

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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ROME AND FREEMASONRY.

FOR some time past a number of letters have appeared in the columns of the "Catholic Times," in regard to Freemasonry and the ban placed upon it by the Romish Church. We have reprinted many of these letters, and we think those of our readers who have perused them must be struck, as we have been, with the almost general tendency of the writers to favour our Craft. It is true a few of the letters have been written in the fanatic intolerant spirit we had come to be accustomed to expect among Romish writers when dealing with the subject of Freemasonry, but the majority of them most certainly display a more rational sentiment, and would seem to call for friendly and courteous consideration at the hands of members of the Craft, who, almost for the first time in the history of the opposition of Rome to our doings, appear to be regarded more as fellow subjects, than as murderous infidels intent on the overthrow of religion, and every form of legal authority throughout the world.

The old fashioned arguments of Roman Catholic writers—that Freemasonry is bad, because it is bad, and that it is terribly wicked because the heads of their Church have said so—have, for the first time in our experience, been challenged by Catholics who appear to have an opinion of their own, and do not hesitate to express it; and we can but acknowledge a feeling of satisfaction that it is so—for we are firmly convinced that once Roman Catholics have the pluck, or secure the necessary permission, to examine Freemasonry for themselves, they will soon find it is by no means the "bogey" they have always been taught to consider it, and a better understanding all round must necessarily result.

This correspondence has brought to the front members of the Romish Church who boldly ask why they are prohibited from joining an Institution which has the support and patronage of the highest in the land, and which professes and practices the best principles of their religion; and more than one of the writers has evinced a determination to over-ride priestly interference in this particular, and go straight to the head of their Church for an explanation of the prohibition, and, it may almost be expected, a thorough enquiry into the whole matter under the admitted altered conditions of the age.

It seems to us so absurd that two great organisations, both professing to work for virtually the same objects, should be so widely separated as Freemasonry and the Church of Rome have so long been, and it is only on the principle that religion has been the cause of the most bitter and the most terrible disputes in the history of the world, that one can even excuse the gulf which exists at the present day between them. Are we on the verge of a reconciliation? We sincerely hope so, but if it does not come just yet we can but regard the candid expressions of

opinion on the part of many of our contemporary's correspondents as a most gratifying step in the right direction. We only ask for a fair and free consideration of our position—as opposed to the fanciful picture conjured up in the minds of our rabid opponents in the Romish Church.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE July meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on the 19th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, the President's and Vice-Presidents' chairs being occupied respectively by Bros. D. D. Mercer, Henry Garrod, C. J. R. Tijou, and George Graveley.

The Grand Master having approved of grants to the amount of £200 recommended at the June meeting for his sanction, they were confirmed.

Thirty petitions were on the new list, but two of these were withdrawn by the petitioners after presentation. Four others were deferred until next meeting for certain particulars to be supplied, to Grand Lodge were referred two grants of £50 each for approval, and to the Grand Master seven of £40 each, and four of £30 each. Eight grants were made of £20 each, and three of £10 each. Among the relieved was the widow of a Brother who was lost in the "Stella" wreck. The petitioner had since given birth to a child. A very liberal grant was made, although the deceased had been a Mason two years only.

ROYAL ARCH.

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KENT.

THE annual convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter was held by the Grand Superintendent Earl Amherst, on Friday, 14th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Mount Pleasant, Plumstead. The Companions assembled at three o'clock, and gave a cordial greeting to Lord Amherst upon his entry into the Chapter Room.

The minutes of the last Provincial Meeting were read and confirmed, after which the roll of the Chapters in the Province was called, and all were found to be represented. The Audit Committee presented their report, which was received and adopted.

Comp. William Russell was re-elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer, and the following Officers were invested:

Comp. James S. Eastes 503 (re-appointed)	-	H.
Abel Penfold 913	-	J.
Alfred Spencer 829 (re-appointed)	-	Scribe E.
Woldemar O. Kennett 199	-	Scribe N.
Frank Hitchens 829	-	Registrar
George H. Denne 784	-	Principal Sojourner
William Pannell 158	-	1st Assistant Sojourner
Arthur Henry Bateman 1973	-	2nd Assistant Sojourner
William A. Phipps 2404	-	Sword Bearer
Charles Hind 1837	-	} Standard Bearers
James W. Nash 1050	-	
Claud A. Hooper 2147	-	
Thomas Easton 31	-	Director of Ceremonies
Henry Forss 483	-	} Assistant Dirs. of Cers.
W. B. Kennett 558	-	
James S. White 2099	-	
John B. Groom 2046	-	Organist
George R. Nicholls 913	-	Assistant Scribe E.
John Cooke	-	Janitor.

There being no other business relating to Royal Arch Masonry in the Province, the Chapter was closed in solemn form, with the customary ceremony. The Companions afterwards dined together, and the usual complimentary speeches were made.

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge will be held this year at the Victoria Rooms, Southampton, on the 8th of August, under the presidency of Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov.G.M. The ordinary business of the Province will be transacted, and the Provincial Grand Officers will be appointed and invested. At the close of the proceedings, the banquet will take place at the Masonic Hall. The London and South Western Railway have kindly granted the privilege to visitors of return tickets at reduced fares.

R. M. I. BOYS.

AT the local examination in Musical knowledge, conducted by Trinity College, London, on 24th June last, of seven boys entered from this Institution, six gained Certificates, as follow: Junior Division: (3) Rogers, Pink and Huskinson gained honours, obtaining respectively 85, 71 and 62 per cent. of the marks, (2) Gabbutt and Coleman passed, gaining 86 and 85 per cent. of the marks. Intermediate Division: W. D. Coales passed, gaining 95 per cent. of the marks.

CONSECRATIONS.

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CHARLES DICKENS LODGE.

THE association of the respected name of our great novelist with Freemasonry is at first sight not quite apparent. Dickens was not a member of the Craft, and his references in the few isolated instances quoted in his works tend rather to the convivial than to the sublime work of our Order. Still, as Bro. the Rev. Canon Quennell observed in a most interesting address, the writings of Dickens contain evidence of the principles of Freemasonry, and even his severe castigations of cant and humbug prove that at least he was a Mason at heart. The idea of naming this Lodge after Charles Dickens doubtless originated in the fact that the meetings will be held at the ancient hostelry referred to in "Barnaby Rudge."

A Warrant having been granted by the Grand Master for the establishment of the Charles Dickens Lodge further speculation is unnecessary, and hence it happened that on Tuesday of last week a large number of Brethren journeyed by a well appointed train of the Great Eastern Railway to Buckhurst Hill, where carriages were in waiting to convey the visitors to the King's Head, at Chigwell, to meet the Provincial Grand Master of Essex, the Earl of Warwick, who had kindly undertaken to perform the consecration.

Upon arrival the Brethren assembled in the Lodge room, when Bro. Thomas J. Ralling P.G.A.D.C. Prov. Grand Sec., happily recovered from his recent indisposition, opened the Lodge in the three degrees, after which the Provincial Grand Master entered, and was saluted according to ancient custom.

Lord Warwick requested the following Brethren to assist him: Robert Woodhouse Prov. S.G.W. as S.W., Colonel Landon Prov. J.G.W. as J.W., Rev. Canon Quennell as Chaplain, Albert Lucking P.G.P. as D.C., and John J. C. Turner P.P.S.G.W. as I.G. The opening hymn was then sung, after which the Chaplain offered prayer.

Lord Warwick addressed the Brethren, saying they were assembled together in that ancient and historic room for the purpose of organising another Lodge in the Province, and he had been authorised by the Grand Master to act as his Deputy, and perform the consecration ceremony.

A very interesting and appropriate address was given by the Chaplain Bro. the Rev. Canon Quennell P.M. 214 P.P.G. Chap. (Rector of Shenfield). He said:—The duty devolves upon me, in obedience to command, to speak of the nature and principles of our Institution. It is a theme familiar to us all: we endeavour to study and practise them. Yet there are occasions when we recite them: as in a certain solemn service the Ten Words are recited—the Commandments of the Sacred Law, which we all know by heart, and acknowledge ourselves bound to know and to do them. It is difficult when all are familiar with the theme to present it with any air of freshness. But to-day, meeting as we do in this house—I may say in this room—which has become historic, and under a banner which bears the name and effigy of him who made it so—I may be forgiven if I wander a little from the beaten track, and ask you to accompany me

into those realms of fancy, observing, as we linger there, how the principles of the Craft—those social, moral, and religious foundations on which it rests, are represented in the delineations of life and character that we have as a possession of the English tongue from the brilliant imagination and facile pen of Charles Dickens. Was he then a Mason? There is no evidence that he was; and that in itself is presumptive evidence to the contrary. Some have thought that the grotesque scene in which he describes the Apprentice's initiation into the Secret Society of the 'Prentice Knights, under the command of the Valourous Master Simon Tappetit, was intended as a travesty of our solemn proceedings, and therefore implies some acquaintance with them; but the scene appears to me rather to smack of those fanciful imaginings which the uninstructed world conjures up about our mysteries and secrets; and, moreover, I feel quite sure that though Charles Dickens could hold up the foibles and weaknesses of life to keen ridicule, and lash with the bitterest invective its meannesses and wrongdoings, he was of far too generous a disposition wantonly to attack a noble institution, or by misrepresentation to wound the feelings of any of his fellow-men.

There are some of us who can remember the delight of those charming stories coming into our hands fresh from the author, and the eager expectation waiting from month to month for the new part. And while we may now think there is in his style a certain exaggeration—a rather strong flavour to the dish with which he serves us, when compared with the delicacy of some other of his contemporaries, or more recent popular authors—though he may appear to us to present rather caricatures than portraits, comparable with the drawings by which Browne and Cruickshank embellish his first editions rather than with the finished photographic picture of the modern illustration, yet (and here is the point to which I have been coming) in his writings there are always the great realities of the Masonic Charter—the laudation of benevolence, the denunciation of wrongdoing, the relief of suffering merit, the unmasking of hypocrisy and selfish greed, the ultimate happiness of deserving loving hearts.

