

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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A MASONIC CENSUS.

INFORMATION we publish in another part of this issue carries us a considerable distance towards an official numbering of the Freemasons of England, and we shall be much surprised if the start we have thus secured may not be made the foundation on which to take a Masonic census of the country, which has often been asked for, and would no doubt prove of interest and usefulness in many ways, and set at rest doubts which have arisen in various quarters.

The figures we give were quoted by the acting Provincial Grand Superintendent of West Yorkshire at the recent meeting of that Chapter, and from them we are able to compile the following:

	No. of Lodges.	Membership.	Average.
West Lancashire	122	8,125	66·6
East Lancashire	113	4,800	42·5
West Yorkshire	81	4,142	51·1
Devonshire	59	3,887	66·0

These four Provinces comprise among them 375 Lodges, with a total membership of 20,954 or an average of about sixty to each Lodge. We shall now make an effort to complete the figures for the whole of the country, and shall be obliged if any of our readers can assist us in doing so.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE Board of Benevolence held its last meeting for 1899 at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, Bro. James Henry Matthews President in the chair.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, held on the 6th inst., 1,000 guineas was voted to the Mansion House War Fund, but a discussion arose, during which it was stated that the Lord Mayor's Fund did not include in its objects of relief widows not married on the strength, and their children. It was generally desired that officers' families, disabled soldiers and sailors, and also those colonials who had assisted this country in its defence should participate, and it was referred to the Board of Benevolence to decide how the 1,000 guineas should be allocated. Inquiries were then made, and the answer was given by Mr. Soulsby, the Lord Mayor's Secretary, that the Fund relieved all.

Bro. Matthews having stated this result on Wednesday, the Board was asked to decide on the distribution of the amount voted by Grand Lodge, and it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Bro. D. D. Mercer Senior Vice-President, seconded by Bro. Henry Garrod Junior Vice-President, that the 1,000 guineas be given to the Mansion House Transvaal War Fund, to be distributed at the discretion of the Lord Mayor.

The Board proceeded to deal with the thirty cases on the December list, and in the result deferred two and dismissed two. Grand Lodge was asked to approve of £75 being given in one instance, and £50 in two cases. It was referred to the Grand Master to sanction £40 being given in three cases, and £30 in six cases. Nine grants of £20 each were made, £15 was voted in one case, £10 in two cases, and also £5 in two. The total voted was £700.

Among those present were Bros. Edward Letchworth Grand Secretary, William Dodd, G. S. Recknell, and the Grand Tyler, as representatives of the official department.

THE LEEDS HALL.

THE proposal of the City Council to interfere with the site purchased for the Leeds Masonic Hall is strongly opposed by the shareholders of the Company, and other Brethren. This view was formally embodied in a letter read at Wednesday's meeting of the Improvements Committee from Bro. W. Postlethwaite, writing on behalf of the new Company. The writer asked whether or not some assurance could not be given that the site would not be taken, so that the Masonic buildings might be proceeded with at once. Without such an assurance, intimated Bro. Postlethwaite, there was no other alternative but for those interested to offer a strenuous opposition to the Corporation scheme. It was decided to refer the letter to a Sub-Committee, but from what transpired there is little doubt that the Corporation will try to meet the wishes of the Leeds Freemasons in regard to a project which they have desired for years to carry out. Should the clause for the compulsory acquirement of the land in question remain in the Order which the Corporation intend to promote in the next Parliamentary Session, an undertaking will, if possible, be given that it shall not be built upon by the Corporation.

R. M. I. GIRLS.

IT has been found necessary to change the date of the 112th Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, which will be held on Wednesday, 16th May next (instead of the 9th), under the presidency of the Earl of Dartmouth Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire.

An opportunity seems to present itself in connection with the new Schools of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys which some of our Brethren may be glad to have pointed out to them. We have it on the authority of Bro. C. L. Mason, of Leeds, one of the most energetic among the more active members of the Craft, that it is the intention of the pupils of the Institution—or those of them associated with its Carpenter's Shop—to make the forms for the new School! They cannot do so without the wood. Is there any Brother interested in the timber trade who could supply the lads with the material, or a part of it, so that their contribution to the new establishment might be handed over free of cost to the Institution? Our education has been neglected so far as carpentry is concerned, but perhaps some of our readers may know of something beyond wood—nails, ironwork, &c.—that may be required for the forms, and if so they may be able to influence a supply of what is necessary. If it is really true that the pupils intend to make the forms, it would not be too much to ask some of the ex-pupils to see what they could do to help supply the material. In the same connection we learn that there are now upwards of sixty boys of the Institution learning carpentry, and they not only require their old tools replenishing, but also want additions to their stock, so that it would seem there is ample scope for the exercise of Fraternal liberality in many directions. Of one thing we are sure—any articles that may be given will be thankfully received, and faithfully applied.

Speaking at a Sheffield installation meeting, the Deputy Prov.G.M. of West Yorkshire gave some excellent practical advice on the conduct of Masonic matters, and also related his experience of the Masonic functions he had attended in various parts of the West Riding. He was able to say that in no other district were the traditions of the Craft more faithfully observed, or the ceremonies conducted with ability.

CONSECRATION.

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LEGGE LODGE.

ON Monday, 18th inst., this new Lodge was opened at West Bromwich, and at the dinner, which was given in the Masonic Hall in celebration of the event, some 130 or 140 representatives from various Lodges in the county sat down, including Lord Dartmouth. The new Lodge will commence with a membership of twenty-five.

MARK MASONRY.

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BERKS AND OXON.

THE annual communication of this Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masons was held in the University Masonic Hall, Oxford, on Monday, 4th inst.

The Provincial Grand Master Viscount Valentia, M.P., presided, and there was a large attendance of past and present Officers.

The Secretary reported an increase in membership, and the Treasurer Bro. E. Margrett produced a satisfactory balance-sheet. The invitation to hold the next Provincial Grand Lodge at Windsor was accepted.

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

Bro. J. Tomkins	-	-	-	-	Deputy
G. H. Morland	-	-	-	-	Senior Warden
W. Hicke	-	-	-	-	Junior Warden
E. Margrett	-	-	-	-	Treasurer
H. Collison	-	-	-	-	Master Overseer
F. B. Oldfield	-	-	-	-	Senior Overseer
E. Marshall	-	-	-	-	Junior Overseer
Rev. F. Fitzpatrick Penruddock	-	-	-	-	Chaplain
J. Stradling	-	-	-	-	Registrar of Marks
W. Ravenscroft	-	-	-	-	Secretary
F. P. Nunnely	-	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
H. Matthews	-	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
E. W. Goddard	-	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
A. D. Mosley	-	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
T. Sawyer	-	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
G. T. Phillips	-	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
J. G. Burnett	-	-	-	-	Organist
W. C. Long	-	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
W. H. Castle	-	-	-	-	Inner Guard
H. D. Tilley	-	-	-	-	Stewards
S. W. Bowles	-	-	-	-	
W. G. Crombie	-	-	-	-	Tylers.
W. Hemmings	-	-	-	-	
G. R. Norwood jun.	-	-	-	-	

After Lodge, the Brethren and several ladies partook of luncheon at the Randolph Hotel, and subsequently visited various Colleges and other places of interest in Oxford, under the guidance of Bros. R. E. Baynes and P. Colville Smith. Tea was afterwards served in the Masonic Hall.

MERIDIAN LODGE, No 73.

AT Redruth, on the 28th ult., Bro. W. Hall S.W. was installed as W.M. by Bro. Sampson Hill.

Bro. Sampson Hill, on behalf of the Lodge, presented Bro. W. L. Chegwidien with his Prov.G.L. regalia in appreciation of his valued services to the Lodge.

A large gathering of Brethren included several recently returned from South Africa. The Lodge voted two guineas to the Earl of Mount Edgumbe's War Fund.

The Lodge having been closed, the Brethren adjourned to Tabb's Hotel, where the annual dinner was served.

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UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 489.

THE installation meeting was held at Mark Masons' Hall, on Wednesday, 13th inst., when Bro. Sergeant Major W. F. Trydell, R.E., was duly installed as ruler for the year in succession to Captain F. S. Hanson, the ceremony being very creditably performed by Bro. Percy White Prov.G.D.O. Kent, who received a vote of thanks for his services.

The following were appointed and invested as the assistant Officers for the year: Bros. E. W. I. Peterson S.W., P. White P.M. Prov.G.D.O. Kent J.W., Staff Sergt. E. J. Walker M.O., Lieut. H. D. Smalley S.O., Corpl. Major H. Rowntree, 1st Life Guards, J.O., Rev. Stuart-Stitt, M.A., Chaplain to the Forces, Chaplain, Capt. C. de M. Franklyn, R.E., P.M. G. Steward Treas., Capt. G. Hearn P.M. P.P.G.J.O. Hants and I. of Wight Sec., J. Maitland P.M. P.D.G.S.D. Bombay R.M., Capt. R. A. Marshall P.M. P.P.G.M.O. Surrey D.C., T. O. Hutchinson S.D., G. A. Sumner J.D., J. Brampton I.G., Corpl. Major Quigley, 1st Life Guards, Steward, M. O. Moulton Tyler.

A banquet followed the proceedings, which was attended by a large number of Brethren.

DORSET CHARITY.

THE following is the nineteenth annual report of the General Committee of the Dorset Masonic Charity,

presented to Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Blandford, on Monday, 27th ult.: "Your Committee have pleasure in reporting that whilst the past year's working shows a slight decrease in the number of Subscribers, the amount subscribed is nearly the same as in 1897. Your Committee wish, however, to call the attention of the Lodges to the fact that the actual per-centage of Subscribers is still considerably below what ought reasonably to be expected. The per-centage for the Province shown by the table is only 43, as against 46 in 1897. This is partly to be accounted for by the fact of the Branksome Lodge having as yet made no return, though its members are included in the total membership of the Province.

It will be seen that the donors number 4, and the subscribers 324, as against 5 and 333 in 1897.

The total receipts for the year, as against 1897, are shown below:

	1897.	1898.
Donations ...	£14 7 7	£63 3 0
Interest and Dividends	98 8 2	102 14 0
Return of Income tax	9 2 0	—
Subscriptions ...	85 17 0	82 7 0
Total ...	£207 14 9	£248 4 0

a result which speaks well for the continued activity of the various local correspondents, to whom your Committee ask to be allowed to tender the warmest thanks of the Province, for performing an arduous task with fervency and zeal.

Four Petitioners have been relieved during the year, at a total cost of £70, viz. :—

Lodge 170, Widow J.	...	...	£10
" 665, Bro. R.	...	...	20
" 707, Mrs. G. T.	...	...	20
" 622, Widow L.	...	...	20

The abstract of the accounts will show the exact state of the finances on the 31st December.

The special thanks of your Committee are due to P.G.L. for a donation of £50, to qualify W. Bro. W. D. Dugdale as a Vice-President.

Also to the late W. Bro. W. L. Matthews, W.M. of 707, for a Legacy of £5, the first, it is believed, which has been left to the Charity.

In the hopes that this may lead other Brethren to follow such a good example, your Committee append to their report a form of legacy which may be adopted if desired.

Your Committee trust that the tabular statement at the commencement of the report will be carefully compared with the statement in last year's report, and if only the Brethren in each Lodge who are Subscribers will exert themselves to master the figures and bring them home to the members of their own Lodge who do not yet subscribe, there will next year be that increase of the number of subscribers which is necessary to the continued welfare of the Charity.

Your Committee would ask the W.M. of each Lodge to call the particular attention of his Brethren to the position their Lodge holds as to its per-centage of subscribers, and to endeavour to arouse a spirit of emulation and a desire that their Lodge should take or keep the best place in the list. This year All Souls is still steadily working up in the list, and increases its per-centage to ninety-two, being just headed by Beaminster Manor with ninety-six, whilst St. Mary is a good third with seventy-eight.

