

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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MULTIPLE OFFICERS.

WE direct the attention of our readers to the remarks of the Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire, and his Secretary, under this head, as noticed in our report of the recent meeting of the Prov.G.Lodge at Hitchin. We are of opinion the Hertfordshire Lodges are not by any means the only ones to blame in this direction, and shall take an early opportunity of reverting to the question.

We have previously spoken on this subject, particularly in reference to the appointment of Assistant Stewards, but on the same authority we may add that there appears to be no objection to plurality in that Office.

SUFFOLK.

A NUMEROUS company of Brethren, representative of every portion of the Masonic Province of Suffolk, assembled in the Library of Ipswich Town Hall, on Friday, 13th inst., to take part in the annual Provincial Grand Lodge, which was held under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master the Right Hon. Lord Henniker P.G.W.Eng., who is also the Prov.G.M. of the Isle of Man.

This being the first occasion that his Lordship had presided over the Provincial Lodge of Suffolk since Her Majesty called him to the onerous post of Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, and also since his recovery from a long and dangerous illness, it is almost needless to state that his Lordship met with an enthusiastic reception on his entry into the Lodge—a reception the more cordial as the Brethren had evidence of the completeness of Lord Henniker's restoration to health. Indeed, it was generally admitted that his Lordship had not looked more robust for a number of years.

The Prov.G.M. was supported by his Deputy Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.C., the Prov.G.Sec. Bro. N. Tracy P.G.Std.B., and a large assembly of other Provincial Officers and members of local Lodges.

Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last meeting, held at Woodbridge, were read and confirmed, after which the roll of Provincial Officers, as well as that of the several Lodges was called.

Regret was expressed at the absence, in consequence of an accident, of the Prov.G.D.C. Bro. J. M. Franks 376, but his duties were ably discharged by his Assistant Bro. George Booth jun. 81.

Bro. Philip J. Jolly having been unanimously elected Provincial Grand Treasurer, and Bros. C. E. Tempest, T. E. Mayhew, and A. A. Bennett having been re-elected Auditors, the Provincial Grand Master appointed and invested his Officers for the ensuing year, a list of whom we give elsewhere.

The report of the Board of General Purposes announced the continued prosperity of the Order in the Province, and stated that a Warrant for a new Lodge had been granted, the Consecration to take place probably in September. The membership of the Province showed a substantial increase; while financially they were in a fairly sound state, there being a good balance at the bank. A sum of £5 5s had been granted to a needy Brother, twenty guineas to the Benevolent, and ten guineas each to the Boys and Girls Institutions, and five guineas to the South African Masonic Relief Fund. The report was adopted *nem. con.*

The report of the Suffolk Masonic Charity Association stated that during the past year a total of £823 4s had been subscribed in the Province to the three Institutions. During the past twelve years (for which period the Secretaryship had been in the able hands of Bro. J. M. Harvey, of Ely), thirty-eight aged Masons, four widows, seven girls, and ten boys had been elected to the various Masonic Institutions, with a total poll of 106,167 votes. The amount contributed by the Province in the same period was no less than £10,803 10s.

The Provincial Grand Master cordially thanked Bro. Harvey for the trouble he had always taken, and his continued interest in the Charities.

The Lodge was then adjourned, while the Brethren marched in procession to St. Mary-le-Tower Church, where a bright musical service had been provided. Bro. the Rev. Coyle read the prayers; the Prov.G.Chaplain Bro. Rev. W. E. Fletcher preached from St. John i 43 to 45, while Bro. Rev. S. J. S. Banks read the lesson. The Prov.G.Organist Bro. James Price presided with his accustomed skill at the organ. An offertory was taken, amounting to £7 10s 2d, for the benefit of the East Suffolk Hospital.

