen of the editor, who has devoted the last twenty years of his life to study and combat Freemasonry.

Please do publish the reply for the good of all those persons who have a benignant opinion of the Craft through ignorance of its real nature and deeds. I should suggest to them also to read regularly the "Rivista Antimassonica," or "La Franco-Magonnerie Demasquée," in order to know exactly the doings of Freemasons and their object in view.

The "Roman Question," to begin with, and many other anti-Catholic deeds are the work not of the Italian, French, or Spanish, and the like nations as nations, but simply of Freemasons, who are found everywhere and form a majority in the governative bodies of the same nations, viz: in the Ministry, Parliamentary Chambers, Army and Navy, Courts of Justice, Local Boards, &c.

The Catholics abroad are having a fierce struggle with the different Masonic Lodges for religious liberty, justice, and morals. But they need help and support, which they are patiently expecting, especially from England, from which place it is the general belief on the Continent Freemasonry was imported into their respective countries; and the same is there supported at the present day morally, if not materially and financially, by the English Freemasons.

Are not the Catholics abroad backing, with reason, and in different ways the Catholics in these islands in their religious battles at home? And why should the Catholics here remain apparently passive before the ever-growing struggle which is going on between our Continental brethren and the members of the impious and turbulent Craft?

Are not their interests ours, and ours theirs? It is true a certain number of Masses are annually offered up through the Catholic Union of Great Britain for the delivery of the Holy Father from his present sad position; prayers are also said by Catholics in this country for the welfare of the Catholic religion abroad as well as at home; protests are here made from pulpits and platforms every now and then against the aggressions, robberies, and vexations of different descriptions, which take place in Italy, France, and so on to destroy the Catholic Church; but, to my knowledge, up to the present day nothing in England has been done directly to strike the Continental enemies of the Catholic Church, who are, to call them by their proper name, Freemasons.

Again, in denouncing the latter it seems that here one dare not even call them by their own name. For instance, the following utterances are used: The "Italian Government," the "French Parliament," or the "Spanish Ministry," instead of saying more correctly the "Italian Freemasons," the "French Freemasons," &c., have issued such an anti-Catholic decree or a similar assertion.

Here may come the old excuse that English Freemasonry has nothing to do with the Freemasonry abroad, therefore it does not interest the Catholics here. To this I repeat what has been already said above, that is—Are not the Catholic interests abroad ours, and vice versa? Again, does not the "Roman question" interest us as it does the Catholics all over the world?

Again, who can tell us whether there is no connection whatever between English and Continental Freemasons? No profane, to use the expression of the Craft, and not even its members of the first and second degree, can enlighten us on that point.

Coming to the practical side of all that has been said, may I suggest—(1) that the Catholic Truth Society would acquire more importance by adding to its publications some tracks on Freemasonry; (2) that some of us interested in the matter bring every now and then this important subject before the English public through the local press; (3) that the clergy speak from the pulpit and public orators from the platforms to enlighten the people as to the nature and deeds of the Craft; (4) that prayers, Masses, and Holy Communion be offered for the conversion of the members of Freemasonry, as is already done in several countries; (5) that the number of subscribers to the above-mentioned anti-Masonic periodicals be increased; (6) that the headquarters of the anti-Masonic association established in Rome be financially supported by an annual offering.

Trusting that some good result will follow the publication of this letter, and that a national anti-Masonic committee, in connection with the one in Rome, may be formed soon, as has already been done in many countries.

Yours, &c.,

J. CLEMENTE,

Slough, 15th June 1899.

P.S.—I am willing to assist any one who would like to put himself in direct communication with the publishers of the above mentioned papers, as well as for the sending of any donation to the Treasurer of the committee of the anti-Masonic Association in Rome. Leo XIII. has blessed the Anti-

Masonic Association and has condemned more than once, like several of his predecessors, Freemasonry all over the world.

[We cannot find space for a translation of the long article in the "Rivista Antimassonica;" but its general drift is to the effect that Masonry is atheistic, and the writer recommends Mr. May to read Hutchinson's "Spirit of Freemasonry," edited by Rev. George Oliver (Richard Spencer, 314 High Holborn, London, 1853), which proves that Masonry is an adorer of "the great Mesauraneo," in other words of the sun.—Ed. C.T.]

FREEMASONS IN KILTS.

THE doings of the members of Kilwinning Lodge, the Scottish organisation of Masons, which meets in Brooklyn, New York State, and who recently appeared in the kilts of their native country at the initiation of three entered apprentices, have interested members of the Craft of other Lodges in the States. The suggestion (says the "Brooklyn Eagle") now comes from an American and a Mason, who is not in any way connected with the people of Kilwinning, that the feature should be made permanent.