There should be no difficulty in getting all new members to subscribe during their first year, nor, when they have once subscribed, in getting them to continue; and your Committee venture to hope that each local correspondent will endeavour to secure at all events all new members. The work, being a local one, should have the warmest sympathy and active assistance of every Brother in the Province.

Your Committee, for the reason given last year, make no report as to the working for 1899; but the Hon. Sec. will be pleased at any time to give any information to the Lodges, Lodge Collectors, or Subscribers, that may be desired.

(Signed) W. D. DUGDALE, Chairman.

S. R. BASKETT, Hon. Secretary.

CHURCH SERVICE.

ON Thursday evening, 30th ult., members of the Gilbert Greenall Lodge attended service at St. Peter's Church, when a sermon was preached by the Vicar (the Rev. B. Percival) from the words "Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God ;

and the Lord do that which seemeth him good." II. Samuel x. 12. Appropriate hymns were sung, and an anthem very creditably rendered by the choir, Mr. Edgar presiding at the organ. The first lesson was read by the Vicar, and the second by the Rev. W. Bracecamp.

The Vicar, before proceeding with his sermon, apologised for the absence of the special preacher who had arranged to be present that evening. He was under an engagement to preach somewhere else the same evening, and as it was made first it had to be kept. He (Bro. Percival) wished to make an explanation of a personal character. He was Chaplain to the Lodge, but he regretted that sickness had prevented him attending regularly. He was, however, happy to be able to tell them that since he had visited the Canary Islands he had felt a great deal better, and he thought that under God's blessing the improvement would be continued, and that he would be restored to health and strength. He had no doubt about it. He was in the hands of God, and He would do what was best for him.

Proceeding with his sermon, our reverend Brother elaborated four principles which were, in his opinion, entirely in accordance with those of Freemasonry. There was, first, mutual helpfulness. God had so ordered it that they were mutually dependent one upon another. Throughout life they must realise that some were stronger than others, and it was, therefore, the duty of the strong to help the weak.

Then there was manly heroism. They must be of good courage and behave themselves valiantly. How much they admired men like Gordon, that good and great soldier who led his troops through the Chinese rebellion. On one occasion when endeavouring to take a fortress, the bullets of the enemy were so thick that the invaders were about to retire, when Gordon took a cigar out of his pocket, coolly lit it and commenced to smoke. That gave his men courage, the battle was resumed, and victory was the result.

Then there was true patriotism. The nature of self-interest should not influence them. At the present moment the English were at war with a race a long way off, and he must confess that he had no sympathy with those men who told them that our Government sought the war on the ground of self-interest, or that they were seeking gold and territory. He believed they were fighting for principles which this nation had fought for in ages long gone by—principles he hoped they would fight for in the years to come. As long as England stood true to those principles of equality for every man, liberty for every man, justice and righteousness for every man, it would maintain the position it now held amongst the nations of the world, and it would deserve to extend its borders. Whilst he was in the Canary Islands he met a member of the Legislative Council, and he was a most loyal Englishman, and he told him distinctly "You must not call me anything but an Englishman. I long for England to extend its rule, as the English are the only people who do justice to a nation. I see a difference between the treatment of England and that of France and Germany." The present war was not a question of Jingoism, but of principle, and he trusted that God would give that grace and strength to our generals and soldiers which would enable them to come out of the war with a happy issue. The Government had not the slightest idea of the wonderful preparations which had been made by the Boers, who were a great nation, so to speak, a very strong power; but as long as they had right on their side they need fear no foe from any quarter. It mattered not if the whole world defied them, they would fight for their liberty. It was because England had stood so well morally that she had stood so well physically, and it was the duty of all of them to set others an example in their daily life that might be followed with advantage.

In conclusion the speaker spoke upon the necessity for genuine piety, and mentioned the fact that he had conversed with some of our officers while away in Africa, and was delighted to find that they were good Christians and God-fearing men, who were not afraid to go down on their knees as Gordon used to do in days gone by. There were officers to-day in South Africa who knew what it was to go down on their knees and ask God's blessing on the battle, and he was sure He would grant their request.—"Warrington Guardian."

The indefatigable Secretaries of the Egerton Lodge Masonic Ball, Bros. Albert Bamer and John Ashely, are sparing no efforts towards making the fourth annual ball of the Lodge an enormous success. The arrangements are on a most elaborate plan, and the latest reports point to a

complete success. A very strong list of patrons is submitted, the élite of the county having warmly responded to the requests of the Secretaries; the Officers of the Provincial Lodges of Cheshire and West Lancashire have unanimously tendered their support. The musical arrangements have been left in the capable hands of Bro. Granville Bantock, and he has arranged a programme that will delight all lovers of terpsichore. A special boat will leave New Brighton for Liverpool at 2.30 on the morning of Saturday, 6th January, this giving facility for friends from that side to visit. The catering has been given into the capable hands of Bro. Rollwagen, who has in preparation a most recherché menu, so that, taken altogether, the success of one of the most enjoyable functions of the district will be achieved in a manner worthy of the efforts that have been put forward.

On Thursday, 30th ult., the annual ball arranged by the West Ham Abbey Lodge, on behalf of West Ham Hospital, took place at the Town Hall, Stratford. The spacious hall was attractively arranged, and the floor had been well prepared for dancing. There was a large and influential attendance, and a long programme of dances was gone through with much spirit. The amount handed over to the hospital last year was £105. It is hoped that this year there will be an even larger sum available for this excellent institution. The duties of Secretary were efficiently carried out by Bro. W. H. Ridgley, of Ilford.

There are peculiar customs in some English Lodges, says the "Indian Freemason." At an installation in Essex a short time since the newly-installed Master's health was drunk in the Lodge room, in the installed Master's Lodge. Immediately after he had been saluted the Secretary produced a case of champagne, which was successfully discussed before the re-admission of the other Brethren.—[We have often wondered what some of the outsiders thought of this "inner" working. Here is an expression of opinion which can hardly be set down as commendatory.—Ed.F.C.]

Last week we referred our readers to our report of the Gallery Lodge installation, as possessing features of exceptional interest; this week we can with equal justice point to an account of the doings at the Manchester Lodge, the special feature of the meeting referred to being the initiation of Mr. Charles Neufeld, the "Prisoner of the Khalifa." Bro. Neufeld was able to interest the members of the Lodge and several visitors by a brief account of his memorable captivity, and no doubt the summary we are able to give of what he said will prove equally interesting to our readers.

For those who have a liking "to see themselves as others see them," we commend the article we reproduce elsewhere from the "Indian Freemason." The writer in our far away contemporary is not the first who has been surprised and disappointed at the way in which the affairs of Grand Lodge are conducted, and we congratulate him on thus publicly directing attention to some matters that are distasteful to many others besides himself who attend Grand Lodge.

The Joppa Lodge of Instruction, No. 188, has been removed to the Globe, 11 and 13 Finsbury Pavement, E.C., where the regular weekly meetings will in future be held every Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THE remains of the late Bro. George Williams jun., who was to have been appointed to the office of Secretary of the Anfield Lodge, No. 2215, were interred at the Everton Cemetery, Fazakerley, on Saturday, 9th inst. The officiating clergymen were the Rev. Canon Tyrer, vicar of St. Saviour's, Everton, and the Rev. Samuel Gasking, Chaplain of the Lodge. The Anfield Lodge was represented by several of its members.

THE remains of the late Bro. Crosby Leighton, who died at Bootle, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, were interred at Toxteth Park Cemetery, on the 11th inst. The Neptune Lodge, No. 1264, of which the deceased was Past Master and Secretary, was represented by the Master and several other members.

A FIRST VISIT TO GRAND LODGE.

THE experiences of a Mason visiting Grand Lodge for the first time must, of necessity, vary in result according to the auspices under which he found himself introduced, or by any chance circumstances that might favour his first appearance in that august assembly. The present slight sketch of my experiences will, it is likely, coincide with those of the majority of Brethren from Colonial Lodges who pay a first casual visit to Freemasons' Hall as strangers to the metropolis and English Freemasonry, and lacking an introduction from some eminent member of the Order. A Provincial Brother, if not personally introduced by some Grand or Provincial Grand Lodge Officer, claims attention, and courtesy, from the mere fact of his connection with English Masonry in England. A Brother from a foreign Lodge, however, unless he is taken under the wing of some Grand Lodge or other important magnate, or is possessed of some significant social position or title, sufficient of itself to claim attention, may feel himself something of a derelict when he finds himself within the portals of the Order in Great Queen Street for the first time. The very suggestion of the principle "thus far shalt thou go, &c."—in the various placards that meet his eye in the corridors, which point out the distinguishing rendezvous for Grand Lodge Officers and other important Brethren,—the occasional flitting here and there of personages resplendent in the purple and gold of office, who scarcely deign to bestow a glance on the ordinary blue-apron attired mortal, in passing, let alone a salutation,—is not calculated to produce a noble impression of Masonry universal at its fountain head. The unknown Brother from a foreign Lodge is a trifle lonely, and yearns for a word of Fraternal greeting, such, I may safely add, as a stranger would obtain, as a matter of course, in an Indian District Grand Lodge. With a few Stewards who realised the value of two great factors in the success of the Order, fraternity and hospitality, any such situation as that evolved from my experience would be improbable, even in the vast atmosphere of the Grand Lodge, where minor details must necessarily give way to those of greater importance. It was, however, noticeable that although there was an absence of Stewards to extend attention to strangers, the "tip" system was "en evidence" in the ante-room,—to my primitive Anglo-Indian mind an undignified item, which, in the prominent manner in which it was served up, should find no place among the interior details of Masonry paramount.

However, though lacking an introduction, and assistance as to proper procedure, I did not find it difficult to get over the preliminaries necessary to effect an entrance, albeit, not accomplished without receiving a snub from one of the clerks in charge of the Registers, for having inadvertently referred to myself as a Provincial, instead of a Foreign, Brother. The clerical staff has its work cut out to pass Brethren in before Grand Lodge opens. It comprises two or three who stand at a long table with a number of Registers before them. A Brother presents himself, and having signed the attendance book, gives his name, Masonic rank, and number of Lodge to a clerk, who turns up the latter in the Register, and having verified your assertion, i.e., seen the name you entered as a Worshipful Master, Past Master, or Warden, as the case may be, hands you a ticket to be given up as you pass the Grand Tyler. I do not know what system there is of vouching for a Brother. I was neither examined, or vouched for. Had the question arisen, I was sure, as it happened, being personally known to one or more of the Grand Lodge Officers present, but, I believe, several other Brethren from Foreign Lodges lacked this resource, yet passed in unchallenged.

The Grand Hall has an imposing appearance, the decorations being especially elegant and attractive. Splendid paintings of past and present Grand Luminaries of the Order cover its walls, relieved by crimson upholstered seats covering its floor space, richly adorned arched roof, and massively carved pedestals make up a picture worthy the position it holds as the Parliamthouse of British Masonry.

Although September is an off month in town, there was a large attendance of Brethren. India was represented by several well-known Masons, among whom were Bros. Capt. Wise, and J. A. Penney, of Bombay, W. C. Bonnerjee, W. B. Colville, and W. B. Chambers, of Calcutta. Bro. Thomas Jones (an Indian Masonic landmark) was there in his capacity of Past Grand Deacon, if anything looking younger and more vigorous than he did a decade ago, when I saw him in Bengal.