After service, the Brethren returned in procession to the Town Hall, where the business of the Lodge was resumed. Addressing the Brethren with his wonted geniality

The Provincial Grand Master expressed his pleasure at being present. He regretted that business engagements would compel him to return to town immediately after the Lodge, without staying to the banquet. His Lordship referred to the unfortunate circumstance that both his Deputy and himself at present resided out of the Province, a fact which made it difficult for them to be with the Brethren as often as they could wish. He was, however, delighted to come, whenever his engagements permitted, to the dear old county of Suffolk, where he had lived so long; and he felt that seeing so many Suffolk faces had really done him good. He also alluded to the recent visit to the Isle of Man on the occasion of his installation of Bro. Rev. C. J. Martyn and Bro. Tracy. Concluding, the Provincial Grand Master said he sincerely hoped it would not be long before he should have the pleasure of meeting some of the Suffolk Brethren in the Lodges of the Isle of Man, where they would be sure of a hearty welcome.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Prov. G. Chaplain, for his excellent sermon; to the Vicar of Tower Church, for the use of the church; to the Mayor and Corporation of Ipswich, for the use of the Town Hall buildings; and to the choir of St. Mary-le-Tower, to whom the Prov. G.M. expressed his indebtedness, for the delightful treat they had provided.

The Deputy Prov. G.M. congratulated Lord Henniker upon his restoration to health, and also on the distinguished honour conferred upon him by his appointment as Grand Master of the Province of the Isle of Man.

It was resolved that the next Provincial meeting be held at Eye, under the banner of Lodge Hartismere, No. 1663.

Prov. Grand Lodge having been closed in due form, the Brethren repaired to the Council Chamber, where a well-served banquet was provided by Bro. Pipe, of the Cornhill Restaurant. In the absence of the Prov. G.M. Bro. Rev. C. J. Martyn presided, and he was supported right and left by Grand Officers, including Bro. Fred. Binckes late Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, who greatly delighted the Brethren by a very fine speech on Masonic Charities.

The customary Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and the harmony of the proceedings was pleasantly sustained by Bros. Dutton, G. Abbott, H. A. Wright, A. Mead, Price, and Stoker; and the Lyceum Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. W. Fletcher Dorling.

ESSEX.

AS briefly announced in our last issue the annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Tuesday, 17th inst., at Clacton-on-Sea, under the presidency of the Earl of Warwick D.G.M. England Provincial Grand Master, who was supported by his Deputy Col. Lockwood, M.P., several Grand Officers, Provincial Grand Officers, and a full attendance of members.

The meeting was held in the Town Hall, which presented a most attractive appearance, having been tastefully decorated by the local Brethren, with the banners of the different Lodges and other insignia, together with a brilliant display of bunting. The meeting was attended by upwards of 300 Brethren.

The minutes of the last annual meeting, held at Tilbury, having been read and confirmed, the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. T. J. Ralling P.A.G.D.C. England announced the receipt of letters regretting inability to attend from several Provincial Grand Masters, the Lord Mayor of London, and other distinguished members of the Craft, after which the roll of the Lodges of the Province was called, and all of the forty-four were found to be represented.

Bro. J. J. C. Turner P.P.G.W. presented the report of the Board of General Purposes, of which he is the Chairman, and proposed that it be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes. This report stated that during the year there had been 181 initiations, compared with 178 last year; and 78 joining members, compared with 134 last year; 97 resignations, against 81 last year; the losses by death had been 39, whilst 52 Brethren had been struck off the books of their respective Lodges, leaving the present strength of the Province 2,368 members, against 2,297 last year. The Board recommended the following grants:—£21 to the South African Masonic Relief Fund, £10 10s to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, £10 10s to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, £10 10s to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and £5 towards the Clacton-on-Sea Cottage Hospital. The Board also recommended that the portrait in next year's Calendar should be that of Bro. A. J. H. Ward P.M. 650 P.P.S.G.W. The report was unanimously adopted.

The Charity Committee's report, which was also adopted unanimously, was as follows:—"The Charity Committee congratulate the Province on the fact that since the last meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, one girl, three boys, and two widows have been elected to the benefits of the respective Institutions. At the three Festivals the Province has, as usual, been very liberal in its support, the large sum of £2,042 12s 6d having been contributed in the aggregate. More than half of this was given at the Benevolent Festival, when there were thirty-nine Stewards, of whom those from two of the newest Lodges, the Seven Kings, and the Charles Dickens, raised respectively £346 and £405. At the same Festival the Albert Lucking Lodge also subscribed £153. For the Girls there were sixteen Stewards, who raised £191, and here again the Seven Kings Lodge headed the Essex Lists with £126. At the Boys Festival, a few days since, there were fifteen Stewards, whose contributions reached the total of £470 8s 6d, and in this instance the Brooke Lodge headed the List with £105."