"There is every reason to believe," said this Mason, "that the appearance of the Officers of the Lodge in kilts at each installation would be a great thing for the Order. I am a Canadian by birth, and the spectacle of men in kilts is not at all unusual to me. But as an American citizen, I have learned to appreciate the fact that our people in America like to be entertained. I was at the latest communication of Kilwinning Lodge, and was mightily interested in the proceedings."

It is not at all likely that the suggestion of the outsider will be adopted, although the men of Kilwinning are loyal to the land of their birth. Yet there is a belief that the costume may be adopted. There has been so much criticism about the fact that they departed from the precedent so long obtaining in this country as to appear in kilts that they are not at all pleased with the notoriety or prominence, to use a gentler word, that their work the other night called forth among Masons. Scottish Masons are pre-eminently hospitable to visiting Brothers. That fact is attested by Dr. Peacocke, of the Health Department, who says he never had a jollier time than when he visited a Lodge in Glasgow—by the way, another Kilwinning Lodge.

"You never saw such a time," said the doctor. "After the Lodge was called off, it seemed to me as if tables stored bountifully with the best things in the way of meat and drink in the land grew up like mushrooms in the Lodge room. I shall never forget that night."

The suggestion that the members of the Lodge should appear in the Highland garb has been repeated to several members of the Lodge.

"What dae ye think?" asked Maister Cook, the Junior Warden. "Are they gaun tae see us every night dressed up like Guisers? There's nae yis fur us tae be showin' oor legs tae thae fellae every night. If ony veisitors come tae see us we wull gie them a guid Scottish welcome, but that's aw there is about it. Wer's no goin' tae mak' a show o' coorsels every night that the Lodge has a communication."

"A' dinnae see ony hairm in it, Eck," said Mr. McDougall, who is alleged to own a costume of the Highlands worth from 200 to 300 dollars, with all its wealth of cairngorms and jewels. "A' dinnie see ony hairm in it. A'm suire we can afford it. We're aw rich."

"It'll be an awfu' expense," suggested Jeemie Lamberton. "Maybe the Lodge 'ull pit up price. But it'll be an awfu' tax on the Officers if this thing gangs through."

"A'd be in favour," said Maister Keer, "o' every man weirin' the same kind o' tartan if this gangs through. Something prominent—like the Macdonald tartan—that's really a verra bonnie thing. Ye ken it's a fou o' colour. Red an' white an' green an' blue—a' mixed up thegither."

"That would be verra weel," assented Samuel Macdonald, one of the first Trustees of the Lodge, in his dignified Inverness way, "but who is going to select these garments? Who will pay for them after they are selected?"

"Dinnae fash yersel' aboot that," said Brother Jenkins, who is not an Officer. "A' think we're aw wullin' tae pit up if it's the general sentiment o' the Lodge."

"I'm quite sure," said Mr. Macdonald, and, as an Inverness man, secure in his use of the English language, "that as far as I am concerned there will be no objection to putting my hand in my pocket for anything that will be of any benefit to members of the Order."

"Man, yer richt," ejaculated Brother Colquhoun, who had his demit to the Lodge from a sister Lodge in far-way Caledonia, "man, yer richt. Aw'll pit ma han' in ma pocket for anything that'll help us oot. A think that onything that'll help the Scots in this country or that will forward the glorious cause o' oor Fraternal Order'll be a guid thing. A'm a Scotsman, but first, last, an' aw the time A'm a Mason."

As a matter of fact, the idea seemed to strike the members of the Lodge as a remarkably good thing, and it came with greater force from an outsider than if it had been suggested in the Lodge meetings.

It may be that the suggestion from the outside may take root in the Lodge, which in its brief career has caused much commotion in the Masonic world. If the Officers and the members decide that there shall be a kilted uniform to the Officers, it is needless to say that the sporan will be replaced by the apron, and that, instead of the cairngorm, as the favourite Scottish jewel, the Caledonian smoky topaz, is known, will be replaced by the more fitting jewels of the members of the ancient Craft.—"Leeds Mercury."

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LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