The Grand Lodge Officers, present and past, enter and leave Grand Lodge in procession, and this part of the ceremony, with the organ pealing forth its best notes, under the masterly guidance of the Grand Organist (Bro. W. H. Cummings) was the most impressive part of the evening's business. The proceedings of the day were enlivened somewhat by the legal quibble raised on a point relating to South Wales Masonry, as affecting the Cambrian Lodge working in that Colony. Bro. Lord Carrington Grand Master of that Constitution had, it appeared, offered to

say a few words regarding the Order under his jurisdiction, which, as it turned out, assumed a mild protest against the action of the Board of General Purposes in condoning certain irregularities committed by the Cambrian Lodge. What the Board should have done the Grand Brother did not suggest, but it would appear he opined that opposite action on the part of the Grand Committee, involving punishment instead of condonation, would have been more acceptable to the Body he represented. The Grand Registrar Bro. Strachan, Q.C., then started to review the case from its legal aspect, which, though undoubtedly to the point, did not appear to interest the assembly very much, as indications of weariness became so manifest that he was interrupted by the Acting Junior Grand Warden (Bro. Fenn), who asked "if the question was before Grand Lodge," and then politely asked by the Acting Grand Master (the Earl of Warwick) to curtail his remarks, which he did, intimating, in conclusion, that the question was not one of finality (as the Board's action was final) but simply that of entering what had been done upon the minutes of that meeting. Up to this juncture Grand Lodge had only been assembled a short time, yet the majority present seemed heartily tired of the proceedings, of whom a good number were probably hungry and thirsty in addition. The "refreshment degree" in Grand Lodge Masonry is unknown except among Grand Lodge Officers, who have an established mess. The Brethren of that ilk had dined, wisely, and, of course, well, before the meeting, so argument and delay did not affect them, albeit, I noticed several leave during the meeting, and, what appeared to me a little out of order, the Senior Grand Warden among them, he having first, however, passed a 'chit' to a Brother on the dais to relieve him. It would appear there is little chance of an ordinary individual, without influence, albeit holding a recognised position in Provincial or Foreign Masonry, being favoured with the hospitality of the Grand Lodge Officers' mess, or finding facility to subscribe for a ticket, so as to enjoy a meeting at the festive board, where, above every other place, Freemasons realise the social and Fraternal side of the Order, afforded by no other means. This is a side-light cultivated by Indian Freemasons, and without it the Order will, to them, prove cold and unattractive. Reverting once more to the meeting, some interrogations on the subject at issue, by Brother the Grand Chaplain (Rev. Norman Lee) were replied to by the Grand Registrar, and these with a few closing remarks by the Deputy Grand Master in charge, which embodied an apology for any irregularities he, by reason of his inexperience in the chair, may have permitted that evening, terminated the business of the evening, and closed my first interview with Grand Lodge.—"Indian Freemason."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

All Letters must bear the name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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THE PRESS AND FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am more than pleased to read your expression of opinion regarding your accredited representatives, as it is my idea entirely. The Press is not always as careful as it might be regarding proper invites for their representatives; it may cost more, but it adds to the tone and dignity of the organ. In the local press at times anyone will squeeze in for a cheap feed or drinks galore, to send a few rough notes to the paper, which are often utilised without a knowledge of the amount of damage the supposed representative may do to the reputation of the organ.

Yours, &c.,

A PRESS MAN.

Masonic Sonnet.

LIGHT! MORE LIGHT! (Goethe).

COME all and list ye Brethren of the square,
Ye whose desire was once for Light, more Light.
And e'en as Goethe longed for radiance rare,
To fall upon his whilom darkened sight,
So now we long for more of truth and grace,
For more of wisdom, more of strength Divine,
To lighten all, who running life's brief race,
Might sink o'erwhelmed beneath some hidden mine—
Come and with me sing now of hope and peace,
Of that goodwill which to all men we show,
Of that strong love which by its own increase,
To life eternal cannot help but grow.
And pray that on this happy Christmastide,
God's spirit will with all men still abide!

CHAS. F. FORSHAW, LL.D.

Hanover Square, Bradford.

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).

Wednesday.	
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter	594 Downshire, Liverpool
76 Economy, Winchester	536 De Ogle, Morpeth
82 Foundation, Cheltenham	784 Wellington, Deal
163 Integrity, Manchester	787 Beaureper, Belper
220 Harmony, Garston	807 Cabbell, Norwich
250 Minerva, Hull	904 Phoenix, Rotherham
257 Phoenix, Portsmouth	935 Harmony, Salford
304 Philanthropic, Leeds	966 St. Edward, Leek
439 Scientific, Bingley	1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
461 Fortitude, Newton	1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
651 Brecknock, Brecon	1163 Emulation, Birmingham
724 Derby, Liverpool	1166 Clarendon, Hyde
785 Twelve Brothers, Southampton	1313 Fernor, Southport
996 Soudes, East Dereham	1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
1039 St. John, Lichfield	1345 Victoria, Eccles
1083 Townley Parker, Manchester	1392 Egerton, Bury
1219 Strangeways, Manchester	1418 Fraternity, Stockton-on-Tees
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge	1505 Emulation, Liverpool
1633 Avon, Manchester	1519 Albert Edward, Clayt'n-le-Moors
1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown	1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool	1626 Hotspur, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1760 Leopold, Scarborough	1630 St. Michael, Coventry
1775 Leopold, Church	1705 Prince of Wales, Gosport
1809 Fidelis, Guernsey	1817 St. Andrew, Shoburyness
1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard	1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
1967 Beacon Court, New Brompton	1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor	1971 Ald'shot, Army & Navy, A'shot.
2019 Crook, Crook	2017 Duke of Portland, Nottingham
2064 Smith Child, Tunstall	2101 Bramston Beach, Godalming
2149 Gordon, Hanley	2131 Brownlow, Ellesmere
2186 Striguil, Chepstow	2195 Military Jubilee, Dover
2216 Egerton, Swinton	2214 Josiah Wedgewood, Etruria
2320 St. Martin, Castleton	2215 Anfield, Anfield
2357 Barry, Cadoxton	2263 St. Leonards, Sheffield
2385 Godson, Oldbury	2269 Peace, Wigan
2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames	2335 Cycling and Athletic, Liverpool
2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs	2387 Manchester Dramatic, M'chester
2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne	2418 Hedworth, South Shields
	2462 Clarence, West Hartlepool

Thursday.		Friday.	
General Committee Girls' School, F.M.H., at 5.		Council Boys School, Freemasons Hall, at 4.	
51 Angel, Colchester		602 North York, Middlesbrough	
78 Imperial George, Middleton		810 Craven, Skipton	
111 Restoration, Darlington		1303 Pelham, Lewes	
129 Union, Kendal		1391 Commercial, Leicester	
202 Friendship, Devonport		1435 Annesley, Nottingham	
346 United Brethren, Blackburn		1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge	
348 St. John, Bolton		2415 Tristram, Shildon	
590 La Cesaree, Jersey		2431 Kingsley, Northampton	

MASONIC AID FOR WAR VICTIMS.

THE following additional sums have been acknowledged on behalf of the different relief Funds started in connection with the South African campaign :

MANSION HOUSE WAR FUND.

Grand Officers Mess	-	-	-	-	£52 10 0
St. Alban Lodge, No. 29	-	-	-	-	10 10 0
Felicity Lodge, No. 58	-	-	-	-	10 10 0
Moirs Lodge, No. 92	-	-	-	-	10 10 0
St. James Chapter, No. 2	-	-	-	-	10 10 0
Evening Star Lodge of Instruction, No. 1719	-	-	-	-	7 2 0
Cholmeley Lodge, No. 1731	-	-	-	-	6 6 0
Progress Lodge, No. 1768	-	-	-	-	6 2 0
Bridson Chapter, No. 613	-	-	-	-	5 5 0
Tredegar Lodge, No. 1625	-	-	-	-	5 5 0
County Palatine Lodge, No. 2505	-	-	-	-	5 0 0
Abbey Lodge of Instruction, No. 2030	-	-	-	-	4 10 0
Alfred Newton Lodge, No. 2686 (second donation)	-	-	-	-	3 0 0
St. Andrew Lodge, No. 1817	-	-	-	-	2 2 0

NATAL VOLUNTEERS' WAR FUND.

Empire Lodge, No. 2108	-	-	-	-	5 5 0
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LLOYD'S PATRIOTIC FUND.

Chicheley Lodge, No. 607	-	-	-	-	1 7 0
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DAILY TELEGRAPH FUND.

Prosperity Lodge, No. 65	-	-	-	-	Shillings.
Temple Bar Lodge, No. 1728	-	-	-	-	966
Friars Lodge, No. 1349	-	-	-	-	710
John Hervey Lodge, No. 1260	-	-	-	-	500
Mark Grand Officers Mess	-	-	-	-	442
Kent Lodge, No. 15	-	-	-	-	420
United Service Lodge, No. 1361	-	-	-	-	420
Etheldreda Lodge, No. 2107	-	-	-	-	420
Verity Lodge, No. 2739	-	-	-	-	420
Regents Park Lodge, No. 2202	-	-	-	-	368½
Ranelagh Lodge, No. 834	-	-	-	-	360
St. Marylebone Lodge, No. 1305	-	-	-	-	320

Mizpah Lodge, No. 1671	-	-	-	-	320
Duke of Connaught Lodge, No. 1524	-	-	-	-	315
Plucknett Lodge, No. 1708	-	-	-	-	304
Royal Naval Lodge, No. 59	-	-	-	-	300
Confidence Lodge, No. 193	-	-	-	-	280
St. James Union Lodge, No. 180	-	-	-	-	245
Willesden Lodge and Chapter, No. 2489	-	-	-	-	230
New Cross Lodge, No. 1559	-	-	-	-	220
Antiquity Lodge, No. 2	-	-	-	-	210
St. James Lodge, No. 765	-	-	-	-	210
Beckenham Lodge, No. 2047	-	-	-	-	210
Lord Charles Beresford Lodge, No. 2404	-	-	-	-	210
Hugh Owen Lodge, No. 2593	-	-	-	-	210
Brondesbury Lodge, No. 2698	-	-	-	-	210
British Chapter, No. 8	-	-	-	-	210
Dramatic Mark Lodge, No. 487	-	-	-	-	210
Idris Lodge, No. 43 (Egyptian Constitution)	-	-	-	-	200
Asaph Lodge, No. 1319	-	-	-	-	200
Cheerybles Lodge, No. 2466	-	-	-	-	200
Ravenscroft Lodge, No. 2331	-	-	-	-	195
Joppa Lodge, No. 188	-	-	-	-	156
Kennington Lodge, No. 1381	-	-	-	-	147
Marques of Ripon Lodge, No. 1489	-	-	-	-	145
Eclectic Lodge, No. 1201	-	-	-	-	131
Pantiles Lodge, No. 2200	-	-	-	-	130
Eldon Lodge, No. 1755	-	-	-	-	125
Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1572	-	-	-	-	110
St. Ambrose Lodge, No. 1891	-	-	-	-	110
Abbey Lodge, No. 2030	-	-	-	-	107
St. Michael Lodge, No. 211	-	-	-	-	105
Unanimity Lodge, No. 339	-	-	-	-	105
Frederick Lodge of Unity, No. 452	-	-	-	-	105
High Cross Lodge, No. 745	-	-	-	-	105
Eclectic Chapter, No. 1201	-	-	-	-	105
Aldersgate Chapter, No. 1657	-	-	-	-	105
Wood Green Lodge, No. 2426	-	-	-	-	100
Oak Lodge, No. 190	-	-	-	-	96
St. John's Lodge of Instruction, No. 167	-	-	-	-	84½
Dalhousie Lodge, No. 860	-	-	-	-	81
West Smithfield Mark Lodge, No. 223	-	-	-	-	65
Shalden Lodge, No. 2016	-	-	-	-	61
Residents Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Croydon	-	-	-	-	57
Derby Allcroft Lodge of Instruction, No. 2168	-	-	-	-	56
St. Martin-le-Grand Lodge, No. 1538	-	-	-	-	54
Royal Kensington Lodge, No. 1627	-	-	-	-	54
Mozart Lodge, No. 1929	-	-	-	-	50
Mendelssohn Lodge, No. 2661	-	-	-	-	45
Sir Hugh Myddleton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1602	-	-	-	-	41
Royal Oak Lodge of Instruction, No. 871	-	-	-	-	40
St. James Lodge of Instruction, No. 765	-	-	-	-	34
St. Michael Lodge, No. 2136	-	-	-	-	25
La Tolerance Lodge of Instruction, No. 538	-	-	-	-	10

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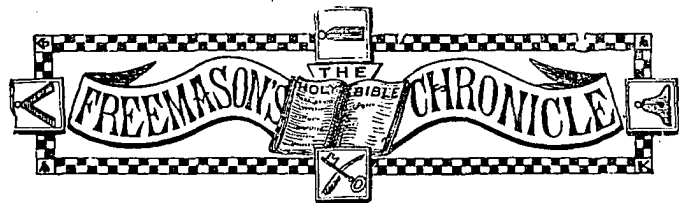
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS

From LONDON (Marylebone, near Baker Street and Edgware Road).