The Provincial Grand Master then, amidst hearty applause, rose to address the Brethren. He said it was his custom to address a few words at each of their meetings on events of interest to the Province during the past year, and on that occasion there were several things he should like to speak about. At the last meeting he had said that if the Brethren would pay him a visit at Warwick Castle he and the Countess would be very pleased. He regretted he had not been able to see them, as he had hoped to have done. But there had been various difficulties, chief of which was that owing to medical advice he had had to spend a considerable portion of the spring abroad, and almost immediately on his return he, like so many others in these days, had been doing his best to serve his Queen and Country by devoting some extra time to military duties—and had been under canvas with his troop. He did not see, however, why it should not come off next year. His friend the Provincial Grand Secretary had visited Warwick, Kenilworth, Stratford-on-Avon, and other places of interest in the district, and under his guidance he felt sure a very pleasant trip might be taken, which would include a visit to Warwick Castle, where Lady Warwick and himself would be delighted to welcome them. As regarded Masonry in the Province they had not experienced such an eventful year as the last, when they added five new Lodges to the roll, but allowing for inevitable losses the strength of the Province had increased by 130

members, which he felt was very satisfactory. Although he was always glad to see new Lodges consecrated it was an equal pleasure to learn that the Lodges already existing were making satisfactory progress. He regretted that since they last met several very prominent Brethren had been removed from their midst by death. The district around Southend had suffered severely by the deaths of Bros. Glasscock, Edward Bowmaker, and Thomas Hood; the Lodge under whose banner they met that day had to lament the death of one of its founders in the person of Bro. Penfold, who was also one of the pioneers of the charming watering place in which they were meeting; the Epping Lodge had lost Bro. Moore, who for many years was its able Secretary, and they all, he was sure, sympathised with their Provincial Grand Secretary in the loss he sustained in the early part of this year in the awful sudden death of one of his brothers. The South African war had also had its influence upon the county. Essex, like other parts, had been called upon to find soldiers, and had cheerfully done so. They missed from their meeting that day a Brother who always took a deep interest in Freemasonry, and who now, he regretted to say, was a prisoner of war—he meant Bro. Woodhouse. It might not be generally known what a patriotic spirit had been exhibited by Bro. Woodhouse in this matter. He was a very skilful worker in iron, and had made some most beautiful things, and being anxious to place his talents at the service of his Queen and country, he had joined the colours as a farrier, and it was while exercising his duties in that respect that he was captured. He was informed by Col. Lockwood that Bro. Woodhouse had also been called upon to act as dentist to his troop, which was probably not so pleasant a duty to him as the other. It was, he thought, highly satisfactory that in spite of the calls that had been made upon the country to support the various war funds, the Indian Famine Fund, and others, Masonic benevolence had shown no falling off. He had the pleasure of being present at the Festival of the Boys School a few days back, when it was stated that up to the present this year the three great Institutions of the Craft had received no less than £64,000. Of course as the lists were read out he naturally watched for that from his own Province, and he was delighted to find that Essex was about third on the list of Provinces, including that of the Chairman of the day H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. Altogether, the Province of Essex had given £2,000 that year to the Charities, while if the amounts given by the county during the past three years were added together, it came up to the very handsome total of £7,500. He thought he should like to congratulate three of the youngest Lodges—the Albert Lucking, the Seven Kings, and the Charles Dickens—on the very substantial help they had given during the year. While on the subject of charity, he should like to allude to the work of the Charity Committee. They had been very successful at the elections in carrying their candidates, but it was only through outside help. Take, for instance, the last election for the Boys School—the Charity Committee only received about 1,400 votes, whereas the number possessed by the Brethren of the Province amount to about 3,000. It had been suggested to him that the collection of votes would be more efficiently carried out if instead of electing a fresh representative each year as was done in so many Lodges, some zealous Brother could be prevailed on to undertake the Office for a series of years; he would get familiar with the work, to the great advantage of the cases which from time to time came to be helped by the Committee. It was very easy for the voting papers to get mislaid, as every post now-a-days brought a large quantity of printed papers, which were apt to be laid aside for the time, whereas if Brethren had a reminder that their votes had not been received many proxies would be rescued and utilised. They could not very well discuss the matter at so large a gathering, but if any Brother had any suggestion to offer and would communicate with the Provincial Grand Secretary it would have every consideration. He felt they ought to do a little better at least than they did, considering the large voting power of the Province. In reference to the local Lodge, he very well remembered coming down to Clacton to consecrate it, when he was very hospitably entertained by its first Master at his most charming house. He had also come down there in other capacities, and was pleased to see the place growing in prosperity and popularity, whilst his wife and children had received great benefits from its salubrious air. Speaking of the appointments to Office he said he feared it was inevitable that there were disappointments on these occasions. The Officers had been selected with great care, and the announcements of their names would no doubt be applauded. He congratulated those who had taken so much trouble to