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

Monday.	
1366 Highgate, Midland Grand H'tl.	498 Royal Standard, Dudley
1922 Earl of Lathom, Camberwell	654 Peveril of the Peak, New Mills
2426 Wood Green, Wood Green	661 Fawcett, Seaham Harbour
68 Royal Clarence, Bristol	666 Benevolence, Dartmoor
75 Love and Honour, Falmouth	679 St. David, Aberdare
105 Fortitude, Plymouth	708 Carnarvon, Hampton Court
106 Sun, Exmouth	730 Ellesmere, Chrcley
151 Albany, Newport, I. of Wight	731 Arboretum, Derby
189 Sincerity, East Stonehouse	755 St. Tudno, Llandudno
237 Indefatigable, Swansea	851 Worthing Friendship, Worthing
240 St. Hilda, South Shields	906 Royal Albert Edward, Bath
297 Whitham, Lincoln	1018 Shakespeare, Bradford
303 Benevolent, Teignmouth	1091 Erme, Ivybridge
330 One and All, Bodmin	1094 Temple, Liverpool
481 St. Peter, Newcastle-on-Tyne	1107 Cornwallis, Chiselhurst
589 Druid Love & Lib., Redruth.	1140 Ashton, Heaton Moor
643 Royal, Filey	1181 De la Pole, Seaton
671 Prince of Wales, Llanelly	1209 Lewises, Ramsgate
797 Hauley, Dartmouth	1248 Denison, Scarborough
884 Derwent, Wirksworth	1331 Aldershot Camp, Aldershot
893 Meridan, Millbrook	1342 Walker, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1221 Defence, Leeds	1356 Toxteth, Liverpool
1302 De Warren, Halifax	1398 Baldwin, Dalton-in-Furness
1408 Stamford & Warr'gton, St'yb'ge	1400 Curwen, Workington
1436 Castle, Sandgate	1547 Liverpool, Liverpool
1449 Royal Military, Canterbury	1643 Perseverance, Hebburn-on-Tyne
1496 Trafford, Moss Side	1855 St. Maurice, Plympton
1611 Eboracum, York	1879 Lord Warkworth, Amble
1618 Handyside, Saltburn-by-Sea	1932 Whitworth, Spennymoor
1691 Quadratic, Hampton Court	1958 St. George, Portsea
1792 Tudor, Harborne	2156 Arthur Sullivan, Manchester
1885 Torridge, Great Torrington	2294 Wavertree, Wavertree
1948 Hardman, Rawtenstall	2389 Avondale, Middlewich
1952 High Peak, Chapel-en-le-Frith	2423 St. Mark, Connah Quay
1966 Fidelity & Sincerity, Wellington	2450 Loxfield, Uckfield
2376 Carnarvon, Leyland	2483 Hadrian, Westham
2422 Ebbisham, Epsom	2504 Earl of Warwick, Buckh'rst Hill
2487 St. Michael, Stone	
2584 Queen Victoria, Manchester	

Tuesday.	
167 St. John, Hampstead Heath	1642 Earl of Carnarvon, Ladbroke-h.
131 Fortitude, Truro	2523 Roll Call, Hounslow
184 United Chatham, New Bro'pton	35 Medina, Cowes
241 Merchant, Liverpool	130 Royal Gloucester, South'mpton
272 Harmony, Boston	216 Harmonic, Liverpool
319 New Forest, Lymington	333 Royal Preston, Preston
371 Perseverance, Maryport	369 Limestone Rock, Clitheroe
473 Faithful, Birmingham	381 Harmony & Industry, Darwen
496 Peace & Harmony, St. Austell	437 Science, Wincanton
603 Zetland, Cleckheaton	546 Etruscan, Longton
626 Lansdowne Unity, Chippenham	816 Royd, Littleboro'
696 St. Bartholomew, Wednesbury	973 Royal Somerset, Frome
764 H'rbour of Refuge, W. H'tlep'l.	991 Tyne, Wallsend
829 Sydney, Sidcup	1099 Huyshe, Stoke, Devonport
877 Royal Alfred, Jersey	1145 Equality, Acerington
897 S. Helen of Loyalty, St. Helen's	1182 Duke of Edinburgh, Liverpool
967 Three Grand Principles, Penryn	1213 Bridgewater, Eccles
1021 Hartington, Barrow-in-Furness	1273 St. Michael, Sittingbourne
1073 Greta, Keswick	1587 Chorlton, Chorlton-cum-Hardy
1220 Solway, Aspatria	1416 Falcon, Thirsk
1250 Gilbert Greenall, Warrington	1495 Arkwright, Matlock Bath
1267 Kenlis, Egremont	1583 Corbet, Towyn
1314 Acacia, Bromley	1697 Hospitality, Waverfoot
1373 St. Hubert, Andover	1750 Coleridge, Clevedon
1402 Jordan, Torquay	1915 Graystone, Whitstable
1476 Blackpool, Blackpool	1992 Tennant, Cardiff
1528 Fort, Newquay	2234 Onslow, Guildford
1545 Baildon, Baildon	2262 Dagmar, Wraysbury
1713 Wilbraham, Walton-on-the-Hill	2278 Kingswood, Broxbourne
1837 Lullingstone, Willmington	2285 Eden, Workington
1847 Ebrington, Stonehouse	2343 Sir William Harpur, Bedford
2099 Ethelbert, Herne Bay	2372 James Terry, Waltham Cross
2134 Wilberforce, Hull	2420 Fd. de Rothschild, Waddesdon
2222 Frederick West, East Molesey	2449 Duke of York, Manchester
2492 Concordia, Wendover	2501 Ixion, Buckhurst Hill