THE Excursion announced to leave London (Marylebone), for Northallerton, Darlington, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c., at 7.45 a.m. on 29th December, will leave at 7.45 P.M.

Manchester.

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SATURDAY, 23RD DECEMBER 1899.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

ON the occasion of the half-yearly meeting of this Provincial Grand Chapter, held at Milnsbridge on the 22nd ult., Comp. Richard Wilson P.Z. 289 Past G. Soj. acted as Provincial Superintendent, in the unavoidable absence of Comp. W. L. Jackson, M.P., and, addressing the Companions, said:—On behalf of Provincial Grand Chapter, and the founders of the Armitage Chapter, my first duty is to welcome all the Companions who are here to-day. Some six months ago the Grand Superintendent of West Yorkshire bespoke for me a very great measure of your confidence in the position to which I was then called, and it is my duty, as well as it is my pleasure, to acknowledge that this confidence I have received to the full, in everything I have had to do in the Province. The Grand Superintendent, when speaking to me on the subject of this meeting, stated that he knew of nothing to note in the Province; and I know nothing of striking importance to bring before you, but there is one fact which will be of interest to the Companions, and has somewhat struck me, and that is, that so far as the Provinces are concerned with the Arch, we in West Yorkshire stand second to none. We have an idea that we are very lax in the matter of this degree, and that we are not making the progress we should do. That may be so, but in spite of that we have more Chapters in the Province than any other Province, with one exception. I have obtained some figures which show that in West Yorkshire there are 45 Chapters, while in West Lancashire there are 46, in East Lancashire 41, and in Devon 30. The number of Craft Lodges in West Yorkshire is 81, in West Lancashire 122, in East Lancashire 113, with only 41 Chapters, and Devon has 59 Craft Lodges and 30 Chapters. Then again in West Yorkshire we have 4,142 members of the Craft, with 1,559 members of the Chapter; in West Lancashire there are 8,125 members of the Craft, and only 1,446 members of the Chapter; in East Lancashire 4,800 in the Craft, and only 1,100 in the Chapter; and in Devon there are 3,887 members of the Craft, and 969 of the Chapter. I think such a comparative statement will be of encouragement to the Companions who have spent so much time and labour to advance the interests of Royal Arch Masonry. I will briefly mention one subject engrossing to us all, and that is the War Fund. In Leeds there has been an appeal made by the Lord Mayor, and I have no doubt that such an appeal, in one shape or another, has, and will continue to come to us in many shapes. At the same time, I think these appeals will go straight to the heart of every Mason. If our fellow-men are called out to South Africa, to carry out orders in a quarrel which we think to be right, the least thing we, who stay at home in peace, can do, is to see that their families do not suffer; and last, but not least, on behalf of those who have been made widows and orphans, because their relatives have been sent out to fight for us, we should do what we can, and nothing should be too great for us in that respect. That is the feeling of Freemasonry; it has received the encouragement of the Prince of Wales, and appeals to all the Brethren, even to the newly initiated Mason, so that we cannot do too much. Although it was late when I issued the circular, and many of the Brethren had already subscribed, the response has brought into my hands, up to the present, the sum of £260, and I have no doubt of getting £100 or £150 more. With respect to the

same subject, I am glad to know that the citizens of Bradford have such esteem for and confidence in the Chairman of our Charity Committee (Comp. W. C. Lupton) that they have made him the Mayor of that city. The Brethren are marking that event by contributing towards the Mayor of Bradford's fund; and the appeals on behalf of the sister funds I am sure will deservedly meet with a liberal and a warm response. With regard to Milnsbridge and the consecration of the Armitage Chapter, I may say that so far as my knowledge of the district is concerned, it is in connection with the Luddite Riots. I had friends living at Dalton—I cannot tell where it is, but it cannot be far away. I had friends who, in my youth, used to give instances of what occurred in the Luddite Riots. It was at Milnsbridge House, where Mr. Joseph Ratcliffe resided, that the persons who were charged with the murder of Mr. Horsfall, while going from Huddersfield Market, were taken for examination, and they were afterwards removed to York, tried, and hanged. For his services and loyalty during that period he was made a baronet, and the successors of Sir Joseph Radcliffe now live at Ridding Park. One of my late partners married Sir Joseph's daughter, and one of my present partners is his grandson. When Sir Joseph Ratcliffe left, his successor became Mr. Joseph Armitage, the father of our esteemed Brother and Companion Edward Armitage, who has been a subscribing member of the Harmony Lodge, 275, Huddersfield, for close on sixty years, and from him the Lodge and Chapter have taken their names; and his son, Companion Alfred Armitage, is one of the founders of this Chapter. That was the connection between the Chapter and the Armitage family, and we feel glad to take part in any ceremonies that are intended to do honour to such an illustrious Brother. I am glad to be with you to-day.

Comp. R. Sheard, in accordance with notice moved that the salary of the Prov. G. S. E. be increased to forty guineas. He stated he had made a modification in his proposition, which originally was to increase the salary of Companion Green to fifty guineas. It was twenty years since the salary was given, and since then Comp. Green's duties had been considerably increased; not only was that the case, but he understood that Comp. Green gave more than ten per cent. of his salary to the three great Charities belonging to Masonry. In comparing the salaries paid by other Provinces he found that Comp. Green received only about one-half that paid by West Lancashire, and considerably less than in other Provinces. Comp. Green's position was a very responsible one.

Comp. W. Dyson, in seconding the proposition, spoke of the carefulness, promptitude and attention with which Comp. Green had always carried out the duties of his office.

The motion was supported by Comps. J. Barker, Harrop, Parke and the Acting Provincial Grand Superintendent, and carried unanimously.

Comp. Green briefly thanked the Companions, and said he hoped by deeds, not words, to prove his gratitude to them for their unanimous vote.

Comp. C. L. Mason moved that a grant of £2 2s be made by Provincial Grand Chapter towards replenishing the working tools for the carpenter's shop connected with the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. He said the shop was greatly appreciated, had turned out good work, and it was the intention of the boys to make the forms for the new Masonic School.

Comp. W. Blackburn seconded the motion, and said that they had had twenty-eight boys learning carpentry, and now there were sixty-four, so that they would not only require the tools to be replenished, but also new tools.

It was stated that Comp. Chas. Stokes, of Sheffield, had sent £10 10s collected at the Paradise Chapter a day or two ago, and the Mayor of Bradford £5, towards the Fund.

Comp. Harrop said that it was the late Bro. T. W. Embleton who generously presented a large box of tools, about seven years ago, to help the movement originated by Bro. W. F. Smithson.

This being all the formal business before Grand Chapter, the Acting Grand Superintendent proceeded to consecrate the Armitage Chapter, No. 2261, and afterwards installed the Principals, as follow: Walker Dyson P.Z. 290 and 1645 Z., C. H. Crowther P.Z. 290 H., and Herbert Shaw S.E. 290 J.

Seven of the members of the Clyde Lodge, No. 408 (S.C.) are known to be engaged in the war in South Africa, a record we should imagine hard to beat.

Books of the Day.

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Books, Music, &c. intended for review, should be addressed to the Editor of the *Freemason's Chronicle*, at Fleet Works, New Barnet.

—: o:—

Military Lodges; the Apron and the Sword, or Freemasonry under Arms, by Robert Freke Gould Past Senior Grand Deacon of England (5s).—Gale and Polden, Ltd.

Our well known Brother Gould has once again contributed a valuable and interesting addition to Masonic literature, by his book recently published with this title. Commencing with the legendary connection of Charles Martel, King Athelstan, and other celebrated personages with the Craft, Bro. Gould proceeds to trace the progress of Freemasonry until he arrives at the more certain ground of our established history. It is curious to notice that the first Warrant creating a travelling Military Lodge of Freemasons was granted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1732. At that time "the distressful country" was at peace, although several English and Scotch Regiments were stationed in various districts; and the Warrant referred to was issued to the First Foot—now the "Royal Scots"—and the number 11 was assigned to it. There is no doubt that the institution of Travelling Lodges materially contributed to the dissemination of the principles and tenets of the Craft throughout the world, especially in America and India. Thus in 1768, when several British regiments arrived at Boston, many of the men were Masons, and petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland to appoint "A Grand Lodge Master of Ancient Masons in America." A vast number of our leading and distinguished men in both the Army and Navy have been members of the Order, and Bro. Gould gives a long list of names of Military Brethren who have commanded Armies in the field, or our Navy at sea, from Wellington and Nelson to Wolsley and Beresford. We will not give extracts from this most interesting work, because we feel sure that we have said sufficient to recommend it to the notice of our readers, who will doubtless soon possess a copy of their own. The book is full of entertaining anecdotes, and the information contained does great credit to Bro. Gould's research.

Modern English Writers: Robert Louis Stevenson, by L. Cope Cornford. —Blackwood and Sons.

On the principle that "who drives fat oxen should himself be fat," the writer who undertakes to discuss the work of Robert Louis Stevenson should himself be a literary craftsman of no mean order. Mr. Cope Cornford seems to have felt his responsibility whilst engaged upon the volume before us, and many a carefully finished phrase, many an honest striving after an epigrammatic felicity of touch, attest his success. The narrative portion of this book is somewhat slender; but in face of Mr. Sydney Colvin's two volumes of Stevenson's letters just published, and the authorised biography expected from the same hands, Mr. Cornford's brevity is to be commended. The short chapters of critical appraisal, which have reminded us sometimes of Henry James and sometimes of Coulson Kernahan, tell us much about Stevenson as romanticist, artist, moralist and sedulous cultivator of a prose style of singular charm and grace. These chapters are well thought out, and ably expressed, and we can very readily credit the writer's own statement that he has always been an eager student of Stevenson's work. Only those whose duty it is to read and write much know how supremely difficult is the task to pronounce adequate judgment upon the entire work of a great writer. Mr. Cornford carefully traces the evolution of Stevenson's literary craftsmanship, from the days of the little note books and the aping of Hazlitt, Lamb and Hawthorne, to "Treasure Island," "Catriona" and "Wier of Hermiston." Students of English Literature would find it extremely beneficial were they to read this study of an eminent man of letters with earnest attention.

The Valley of Light, by W. Basil Worsfold.—Macmillan and Co., Limited.