arrange for their comfort on the present occasion, and in conclusion expressed the hope that the coming Masonic year would be one of prosperity to the Craft in general and the Province in particular.

Four Brethren nominated for election to the Provincial Board of General Purposes were declared to be elected.

Bro. W. Scott Miller W.M. 2717 proposed the election of Bro. James P. Allen P.M. and Treasurer 2063—under the banner of which Lodge the day's meeting was held—as Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. Bro. Allen was one of the founders of the Lodge, a constant supporter of it, and its Treasurer for some time. The nomination was duly seconded, and there being no other proposition the Provincial Grand Master declared Bro. Allen to be duly elected.

The other Provincial Grand Officers for the year were then appointed, in accordance with the list we published last week, and at the conclusion of the investitures the Provincial Grand Master said he trusted all the Brethren who had been appointed would do their best to support him in the work of Freemasonry in general and of that Province in particular during the coming year.

The Deputy Prov. G.M. proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the members of the St. Osyth's Priory Lodge, for their hospitality in providing for the entertainment of Provincial Grand Lodge that day. The Lodge was exceedingly fortunate in having such a fine Hall available in which to receive the Brethren, in having such splendid country round about, and in having made such admirable arrangements with the clerk of the weather for the occasion. This was seconded by Bro. Richard Clowes P.G. Std. B., carried with acclamation, and acknowledged by the W.M. of the local Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master said next year he proposed to hold the annual meeting at Loughton; and he also announced that he had been asked, and had consented, to take the chair at the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution next year; he hoped the Province would support him on that occasion.

The Grand Lodge was then closed and an adjournment was made for the banquet, which was served in a marquee in the grounds of the Warwick Castle Hotel, the band of the 2nd Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regiment playing an excellent selection of music and conducing to the enjoyment of the large party, who were excellently catered for by Messrs. Wright Bros., of Colchester, and most liberally entertained by the local Brethren.

Lord Warwick occupied the chair, and at the conclusion of the dinner proceeded with the toasts. The first on the list, he said, was always received with greater enthusiasm than any other among Masons, being that of Her Majesty the Queen. They all regretted that in her old age the Queen had to face the troubles and anxieties of war, but it had proved she took a lively interest in all that concerned the welfare of her people. Indeed, there seemed to be no event that escaped her notice, and no misfortune that did not enlist her sympathy.

In proposing the toast of the Grand Master Lord Warwick said there was no one more popular throughout the country than His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and as Masons they believed that in him they had an excellent Grand Master. It was indeed very gratifying to Freemasons throughout the Empire to know they had so esteemed a man to preside over them. None of his multifarious duties received more attention than those associated with the Craft, in which he took a lively personal interest.

The next toast was that of the Pro Grand Master, and the Grand Officers present and past, and in proposing it Lord Warwick said that, owing to the fact that the Grand Master had lately placed him in a somewhat prominent position in Freemasonry, he had had the opportunity of judging how capable a President Lord Amherst was, and how efficient a body the Craft had in its Grand Officers.

Bro. George Everett P.G. Treas. responded, saying he considered it a very great honour and a great privilege to be called upon to respond to so important a toast, proposed, as it had been, in such felicitous terms. He returned sincere thanks on behalf of the Grand Officers, and felt that the fact of the toast being always so well received at Masonic meetings was a very great compliment to the numerous body of Brethren included in it.