Wednesday.	
Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, F.M.H., at 4.	Gen. Court Boys' School, F.M.H., at 12.
13 Union Waterloo, Plumstead	1602 Sir Hugh Myddelton, Islington
1629 United, Freemasons'-hall	81 Doric, Woodbridge
1827 Alliance, Guildhall Tavern	458 Aire and Calder, Goole
1986 Honor Oak, Upper Norwood	526 Honour, Wolverhampton
2528 Lancastrian, Frascati	1001 Harrowgate & Claro, Harr'wg'te
2581 Empress, Earl's Court	1087 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard
84 Doyle of Friendship, Guernsey	1102 Mirfield, Mirfield
125 Prince Edwin, Hythe	1121 Wear Valley, Bishop Auckland
187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol	1428 United Service, Landport
274 Tranquility, Newchurch	1605 De la Pole, Hull
277 Friendship, Oldham	1676 St. Nicholas, Newcastle-on-Tyne
281 Fortitude, Lancaster	1826 Parthenon, Croydon
288 Harmony, Todmorden	1983 Martyn, Southwold
323 Concord, Stockport	2554 Manchester, Manchester
	2558 Furnival, Sheffield

Saturday.	
1185 Lewis, Wood Green	1556 Addiscombe, Croydon
1329 Sphinx, Camberwell	1871 Gostling Murray, Hounslow
2041 West Kent Volunteer, Plums'd.	2035 Beaumont, Kirkburton
2308 Viator, Anderton's	2228 Dene, Cookham Dene
811 Yarborough, Brighton	2381 Bushey Park, Hampton Court
1326 Lebanon, Feltham	2437 Downshire, Wokingham
	2458 Eton, Eton

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

DUKE OF ATHOL LODGE, No. 210.

THE thirty-first annual picnic was held on Monday, 19th ult., the place selected being Bakewell, Derbyshire, with a carriage drive to Over Haddon (for Lathkill Dale), Allport, and Youlgrave, and by special permission through the Duke's Drive, returning via Bradford Dale and Haddon Hall.

The arrangements for the day were as follow, viz., Bus from Bowling Green Hotel, Denton, 8.20 a.m.; Saloons from Belle Vue Station, Manchester, 8.50; arrive at Bakewell, 10.39; conveyances to Rutland Arms Hotel, where the party breakfasted in the large room with Brethren and friends of the Minnehaha Minstrel Lodge; drive, 12.0; dinner at Rutland Arms Hotel, 5.30 p.m.; train from Bakewell, 7.43; arrival at Belle Vue Station, 8.45, and then 'bus to Denton.

It was a large party of fifty-six persons, and under the efficient guidance of Bros. Thomas Woolfenden Worshipful Master, and Dr. Thomas D. Foreman P.M. P.P.S.G.D. Secretary, a very successful outing resulted.

LODGE OF FAITH, No. 581.

THE last meeting prior to the summer vacation was held at the Bradford Hotel, Mill Street, Manchester, on Wednesday, 21st ult., Brother Charles H. Griffiths Worshipful Master.

The principal business of the evening was that of raising Bro. David Holland to the sublime degree of M.M., the ceremony being performed by the W.M., who also gave the traditional history, and explained the tracing board to Bros. Holland, Toyn, Ogden, Lawton, Rimmer, and Bailey, and the latest "Faith" candidates into Freemasonry. Bro. Griffiths crowned his really stupendous labours by presenting and explaining the working tools of the third degree to Bro. Holland. The ceremonial all through was well performed, and reflected great credit, not only upon the W.M., but also upon the various Officers, who acquitted themselves in a very satisfactory manner.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were interspersed with songs, &c., a pleasant evening being spent.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 581.

THE regular meeting was held at the Old Boar's Head Hotel, Withy Grove, Manchester, on Tuesday, 27th ult. In the absence of Bro. Alfred Hebdon Preceptor, the duties of the position were undertaken by Bro. George T. Lenard P.M. Treasurer.

Lodge was opened by Bro. Geo. W. Davies P.M. P.P.G.A.P. Sec., the other principal Officers being Bros. Wm. Woodeson J.W. 1773 acting as S.W., and Wm. Dagnall J.W. 1798 J.W. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. J. Standing 1083 acting as candidate.

Others present were Bros. Wm. Bee P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C., Wm. Nicholl P.M. P.P.G.T., A. Eichholz P.M., A. Longworth J.W. 1083, M. Goth S.D. 581, Jas Glennie P.M. 1774, Hy. Lord 2144, &c.

ST. AUBYN LODGE, No. 954.