HISTORY, says Francis Bacon, makes a man wise. There is a deal of history in this book concerning the valleys of the pious Piedmontese, and we are not sure that we could name any writer who would have handled this subject to greater advantage, save, perhaps, the late John Addington Symonds. Here, too, we have some skilful limning of landscape, sometimes a silhouette, sometimes a vignette, sometimes a full length portrait. The writer has chosen to work in the form of a series of letters written amid the scenes which he describes. This, on the whole, was a wise course to pursue. Mr. Worsfold tells us much about the Vaudois and their heroic struggles, so long sustained and so often repeated, on behalf of their religious freedom. It is a sad and a long story; but it should be read widely. It is profitable, though not pleasant, to be at times reminded of the iniquitous tyranny too often practised by warrior-prelates who have posed as lords over Christ's heritage. As we read the "Valley of Light" we felt a fresh sympathy with Mr. Swinburne's recent sonnet, in which he alluded to the "holy hounds of Rome." The terrible stories of the massacres of the Vaudois, concerning which Mr. Worsfold writes so strongly, are only to be paralleled by such narratives as the massacre at Glencoe, and the tragedy of Macallister's Cave. But we feel justified in making one remark. Toleration is easily enough preached, but we fear it is customary, in practice, to make an exception to the disadvantage of one's particular enemy. Perhaps the Vaudois were as obnoxious to Pianezza as the Salvation Army is in the eyes of Mr. Basil Worsfold. We trust the author of the "Valley of Light" will find fit opportunity to write on some other epochs as ably as he has done on those of the Vaudois persecutions.

The Temple Classics. Microcosmography. By John Earle.—J. M. Dent and Co.

MACAULAY once defined a scholar as a man who reads Plato with his feet in the fender. Similarly, we might suggest that a genuine "littérateur" is one who reads Elizabethan and Carolean literature, or books of that ilk, during the Christmas holidays. Master John Earle contrived to put into this little volume a deal of sententious and urbane humour—that indefinable quality of which Charles Lamb was one of the latest really able exponents. Such a quality is comparable to the flavour of a generous wine upon the palate. As we turn these pages we can fancy that the "Microcosmographer" is at our elbow, smiling at our enjoyment of his "Plain country fellow," "Handsome hostess," or "Young raw preacher." Here we see our ancestors as others saw them. The quaint phraseology is characteristic of the age in which Earle wrote; but his humour is eminently his own. Comparisons are often superficial and misleading; but we may suggest that had Earle lived a century later his style would have closely resembled the style of Joseph Addison. Were we compelled to limit our library to a single collection we must confess that the Temple Classics would seriously compete for our favour.

The Vicar of St. Margaret's. Prize story on the present day conflict with sacerdotalism. By W. G. Murray, illustrated by W. S. Stacey (1s 6d).—Religious Tract Society.

THE Religious Tract Society have set us a somewhat difficult task in asking us to review works of a distinctly religious controversial nature, for, as is pretty generally known, Freemasonry particularly discourages discussion of religious or political subjects in its Lodges. However, our editorial table is not quite so exclusive as a Master's pedestal, and we take up the task in a general rather than a distinctly Masonic spirit, and hope that we may be able to justly deal with the books of this class before us without violating the principles of the Craft. The Society are to be commended for their good intentions. They are no doubt sincerely anxious to place before their many readers such literature as shall tend to warn them against the insidious advance of sacerdotalism in this country. But we cannot think that such a book as "The Vicar of St. Margaret's" will greatly assist the good cause. The story, as a story, is not unskillfully constructed, indeed, we found it, on the whole, sufficiently interesting. But the picture, as is so frequently the case, is overdrawn. "Father" Adair, of course, ultimately joins the Church of Rome; "Sister" Mary, of course, privately encourages the young ladies to pray to the Virgin; Imogen is, of course, persuaded to run away from home and join a sisterhood; the "Mother Superior," of course, prevaricates when questioned concerning the whereabouts of Imogen. Finally, the young lady is brought to see the errors of sacerdotalism, and becomes a rational being once again. To be quite just we must compliment the author upon the strong impression frequently produced by the slightest touch. But we venture to insist that in such books as "The Vicar of St. Margaret's" moderation and reserve are absolutely essential. The events here narrated are presumably intended as a fair study and reflection of Protestant life subjected to ritualistic influences. Are young ladies usually drawn into the bosom of sisterhoods by quite such a "modus operandi" as that here depicted? We greatly doubt it.

Music of the Day.

Mary. The celebrated ballad transcribed for the pianoforte by A. Cunio (Paterson and Sons).—As an ardent admirer of "Mary" we are perhaps partial to any version of the favourite air that may come under our notice; yet we cannot believe it is partiality alone that commends this work to us. It possesses merit—based on a pleasing theme—which should win it general favour.

Three Hungarian Dances, by Frederick Mullen (composer of the famous set of "Norwegian" dances) make up the 49th number of the "Globe" edition of instrumental music, edited by William M. Hutchison, and published by Jefferys Limited. The collection is deserving of the highest commendation, and should win equal favour as its predecessors.

Olivia, by Cyril Carlton (Edwin Ashdown) is an easy arrangement for the piano, which possesses a pleasing melody.

Zerlina intermezzo, composed by E. Boggetti (E. Ascherberg and Co.), is a tuneful piece which abounds in some lively and taking passages.

Alpenklänge. Melodisches Tonstück für pianoforte, von Georg Scharf (A. Hammond and Co.) is a piece that would delight the aspirant for the role of brilliant executant, as it provides good scope for effective rendition.

Complete Scale and Arpeggio Tutor for the pianoforte, containing all the scales and arpeggi required by candidates preparing for the chief examinations, by Adolphe Schloesser (Gould and Co.).—A very useful and carefully arranged work for students.

Clementi's Six Sonatinas, edited and fingered by Graham P. Moore (Gould and Co.).—This collection gives evidence of careful work on the part of the compiler, and should prove of service and a means of instruction to the learner.

Prelude and Fugue No. 23 in B, by J. S. Bach, which appears as No. 195 of Messrs. Robert Cocks and Co's Standard Classical pieces for the pianoforte (Gould and Co.) well sustains the high reputation of the series, which has long enjoyed considerable popularity among our professors and teachers.

Echoes of Home. A selection of popular melodies easily arranged and fingered for the pianoforte, by Sydney West and William Smallwood (Gould and Co.).—This series should be a favourite with our younger friends, several well-known tunes having already been included in it, under the careful direction of the well-known experts whose names we have quoted. The sixteenth part struck us as particularly pleasing, being devoted to a rendering of the popular "Tatters," which we have long regarded as a favourite. Other numbers are equally pleasing, and include a wide range of musicianly productions.

Sambo. Barn dance for the pianoforte, by Rees Evans (Edwin Ashdown) is another lively tune which should gladden the heart of any disciple of terpsichore; it should be heard again and again in our midst at the festive assemblies of the season, having just the easy swing that dancers love.

Hamilton's Instructions for the American Organ and Harmonium (Gould and Co.) enjoy the recommendation of a well-known name, and do credit to the author, who here adopts his popular plan of imparting instruction by means of well-known tunes. We think it a very great encouragement to learners to be given airs with which they are familiar, as a means of improvement, rather than dry unknown ones, and for this reason particularly, as well as on general grounds, we recommend Hamilton's tutors.

Our Silver Jubilee: 1875-1900.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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ROYAL ATHELSTAN LODGE, No. 19.

THE Angel of Death has indeed been busy lately among the members of this ancient Lodge, no less than three, including two old and respected Past Masters, having been summoned to the Grand Lodge above during the last few weeks.

At the regular meeting of the Lodge, held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on Thursday of last week, the temple was draped with black cloth and crape, and the Brethren wore Masonic mourning, out of respect to their deceased companions.

Bro. John Henry Merrett W.M. presided and, after the Lodge had been opened and the usual preliminaries transacted, explained the distressing circumstances under which they met. At the beginning of the year they had lost one of their old Past Masters, and now, as they learned by the summons, Bro. J. W. Barnes had been removed with appalling suddenness after only a few hours illness. Relentless Fate, however, had still further affliction in store for them, for since the printing of the summons the sad news had been received of the death of Bro. George Cox P.M., and upon their arrival at the Lodge they were informed of the decease of Bro. Captain John Seymour, another of their oldest members. He was sure he expressed the sentiments of all present when he stated the deep grief of the Lodge at the death of these Brethren. He would say no more, but would call upon Bro. Bywater to move the first resolution.

Bro. W. M. Bywater P.G. Sword Bearer Eng. then addressed the meeting in the following words:—"Worshipful Master and Brethren,—The first thought that occurs to our minds on assembling here to-day is a sense of the great loss the Lodge has sustained since we last met, in the death of our much loved Brother Charles Barritt Barnes, which occurred on the 10th of November, after an illness of only a few hours duration. He had taken such an active part in the affairs of the Lodge for so many years that his removal from amongst us is an event which cannot yet be fully realised. Bro. Barnes was initiated in this Lodge 9th December 1869, and he presided as W.M. in 1886, a successful and happy year which he commemorated by presenting the Lodge with a silver loving cup. He was the founder of our Benevolent Fund, which was established 12th May 1870. He was appointed Secretary in February 1884, an Office which he held until his death. To mark their high appreciation of his valuable services in the latter capacity, and their love and esteem of him as a friend and a Mason, his Brethren so recently as April last presented him with a silver dessert service and an address. It is interesting to know that his last Masonic act was to telegraph, on 9th November, the day before his death, the congratulations of the Lodge to the Most Worshipful Grand Master on the anniversary of his birthday. His Masonic labours were not confined to this Lodge, as is testified by the work he did in many other degrees of Masonry. No member of the Lodge more faithfully carried out the three great principles of our Order—Brotherly love, Relief, and Truth—that Bro. Barnes, who was essentially and at all times and in all places, a BROTHER. No worthy member of our Craft ever approached him for assistance in vain. He was a warm supporter of our Charities, but he was also munificent in that form of Charity which suffereth long and is kind. The funeral took place on the 14th ult., at Elmers End Cemetery, where his devoted family and sorrowing friends and Brethren laid him to rest and peace, but his memory will abide with us who remain to grieve his loss." With this brief introduction, which sincere sorrow prevented him from enlarging upon, he moved the following resolution:

It is with deep sorrow and regret that the members of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, desire to record on their minutes the death of their much loved and esteemed Past Master Bro. Charles Barritt Barnes, which took place on the 10th of November last.

They desire further to preserve a lasting remembrance of his exceeding worth both as a MAN and a MASON. His attainments in both capacities were very considerable, while his kindly disposition and genial manners rendered him beloved by all with whom he came in contact.

That a letter of condolence and a copy of this resolution be sent to his family, expressive of our deepest sympathy with them on their great bereavement.

This was seconded by Bro. John Pound P.M., and, needless to say, was carried unanimously.

Bro. Bywater subsequently proposed, and Bro. Daniel Nicholson seconded, that letters of sympathy should be forwarded to the families of Bros. Cox and Seymour. These sad tributes to departed merit having been rendered, the formal business of the Lodge was resumed.

The W.M. stated that he had appointed Bro. John William Barnes as Secretary to the Lodge, during the remainder of his term of Office.

The Bye-Laws of the Lodge were read, and then the Brethren proceeded to elect a Master for the ensuing year. In accordance with his usual custom Bro. William Pound said before the ballot was taken he would like to ask the Senior Warden, who was the aspiring candidate for the Office, whether he was qualified and competent to fulfill the duties attached to the Master's Chair. Bro. Money Marsland having stated that he was both able and willing to undertake the responsibility, was thereupon duly elected. Bro. Arthur Digby-Green was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer, and Bro. Gilbert was re-appointed as Tyler. Bro. W. J. Lodge was appointed as junior member of the Audit Committee.

Bro. Daniel Nicholson proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. John H. Merrett for the able manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Lodge during his year of Office, and that a Past Master's jewel of the usual value should be presented to him in recognition of his services.

Bro. Merrett acknowledged the compliment, and announced that he intended to go up as a Steward for the Old People in February, and hoped the Brethren would support him.

A donation of one guinea was voted to the Poole Branch of the National Life-boat Institution, for the purpose of keeping up the Masonic Life-boat at that port.