To take an illustration: The exuberant charity of the Brothers Cheeryble may move a smile, as we acknowledge that, notwithstanding the statement that they were drawn from life, no men exactly like them could have ever lived; but the principles of good feeling and beneficent action which they exemplify find an echo in every good man's heart, and are particularly consonant to the character of the ideal Mason, and the conduct which he is bidden to pursue. Only in passing will I refer to the convivial side of the Dickens' story, the ample provisions, the mingled viands, the (sometimes unmingled) liquids, which his scenes set before us. There, too, is the exaggeration I referred to; who can read without laughing at the contents of Dick Swiveller's hamper, or without a shudder the unlimited capacity of Mr. Pickwick for milk punch. Our author does not always depict the most comfortable and enjoyable form of social intercourse, such as quiet, sober Masons delight in, but the social side is always to the fore, and when the more serious parts of Masonic work have been well and worthily performed, the true Mason is always found to be a sociable man, and the virtues of goodfellowship are rightly fostered by the enjoyment of a common meal and the agreeable conversation that accompanies it. We have almost a spice of our author's exaggeration about us, when we invariably call it a banquet! Brethren, I have tried, I hope I have not exhausted your patience, by this excursion into the regions of fiction, yielding to the genus loci. Can we wish better for the Charles Dickens Lodge than that it may long prosper, and illustrate the great Masonic virtues of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, with all the richness of expression, with all the steadiness of purpose, with all the zeal for the triumph of good over evil, and with all the graces of fancy, wit, and bonhomie which characterises the genius of him whose name it bears.

The Petition and Warrant were then read by Bro. Ralling, and the founders expressed their approval of the Officers named therein. The ceremony proceeded upon the usual lines, and the Lodge was duly constituted, and dedicated to the service of God and the good of man.

Lord Warwick expressed regret at the absence of Col. Lockwood Deputy Prov.G.M., who was detained by his duties at the House of Commons, but in his absence requested Bro. Lucking to undertake the installation of the first Master of the Lodge. Bro. J. T. Dormer was thereupon presented, and formally placed in the chair, in the presence of a very large Board of Installed Masters. Having been proclaimed, and saluted, the Warrant was entrusted to his keeping.

The whole of the ceremonies were carried out in an admirable, expeditious, and altogether business-like manner, all those taking part being thoroughly well acquainted with their duties, so that no time was wasted, yet everything was conducted with proper dignity and solemnity. The following Officers, who are also the founders, were appointed and invested for service during the year: W. H. Bailey P.G.T. Eng. as I.P.M., Alfred Ford S.W., G. J. Vanderpump J.W., Rev. J. Lewthwaite Chaplain, A. T. Dale P.M. Treasurer, J. R. Johnson P.P.S.G.D. Secretary, Arthur Ford S.D., J. H. Bridgman J.D., P. G. Herbage I.G., G. H. Clark D.C., M. H. Clarke, Charles Webster, F. Lehmkuhl, W. Mathieson, S. Cook, G. R. Blades and T. Hughes Stewards.

The W.M. proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Provincial Grand Officers for their services, and requested them to become Honorary members of the Lodge. This was seconded by Bro. J. R. Johnson and carried with acclamation.

The Earl of Warwick returned thanks for himself and the other Brethren who had assisted him in the ceremony, who readily consented to become connected with the Lodge as Honorary Members.

Bro. Dormer W.M. was elected as Charity Representative of the Lodge, and the Permanent Committee were authorised to prepare the Bye-laws.

Bro. Johnson gave notice that at the next meeting he would propose a vote of ten guineas from the Lodge funds, to head the Master's list as Steward for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Letters of apology for absence were read from several distinguished Brethren who were unable to be present, and the W.M. having received the hearty good wishes of the Visitors the Lodge was closed, and the company adjourned to the banquet room.

We may here state that the ancient hostelry of the King's Head has been recently thoroughly restored, and is now a comfortable and commodious Hotel, with suitable accommodation for summer outings and other gatherings, and is managed by Bro. William Lewis, of the Leyton Lodge. If the manner in which the dinner was served on this occasion may be taken as a criterion of Bro. Lewis' usual methods, we may congratulate him upon a successful career.

At the termination of the dinner the health of the Queen, and the usual Masonic toasts, were submitted by the W.M., and cordially received by the Brethren. Bro. W. H. Bailey P.G.T. responded for the Officers of Grand Lodge.

The Earl of Warwick was received with great enthusiasm when he rose to acknowledge the toast of the Provincial Grand Master. He thanked the Brethren for the cordial and kindly reception extended to him that day, and expressed his gratification at the progress that was being made in the Province. When he was appointed, in 1882, there were only eighteen Lodges, and now they had constituted the forty-fifth, showing an excellent advance. He was pleased to find that Essex was generally near the top of the lists of the Masonic Charities, proving that the Brethren were sensible of their obligation in this respect. He also referred to the great object lesson in Freemasonry afforded by the speech of the Sultan Mohammed Khan at Brighton (as reported in our issue of the 1st inst.), who found in the teachings of the Craft a bond of union between the peoples of all nations. Finally he wished prosperity to the Charles Dickens Lodge, and he hoped he might be permitted to visit them again at some future date.

Bros. Robert Woodhouse and Thos. J. Ralling responded for the Provincial Grand Officers.

The Earl of Warwick proposed the health of the Master, and in doing so his lordship remarked that he was greatly struck by the admirable manner in which Bro. Dormer had carried out his duties in the Lodge, and also at the banquet table. He was sure they could not have been more hospitably or courteously received. Bro. Dormer was well known in Freemasonry, and he hoped he would enjoy a happy and prosperous year of office.

The W.M. returned thanks for the compliment, and said that the Lodge started under the most auspicious circumstances. All the furniture, even down to the slightest detail, had been paid for, and even the expenses attending the constitution of the Lodge had been defrayed. Still they had sufficient funds in hand to dispense relief to the distressed, and he was sure they would have a career of prosperity.

At this late hour we were obliged reluctantly to quit the meeting, to return to town, but the Visitors and the Officers of the Lodge received the customary compliment.

The excellent musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Arthur Strugnell, who was assisted by Bros. Herbert Schartau, Frank Tebbutt, and James Kift.

A word must be given to the exceedingly pretty programme of the proceedings, which contained the portraits of the Consecrating Officers and those of the Lodge, and should form a splendid souvenir of the very interesting occasion.

In addition to the founders and others above mentioned, there were present the following Brethren: Richard Clowes P.G.S.B. Eng., B. Hoddinott P.P.S.G.W., Alfred Miller P.A.G.D.C., M. J. Freelove P.S.G.D., Alfred Lambert P.P.G.W. Surrey, W. W. Lee P.P.G.D. Middx., E. H. Moore P.G.S.B. Herts., J. W. Armour P.G.S.Br., Thos. W. Irvine J.W. British Kaffrarian Lodge, A. Wildsmith W.M. 1661, A. W. Smith W.M. 463, J. A. Anderson W.M. 1818, Frank Dawe W.M. 2005, G. T. Snell P.M. 1818, Herbert Gilbey Treas. 2749, Frank Evans W.M. 2749, C. J. Doyley Mears P.M. 299 and 1076, Harold Nelson W.M. 2022, J. R. Pakeman W.M. 1728, F. Cleak P.M. 1728, Alfred Stribbling P.M. 1347, S. C. Phillips P.M. 2562 217 and 1021, F. G. Webster P.M. 1864, W. G. Mills P.M. and Secretary 45, T. W. Thorpe P.M. 1704, J. E. Johnson P.M. 2005, D. L. Gould P.M. 2005, H. Mann P.M. 2467, W. T. Wright P.M. 1950, H. Allan P.M. 1421, Orlton Cooper P.M. 211, B. Walner 2535, J. J. Bassett 192, E. J. Ward 1563, Edgar Field 463, G. K. Durrant 2291, John Reynolds 1076, E. E. Pakeman 1728, James Proctor 428, W. Pallant 1421, and many others.

SEVEN KINGS LODGE.

THE following are the first Officers of this Lodge, No. 2749, which was consecrated on the 22nd ult., by the Earl of Warwick, at Romford. Bros. Frank Evans W.M., Louis Sinclair S.W., H. L. Pridmore J.W., Herbert Gilbey Treasurer, Charles R. Allen P.M. Secretary, R. J. Hatfield S.D., Henry J. Chatterton J.D., W. S. Duff I.G., J. Gardner Whitehead D.C., H. Smith, E. F. Gillard, G. M. Verlyck, J. L. Linton Stewards, A. Taylor acting I.P.M., A. Young Tyler.

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The installation meeting of the Prince Frederick William Lodge, No. 753, will be held on Wednesday next, Bro. A. B. Butt being the W.M.-elect.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

BRO. DAVID HASLETT, of Golden Square, W., died on the 11th inst., and was buried at Hanwell on the 14th. He was alive and well on the 10th inst.; but had a paralytic stroke on the afternoon of that day, and died the following morning about 6 a.m. Bro. Haslett was well known by West-end Masons, he having been Preceptor of the St. James Union and Athelstan Lodges of Instruction, and on the Committee of the Queen's Westminster Lodge of Instruction, also for many years on the Committee of the Domestic Chapter of Improvement. He learned Craft Masonry from the late Bro. Watson, in the Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, and Bro. Cottebrune, of the Faith Lodge of Instruction, and belonged to nearly every one of the West End and City Lodges of Instruction; his R.A. Masonry was principally gained from the late Comp. Boyd. His knowledge was always at the disposal of all who knew him, and his services as installing Z. were in very frequent request. Bro. Haslett was in his 70th year, and was initiated in the Lodge of Prudent Brethren, in 1872, he was W.M. in 1878, and up to the time of his death Secretary of that Lodge. He was exalted in the Prudent Brethren Chapter, in 1878, was Z. in 1881, and Scribe E. till his death. He was a Life Governor of the Girls and Old Peoples' Institution, and Life Subscriber of the Boys.