ON the 27th ult., in the Lodge rooms, Morice Town, in the presence of a very large gathering of local Masonic talent, Bro. James R. Wilson was installed as W.M. The Lodge room was crowded to its utmost capacity, and no less than thirty W.M.'s and P.M.'s assembled to do honour to Bro. Wilson, and to assist in the ceremony.

In the unavoidable absence of Bro. Dr. M. G. Kirton W.M. the proceedings were commenced by Bro. F. B. Westlake, by whom, with the assistance of Bro. Captain Quinn, R.N., who had journeyed from London for the purpose, the impressive ceremony of installation was ably performed, the addresses being delivered by Bros. R. Pitcher, H. J. S. Worth, and J. R. Dugdale. The W.M. invested his Officers.

The business following the installation was to consider a proposal that twenty-five guineas be subscribed by the Lodge to the fund that is being raised in the Province of Devon to make Bro. F. B. Westlake, the representative of the Province in London, a patron of the three great Masonic Charities, on the occasion of his having recently received at the hands of H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. the rank of P.G.D.D.C. of England. In the absence of Bro. T. W. Payne, who had given notice of the proposal, the subject was introduced by Bro. Capt. Quinn, R.N., who rendered a glowing tribute to the Masonic zeal and eminent services to Masonic Charity of Bro. Westlake. Loud and prolonged cheering greeted the announcement that it was intended to supplement the vote by another twenty-five guineas, which the members of St. Aubyn Lodge intended to raise by private subscription, so that fifty guineas will be the response of the Lodge to the appeal for funds to render to Bro. Westlake a tribute of honour and esteem in the only form and manner in which he can be prevailed upon to accept any recognition of his immense services to the Province.

The proposition being seconded by the Secretary of the Lodge was unanimously carried; and Bro. Westlake, who had absented himself during the discussion, was received with long and loud cheers on his re-entry.

The meeting closed with many congratulations to the newly-installed W.M., both from visitors present and friends absent. A huge pile of letters

and telegrams from all parts of the country bore eloquent testimony to the widespread respect and friendship with which Bro. Wilson is regarded by all who have the pleasure of knowing him.

The annual banquet was elegantly served in Plymouth Masonic Club to a company numbering one hundred and sixty members of the Lodge and guests, under the chairmanship of Bro. Wilson.

Responding to the toast of the Grand Lodge of England, Bro. F. B. Westlake P.G.D.D.C. paid a well-deserved tribute to the Masonic attainments and personal qualities of his old and valued friend, the newly-installed W.M. of St. Aubyn Lodge.

The Prov.G.M. and P.G. Lodge of Devon was proposed by Bro. A. B. Pilling S.W., and acknowledged by Bros. G. Dunsterville and J. R. Lord.

Bro. Hedge J.W. proposed the P.G.M. and P.G. Lodge of Cornwall, which was, as is ever the case in Devonshire Masonic circles, most warmly received. Bro. J. White P.G.Std.B. Cornwall responded.

The W.M. was proposed by Bro. Capt. J. O. W. Quinn, R.N., who paid a glowing tribute to the worth of Bro. J. R. Wilson as a man and a Mason; and referred in eloquent words to the great work he had recently done and was still doing "unknown to most of us, but none the less at considerable toil and trouble to himself," in working up a revived interest in the great London Charities. The toast was received with loud cheering, again and again repeated.

Bro. Wilson W.M., in a feeling speech, thanked one and all for the great consideration, friendship, and kindness so fully expressed towards him, and assured his hearers of his great desire and determination to follow the great example of his predecessors in the chair of 954, and do all in his power to enhance the honour, good repute, and usefulness of the Lodge during his year of office.

Bro. Major Rendle, in a loudly-applauded speech, responded for the visitors, and Bro. J. B. Gover for the Masonic Charities, proposed by Bro. Rev. A. J. Hamlyn P.P.G.C.

With the singing of the National Anthem an evening of most pleasurable good fellowship and enjoyment ended.

A choice selection of vocal and instrumental music rendered by Bros. Williams, Ball, P. Wright, Carlton, Smale, and others greatly increased the pleasures of a meeting which will long be remembered by all who had the good fortune to participate in it.

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ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN LODGE, No. 1067.

THE annual installation was held at the Town Hall, Newnham, when Bro. G. D. Woodman was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed by Bro. E. W. Prevost, assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge.

At the conclusion of the business the Brethren sat down to a capital banquet, and the usual Loyal and Masonic toast list was gone through.

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ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE fourth picnic in connection with the above Lodge was held on Monday, 26th ult., the place selected being Windermere. At the early hour of 8 a.m., members of the Lodge, together with lady and gentlemen friends to the number of forty, assembled on the platform of the Exchange Station, Manchester, eager to pay a visit to that district which Wordsworth described as

"The loveliest spot that man hath ever found."