A joining member was proposed for election at the next meeting, and

this concluding the business of the evening, the closing hymn was sung and the Lodge was adjourned.

In consequence of the sad events above recorded the Brethren decided to have no banquet. The Installation Festival will take place on Thursday, 8th February.

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RAHERE LODGE, No. 2546.

THE ordinary meeting of this Lodge was held at the Restaurant Frascati, on Tuesday, 12th inst., Bro. Reece, M.D., W.M. in the chair. Bro. Sydney Cornish was admitted to the third degree, and Bros. Bennett and Worth to the second.

A vote of £100 was made from the funds of the Lodge towards the relief of the sick and wounded, and the widows and orphans of soldiers falling in the Transvaal war. Twenty guineas was voted to the British Medical Benevolent Fund, and a sum of £1 1s was contributed towards the maintenance of "Our Brothers' Bed" at the Home for the Dying.

A Steward was appointed for each of the three Masonic Charities, and a sum of £10 10s was voted for the list of each Steward.

The Brethren, with their guests, afterwards dined together.

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EMPRESS LODGE, No. 2581.

IT is but rarely that so large a number of Grand Officers attend a private meeting as was the case at the installation festival of this young but flourishing Lodge, held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W., on Wednesday evening of last week. No fewer than twenty-three of these distinguished Brethren honoured the Lodge with their presence, and the reason must be ascribed to the high esteem in which Bro. Imre Kiralfy P.A.G.D.C. is held among his fellows. When it was announced that Bro. Kiralfy would install his eldest son as Master of the Lodge it was felt that the event was of more than ordinary importance, and over a hundred Brethren signified their intention of being present on the occasion. It is a remarkable coincidence that this is the second time in the short history of the Lodge that a son has followed his father in the chair. The first Master was Sir Joseph Dimsdale, who was followed by Bro. Imre Kiralfy; then came Bro. J. H. Dimsdale who in turn gave place to Dr. R. J. Maitland Coffin, and now Bro. Charles Imre Kiralfy has been entrusted with the Warrant and the conduct of affairs.

Bro. Maitland Coffin presided at the opening of the Lodge, and the minutes were afterwards approved. The statement of accounts and balance sheet were received and adopted.

The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Imre Kiralfy assumed the chair, and proceeded with the installation ceremony. Having declared all Offices vacant he requested the following Brethren to assist him: Sir Joseph Dimsdale as S.W., J. H. Dimsdale as J.W., W. Singleton Hooper as D.C., and R. M. Meyer as I.G.

Bro. Charles Imre Kiralfy W.M.-elect was presented and took the customary obligation. The ceremony proceeded on the usual lines, and was most beautifully rendered by Bro. Imre Kiralfy, his delivery of the subsequent addresses eliciting the liveliest gratification of the Brethren. When it is considered that Bro. Kiralfy is of foreign nationality, that he is frequently obliged to speak in half a dozen different languages each day, and his very natural emotion under the circumstances, his performance of the ceremony is entitled to the highest praise.

The following Officers were then invested, G. C. Breese S.W., G. D. Coleman J.W., Imre Kiralfy Treasurer, P. Dixon Secretary, J. S. Bhumgara S.D., G. R. Blades J.D., R. M. Meyer D.C., N. S. Bhumgara I.G., G. G. Kirchner and W. H. Bond Stewards, Samuel Ellis Tyler.

The new W.M. quickly proved his capacity for his position by the very commendable manner in which he addressed his Officers upon their duties and responsibilities.

A Past Master's jewel was presented to Dr. Maitland Coffin, for which he briefly returned thanks. The resignation of two members was announced, but the list of members will not be thereby reduced, as two candidates were proposed for the next meeting, one of whom is another son of Bro. Kiralfy.

The W.M. announced his intention of going up as Steward for one of the Masonic Charities, but upon being informed that the Secretaries of the Boys School and the Old People's Institution had each asked for a representative of the Lodge, he said he would go up for both. The Lodge was then closed and the meeting adjourned.

The installation banquet was served in the handsome dining hall, and was worthy of Bro. Oddinino's reputation. At its termination the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted from the chair, and heartily received by the company.

The Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair P.G. Chaplain responded for the Officers of Grand Lodge, and testified to the great pleasure it had been for him to witness so estimable a father installing his son. The ceremony, so touching and religious, was beautifully performed, and he hoped the W.M. would have a happy year of office. He concluded with a stirring allusion to the war in South Africa, and its Masonic bearing.

Bro. Maitland Coffin, in eulogistic terms proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, who was the first initiate of the Lodge; his fulfillment of the subordinate Offices sufficiently proved his competency for the present position, and he congratulated him upon his speedy promotion.

Bro. Charles Kiralfy, in returning thanks, said he felt it a great honour to be so quickly promoted, but he should ever bear in mind the teachings of those who had preceded him, and would endeavour to deserve their approval. He remembered the words of Bro. Will Chapman, now in South Africa, that Freemasonry taught us to seek knowledge and stimulated our faculties; but after all the greatest proof of its principles would be found in our lives.

Sir John Monckton proposed the Installing Master, in one of his pleasant speeches. He deeply sympathised with Bro. Kiralfy in doing that which was not common even in Freemasonry because he, Sir John, had initiated three sons in the Craft, and was looking forward to install one of them at an early date. The manner in which he had rendered the ceremony of installing his son as a Master was most exact and worthy of all praise. Even the Grand Secretary had told him that he had learned something, and would no doubt take advantage of it hereafter. He could say no more to recommend the toast to the favourable notice of the Brethren.

Bro. Imre Kiralfy, who was received with long continued applause, said he felt peculiar pleasure in performing the ceremony that day. He had known the family of the W.M. for many years (laughter), and had viewed with great interest the progress of the W.M. since his birth. There were four other brothers who would follow in his steps, and he thought they would all make good Masons. Apart from all fun he must say he felt very proud at having the privilege of placing his son in the chair of the Lodge, and was glad to hear it said that the ceremony was properly rendered, for he felt that he

was performing a very responsible duty; his heart was beating fast, and he felt the tears come to his eyes more than once during the installation. He thanked them all for their kind appreciation.

Bros. Finch Hatton W.M. 1361, and R. Newton Crane acknowledged the toast of the Visitors; Bros. Maitland Coffin and Sir Joseph Dimsdale responded for the Past Masters; and Bros. Breese and Coleman replied for the Officers of the Lodge.

During the evening a very pleasant programme of music was provided by Bro. James Kift, the artistes being Madame Eugenia Morgan, Miss Lallie Hodder, Mr. Kelson Trueman, and Mr. Epsteyne. D'Amato's Neapolitan Singers gave some lively Italian pieces, and Bro. Walter Churcher delivered some of his amusing recitations.

PROVINCIAL.

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HOLME VALLEY LODGE, No. 652.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of this Lodge took place at the Drill Hall, Holmfirth, on the 15th inst., when the following members of the Lodge were present: Bros. G. H. Ingham W.M., T. S. Brierley S.W., J. Barrowclough J.W., W. Walker Chaplain, H. Lomax Secretary, R. Bower S.D., T. M. Haigh J.D., J. Greenwood D.C., H. T. Hardy I.G., Tom Lawton Steward, Jesse Shaw Tyler, J. Hensten, P. W. Mellor, J. Lancaster, S. A. Greenwood, Thos. Brook, J. E. Heap, H. B. Sykes, Jas. Beardsell, J. F. Lee, J. W. B. Shaw, A. C. H. Tinker, W. Sykes, J. E. Fisher, A. P. Mellor, J. L. Holdroyd, Alf. Battye, Shaw Haigh, G. Holdroyd, Josh. Tyass, Jonas Wagstaff, J. W. Brierley, and others. Among the Visitors were Bros. Dr. Chas. F. Forshaw, LL.D., 295 603, &c. (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), F. Withers 600, H. Sanders 1783, J. Sanders 1783, W. Carter 2055, E. Carter 2055, George Hadfield 625, P. R. Hampshire 149, G. S. Butley 1783, J. E. Cockroft 1462, H. Shaw 2261, J. Blackburn 306, W. Rayner 290, J. T. Last 2321, C. F. Arnold 521, M. Riley 1514, G. M. Marchant 1783, Joe Sykes 1514, A. Dunn 1514, J. L. Sykes 521, T. Benn 521, A. Billington 1462, G. North 1514, Geo. Hirst 1514, W. F. Munroe 1514, W. H. Brierley 290, J. D. Prior 1645, J. F. Cooke 1645, J. A. H. Ealand 1645, G. H. Beaumont 2261, A. G. Kayé 149, T. D. Ruddock 275, E. Brook 1645.

The Lodge being opened in the first, second, and third degrees respectively, all Brethren below the rank of Installed Master retired, the while the Senior Warden Bro. T. S. Brierley was installed Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year.

On their re-entering the Lodge, the newly elected Worshipful Master invested his Officers, as follow:—Joshua Barrowclough S.W., Shaw Haigh J.W., Richard Bower Chaplain, J. R. Mellor P.M. P.P.A.G.D.C. Treasurer, Tom Heeley Secretary, T. M. Haigh S.D., James Beardsell J.D., Willie Walker I.G., R. T. Hardy D.C., Alfred Battye Assist.D.C., Albert Tinker Organist, J. C. Barrowclough Assist. Org., Thomas Hinchliffe Registrar, Tom Lawton, Harry Holdroyd, J. T. Lee, John E. Heap, Herbert B. Sykes, John W. B. Shaw, Herbert Newbould Stewards, Jesse Shore Tyler.

The Lodge was duly closed and the Brethren withdrew to the Victoria Hotel, where an excellent repast had been provided.

The toast list was dealt with in due course, Bro. Brierley W.M. being responsible for the Queen and H.R.H. the Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family.

Bro. Immediate Past Master England gave H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W. Grand Master of England and the Officers of Grand Lodge present and past.

Bro. J. C. Barrowclough proposed the Prov.G.Master of West Yorkshire Bro. W. L. Jackson, M.P., the Deputy Prov.G.Master Bro. R. Wilson P.G.D., and the rest of the Provincial Officers.

The next toast, the Masonic Charities, was entrusted to Bro. J. R. Mellor P.M. P.P.A.G.D.C., and in a most eloquent speech he pleaded the cause of the different Funds.

Then came the toast of the evening, the Worshipful Master of the Holme Valley Lodge Brother T. S. Brierley. This was given in a most spirited and masterly manner by Bro. Joshua Barrowclough, and the heartiness with which it was received proved that the election of Bro. Brierley was a most popular one.

It may here be appropriately mentioned that Bro. Brierley was initiated into Freemasonry in March 1893, and has occupied the following Offices: Captain of the Stewards Dec. 1893, J.D. Dec. 1894, S.D. Dec. 1895, Sec. Dec. 1896, J.W. Dec. 1897, S.W. Dec. 1898.

In rising to respond to the toast, which was drunk with full Masonic honours, Bro. Brierley had considerable difficulty in commencing his reply, so loud and prolonged were the bursts of applause with which he was received. When eventually he obtained a hearing it was seen he was visibly affected. He said he considered it the highest possible honour a man could receive to be elected Master of his Lodge. They might rest assured, he proceeded, that the confidence they had reposed in him would not be misplaced. He was but mortal, but it should be his constant aim and endeavour to ably fulfill and discharge his duties and responsibilities, as Master of 652, with honour to their choice and credit to himself. He had, as many of them were aware, an excellent staff of Officers, and with their co-operation and the assistance of the Past Masters and members of Holme Valley Lodge he trusted to leave the chair of K.S. in the same unsullied state in which it had been handed down by the whole of his predecessors. Bro. Brierley resumed his seat, while the Brethren sang "For he's a jolly good Fellow."