UNIVERSAL regret has been expressed by all classes at Bath, at the death of the Mayor, Bro. John Ricketts, J.P., which occurred on Thursday, 13th inst. Our deceased Brother was highly respected in the city, where he was born on 5th December 1837, and where he has long occupied a prominent position. He was initiated a member of the Royal Cumberland Lodge, No. 41, on 20th March 1861, and he passed the chair in 1867, serving the office of Provincial Grand Registrar of Somerset the same year. Bro. Ricketts was also recognised by the Grand Lodge of England, in consequence of his industry in the cause of Masonic Charity.

LODGE TERCENTENARY AT EDINBURGH.

THE Tercentenary of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) was celebrated by a banquet on Wednesday, 5th inst., in the presence of a very large gathering of Brethren from the locality and outside parts. Originally it had been hoped that the Prince of Wales, who is affiliated to the Lodge, would have been present, but the numerous engagements of His Royal Highness made it impossible for him to accept the invitation. Such an interesting Masonic event, however, brought out a large company, and covers were laid for about two hundred.

The W.M. of the Lodge Bro. Peter L. Henderson presided, and was supported by Sir Charles Dalrymple, of Newhailes, Bart., M.P. and Lord Haddington Past Grand Masters of Scotland, with many other distinguished Brethren.

After the toast of the Queen, the Chairman proposed that of the Prince of Wales, Prince and Great Steward of Scotland. He considered it an honour to propose the toast of one who worthily holds the most exalted position in the realm, except only that of Her Most Gracious Majesty. The event which they were celebrating that night was one of peculiar interest, and furnished much food for reflection. But the dignity of the Prince of Wales was of older date than their minute-book. It had been borne by many distinguished and beloved sons of England, but by none with greater acceptance than by the popular Prince whose health he now proposed. As a Mason he occupied the highest position in the Empire, that of Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of England, and many of them would remember that in 1870, with great pomp and ceremonial, he was installed by Lord Dalhousie, the then Grand Master Mason of Scotland, as Patron of the Scottish Brotherhood—a position held by Kings, both by George the IV. and William the IV. Immediately after this event His Royal Highness affiliated to the Lodge of Edinburgh, and they now claimed him as a royal Brother. In all the later events of his life his royal spouse, the Princess of Wales, had been a constant and able support, and whether as a woman, a wife, or a mother, she was esteemed and beloved by all. He added her name to the toast and gave them: The Grand Master Mason of England, the Patron of Scottish Masonry, the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, the Prince and Princess of Wales.

A long list of apologies and congratulations were then intimated from all parts of the world. The following letter from Dalkeith Palace was read:

"I am desired by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to express his regret that his engagements to-day will prevent him from being able to be present at the festival of the Masons of Scotland, but it is impossible for him to do so. I regret also to say that I am in the same position, and cannot leave His Royal Highness. Be kind enough to express to the Brethren how deeply I feel the honour conferred upon me in asking me to be present.—Abercorn."

A telegram was also read and enthusiastically received from the Prince of Wales. It read as follows:—

"The Grand Master of England regrets his inability to be present this afternoon at the tercentenary festival of Freemasons of Scotland, but he sends them his fraternal greeting."

Among others were apologies from Lord Saltoun the Grand Master of Scotland, the Duke of Abercorn Grand Master of Ireland, and Lord Provost Mitchell-Thomson.

Sir Charles Dalrymple, M.P., proposed the Navy and Army, Admiral Fletcher Campbell replying for the former, and Major the Hon. Dalrymple Hamilton for the latter.

The toast of the Three Grand Lodges and Three Grand Masters was given by Bro. J. Dalrymple Duncan, in the absence of the Hon. James Hozier, M.P. It was, he said, unnecessary for him to say anything of the Grand Lodge of England. They all knew its long and honourable history, and they all knew what services it had rendered to the cause of Masonry and Charity. They could not doubt that the Grand Lodge of England owed much of its prosperity to its present Grand Master the Prince of Wales, who had long presided over it. The Grand Lodge of Ireland was also in a most satisfactory and prosperous condition, and that, too, despite the fact that it had many difficulties to contend with in the shape of religious differences. It was most worthily presided over by the Duke of Abercorn. There was no Grand Lodge in the world which had made greater strides in the same period than their own Grand Lodge. Only some twenty years ago it was plunged up to the neck in debt, and surrounded by all forms of difficulty, and now they saw it absolutely free from debt, and possessed of large and increasing funds for distribution among necessitous members of the Craft. They had every reason to be proud of the position occupied by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and they owed a great deal to their Grand Master and their Grand Secretary.

Bro. Henry Lovegrove Past Grand Sword Bearer of England, in responding, urged that the Craft in Scotland should do something more on the lines of charity, and told how in England they did so much to provide for a large number of Brethren who had been crushed in the battle of life, and to furnish pensions for necessitous widows.

Sir Charles Dalrymple also replied, and proposed the toast of the evening, the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1. This, he said, was no ordinary gathering. It represented an enormous amount of forethought and of strenuous exertion on the part of those who were responsible for the Lodge. Those who were not immediately connected with the Lodge might well congratulate the Master, Office-bearers, and members of the Lodge upon that splendid gathering, but it was also no ordinary Masonic occasion. When they saw upon the toast list "the oldest Masonic minute in existence," it gave them some idea of the antiquity of the Lodge. They knew how ancient was their Masonic Order, and an event such as they celebrated that night helped them to realise the antiquity of the Order. The tercentenary took them some way back to the time of King Solomon. But in all frankness he wished to say that there was one thought more especially in his mind that night. He liked to think that a Lodge that was so old was flourishing still. He was the last man to disparage antiquity for its own sake, but the institution that was young as well as old, an institution which was at once old and new with a present activity, commanded their warmest interest. The Lodge dated back to 1599, but what was more important after all was that the Lodge was kept up in a flourishing condition, and could command the devoted services of Brethren of high repute and of skill with the Masonic Craft, and that there never were wanting able and fit men to supply vacancies among members. He concluded by expressing the hope that the Lodge whose tercentenary they were celebrating would long continue to flourish.

The Chairman, in responding, expressed his thanks on behalf of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1, for the manner in which the toast had been proposed. He had also to thank the large gathering of Freemasons who had congregated there for the hearty response they had given. It was gratifying, indeed, to see such a gathering, and to feel that Masonic principles were so widely acknowledged and respected. They had present representatives from all parts of Scotland and England, the Channel Islands, and even from Egypt; there were Brethren from London, Newcastle, South Shields, Wolverhampton, and Bolton, to join with them in celebrating the tercentenary of the earliest recorded minutes of a Masonic function. Masonry was believed by some to date back to many years before the Christian era, but certain it was that in mediæval times guilds and brotherhoods arose in connection with various trades, and that Masonry, then called Operative Masonry, became specially useful and prominently successful. Owing to the necessary migratory habits of skilled Masons in search of work among the great Cathedrals and other large works in progress at that time, symbols and signs to enable the skilled Craftsman to be recognised came into use. Each Mason also had his own mark to enable the Warden to recognise his work. The guilds elected a Master, and every tenth man was a Warden, and the Masonic Brotherhood enjoyed special advantages from several Papal bulls, which exempted them from the ordinary laws regulating common labourers. This gave rise to the name "Free Masons." At a very early period these Free Masons visited Scotland in the ordinary course of events, and tradition indicates that the Guild of Free Masons who came to Edinburgh in the beginning of the twelfth century started the Lodge of Edinburgh; these would be the men, then, who built Holyrood Abbey Church, in 1128. Among other Guilds possibly started under somewhat similar auspices were the Wrights of Edinburgh; but at any rate, it was known that they existed previous to 1475, for in that year the Wrights and Masons of Edinburgh were incorporated by Seal of Cause, and were known as the "Incorporation of Wrights and Masons of Edinburgh." In 1618 this Incorporation bought Mary's Chapel, and were henceforth associated with that name, as at the present day. The present day Freemasonry, however, which had been termed speculative, to distinguish it from operative, gradually began to assert itself, and in 1769 the operative body separated itself from the Lodge. From this it would be seen that this Lodge was a very ancient institution, probably over eight hundred years old. It was not, however, to celebrate the age of the Lodge in such a vague way that they were met there that day, but to celebrate an ascertained and

established fact, the three hundredth anniversary of the first written minute, which now remained. It would be forty-three years before another Scottish Lodge could celebrate such an event, and 126 years before an English Lodge could follow. Whatever doubts might be cast on the age of the Lodge to which he had referred, or the manner in which it was arrived at, there could be no doubt whatever about the age of the first minute, the tercentenary of which they were celebrating that day; for there was the Minute Book to speak for itself, all duly dated and signed, and the gradual change of handwriting from the old Court-hand to the present day style might be clearly traced. The first item in the Minute Book was an order to elect Wardens and Commissioners (proxies) at St. John's Day yearly. The second was the Schaw Statutes of 1598 applied to the whole Craft of Scotland. Then followed the first, the oldest Masonic minute known, dated 31st July 1599, and signed by G. Paton. Since that date the minutes had been continuous down to the present day. To do honour to this marvellous record was what had brought them together that day.

The Chairman at this stage called upon Sir Lewis M'Iver, M.P., to present the Tercentenary Golf Trophy presented by him for competition among the Lodges of Scotland, to the successful team, the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1. Sir Lewis, said the Chairman, took a great interest in all sports that tended to make Great Britain manly, and this trophy had been presented in honour of this memorable occasion. Sir Lewis, in handing the trophy over to the Chairman, said that although his Mother Lodge held this trophy this year he hoped she would not show her maternal greediness in holding it too long. It was his desire that Mary's Chapel team would have to do hard battle to hold it another year. The Earl of Haddington then presented the badges to the four members of the team, and the Chairman, in accepting custody of the trophy, said Sir Lewis M'Iver had always shown himself to be a devoted and loyal member of the Lodge. Led by the band, the company, upstanding, heartily sang "He's a Jolly Good Fellow," and round after round of ringing cheers were afterwards raised for the donor of the trophy and Lady M'Iver.