We may add here that the number would have been considerably augmented by members of the Castleberg Lodge, No. 2091, Settle, if requisite arrangements could have been made with the Railway Companies; by the presence of Bro. Councillor J. J. Lambert P.M. P.G.D., but for an important engagement which he had in London; and also by Bro. Wm. Goodacre P.G.S.B. Provincial Grand Secretary, but that the latter had promised to take the installation of Principals at the Royal Arch Chapter held at Stretford on this date.

Saloon carriages had been furnished for the party, and by way of relieving the tedium of a long journey, refreshments of a substantial kind had been provided. The morning, which for an hour or two after its advent had been showery, and seemed likely to mar the success of the picnic, became fine, although somewhat cloudy, with a cool south-westerly wind blowing.

At Wigan, Bro. Oates Rushton No. 2449 and wife joined the party, and with their fresh and smiling faces the remaining traces of any dark clouds seemed to be dispelled, and the sun shone resplendently, maintaining its undimmed empire throughout the remainder of the day.

After something like a three hours' ride, Windermere was reached, coaches being in readiness to convey the party to Storr's Hall Hotel. "This historic mansion," according to local repute, "was erected by Sir John Legard, and since the home of Col. Bolton, and the Rev. Thomas Staniforth, the noted and most important breeder of shorthorn cattle of the century, has sheltered such minds as Scott, Shelley, Wilberforce, Southey, Wilson, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and a host of others." Every room in the mansion commands a view of the lake and mountains, one bedroom being that occupied by the late Duke of York. The hotel is situated "just half-way between Ambleside (which is the extreme north end of Windermere Lake) and Lake Side (which is the extreme south end)." Here luncheon was indulged in, to the accompaniment of music, after which photographs of the party were taken by Bro. F. Ireland jun., Manchester and Chorlton-cum-Hardy. After this necessary tarriance, a short walk through the grounds of the mansion brought the party to a private pier, where all steamers call to land and take up lake passengers. A steam yacht and an electric launch were in readiness for the party, and after a cruise past Belle Isle, Wray Castle, and Low-wood, with a distant view of Scafell, the serrated peaks of Crinkle Crags (2,816 feet), Langdale Pikes, &c., Ambleside was reached.

The day, from the moment the party entered the lake district, was one of unchequered sunshine, which seemed to have beautified the fair face of the earth, for it now wore nothing but beneficent smiles, and the fields and hills were enamelled with a plenitude of lovely and delicious verdure rivaling to the fullest extent the lines of the poet:—

How calmly, sweetly blended there
The beautiful and grand
Around was every prospect fair,
No clouds impressed the land,
Nor shadow of a varied hue
Mixed with the soft celestial blue.

Upon landing at Ambleside, a short stay was made at Taylor's "Waterhead Hotel," where refreshments were served on the lawn in front, again accompanied by music, a very pleasant time being spent here. It was

James Runciman who said that "there can be no good company unless women are present," and this fact was truthfully established, for the ladies proved to be the life and soul of the party. It is, therefore, extremely creditable to Bro. Crone, Worshipful Master, that he is desirous by means of this gossiping article, to convey his especial thanks to all those members of the fair sex who, by their presence, tended to add those little dexterous and graceful touches which on occasions like this only woman's impalpable skill can use to make a successful function.

Having embarked at Waterhead, Bro. Ireland took other photographs of the party, showing their various positions in the launches. At 4.30 they sat down to a very recherché dinner provided by the management of the Storr's Hall Hotel. The menu, which was a work of art, contained portraits of the W.M., Bro. Hugh W. Bloomer S.W., and Bro. William Rushton J.W.

Loyal and Masonic toasts followed, these being duly responded to. Bro. Crone, in proposing the health of the Queen, said the first toast which is generally honoured on occasions like this, is that of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. In our collective capacity we do this most enthusiastically because she is considered by us to be the Mother of Masons in England, and we also do it to evince the loyalty and regard which, as Sovereign of the land, she inspires us with. Bro. Henry Nall P.M. P.P.G.Treas. sang the National Anthem.

Bro. Crone, again rising, said, I need not commend the next toast to your notice, for it goes without saying that when I mention the name of the Prince of Wales Grand Master of our Order, you will accept it with all the enthusiasm of which you are capable, and this, I am sure, will be extended to the other members of the Royal Family. Bro. W. T. Hesketh P.M. Secretary sang God bless the Prince of Wales, which was received with acclamation.

The health of the Worshipful Master was proposed by Bro. I. R. E. Birkett I.P.M., who said that words failed him when trying to express his deep satisfaction and joy in seeing present that day his old friend Bro. John Mann Crone. His enthusiasm in Masonic work was pre-eminent, and he had the peculiar gift of imparting his enthusiasm unto others. Personally he would always remember this picnic, as a red letter day in connection with the Architect Lodge, which must have caused an immensity of labour in bringing it to so successful an issue. In this toast he wished to couple the name of Mrs. Crone.