Bro. J. A. Heastie then proposed the Visitors, but as these, as will be seen by a glance at the names above, were very numerous, we cannot find room to single out individual replies.

Other toasts were the Installing Officers, the Officers of the Holme Valley Lodge, the Past Masters, and the Tyler's toast.

Most of the toasts were interspersed by songs and recitations.

The proceedings were prolonged to an exceptionally late hour, and we have it on the authority of our Yorkshire representative that although the "wee sma hours" were a thing of the past before the gathering finally dispersed, all the Brethren arrived safely home, feeling none the worse for the unbounded hospitality shown them, and knowing that the "fourth degree" had for them had several hours of almost unprecedented enjoyment.

LODGE OF TRUTH, No. 1458.

THE annual meeting and festival of St. John in connection with this Lodge took place at the Mitre Hotel, Cathedral Gates, Manchester, on Saturday, 2nd instant, Brother A. B. Taylor Worshipful Master.

The principal business was that of installing Bro. Leopold Hirsch S.W.

into the chair of K.S. Bro. Buckley Carr P.M. P.P.G.D.C. performed the ceremony, assisted by Past Masters Alfred Hebden P.P.D.G.D.C., &c., and Geo. T. Lenard, a trio of able and experienced workers in the Craft.

A list of the new Officers is appended:—Bros. H. Hellewell S.W., Joseph Day J.W., J. Pearce Treasurer, G. P. Taylor P.M. Secretary, W. Dewhurst S.D., R. Stevenson J.D., A. Hebden P.M., &c., D.C., W. S. Mutteen, W. G. Birch, and H. Flint Stewards, W. J. Herring P.M. Char. Rep.

The usual charity collection having been made, the W.M. proposed that the amount be devoted to the War Fund, and this was adopted.

An excellent banquet was afterwards served by the host, Bro. H. Powoll Jones, to which about forty sat down, including the following Provincial Officers, viz.: Brothers H. Gordon Small, William Bee, and Edwd. Roberts. Other visitors were Bros. J. R. Tollis P.M. 1185, H. Jones W.M. 1011, L. H. Keay W.M. 1219, J. Jackson S.W. 934, W. T. Cairns 1140, L. Kaufman 1798, F. Humphries 852, &c.

Songs and sketches were given by Bros. Alexr. Marr (loyal), J. Doyle (patriotic, &c.), T. P. Cooper P.M. (topical), Edwd. Roberts P.M. (Welsh parody, &c.), and L. Kaufman (Hebrew).

The W.M. proposed the toast of the Provincial Grand Officers, to which Bros. Bee and Small responded.

Speaking of the recent meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, held in Manchester, Bro. Bee strongly deprecated the way in which the ceremonial had been performed, which elicited a retort from Bro. Small that the function was a grand one, and in his experience had never been equalled, nor the standard of work so excellently well done as on the occasion mentioned, when the Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire (Lord Stanley), was installed into the position by his cousin the Earl of Lathom Prov. Grand Master of the Western Division of Lancashire.

Bro. Carr proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, saying the latter had the prior support of his Brethren, who were proud that he had attained the position of Master. He was essentially a child of the Lodge, having been initiated in it, and he had every confidence that he would exert all his talents and influence on its behalf. He only hoped Bro. Hirsch, than whom there was not a more zealous and enthusiastic Mason in the Lodge, would have health and strength to successfully carry him through his year of office.

Bro. Hirsch W.M. responded, saying this was his birthday in Masonry, for he had been exactly eight years in travelling from the West to the East. On his journey he had gained refinement, for whenever he had an hour to spare it was devoted to Craft study, and he had never regretted it. He felt full of pride and gratitude for the position which they had conferred upon him that day, and he would prove his gratitude by being a good Master. When he vacated the chair of K.S. he hoped to leave the position as pure as it had been transmitted to him. He would try to do his best for Freemasonry and the Lodge of Truth, and, if spared by the G.A.O.T.U., would try to rise to a higher eminence.

Bro. Hirsch subsequently introduced the toast of the I.P.M., coupling with it other Past Masters of the Lodge whose names he mentioned, and finished his remarks by presenting to Bro. Taylor a handsome jewel, upon which was inscribed these words:—

Presented to

W. BRO. A. B. TAYLOR,

by the Brethren of the Lodge, as a mark of esteem for his services as W.M. during 1898-9.

2nd December 1899.

Bro. Taylor I.P.M. responded in suitable terms, being followed by remarks from Past Masters Thos. Hy. Hall, and W. J. Herring.

Bro. Hebden proposed the health of the visitors, several of whom responded. Other toasts followed.

THE MANCHESTER LODGE, No. 2554.

THE regular meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper Street, Manchester, on Friday, 8th inst., Bro. Arthur C. K. Smith Worshipful Master.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, Bros. Walter Gibbons, Max Fritz Wilhelm Karge, and Arthur James Hoyland, who had duly shown their proficiency, were passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M., assisted by Bro. A. B. Smith S.W., the latter presenting and explaining the working tools to the candidates.

A successful ballot was afterwards taken for Mr. Charles Neufeld, aged 46, of 11 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., described as a merchant in the Soudan, and around this ceremony a great amount of interest naturally centred, the candidate being that historical personage known as the "Prisoner of the Khalifa." Bro. W. B. Akerman P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. Director of Ceremonies, who was responsible for this important advent into Freemasonry, himself performed the ceremony of initiation, the working tools being presented to Bro. Neufeld by Bro. W. E. Davies J.W. We may add that the work throughout was so ably performed as to receive the universal commendation of visitors.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were agreeably relieved by songs, sketches, &c., the contributors being Bros. Robert Thomson P.M. 44, J. Stanley Derbyshire S.W. 1565, and T. O. Broad 204, who displayed their vocal powers to advantage; W. D. Booth Org. 104, who officiated at the pianoforte; Edward Roberts P.M. 1459 P.G.Tlr., who, by special request, gave a characteristic incident in the life of a German, and others.

Bro. Akerman proposed the health of the newly-initiated Brother, expressing in no measured terms his great delight that Bro. Neufeld had elected to become a Freemason in what he might call the home of his wife, for she was a Manchester lady. He briefly alluded to the martyrdom suffered by Bro. Neufeld, who, while a prisoner, chained for twelve years by order of that terrible and inhuman tyrant his captor, was made the cruel sport of Mahdism; and concluded a very interesting speech by saying that whatever religion a man might profess, whether he be Jew, Mahomedan, or Christian, he could never forget the religion of Freemasonry, which was that of charity.

Bro. Neufeld, in reply, said he was a German, and the language which he had learned, and had not only learned but loved, was the German language. He also loved the English nation, having been taught this very natural duty by his wife, who was an Englishwoman. A long wish of his had that day been fulfilled, and he had become a Freemason in the town to which Mrs. Neufeld belonged. The speaker related how his desire to join the Craft had been revived and accentuated by the heroic devotion of a man who, under circumstances of extreme danger, had many times risked his life on his behalf, being under the impression that he (Bro. Neufeld) was at that time a Freemason. Personally he considered it a great honour to belong to

this great corporation, and it would be his duty and pleasure to do what he could by way of furthering its glorious objects. At that moment his tongue could not express what his heart felt, and he asked his auditors to look forward to his adequately thanking them on another occasion.

Bro. Smith W.M. proposed the health of the newly-passed Brethren, which received suitable replies from the candidates.

Bro. Neufeld again arose. He said he had only that day been brought into that house, and among that congregation, and the duty had already been passed over to him of introducing a toast. To some men especial opportunities were afforded of doing good to large communities. The place where he had been forcibly detained for twelve years was then under the dominion of a man who ruled simply for himself. It was an iron rule which dominated the whole of his country, and it had become necessary for the British Government to break down that rule. Fortunately, after years of steady persistency, they had attained this object, and the men who were mainly responsible for this happy termination were members of the Order of Freemasons, namely Lord Kitchener (the Sirdar), and Colonel Sir Francis Wingate. They were highly respected by all, and they had so taught the Egyptians to love and respect them that they were eager and willing to fight on their behalf, and on behalf of the country which they represented. In this sense he must speak gratefully of the Egyptians, who had justified their best hopes. The death of the Khalifa was the death blow to Mahdism, and the beginning of a beneficent Christian rule. He (Bro. Neufeld) had therefore great pleasure in asking them to drink to the health of Lord Kitchener and of Col. Sir Francis Wingate.

The toast was accepted with great acclamation, and the Secretary was instructed to convey the fact to the objects of this enthusiasm.

Bro. Frank J. Large Secretary, having been called upon to respond to the toast, said the members of the Manchester Lodge were proud and honoured by the presence among them that evening of Brother Neufeld. He (the speaker) had travelled in Egypt, and a brother of his lay buried in Cairo, so that he claimed to have some little interest in the place. He would see that Bros. Lord Kitchener and Col. Wingate were communicated with.

Bro. Arthur Jefferis P.M. P.P.G.J.W. proposed the health of the visitors, saying that on that occasion they had a greater number than generally honoured them at an ordinary meeting. Concluding an interesting address he said that the Manchester Lodge would never play second fiddle to anyone in the heartiness of its welcome to visitors. Bros. Marsh, Perry, Webb, and J. S. Derbyshire responded.

After the toast of the W.M., proposed by Bro. Charlton P.M., and ably responded to by Bro. Smith, Bro. Neufeld treated the large audience to a recital of some of his experiences. He said that for a man to be able to cope with such difficulties and dangers as had beset himself he must possess two qualifications; in the first place he must be blessed with a good constitution, and in the next he must have a will. Fortunately for his own safety, as was ultimately proved, he possessed both. He had a good deal to thank the Manchester people for; they had not only looked after the welfare of his wife during his imprisonment, but they had carefully brought up his daughter, whom he had left a little girl, and found a grown up young lady. Bro. Neufeld related many instances connected with his capture, which was not effected until after a hard fight. Through treachery the whole of his men and mules were killed, the enemy swooping down upon them in numbers. He gave very graphic accounts of his journeys to Dongola, where he was tried, and ultimately to Omdurman, where his hands were tied, and other indignities practised towards him, thousands of people assembling to witness his degradation. He was made the cruel sport of their brutality, and amongst other things they amused themselves by throwing knives and other dangerous articles at him.

Knowing the potency of a bold and courageous front upon superstitious natures he would not allow his tormentors to see that he feared them, and tried to assume a stoicism even when confronted with a crucifix, which he was told had been prepared for him. He was also shown a gallows, with a suspended rope; and a fierce black, armed with a formidable weapon, was pointed out to him as his probable executioner. Asked to choose his own mode of death he had to appear indifferent, and told the Khalifa that it would be impossible for him to tear out a hair of his beard unless the God whom he (the prisoner) worshipped had decided that he was to die.

At last came the welcome news that his life was to be spared, but at what a cost! He was to amuse his tyrant master, his passions, like the vitals of Prometheus, to be ever preyed upon, and ever renewed. This, Bro. Neufeld characterises as the most trying period of his life. Still, he never gave up the hope of being relieved, which sustained him during his twelve years of captivity. News of his death was often reported, and on more than one occasion his wife had gone into mourning on his account.

Bro. Neufeld, with a pleasing naturalness, and unaffected sincerity, described the time which immediately preceded his release by the Sirdar. With feelings which alternated between hope and fear, and deep anxiety, he learned that the British troops were approaching. He could hear the boom, boom of the cannons, and often wondered what his fate would be, whether he would be killed, or rescued, or forgotten. Sometimes he was delirious with joy, sometimes he relapsed into the depths of despair, but the crowning point of all was when the welcome words of Lord Kitchener broke upon his hearing, the first English voice he had heard for twelve years, "Is that Charles Neufeld? Are you well?"