The Earl of Haddington gave the Provincial Grand Lodges. In any competition betwixt Grand Lodge and the Provincial Lodges there need be nothing, he said, antagonistic; there need be only that healthful spirit of rivalry which made each Provincial Lodge strive to produce men who were able to take their part in the highest offices in Grand Lodge. When Grand Master he had had, along with Grand Secretary, the opportunity of visiting all the Provincial Lodges in Scotland, from Stranraer to Orkney, and they had hardly found a fault with any of them, so admirably conducted were they all, owing in a great measure to their having good Provincial Grand Masters at their head. The Prince of Wales had said that if they were to be a lasting, a good, a permanent, and a useful institution, they must be religious, and as long as Freemasonry continued a charitable and religious body so long would Freemasonry not only exist, but flourish in the land. With reference to what Brother Lovegrove had said about charity, he would like to point out that there was hardly a Provincial Lodge in Scotland that did not have its Benevolent Fund, and in one week the sum of £25,000 had been contributed as an addition to their already established benevolent funds. He hoped that those Lodges which had not such funds would have them before long.

Colonel Johnstone of Lesmurdie, Elgin, replied.

Sir Lewis M'Iver proposed the toast of the City of Edinburgh, and Bailie Pollard replied.

The toast of the Chairman was given by Bro. Sheriff Campbell, and was followed by that of the Secretary, the Past Masters, the Press, and the Croupiers, the very successful gathering ending with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."—"Scotsman."

MARK MASONRY.

—:o:—

EAST ANGLIA.

THE Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of the Province of East Anglia was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Soane Street, Ipswich, under the banner of the Albert Victor Lodge, No. 70, on Monday, 10th inst.

Previous to the opening of the Lodge, a luncheon was

served at the Great White Horse Hotel, over which Bro. Sir Francis G. M. Boileau, Bart., Dep. Prov. G.M. presided, in the absence of the Right Hon. Lord Henniker Prov. G.M.M. After luncheon, the following toasts were proposed and honoured:—The Queen and Mark Masonry, M.W. Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., etc., Grand Master, M.W. Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Henniker Prov. G.M. of East Anglia, and Success to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Essex.

In proposing the latter toast, the Deputy Prov. G.M. referred to the alteration which had taken place during the past year, owing to Essex being constituted a separate Province. There was not, he observed, any jealousy entailed by the change, and East Anglia wished the new Province every success.

The Brethren then adjourned to the Hall, and the Lodge was opened in due form, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the chair.

The minutes of the Prov. Grand Lodge meeting, held at Harwich on 15th July 1898, were read and confirmed. After calling the roll of Provincial Officers and the roll of Lodges, reports therefrom were received. The report of the Board of General Purposes, together with the Treasurer's statement, were adopted after a short discussion, the Lodge voting the sum of £10 10s to the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Bro. Francis Curry was elected Prov. G. Treasurer, and Bro. Jno. Hewitt Prov. G. Tyler, after which the Dep. Prov. Grand Master appointed and invested the Officers for the year.

After disposing of the remaining Lodge business of the year, the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was closed in due form.

The Brethren attending the meeting then accepted the invitation of the members of the Albert Victor Lodge, and were conveyed in open carriages to Preston Tower, Pin Mill, Holbrook, and Tattingstone, ending their journey at Ipswich Railway Station. Everyone agreed that this was the most successful Provincial gathering held in East Anglia for many years, a fact largely contributed to by Bro. H. J. Wright, who acted as chaperone, and efficiently superintended all the arrangements for the meeting.

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT, to CHESTER, Birkenhead and LIVERPOOL.

EVERY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHT, to WESTON.

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EVERY THURSDAY and SATURDAY, to BRIDGWATER, MINE-HEAD, TORQUAY, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, &c.

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

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT, to the SCILLY ISLANDS.

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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 MONDAY (except 7th August), HALF DAY TRIP to Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne End, MARLOW, Wycombe, AYLES-BURY, &c.

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Avenue.—8.15, Pot Pourri.

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

Covent Garden.—Monday, 24th July, Romeo et Juliette. Last performance.

Criterion.—Tuesday, 25th July, The Wild Rabbit.

Daly's.—8.15, A Gaiety Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Gaiety.—8.15, A Runaway Girl.

Garrick.—8.15, Our John. 8.45, Halves. Matinée, Wednesday and

Saturday, 3.

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

Lyceum.—8, Robespierre.

Lyric.—8.30, El Capitan. Matinée, Thursday, 2.30.

Prince of Wales's.—8.15, The Only Way. Matinée, Saturday, 2.15.

Savoy.—8.30, H.M.S. Pinafore. Trial by Jury. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday.

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 Lady of Ostend. Matinée,

Wednesday, 3.

Alexandra.—Next week, C. J. Abud's Triple Bill Company.

Grand.—Next week, A Little Ray of Sunshine.

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London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainments.

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Palace.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c. Satur-

day, 2 also.

Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30 also.

Tivoli.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Lottie Collins. Saturday, 2.15 also.

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Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. The Dream of Whitaker's

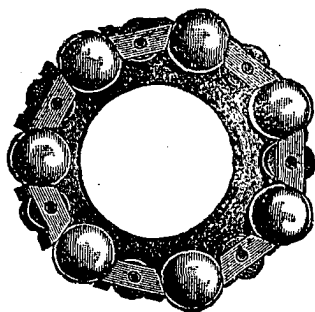
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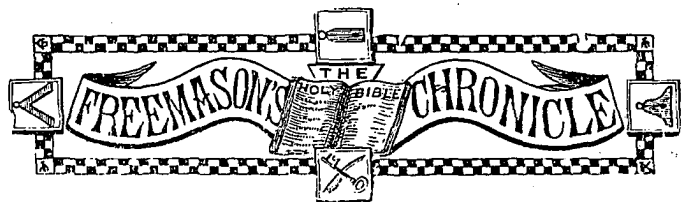
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SATURDAY, 22ND JULY 1899.

A NEW CHAPTER.

AN event of considerable importance and interest took place last month at Colwyn Bay, when Comp. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., Grand Superintendent of the Province consecrated the Conovium Chapter, No. 2569, in connection with the flourishing Lodge of St. Trillo. The ceremony was attended by a large number of members of the Degree.

After the election of a committee to frame bye-laws and the receipt of propositions for joining and exaltation, the company attended a banquet at the Imperial Hotel, the usual toasts being duly honoured.

Out of a list of eighty candidates Bro. W. J. Kipps, F.R.C.O., P.M. Chislehurst Lodge, No. 1531, has been appointed organist and choirmaster of St. Martins-in-the-Fields. Bro. Sir George Martin acted as umpire. Bro. Kipps has for some years been organist and director of the choir of St. Mark's, Lewisham, a church well-known in the south-east district for its beautiful musical services.

Bro. Thomas Tindal, of Longton, was the recipient of a gratifying presentation on the occasion of his marriage, which recently took place. Bro. Tindal, who is S.D. of the Etruscan Lodge, and has also filled the office of Secretary, has on several occasions been of signal service to the Lodge, and his fellow members, to mark their appreciation, took the occasion to present him with a case of cutlery and silver table-plate, enclosed in a handsome walnut case, with suitable inscription. The presentation was made at an informal meeting of the Lodge on Monday evening, 10th inst., by the Worshipful Master Bro. T. I. Cope, in the presence of a large assembly of members, which included sixteen Past Masters.

With picturesque ceremonial the freedom of the City was conferred on Bro. J. Henniker Heaton, M.P., at the Guildhall, on Thursday, in the presence of the Lord Mayor. The Aldermen and the Sheriffs attended in their crimson robes, and the Common Councilmen in their mazarine gowns. The ceremony was performed by the venerable Chamberlain (Sir Richmond Cotton), who reminded the recipient of the dignity that a similar honour was bestowed just twenty years ago upon Sir Rowland Hill, in acknowledgment of the social and commercial benefits the country had derived from the adoption, in 1840, of the penny postage in the United Kingdom. The Chamberlain, having spoken in eloquent terms of Bro. Henniker Heaton's labours in the cause of Imperial penny postage, offered him the right hand of fellowship, and at the same time presented him with a handsome casket, which contained the scroll of the Freedom. In acknowledging the honour, Bro. Henniker Heaton said if all who had laboured with him were to be rewarded, it would, to use Lord Macaulay's phrase, rain gold boxes, as all the editors in the Kingdom, the Colonies, and India, numbering many thousands of gentlemen, would have to be summoned to Guildhall to sign the roll.

QUICK, MASONS.

IN reference to a request for a dispensation to confer the three degrees in one evening upon a candidate about to leave for China, the Grand Master of Quebec remarked: "It sometimes occurs to me that those who have contrived to live all their past lives among us without indulging any extraordinary desire for a knowledge of our science, or any special wish to be serviceable to those who have surrounded them here, can well afford, when about to leave us for pastures new, to wait just a little longer for a knowledge of our mysteries."

Commenting on the above, Bro. Birn F. Price, in the "Memphis Appeal," says: "These are our sentiments exactly, and remind us very much of a life-long sinner who has given the best energies of his life to the devil, but, when broken in health and run down by age, and knows that he must soon pass away, concludes that he will give the 'huskings of his life,' as it were, to his God. His life has burned to the socket, and, like a tallow dip that is spluttering and spitting in its last throes of existence, he concludes to offer the flickering embers as a ransom for his soul. So also with him who never sees any beauty in Masonry until he is about to depart for foreign countries, or take on some hazardous enterprise; then, suddenly, he is reminded that Masonry might help him over rough places, and forthwith petitions, 'provided he can get the degrees instant.' We have as little faith in this kind of Masonry as we have in tail-end religion, and we do not think that any Grand Master should ever use the prerogative of a dispensation to make this kind of Mason.—"Masonic Sun."