Bro. Crone W.M., in responding, said: Brethren, the weather being so lovely, I shall not attempt to inflict a long speech upon you by way of reply to the remarks of Bro. Birkett, for I am sure you would prefer to be outside, enjoying the pure air, than here, listening to any prosy remarks of mine. By the way, I will just take the opportunity of thanking those who, by their presence here to-day, have assisted so materially in what I hope may be considered a record picnic, and more especially do I refer to the ladies. For the kind words uttered by Bro. Birkett, I am deeply grateful, and though I have not deserved half the praise which he has lavished upon me, still as principal Officer of the Architect Lodge, I have endeavoured to carry out the traditions handed down to me by my predecessors. And if you are satisfied, as by your warm reception of the toast you have so tried to make me believe, I cannot be otherwise than pleased, and I again thank you.

Bro. Nall sang "Here's to his health," and afterwards proposed the toast of the ladies, in a very humorous speech, Bro. Chas. Rawle P.M. replying on behalf of the fair sex.

In proposing the health of the visitors, Bro. Crone W.M. said he desired to couple with the toast the names of Bro. Dunbar Murray P.M., and Mr. Purcell, both of whom he was particularly glad to see. A party like theirs, though composed for the most part of Freemasons, was usually leavened by the presence of visitors, who were always welcome. Others, he regretted to say, could not be present through various causes. Visitors not only helped to swell the numbers into respectable proportions, but brought a little dignity into their midst, and thus unconsciously acted as reprovers of any deviations which they might be inclined to make from the standard of Masonic correctness. Although it was against the rules to ask for proselytes, yet they were obliged to depend upon outsiders for future members, otherwise their wonderful Institution would collapse. He was an outsider a few years ago, and the Masonic change which he had undergone was as surprising as that ascribed by philosophers to the human frame. We were told that every man undergoes a complete change once in seven years. Not a fibre, muscle, particle of flesh, or drop of blood is the same at the end of that time as it was at the beginning. About seven years ago, he (Bro. Crone) belonged to the rank and file, but having passed through the various offices, he had now arrived at that stage in his Masonic existence, when, as Worshipful Master, he could and did extend to them a hearty welcome, whether as Masons or as non-Masons.

Bro. Dunbar Murray P.M. and Mr. Purcell responded, saying they were grateful for the hospitality extended towards them, and expressed their delight that such a lovely spot had been selected for the picnic.

The party left Windermere Station shortly after 7 p.m., arriving in Manchester about 10.30. The journey home was of a most enjoyable description, several of the company contributing songs, recitations, &c.

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CONCORD LODGE, No. 1534.

THE annual picnic was held on Wednesday, 21st ult., Brother Dr. F. Stephenson W.M.

The party left Victoria Station, Manchester, at 8.50 a.m., arriving at Bakewell a little before 11. Lunch was partaken of at the Rutland Arms Hotel, this being followed by a long drive via Edensor to Chatsworth House; Rowsley, Darley Dale, Matlock Bath, thence to Haddon Hall, and back to Bakewell, where dinner was in readiness at the Rutland Arms. Finer weather could not have been wished for, and a thoroughly happy day was spent among the delightful Derbyshire scenery, the return journey being enlivened by songs, recitations, &c. Manchester was reached shortly after 9 p.m.

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PRUDENCE LODGE, No. 1550.

THE installation meeting was held on Saturday evening, at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, when Bro. W. A. B. Venning S.W. was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. W. Pryor W.M. presided, and there was a very large attendance of Brethren.

The Secretary reported that the past year had been a most prosperous one, and that the balance now standing to their credit was larger than it had ever been in the history of the Lodge.

At the close of the business the Brethren partook of refreshments in the dining hall, and the newly installed W.M., who is one of the most popular members of the Lodge, was heartily congratulated on the honour that had been conferred upon him.

MINNEHAHA MINSTREL LODGE, No. 2363.

THE annual picnic in connection with this Lodge took place on Monday, 19th ult. At an early hour the Brethren, together with gentlemen and lady friends, numbering fifty-nine persons, assembled on the platform of the Central Station, Manchester, and were conveyed in saloon carriages to the well-known historical town of Bakewell, Derbyshire. Lunch was provided at the principal hotel there.

At noon the party left by conveyances for Chatsworth, via Haddon Hall, arriving at the Duke of Devonshire's palatial residence about 1.30 p.m. The major portion of the party entered the hall, viewed the valuable works of art, and passed through the magnificent grounds so often described in these columns, others going on to Edensor, where, after being photographed, they waited for the larger contingent. Tea had been provided at the hotel, which, with other refreshments was supplied on the lawn under the supervision of Bros. Seth Wrigley P.M. P.P.G.D. Director of Ceremonies, Sam Luke S.W., and Edward Parnell Steward, who constituted the Picnic Committee.