Among the numerous visitors not already mentioned were Bros. James Newton P.M. P.G.Sd.Br.Eng. Provincial Grand Secretary, C. D. Cheetham P.M. 993 P.P.G.W., T. D. Hooper P.M. 1170 P.P.G.T., John Mann Crone W.M. 1375, W. Carter W.M. 1009, Arthur Middleton W.M. 645 P.P.G.D., G. V. Blaikie P.M. 152, Alfred Pickford P.M. 1375 D.C., J. W. Berra P.M. 2109, F. W. Jordan S.W. 2109, R. H. Percival 1170, and John Fairbairn 2449.

METROPOLITAN : INSTRUCTION.

CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

ON Wednesday, at 7 o'clock, at the Bunch of Grapes, Lime Street, E.C., Bros. John Wyatt Simeons W.M., W. Hattersley S.W., M. Baillie J.W., E. J. Davey P.M. Prec., E. L. Elvin P.M. Treas., J. K. Pitt P.M. Sec., J. Wynman S.D., T. Whiffen J.D., J. Done I.G., G. Spice W.M. 193, C. J. Goovaert, T. Goodchild.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Goodchild acting as candidate. The Lodge was advanced to the second degree, and Bro. Done having answered the questions was entrusted. The Lodge was further advanced, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed.

The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, when Bro. G. Spice with deep emotion informed the W.M. and Brethren of the sudden death of Bro.

Salter P.M. of the Finsbury Lodge, whose funeral took place that day (Wednesday), which announcement was received with great regret, suitable reference being ordered to be recorded on the minutes.

Bro. Hattersley will preside on Wednesday, 3rd January.

The Lodge was closed and the Brethren adjourned to the magnificent dining room, where an excellent repast was provided, which reflected great credit on Bro. Goovaert, the present manager of the establishment.

RANELAGH LODGE, No. 834.

ON Friday, 1st inst., at the Six Bells Hotel, Hammersmith, W., Bros. John Worth W.M., K. M. Ross S.W., G. T. Meek J.W., W. Hinds P.M. Treas., F. Craggs P.M. Sec., Arthur Williams P.M. Preceptor, H. Stokes S.D., H. Inderwick J.D., G. White I.G., W. H. Bennett Steward, R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Middx., F. W. Smethurst, C. T. Hayward, and several others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Smethurst taking the part of candidate, and the same Brother then answered the questions leading to the second degree. The second section of the first lecture was worked by the Preceptor, assisted by the Brethren.

Bro. F. M. Smethurst 834 was elected a member. On the proposition of the esteemed Preceptor, seconded by Bro. Craggs, a vote of condolence was passed to Bro. W. J. Coplestone P.M. (who is the Secretary of the Mother Lodge) on the great loss he had sustained by the demise of his wife, and the Brethren desired that the Lodge of Instruction should send a wreath to the funeral.

ON Friday, 8th inst., Bros. W. Hillier W.M. 1637 W.M., J. Knight W.M. 861 S.W., R. Reid P.M. 1275 J.W., W. Hinds P.M. 185 Treas., F. Craggs P.M. 834 Sec., A. Williams P.M. 834 2090 Preceptor, J. Cox P.M. S.D., W. Hide P.M. J.D., M. F. Wilkins I.G., G. T. Meek Steward, R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Middx., R. N. Larter P.M., W. W. Williams P.M., E. Nash P.M., J. H. Cumming P.M., John Worth W.M. Ranelagh Lodge, H. J. Cousins W.M. Old Concord Lodge, K. M. Ross, C. Woods, W. T. Ridgway, C. T. Hayward, F. W. Smethurst, E. Salt, H. G. Cox, H. O. Sanders, G. F. Payne, T. H. Hellyar, L. L. Musgrave, and others.

This being section night there was a very large attendance, and the W.M. sounded his gavel slightly after 8 p.m., when the sections were worked as follows: First Lecture—Bros. K. M. Ross, W. Hyde P.M., W. Hinds P.M., R. W. Williams P.M., W. W. Williams P.M., J. Knight W.M. 861, and R. Reid P.M.

All the Brethren were letter perfect in their answers, and they are to be congratulated, as in three instances they kindly filled at a moment's notice the places of Brethren who were detained at home on account of illness.

ON Friday, 15th inst., Bros. W. Hillier P.M. W.M., J. Knight W.M. 861 S.W., R. Reid P.M. J.W., W. Hinds P.M. Treas., F. Craggs P.M. Sec., Arthur Williams P.M. I.P.M., W. T. Ridgway S.D., L. Standing J.D., G. T. Meek I.G., R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Middx., J. H. Cumming P.M., C. T. Hayward, A. Barnett, M. F. Wilkins and several others. Starting immediately after the Lodge was opened up, the 2nd and 3rd Lectures were worked as follows: Second Lecture—Bros. W. Hinds, J. Knight, R. Reid, W. T. Ridgway, and F. Craggs. Third Lecture—Bros. W. Hillier, A. Williams, and R. H. Williams.

In every case the answers were given faultlessly, and without the slightest hesitation, and we certainly must congratulate the section workers on the amount of patience and industry they had expended on their preparation.

Bro. Hinds was thanked for having the collars and jewels renovated at his own expense, and after Bro. Barnett and Bro. Standing had been elected members Lodge was closed.

FINSBURY PARK LODGE, No. 1288.

ON Saturday, at the Old Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., Bros. A. J. Davis W.M., John W. Key S.W., T. A. Key J.W., W. Sycklemore P.M. acting Prec., John Thom Dep. Sec., G. H. Paine S.D., W. H. Coley J.D., W. Newbold I.G., M. M. Taylor P.M., T. Edmonds P.M., W. Hudson, T. Elven, J. Wynman.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree, when Bro. T. Elven answered the questions, and the third ceremony was rehearsed, including the traditional history.

The Lodge was resumed to the first degree and Bro. John W. Key was elected W.M. for 6th January, the last Saturday of this year being Officers' night.

Regret was expressed at the illness of Bro. Haines, and sympathy tendered to Bro. Hill Preceptor on the death of his youngest son, a letter from the Lodge being ordered in each case, and a wreath from the Lodge funds in the latter.

The sum of one guinea was voted from the funds to be sent to the Benevolent Institution, in connection with the usual New Year's entertainment.

There will be no meeting of the Lodge this (Saturday) evening.

CRANBOURNE LODGE, No. 1580.

ON Tuesday, at the Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Bro. W. T. Richardson W.M., M. Johnson S.W., C. J. Smith J.W., F. W. Robinson P.M. Prec., T. Gray S.D., J. Webb J.D., J. Wynman I.G.

Bro. Webb answered the questions leading to the second degree and was entrusted. The Lodge was advanced and the ceremony was rehearsed. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and Bro. Johnson was elected W.M. for Tuesday, 2nd January.

WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

ON Monday, at 3 o'clock, at Bro. Rudderforth's (Stone's) Restaurant, Panton Street, Haymarket, Bros. N. Cawley W.M., W. West S.W., H. J. Rose J.W., C. Woodrow P.M. Prec., C. Wetton P.M. Dep. Prec., J. W. Simeons Sec., T. E. Culverhouse S.D., C. Murless J.D., J. W. Ollington I.G., Wynman, Lobb.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Lobb acting as candidate, and this was followed by the ceremony of passing, Bro. Murless being the candidate. Bro. Lobb answered the questions leading to the superior degree.

Bro. W. E. Allaway 209 was elected a member of the Lodge, and Bro. West appointed to preside on the 8th prox., there being no meetings on Christmas and New Year's day.

We were pleased to see Bro. C. Woodrow again present occupying the

Preceptor's chair, after his absence through severe illness, and trust he will long enjoy health and strength to take his place at this Lodge of Instruction.

WALTHAMSTOW LODGE, No. 2472.

ON Monday, at Bro. Mears's, the Lord Brooke Hotel, Walthamstow, Bros. E. J. Edkins W.M., J. P. Watts S.W., C. J. Stubbings J.W., W. W. West Dep. Prec., F. Budd Treas., J. Clark P.M. Sec., M. Bleick S.D., C. Horst J.D., C. J. Papworth I.G., Sam Griffiths, A. G. Hopkins, W. Hooker, T. J. Parkins, T. Pinder, S. C. Rhodes, J. Wynman, and W. Watkins.

The second and third ceremonies were rehearsed, Bros. A. G. Hopkins and W. Hooker acting as candidates.

Bro. Watts will preside on 8th January, there being no meeting on Christmas or New Year's day. Bro. Rhodes acted as Organist.

Garrick.—Bro. H. T. Brickwell will produce his second pantomime, 'Puss in Boots,' at this theatre on Boxing day, at one o'clock, among the artistes engaged being Miss Letty Lind, Miss Ethel Sydney, Miss Florence Lloyd, Mr. Charles Lauri, &c., &c. The early start on Boxing morning is to enable those who have other engagements for the same evening to get away in good time.

The Theatres, &c.

Adelphi.—8, Drink. Matinée, Tuesday, 2.
Avenue.—8, An old Admirer. 8.45, A message from Mars. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Comedy.—8.15, The Mystical Miss. Matinée, Tuesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Court.—8.30, A Royal Family. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Covent Garden.—Monday, 1st January, 11, Grand Fancy Dress Ball.
Criterion.—8.15, A pretty piece of business. 9, My Daughter-in-Law. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Daly's.—8.15, San Toy. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Drury Lane.—1.30 and 7.30, Jack and the Beanstalk.
Duke of York's.—8, The Rebel Rose. 8.30, Miss Hobbs.
Gaiety.—8, A Runaway Girl. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Garrick.—1.30 and 7.30, Puss in Boots.
Globe.—8, The Gay Lord Quex. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Haymarket.—8.15, The Bugle Call. 9, The Black Tulip. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday 2.15.
Her Majesty's.—8.15, King John. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.15.
Lyceum.—2 and 8, The Snow Man.
Lyric.—8, Florodora. Matinée, Tuesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Prince of Wales's.—Thursday, 28th December, The Only Way.
Princess's.—8, The Absent-minded Beggar. Matinée, Tuesday, 2.
Savoy.—8.15, The Rose of Persia. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
Strand.—2.30 and 8.15, The Grey Parrot. 9, The wrong Mr. Wright.
Terry's.—8, Before the sun goes down. 8.45, Jane. Matinée, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 3.
Vaudeville.—8.15, The Italian Quarter. 9, The Elixir of Youth. Matinée, Tuesday, 3.
Wyndham's.—8.30, Dr. Johnson. 9, David Garrick. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Alexandra.—1.30 and 7.30, Sinbad the Sailor.
Grand.—1 and 7.30, The Forty Thieves.
Opera House, Crouch End.—8, La Poupée. Matinée, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 2.
Standard.—1 and 7.30, Cinderella.
Surrey.—Goody Two Shoes.
Alhambra.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. Napoli, &c.
Aquarium.—The world's great Show. Varied Performances, daily.
Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. Ordered to the Front. Round the Town again, &c.
London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.
Oxford.—7.30, Variety Entertainment, &c. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 2.15 also.
Palace.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biography, &c. Saturday, 2 also.
Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Tuesday and Saturday, 2.30 also.
Tivoli.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. The Bio-Tableaux, &c. Saturday, 2.15 also.
Agricultural Hall.—3 and 8, Mohawk Minstrels. World's Fair, &c.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Cyril's Christmas Dream, &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.
Moore and Burgess Minstrels (St. James's Hall).—Every evening at 8, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 3 and 8.
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Polytechnic.—3 and 8, Our Navy, &c.

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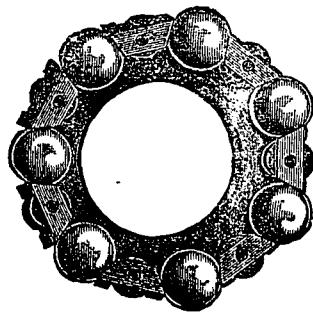
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