If you have been admitted to membership in a Masonic Lodge abandon selfishness; cast it off with the dust you stamp from your feet at the door; leave it outside, do not carry it into the Lodge room. Believe as Moses believed, when told by the angles to "put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground"—holy because it was a spot where the highest attributes were present—believe that the Lodge room is a place the divine attributes of charity of brotherhood have hallowed and carry not into it any of the baser passions. Within the Lodge room should be love, peace, joy, benevolence, brotherhood—all the beauties of fraternal affection. Where these prevail in a Lodge there is prosperity.—"Canadian Craftsman."

MASONIC PIC-NIC.

ON Thursday, 6th inst., the members of the Brownlow Lodge, No. 2131, entertained their wives and immediate relatives to a pic-nic at Chester. The Oswestry contingent journeyed in a saloon by the 11.40 a.m. train to Ellesmere, where they were joined by their Ellesmere friends. On arriving at Chester luncheon was partaken of at Messrs. Bolland's, after which a private steam-launch was engaged and a pleasant trip taken up the river to Eaton Hall. After a leisurely stroll through the park, the state rooms and the gardens were subsequently visited. On returning to the ferry the party found tea provided, and when this was concluded the launch was again invaded, and a delightful evening's journey back to Chester was enjoyed. The pleasures were greatly enhanced by the strains of sweet music proceeding from a string band which accompanied the boat both ways. The party left Chester station shortly before nine, and returned to Ellesmere and Oswestry after experiencing a very enjoyable day's excursion.

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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.

1632 Stuart, Camberwell
302 Hope, Bradford
307 Prince Frederick, Hebden Bridge
388 Prudence, Halesworth
491 Royal Sussex, Jersey
699 Roscawea, Chacewater
827 St. John, Dewsbury
1168 Benevolence, Sherbourne
1271 F'dship & Unity, Bradford-on-Avon
1272 Tregenna, St. Ives
1325 Stanley, Liverpool
1486 Duncombe, Kingsbridge
1748 Castlemartin, Pembroke
1752 Omore, Bridgend
1977 Blackwater, Maldon
1991 Agricola, York
2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.
2373 Hardwick, Chesterfield
2547 Llangattock, Cardiff
2582 Lewisham, Smethwick

Tuesday.

253 Tyrian, Derby
378 Loyal Welsh, Pembroke Dock
386 Unity, Wareham
448 St. James, Halifax
788 Crescent, Hampton Court
954 St. Aubyn, Devonport
1007 Howe & Charnwood, Loughboro
1016 Elkington, Birmingham
1028 Royal Alfred, Alfreton
1052 Callander, Manchester
1266 Honour & Friendship, Blandford
1353 Torbay, Paignton
1390 Whitwell, Millon
1536 United Military, Plumstead
1580 Cranbourne, Hatfield
1587 St. Giles, Chaddle
1650 Rose of Raby, Staindrop
1675 Ancient Briton, Liverpool
1779 Ivanhoe, Sheffield
1834 Duke of Connaught, Landport
1942 Minerva, Fenton
2025 St. George, Plymouth

Wednesday.

753 Prince Fred. Will'm., Frascati
754 High Cross, Tottenham
1360 Royal Arthur, Wimbledon
220 Harmony, Garston
290 Huddersfield, Huddersfield
304 Philanthropic, Leeds
439 Scientific, Bingley
461 Fortitude, Newton
724 Derby, Liverpool
750 Friendship, Cleckheaton
778 Bard of Avon, Hampton Court
1119 St. Bede, Jarow
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
1296 Vale of Brisington, Brisington
1343 Saint John, Grays
1529 Duke of Cornwall, St. Columb
1733 Sunbury, Sunbury
1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool

1760 Leopold, Scarborough
1775 Leopold, Church
1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
2019 Crook, Crook
2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
2149 Gordon, Hanley
2259 St. Nicholas, Thorne
2320 St. Martin, Castleton
2357 Barry, Cadoxton
2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames
2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs

Thursday.

General Committee, Girls School, F.M.H., 5.
1421 Langthorne, Ilford
2319 Scots, Crane Court, Fleet Street
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
202 Friendship, Devonport
214 Hope and Unity, Brentwood
215 Commerce, Haslingden
324 Moira, Stalybridge
346 United Brethren, Blackburn
403 Hertford, Hertford
410 Grove, Ewell
475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
590 La Cesaree, Jersey
594 Downshire, Liverpool
625 Devonshire, Glossop
636 De Ogle, Morpeth
772 Pilgrim, Glastonbury
787 Beaureper, Belper
807 Cabbell, Norwich
904 Phoenix, Rotherham
971 Trafalgar, Batley
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
1166 Clarendon, Hyde
1514 Thornhill, Huddersfield
1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
1616 Fr'dship & Harmony, W'yb'ge
1817 St. Andrew, Shoburyness
1971 Ald'shot. Army & Navy, A'shot.
2184 Royal Vict. Jubilee, Rainham
2214 Josiah Wedgewood, Etruria
2263 St. Leonards, Sheffield
2335 Cycling and Athletic, Liverpool
2375 Hilbre, Hoylake
2462 Clarence, West Hartlepool
2474 Hatherton, Walsall

Friday.

Council Boys School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
810 Craven, Skipton
1777 Royal Hanover, Twickenham
1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
1920 Eurydice, Surbiton
2415 Tristram, Shildon

Saturday.

631 Methuen, Taplow
1462 Wharnccliffe, Penistone
1965 Eastes, Bromley

THE STAR AND GARTER, KEW BRIDGE.

KEW Bridge is a curious old structure, picturesque enough when viewed from the water; but the curve is too high, the side walks not wide enough, and the approaches are much too steep. It is doomed, for they are progressing rapidly with a temporary wooden structure which is to span the river and do duty whilst the present bridge is to be replaced. The original Kew Bridge was built about the year 1757, at the corner being the famous Star and Garter Hotel, a house long associated with Masonic doings, and at present occupied by Bro. Capt. W. T. Purkiss, V.D., who is thus spoken of by "Tourist," in the "Licensed Victuallers' Gazette and Hotel Courier":

There is our host seated yonder in conversation with one of his customers. Yes, that jovial-looking, ruddy faced, stout gentleman, with white moustache and whiskers. Looks like a fine specimen of an old English squire, eh? Yes, with a touch of the military about his appearance, not unlike the Duke of Cambridge. Well, you are not far out, for my old friend has been a most ardent supporter of the Volunteers, and served his full time (twenty-one years) in the City of London Artillery Volunteers, entering as a lieutenant and retiring as a captain. He has received the Victoria decoration presented by the Queen for his long and attentive service. He must show it to you before you leave, for he is justly proud of the medal, and I'll get him to tell you some of his experiences during the time that he was in the corps.

But the gallant captain is disengaged, so let me introduce you. With a hearty grip of the hand, our host's face beams with delight as we evidently recall many a jolly day that is past, and now, seated in the comfortable saloon, we chat over those old times.

But we have come down to have a look at the Star and Garter, and not

to dwell upon old times, although such is irresistible when my old friend and I meet.

Captain Purkiss will be our guide then, so let us proceed. On the right from the saloon bar is a spacious and very comfortable coffee-room with bar attached, the latter opened only on Sundays and upon busy occasions; through the coffee-room there is a snug little dining-room, and at the far end, down a flight of stairs, we enter one of the best appointed club skittle saloons I have ever seen, built by our host since he has been here.

Making our way back to the bar, we pass through the grotto and descend to the cellars. Finer cellars it would be difficult to find anywhere. To the left are the various departments in which the wines and spirits are kept, the first devoted to the sparkling champagne of every high-class brand and a very large stock, besides some exceedingly old and choice ports and sherries—for there is on occasions a great demand for these wines when the big banquets are held in the halls attached to this popular hotel. In an inner cellar are the large vats for the various spirits. Returning, we survey the bottle spirit bins and wines all systematically arranged and numbered, so that everything is to hand. The bottle beer cellar is also a great feature here, and the beer cellars are enormous, lofty, and splendidly cool, which, as already said, give Messrs. Fuller such fair play with their excellent beer.

Our guide takes us out into the grounds. There is a bowling green, beautifully turfed, 60ft by 100ft, surrounded by beds of flowers and fine old poplar trees—a very pleasant place to spend an evening. On the left is one of the entrances to the Princess Theatre, through which we proceed. Attached, I must inform you, to the Star and Garter is a fully-licensed theatre, which will seat seven or eight hundred, and with a fine stage 49ft by 30ft, built by Captain Purkiss, dressing-rooms, bars, and everything necessary for theatrical representations. In the winter months this is much patronised by amateur dramatic clubs and concerts, and the auditorium is frequently cleared for balls. At present it is used by a cycling school.

Captain Purkiss conducts us to the large banquetting hall above, and we take a peep into the Masonic Lodge room on the first floor, at which four Lodges are regularly held, including the famous old Royal Alfred, amongst whose members once were many leading lights of the theatrical profession. Here also are private sitting and dining-rooms, the billiard-room, mine host's sanctum and office, and his private drawing-room, commanding a splendid view of the river, Kew Gardens, and looking direct over the bridge.

Altogether the Star and Garter is one of those good, solid, old-fashioned hotels, at which, under the present proprietorship, nothing but the best is served, for Captain Purkiss has had much experience in catering and providing entertainment for the public, and under his personal superintendence, with the assistance of his manager and his bright little granddaughter, Rosie, visitors are sure to be more than pleased with their reception by the ever genial and amiable host, whose fine house commands one of the best sites upon the banks of the river Thames.

CATHOLICS AND FREEMASONRY.

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

SIR,—In trespassing upon your kindness I do not wish to unduly prolong this subject, but desire to ask any of your correspondents if they can tell me if the various Bulls issued against this Order by his Holiness the Pope have been collected and published in book or pamphlet form. I wish to know first-hand the wording and reason given for condemning Freemasonry.

I have invariably noticed that the truth is obtainable by three processes. First, what Protestants say about Catholics; second, what Catholics say about Catholicism; and, thirdly, what the Pope himself defines as the truth.

The last I can accept as authoritative, but the first and second have so much prejudice and error mixed up with them that I am naturally cautious of accepting their dictum.