Another drive of about a dozen miles, and the party arrived at the New Bath Hotel, Matlock, where a really excellent dinner was partaken of. Very little opportunity was afforded for pedestrianism, the time having been absorbed by the drives, which were through a lovely country, and assisted by that pleasant concomitant fine weather.

After dinner Bro. Wrigley proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, adding a word in praise of the charming places through which the party had been driven. Bro. Thomas Hammett W.M., in responding, thanked the Picnic Committee for their efforts, which had met with such successful results. With regard to Bro. Luke, he would move the universe to get a good picnic. It was the largest in numbers which had taken place in connection with the Lodge, and while thanking his auditors for their presence he hoped that in twelve months time the numbers would be equally as large.

The toast of the ladies was proposed by Bro. J. C. Wood P.M., and was responded to by Bro. Dr. Walls.

The train left Matlock station at 7.29, arriving in Manchester shortly after 9 o'clock.

METROPOLITAN.

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WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

THE annual picnic of this well-known Lodge took place on Thursday, 29th ult., and was a glorious success, auguring well for the prosperity of the Mother and Instruction Lodges. The weather was all that could be desired, and the Brethren and friends numbered about sixty. Amongst the company were the Worshipful Master Bro. George Weaver, Bro. and Mrs. R. J. Rogers (Treasurer of the Instruction Lodge), Bro. F. Wortham and daughters, Bro. and Mrs. J. Woodford, Bro. and Mrs. Phipps, Bro. and Mrs. E. Stephens, Bro. and Mrs. Thomas, Bro. H. Bagnall, Bro. C. Roberts, Mr. Capper and friend, Mr. and Mrs. Pontin, Bro. and Mrs. G. Walker, Mr. Longs and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ferris and friends, Bro. J. Smith, Mrs. Bevan, Bro. and Mrs. Rolles, Bro. Lilley, Bro. Busby, and several others.

The company left Paddington (G.W.R.) at 9.45, in saloon carriages for Reading, where they were met by open carriages, and were driven to the "Royal Queen," a steam launch of considerable capacity. Bountiful and excellent refreshments were provided and a very enjoyable trip was made to Moulsoford, through no doubt the most charming part of the river Thames. After a brief sojourn the company returned to Reading, to partake of a well served dinner which was provided at the Great Western Hotel. We may here say the banquet was most excellent, for which the manager was highly complimented. Bro. S. R. Walker P.M. Secretary of the Lodge was unavoidably prevented being present at the start, but managed to be in time to join the company at dinner, which was an agreeable and a welcome surprise.

The W.M. Bro. George Weaver was in the chair. Bro. F. Wortham I.P.M. gave the toast of the W.M., which was highly appreciated and acknowledged.

Other short speeches were given and responded to, and in due course the travellers returned to London, in the saloon carriages specially provided arriving soon after 10 o'clock, having been in a "whirl of enjoyment" from start to finish.

After providing for the amortization of leases, depreciation of plant, sinking fund for the redemption of debentures, the payment of debenture interest, &c., the report of Spiers and Pond Limited recommends the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent., less income tax, for the year ending the 31st March 1899, leaving £3,630 9s 11d to be carried forward to next year. The warrants will be posted on the 15th July. The share transfer books are closed from the 27th June to the 10th July, both inclusive.

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THE Midland Railway Company announce a new series of weekly summer excursions, from St. Pancras and City Stations, every Friday at midnight, and every Saturday at 5.15, 9.0 and 10.5 a.m., to Douglas (Isle of Man), for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

Every Saturday until further notice, excursions will also be run to the English Lake District; from St. Pancras, at 9 a.m. to Bowness and Ambleside, and at 10.30 a.m. to other stations. Other excursions run each Saturday to Matlock, Buxton, Liverpool, Southport, and the principal holiday resorts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and surrounding districts.

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Adelphi.—7.45, French Plays.

Avenue.—8.15, Pot Pourri. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.

Comedy.—The Weather-hen.

Court.—8.30, Wheels within Wheels. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Covent Garden.—Grand Opera Season.

Criterion.—Friday, 21th July, Rosemary.

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 and Saturday, 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.

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

Lyric.—Monday, 10th July, 8.15, El Capitan.

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.

Terry's.—8.15, The Rift within the Lute. 9, The Woman of Ostend.

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

Alexandra.—Next week, A Dark Secret.

Grand.—Next week, The Dandy Fifth.

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. The Dream of Whitaker's almanack. Great International Pony Show, 10th, 11th, and 12th July, &c.

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.