In fact, his Holiness Pope Leo XIII.'s definition of Christianity, as given in his Encyclical Letter on the Consecration of Mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, recently published throughout the world, is so transcendently beautiful in its Catholicity, so benevolently conceived in the Divine spirit of love and tolerance for all the human race, that it is impossible to believe his Holiness the Pope can condemn the members of the mystic tie; rather does it seem probable that the system is condemned, but that the members of the system are exonerated and blameless whilst covertly or overtly they do nothing against their fellow-man freely exercising his individual religious worship.

I am glad to see that the "Rivista Antimassonica" has translated and published my first letter on the subject. No doubt good will result. I agree mainly with Mr. Clemente, of Slough, that the six points he mentions are worth considering and acting upon. The more light and knowledge we can have on these mysterious bodies the better: "He that doeth good cometh to the light, for there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed, and hid, that shall not be known." (Matt. x.)

We had this week a charming example of the Brotherly spirit animating great minds in the Masonic and Catholic world, when the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of English Masons, and the Duke of Norfolk, the head of the social or civic part of Catholicism in England, officiated at the useful object of stone-laying of a new Post-office bank at Kensington, and this is not the only instance of fraternisation which Englishmen indulge in. Surely "a good and pleasant thing it is to see brethren dwelling together in unity." (Psalm ciii.)

And now to crown all we have that great and noblest and wisest soul of the human race—his Holiness Pope Leo XIII.—whom Heaven hath so bountifully blessed and preserved these ninety years, declaring in his fatherly and loving universal charity that the "Empire of Jesus Christ extends not only over those who profess themselves Catholics, and even over all the baptised who belong by right to the Church, though separated from her by erroneous doctrines and by breach of charity, but it likewise embraces all non-Christians, so that the entire human race is really and truly under the dominion of Jesus Christ (see also Heb. i. 2, 5, Matt. xxviii. 18)." So, continues his Holiness, quoting St. Augustine: "Hence not only Catholics and all baptised Christians, but all and every one of mankind have become his purchased people, He purchased all nations, the whole world by His Blood, for as St. Thomas Aquinas says, all, even unbelievers, are subject to the power and dominion of Jesus Christ, for all things are subject to His power, though not yet subject to Him as regards the exercise of that power."

There is much more in this wonderful Encyclical letter to prove that were it possible for Protestants as well as many Catholics to read and realise the boundless charity and tolerance that emanates from the heart of Pope Leo XIII. the twentieth century would usher in the reign of the Millennium of peace, brotherly love, tolerance, and goodwill among men, and all these

sects, societies, leagues, and orders, secret and otherwise, would become merged into "One Fold and One Shepherd."

Finally, I think if the Pope's Encyclical letter on the Sacred Heart were printed on a card about octave size, with a nice symbolical bordering, and sold at a penny, sixpence, and a shilling for framing, it would find a place in many households and serve to remove many prejudices regarding Catholicism by those who glanced at it. Will the Catholic Art Society consider this?

Yours, &c.,

T. MAY.

40 Spondon Road, Tottenham,
June 24, 1899.

SIR,—I am in a position to confirm Father Clemente's statement in the "Catholic Times" that Continental Freemasonry is assisted not only morally, but materially and financially, by English Freemasons in its designs against the Church. On the establishment of the Volunteer movement in England about forty years ago, I was one of the first volunteers enrolled to defend our country against the threatened invasion of Napoleon III. The captain of our company was a Freemason. Very soon after the revolution in Italy was organised by the Italian Freemasons, which culminated in the bombardment of Rome, and the seizure of the Papal possessions under the leadership of Garibaldi, our captain, who was an enthusiastic admirer of Garibaldi, informed us that he and others were about to form an "English legion" to assist Garibaldi in his designs against Rome, and asked those of us who felt inclined to volunteer for that purpose to do so, stating that Freemasons were prepared to supply the means necessary to equip and send us out, and described in glowing language the glory that awaited us when Italy was united and free, with Rome as its capital. Being at that time a bitter opponent of the Catholic Church, I entered into the scheme with enthusiasm; but, thank God, the better counsel of my friends prevailed, and my comrades departed without me. The sad end of that vaunted "English legion" is now a matter of history. Very few came back again. On the conclusion of this disastrous and painful attack on the Church by the united forces of Freemasonry I had a conversation with a very intimate friend of mine, who had held the highest position in one of the Essex Lodges. He candidly acknowledged that English Freemasonry had been in personal communication with Mazzini, and had entrusted him with money for the purpose of carrying out the campaign. He added: "Catholicity is our most deadly enemy, and if we can overthrow that the rest would be easy." I said: "You will never succeed in that, for it is a Divine institution." He said: "Time will show. Rome has fallen. It now only remains to attack it all along the line, and it will be at an end." I could not restrain a smile, for the Founder of the Church had declared: "The gates of hell shall never prevail against it." So I knew its ally, clever and secret as it might be, would never succeed. Still, though we have that positive assurance, it is the duty of every Catholic to emulate the courage and consistency of the noble army of martyrs and confessors who have so nobly fought the battles before us in defence of the freedom and rights of our grand old Church.

Yours, &c.,

R. LEGGETT.

London, June 25, 1899.

HOLIDAY TOURS.

HOW different the Tourist arrangements of to-day to what many of us can remember, even within the last quarter of a century; while if we go yet further back we shall find the facilities of the past almost retreating to the vanishing point. We can remember when the pleasure of a trip to the coast or some inland centre was associated with a certain amount of dread, when one considered the long journey in a stuffy—or in some cases quite open—railway carriage, which rumbled along hour after hour, apparently with the object of making the passengers as miserable, tired, and disagreeable as possible. But all this is now changed, and the different Railway Companies vie with each other as to which shall provide the most luxurious coaches, and which traverse the longest journeys with the greatest ease and comfort.

We have previously referred to the energy displayed by the Great Eastern Railway in this direction, and their arrangements for the present season amply prove that they are alive to the requirements of the times, and are determined to maintain the high reputation they have already achieved as caterers for holiday folk. Favoured as the district served by this Company is by nature, which seems to have specially intended its coast as a playground for the tired Londoner, the present popularity of many of the pleasure resorts is undoubtedly due to the facilities provided by the Great Eastern to bring them within easy and rapid reach of the metropolis, and the other steps taken by the management to introduce the charms of the country to the dwellers in our great city.

Foremost in the direction of educating the masses we may mention the different publications of the Company, prominent among them being "Holiday Haunts on the East Anglian Coast," "The water-ways of Norfolk and Suffolk," "Golfing on the East Anglian Coast," and others, all of which are alike useful, interesting, and instructive, and being freely illustrated appeal to the eye as well as to the sentiments of the reader. Another useful publication is the list of Farmhouse and Country Lodgings—first issued by the Great Eastern Company in 1887, and since imitated by most of the great Companies of the Kingdom, and not only so, but really acting as the pioneer to the many useful guides and pamphlets now so freely circulated. The Great Eastern, too, has done much to bring the producer and the consumer of Farm and Dairy Produce into direct communication with each other, and their list of Producers in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, now in its seventh edition, with description of what each offers, and in what quantities, is not the least popular of its many publications.

In years gone by we have attempted to describe some of the attractions of the principal East Coast holiday resorts, and we hope to have yet more to say in regard to some of them in the future, but if any of our readers are undecided where to go for a change there is no need for them to wait for our comments; they will probably find out all they require from a perusal of the works to which we have just referred, and any of which may be had from the Superintendent of the Line, at Liverpool Street Station, or at any of the Company's London and Suburban offices.

To those of our friends who may desire to go further afield we can recommend the new booklets just issued by the Company, "Holidays in the old Flemish cities and the Ardennes," and "A Channel Fleet," both by Percy Lindley, and each giving interesting and useful information in regard to the Harwich route to the Continent, and the many holiday and pleasure trips arranged in connection therewith.

HALF-DAY HOLIDAY TRIPS.

IT is gratifying to know that the half-day excursions run each Thursday by the Great Western Railway, to Stratford-on-Avon, Banbury and Leamington, have proved so successful as to lead to a considerable extension of the principle, similar trips being now run on each of the earlier days of the week: on Mondays to Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne End, Marlow, Wycombe, Aylesbury, &c.; on Tuesdays to Culham, Radley, Abingdon, Oxford, Blenheim, and Woodstock; and on Wednesdays to Reading, Newbury, Hungerford, Savernake, Marlborough, and Devizes; and we think it safe to predict that the trains will not only be well patronised, but that the Company may find it desirable to make even greater concessions, and extend the facilities for such holiday trips at no very distant date.

Will it be possible for the Company to some day run luncheon and tea cars in connection with these half-day trips? It would certainly be a great boon if cold luncheons—at a popular price—could be served on the down journey, and tea and light refreshments on the return. This is a bold suggestion, we admit, but in view of the enterprise of our great Railway Companies it is by no means an impossibility, indeed we look forward to the time—and at no very great distance either—when excursion trains will be built on the corridor principle, with a refreshment department in full work, and attendants ready to cater for customers in any part of the train. We believe such a system would at once pay on these half-day trips, if only for the novelty of the thing, and would soon come to be recognised as a necessary adjunct of summer travel.

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GOUT.
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RHEUMATISM.

15 Sunbeam Terrace, Beeston Hill,
Leeds, Yorkshire, 24th Jan. 1898.

Dear Mr. Eade,—I feel it my duty to acknowledge the great good your pills have done me. I have been a great sufferer with Rheumatic Gout, but for the last three years, having taken your pills, I have always been free from it, and am never without them in the house. I can highly recommend them to all people suffering with Rheumatism as a safe and sure cure. I have often given one or two away to friends for a trial, and, like me, they would not be without them for all the world.

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Yours truly,

HENRY THOMAS LANGLEY.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

NORFOLK.

BY command of the Prov. Grand Master Bro. Hamon le Strange P.G.D. a meeting of this Provincial Lodge was held at the Public Hall, Wymondham, on the 12th inst.

It is many years since a similiar gathering took place in the old town, and the Brethren of Lodge Doric spared no pains to make the occasion a success. The Hall, which is not altogether a model of elegance or convenience, had been suitably prepared for the event.

At half-past two the members of the eighteen Lodges included in the Province assembled under their respective banners, and at three o'clock the Prov. G. Master, preceded by his Officers, took his position and opened the Lodge in due form. The Prov. G.M. was supported by the late Prov. G.M. Lord Suffield, Sir Francis Boileau Deputy Prov. G.M., and many others.

The Provincial Grand Secretary called the roll of the Province, when each Lodge was found to be represented. The minutes of the Prov. Grand Lodge held in Norwich on 14th July 1898, and of the special Lodge held on 1st Dec. 1898, were duly confirmed.

The Prov. G. Registrar Bro. H. Warne read his return for the past year of the several Lodges in the Province, with the numbers of initiations, joinings, and resignations, and the Treasurer also quoted figures showing the satisfactory position of the Province from a financial standpoint.

The reports submitted by the General Purposes Committee and the Charities Committee were adopted, and Bro. George Arthur Fuller P.M. 943 was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. In connection with the report of the Charities Committee, it was suggested that the memory of the late respected Bro. H. G. Barwell should be perpetuated by raising a sum of £150, to be divided among the three great Masonic Institutions, so as to increase the voting power of the Province.

The Prov. Grand Master then invested the following as his new Officers:

Bros. Walter Waring	-	-	-	Senior Warden
R. H. Teasdel	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. A. J. Alpe	-	-	-	Chaplains
The Very Rev. the Dean of Norwich	-	-	-	Treasurer
G. A. Fuller	-	-	-	Registrar
H. W. Churchyard	-	-	-	Secretary
G. W. G. Barnard	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
W. T. Dawson	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
G. S. Andrews	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
E. R. Woodward	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
S. F. Stackard	-	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
W. E. Cobbald	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
N. B. Webster	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
J. J. Marshall	-	-	-	Organist
A. Cooper	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
A. Glasspoole	-	-	-	Pursuivant
W. Oliver	-	-	-	Assist. Pursuivant
R. T. Booty	-	-	-	Stewards
T. Baylis	-	-	-	Tyler
P. Soman	-	-	-	Assistant Tyler.
T. Blomfield	-	-	-	
R. S. Butcher	-	-	-	
W. G. Parfitt	-	-	-	
A. F. Hardyment	-	-	-	
D. C. McNeill	-	-	-	
Ephraim Hollidge	-	-	-	
T. G. Wyatt	-	-	-	

The following Brethren were appointed to serve on the Board of General Purposes:—From the Norwich Lodges: Sir Charles Rackham Gilman 52, John Brooks Bridgman 93 and 943, Thomas Joseph Mackley 1500; from the other Lodges in the Province: Richard Martins 100 and 313, George William Page 107, Harry James Sparks 996. Bros. J. B. Coleby and A. N. Mann were elected Auditors.

Before the Lodge was closed the Prov. G.M. expressed the great satisfaction it afforded him to have the support of his predecessor in office. He regarded it as a great compliment that Lord Suffield had come specially from London to be present. It was gratifying to find his lordship carrying out the promise that his resignation would not mean a severance of his connection with the Province. He especially valued the support, assistance, and advice given by Lord Suffield, and it was a matter of thankfulness that the Province had during late years assumed such an improved position. From 1895 there had been a steady increase of members, and the Province was now in a highly prosperous condition.

The Lodge having been closed according to ancient custom, the Brethren attended evensong at the parish church. The service was intoned by the Rev. G. S. Mansbridge. The lessons were read by the Vicar, the Rev. and Hon. Archibald Parker.

Before the first lesson a handsome brass lectern, subscribed for by the parishioners and friends in memory of the late Vicar, Canon Eden, was dedicated. The massive lectern, which was specially constructed from designs prepared by Mr. W. R. Weyer, is thoroughly in keeping with the architecture of the church. It is made of solid burnished brass, and consists of a handsome eagle, mounted on a richly moulded column, the base of which stands upon four lions couchant. On all hands the lectern, which cost about £100, was declared to be a valuable addition to the church, and a credit alike to the designer and manufacturers. The musical portion of the service was very effectively rendered by an augmented choir, Bro. A. S. Wilde P.P.G.O. presiding at the organ.

Bro. A. J. Alpe Prov. G. Chaplain preached a very appropriate sermon, taking for his text Ephesians ii. 21-22. He urged the Brethren to give alms liberally to assist in the work of restoring the noble fane in which they were assembled. The collection amounted to £11 11s 1d.

A banquet, to which nearly a hundred Brethren sat down, was subsequently served by Bro. J. Hare (of the White Hart Hotel) in the Public Hall. The toasts met with a most enthusiastic reception, and the distinguished Brethren replied in happy terms.

A warm vote of thanks was passed to Doric Lodge for the admirable arrangements made for the comfort and enjoyment of the numerous company attending the meeting, a deserved compliment which the Secretary Bro. G. Plumstead suitably acknowledged.

Bro. S. F. Stackard capably carried out the duties of Director of Ceremonies, and excellent music was provided by Brcs. Gawthrop (Chapel Royal, London), Wells (solo violinist), R. V. Reyner, J. Brummage, and J. W. Bocking. —“Eastern Daily Press.”

NORTH AND EAST YORKS.

ON Wednesday, 12th inst., at the Temperance Hall, Guisborough, the Marquis of Zetland Provincial Grand Master held a general communication of Masons of the Province, by invitation of the Zetland Lodge, No. 561.

Previous to the gathering of Prov. G. Lodge there was a meeting of the Provincial Board of Benevolence at the Mechanics' Institute. There was a large gathering of Brethren, over two hundred coming to represent the thirty-three Lodges of the Province.

Bro. Scott was elected Provincial Treasurer, and then the Provincial Grand Master invested his Officers, as follow:

Bros. Lord Raincliffe	-	-	-	Senior Warden
Sir Henry Beresford-Peirse, Bart.	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Thos. Morrill	-	-	-	Registrar
Rev. Allan Pride, D.D.	-	-	-	Chaplains
Rev. R. G. C. Parker	-	-	-	Secretary
M. C. Peck	-	-	-	Senior Deacons
J. T. Towler	-	-	-	Junior Deacons
F. R. Hanwell	-	-	-	Supt. of Works
J. L. Spitch	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
W. Brownley	-	-	-	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
C. E. Bradley	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
J. G. Wallis	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
Dr. J. Glen, M.D.	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
Alfred Spring	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
R. Murray	-	-	-	Organist
W. H. Johnson	-	-	-	Pursuivant
R. Forster	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
T. B. Redfern	-	-	-	Tyler.
W. Hepper	-	-	-	
G. Bradley	-	-	-	
B. Newbald	-	-	-	
C. Travis	-	-	-	

Bro. Handyside, one of the founders of the Zetland Lodge fifty years ago, was present.

The Provincial Lodge having been closed, the Brethren adjourned to the Providence School, where a banquet was held, the Marquis presiding. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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UPTON LODGE, No. 1227.

THE Worshipful Master Bro. William Athol Bray presided at a meeting of this Lodge held on Thursday of last week, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, E.C. As usual at this Lodge there was plenty of business to be gone through.

After the minutes of the May meeting had been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Mr. William Edward Pound, who was approved as a candidate for Freemasonry.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bros. Thos. G. Gunn, Fredk. J. Rover, Harry T. Arnold, and George E. Smith answered the usual questions, and were subsequently raised to the sublime degree, invested, and took their seats as Master Masons.

Mr. Pound being in attendance, was then introduced, and received as a member of the Order in due form.

Both the ceremonies were admirably rendered by Bro. Bray, who was zealously assisted by his Officers, all giving perfect satisfaction to the Brethren.

The Bye-laws of the Lodge were read by the Secretary for the information of the members, after which the Brethren proceeded to ballot for a Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, with the result that Bro. Henry J. Rowberry J.W. was unanimously selected. Bro. Charles Gieseke P.M. was re-elected as Treasurer, for the 16th time, and Bro. Thos. Bowler P.M. was re-appointed as Tyler, for the 21st time. These Brethren were officially informed by Bro. Hyde, and returned thanks for their election.

Bros. Hartwell and Gunn were appointed as Auditors of the Lodge. The names of three candidates were submitted for initiation at the next meeting.

The cost of a Past Master's collar and Lodge jewel was voted from the funds, for presentation to Bro. Hyde, in recognition of his services during his term of office.

The letter from the Grand Secretary with reference to the wearing of Masonic regalia outside the Lodges was read to the Brethren, and was ordered to be attached to the minutes.

It was decided to endorse the application of the widow of a deceased Brother for relief from Grand Lodge, and the W.M. kindly promised to support it at the Board of Benevolence.

Bro. Everett reported that he had attended as a Steward at the Boys School Festival, at Brighton, and thanked the Brethren for enabling him to take up such an excellent amount. He also added that the votes for the Charity would be placed to the credit of the Upton Lodge.

The W.M. having received the good wishes of the Brethren, the closing hymn was sung, and the company was dismissed.

The Lodge being closed the Brethren adjourned to dinner, and subsequently a pleasant evening was spent, during which the customary Loyal and complimentary toasts were given and cordially received.

The installation of the new Master has been fixed for Thursday, 14th September next, and it was decided to hold an emergency meeting prior to that date, for the purpose of clearing off the arrears of work.

In addition to those mentioned above the following were present:—Bros. Henry Hyde I.P.M., E. M. Jeffery P.M., John Stroud P.M., G. A. Peters P.M., Chas. J. Free P.M. Secretary, Charles Schmidt P.M. acting S.W., H. J. Rowberry J.W., Walter J. Carroll S.D., R. F. Thomson J.D., Alfred B. Noble I.G., E. C. Holmes Organist, G. W. Flatman D.C., R. Everett, W. T. Hustwayte, Joseph Cooper, R. J. Burridge, W. H. Baker, W. Hartnell, R. R. Hayne, J. Baker, O. Greenland.

The following Brethren also attended the Lodge: John Shaw P.M. 139 P.Prov.G.S. of Wks. West Yorks, C. B. Thompson 898, C. G. Riley 1816, T. Pettit 1044, Bernard Barton I.G. 2552, R. H. Sleeman I.G. 788, &c.

INSTRUCTION.

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PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM LODGE, No. 753.

THIS Lodge, which is so widely known for its good working, was again visited by a strong force of Brethren on Tuesday, when the regular meeting was held at the house of Bro. Frank Crocker, the Queen's Hotel, Aberdeen Place, Maida Vale, N.W., the Lodge quarters of which establishment are well appointed, and kept beautifully cool this hot weather.

The chair was taken by the W.M.-elect of the Mother Lodge Bro. A. B. Butt, who will have the honour of being installed on Wednesday next, the 26th inst., and he was supported by the following Brethren: J. L. Goldstein S.W., J. H. Craig J.W., G. Wood P.M. Prec., W. J. Stratton P.M. Treas., H. J. Thomas P.M. Sec., T. Harpham S.D., S. Davies J.D., F. Crocker I.G., J. W. Muzzell, O. Grosvenor, H. D. Wall, D. R. Redfearn W.M. 753, C. H. Gates, J. Kirby, Jabez Mason, Gibbs, A. Achard, M. E. Swan, W. D. Slyman, J. Hands, J. C. Kruse, L. Conradi, W. Constant, W. Yeo, J. Wynman, S. Weeden, P. Weeden, &c.

The usual formalities having been observed, Bro. Kruse answered the questions leading to the second degree and was entrusted. The Lodge was advanced, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. The W.M. gave the moral significations of the working tools and the whole of the ceremony in a most perfect manner. The inner work of installation was rehearsed, and Bro. H. J. Thomas Secretary was presented as W.M.-elect by Bro. Stratton P.M. Treasurer, who made a perfect D.C. The Brethren having been re-admitted saluted the W.M. in the different degrees, and Bro. Redfearn in his usual able manner delivered the three addresses.

The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and Bro. A. Turner 1261 and Bro. A. B. Nowakowski 534 were elected members, which compliment was acknowledged by those two Brethren. Another ballot (the third in three weeks) was taken in connection with the Benevolent Association, and proved in favour of Bro. M. E. Swan.

Bro. J. L. Goldstein will preside on Tuesday, 1st August, next Tuesday being Officers night.

EYRE LODGE, No. 2742.

ON Wednesday we had the pleasure of visiting this very young Lodge of Instruction, at the house of Bro. C. Murless, the old and widely renowned Eyre Arms Hotel, St. John's Wood, of which Bro. A. J. Barrell is the manager. There were present Bros. P. J. Weeden W.M., S. A. Weeden S.W., A. J. Barrell J.W., H. J. Weston P.M. Prec., J. E. Dewhurst acting Sec., J. D. Graham S.D., W. Mitchell J.D., C. Murless I.G., J. Wynman, and others.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Mitchell acting as candidate. After this the W.M. kindly vacated the chair in favour of Bro. J. D. Graham P.M. 1559 Preceptor of the New Cross Lodge of Instruction, who rehearsed the second degree, with Bro. Murless acting as candidate. Bro. Graham performed the work in good style and resumed the Lodge to the first degree.

Bro. H. J. Weston proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the able manner in which the W.M. had performed the duties of the chair for the first time in that Lodge, which was unanimously carried and suitably acknowledged.

This Lodge is very tastefully supplied with Masonic Furniture, working tools, &c., presented by different members, prominent among the donors being

Bros. J. E. Dewhurst, W. Mitchell, and A. J. Barrell. The different articles were supplied by the well known firm of O. Weeden and Sons, of 2 Rydon Crescent, Clerkenwell, and are a distinct acquisition to the Lodge.

The Eyre Lodge of Instruction meets every Wednesday, at 8 o'clock, and is under the preceptorship of Bro. H. J. Weston P.M. P.P.G.S. of W. Middlesex, and will no doubt be well patronised by the many Brethren in this populous corner of the metropolis.

PROVINCIAL.

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CARNARVON LODGE, No. 804.

THE annual festival of this Lodge was held at the Town Hall, Havant (by dispensation), on the 4th inst., when over seventy Brethren attended. It was a most successful function, and quite a red letter day in the annals of the Lodge.

The Brethren assembled at 3.30. Lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. W. W. Blake. After the reading of the dispensation and minutes the Provincial Grand Master of Hants and Isle of Wight Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., was announced, with him being the following Officers of Prov. Grand Lodge:—Bros. Edgar Goble Deputy Prov.G.M. P.G.St.B. Eng., H. G. Giles Prov.G. Secretary, J. W. Gieve Prov.G.Treas., E. A. Farr Prov.G.J.W., W. E. Duck Prov.G.J.D., H. W. Smith Parsons P.P.G.J.D., G. F. Lancaster P.P.G.Reg. Prov.G.Assist.Sec., T. M. Tayler Prov.G.Standard Bearer, G. H. Atkinson Prov.G.S.B., E. J. A. Nash Prov.G.A.P., Geo. Rogers Prov.G.P., J. Mew Godfrey Prov.G.A.D.C., J. Chandler Prov.G.St., F. H. Sheppard Prov.G.D.D.C., H. S. Duke Prov.G.St., R. Wyatt Prov.G.St.B., F. W. E. Evans Prov.G.St., H. Siebert Prov.G.Org., W. Hawksley P.P.G.C., Jno. Purrell P.P.G.S.B., Jno. Greasley P.P.G.S.D., &c.

The Prov.G.M. took the chair and opened the Lodge in the second degree. Bro. W. T. Williams S.W. and Master-elect was presented to receive the benefit of Installation. Having answered the usual questions, he was duly placed in the principal chair and saluted. The W.M. then invested his Officers, as follow:—Bro. F. S. Stebbing S.W., G. W. Corbin J.W., E. S. Spriggs P.M. Prov.G.P. Treas., H. W. Smith Parsons P.M. P.P.G.D. Sec., A. E. Fielder S.D., A. Hapgood J.D., J. Mew Godfrey P.M. Prov.G.A.D.C. D. of C., F. W. Earle Org., G. E. Smith I.G., M. Danson and S. R. Crapnell Stewards.

The customary addresses were beautifully rendered by the Prov.G.M., who congratulated the W.M. on the high honour his Brethren had conferred upon him.

The W.M. proposed, and the S.W. seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the Installing Master for his services, and also for his kindness in visiting Havant, which he and his Officers and Brethren considered a very high honour.

The Prov.G.M. said it gave him much pleasure to visit Havant; he congratulated the W.M. on the number of Brethren in attendance, and trusted the Lodge would long continue to flourish.

At the request of the W.M. the Prov.G.M. presented a Banner (subscribed for by the Members) to the Lodge. It gave him a great amount of pleasure to do so, which was still further enhanced as the crest brought to his mind a very dear old friend and excellent Mason the late Earl of Carnarvon, and he trusted it would be an incentive to the Brethren to rally round their W.M. and assist him in the discharge of his duties.

A telegram was received from Bro. H. Nelson Price P.M. P.G.St.England, regretting his absence, through ill health.

Hearty good wishes having been tendered, the Brethren, to the number of over seventy, retired to the banquet table, which was beautifully decorated with flowers, ferns and fruit. During the dinner a portion of the string band of the R.M.L.I. discoursed sweet music.

The Banner, which is of blue silk bearing the Carnarvon crest in true heraldic colours, was executed by Bro. Lamb, of Clerkenwell.

The Visitors included, in addition to those mentioned above, Bros. Bradley W.M. 342, J. T. Slade W.M. 487, S. Binch W.M. 908, H. Kenshelt W.M. 1428, E. Hadley W.M. 1903, J. T. Hill W.M. 1958, W. E. Green W.M. 2068, E. G. A. Nash 2153, H. Jago W.M. 2074.

The following Past Masters supported the W.M., viz.: Bros. J. T. Slade, Geo. Cox, Geo. Huggett, Jno. Purnell, W. W. Blake, &c., together with about twenty-five Brethren of 804.

ALBERT VICTOR LODGE, No. 1773.

THE annual picnic in connection with this Lodge took place on Saturday, 8th inst.

Shortly after one p.m. upwards of forty members of the Lodge, together with their lady and gentlemen friends, assembled at London Road Station, Manchester, and were booked for Chelford. Here a couple of conveyances (supplied by Bro. Fountain, Macclesfield) were in waiting, and the party commenced a circular drive through Cheshire. The first stop was at the interesting church of Lower Peover, which was inspected, as were also several peculiar epitaphs which are to be found in the churchyard. Passing through Holmes Chapel, Brereton Green was reached, where an excellent tea was supplied under a large tent by Mrs. Yates, proprietress of the Bear's Head Hotel.

Upon the conclusion of the tea, Bro. Samuel Statham P.M. P.P.G.Tr. proposed the health of the W.M., and added a few words of praise on behalf of the Committee who had provided so successful an outing.

Bro. Wm. Thomas Blease Worshipful Master responded, after which Bro. Allen Smith S.W. submitted the toast of the ladies, this being suitably replied to by Bro. Dr. Massey.

There were facilities at the hotel for archery, bowling, croquet, and dancing, but time did not allow of an indulgence in all these pastimes. Permission was also given for a visit to the neighbouring Hall, brought into prominence by a recent litigation trial, and several of the company availed themselves of the opportunity.

Bro. Blease having recorded in the visitors' book the fact that himself and party had visited the hotel to their mutual satisfaction, the conveyances were again requisitioned, and the lovely Cheshire drive was completed, Alderley Station being reached shortly after 9.30, and Manchester about 10.15.

Garrick.—The Wednesday and Saturday matinées of A. Conan Doyle's play "Halves," at this Theatre (which by the way reaches its fiftieth performance on Wednesday next, 26th inst.) will be continued until further notice.