Bro. Richard Clowes, who occupied the place on the right of the President in the absence of the Deputy, who had to leave, proposed the toast of the Provincial Grand Master. He said he had been entrusted with a toast of very great importance, owing to Col. Lockwood being called upon to

return to London. That Brother could have said more in regard to the Provincial Grand Master, but could not have been more sincere in proposing the toast in his honour. He had the privilege of entertaining the first Provincial Grand Lodge over which Lord Warwick presided—at Harwich—and he then said Essex had a Provincial Grand Master they hoped to see among them for many years, for the benefit of the Brethren of the district. He ventured to think that prediction had been fulfilled, and he could say that day, as he had said years ago—may they have the honour of meeting him in Essex and elsewhere in Freemasonry for many, many years yet to come.

The Earl of Warwick met a most enthusiastic reception on rising to respond. He said he used to be a member of Parliament, and used to get a good deal of practice in talking; he felt it very difficult now that he was rusty to say anything really interesting. He appreciated plain speaking, and thought he always meant what he said; this was certainly the case when he said it gave him the greatest pleasure to meet his Essex Brethren, who were oblivious of his shortcomings, and always most hearty in their reception whenever he came among them. The Officers he appointed year by year certainly did their best to work in the interests of Freemasonry. He had seen a great many Lodges spring up among them, and the number of Masons had greatly increased, but the true spirit of Freemasonry had not died out; its great principles were as much to the front as ever. If for this fact alone Freemasonry would be worthy of support, as it brought together a band of Brethren whose aim was to encourage that Brotherly Love which they regarded as the grand principle of the Order. It was very gratifying to know that in spite of the many calls made upon them during the past year the support of the great Charities of Freemasonry had in no way diminished, but rather that they had been enabled to raise a total of £64,000 during the year on behalf of the three great Charitable Institutions of the Craft. He was beginning to think it was time he made way for some younger Brother, someone who would be better able to look after the Lodges in the Province; and in saying this he might tell them that the desire and the wish was very great to be with them, but it was quite impossible for him to come as often as he would like. Having been their ruler since 1881 he had the very strongest feelings for all the Lodges in the Province, and sincerely hoped that Freemasonry would continue to prosper among them.

Other toasts followed, the whole meeting proving one of the most enjoyable and successful it has been our fortune to attend, the fine weather and pleasing surroundings being no doubt to a great extent answerable for the very satisfactory results, but in this connection it is necessary to first recognise the part played by the local Brethren, who certainly did all that mortals could do to deserve success—and achieved it.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Town Hall, Hitchin, on Wednesday, 18th inst., under the presidency of Bro. T. F. Halsey, M.P., Prov. G.M., who was supported by his Deputy Bro. F. S. Knyvett, J.P., other Grand Officers, Provincial Officers, and members of Lodges of the county.

The minutes were confirmed and the roll of Provincial Officers and of the Lodges called, after which the Brethren had to elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. Bro. C. E. Keyser P.G.D. proposed Bro. J. R. Cox P.M. of the Hertford Lodge, No. 403, whom he said had already been elected Provincial Grand Treasurer in the Royal Arch. Thereupon a discussion took place as to the desirability of regarding the Provincial Grand Treasurership as a permanent Office. The first speaker on the subject pointed out that there were twenty-four Lodges in the Province, and that consequently it was quite impossible to give an Office to every Lodge each year; therefore to monopolise the popular appointment of Treasurer for the same Brother year after year was unwise and also unfair. He considered the Office should be one in which there was a change each year, and in support of his contention he nominated another Brother for the appointment.

Other speakers followed on similar lines, and the general opinion among those present appeared to be that an annual change in the Office was desirable, the Provincial Grand Master being appealed to in order to secure such a result. A third Brother was nominated for the appointment, but it was afterwards pointed out that this was merely a

"notice of motion" for 1901-1902—inadmissible, as the Presiding Officer pointed out.

The Provincial Grand Master, in commenting on the discussion, said it was not a question for him at all, as the Brethren of Provincial Grand Lodge had it in their own hands to decide who should be their Treasurer year by year. He had purposely avoided having anything to do with the appointment of the Provincial Treasurer, and previous to coming there that day had no idea who would be proposed to succeed Bro. Felix Sumner Knynett who, having held the Office for several years, had lately risen to the more important one of Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Any Brother in Provincial Grand Lodge had the right to propose whoever he chose as Provincial Grand Treasurer, and personally he (the Prov. G.M.) had no voice or power in the selection; and even if he had he should be very sorry to exercise it. Whatever had been said in regard to making the appointment limited to one year only must be purely of a suggestive character, as it was quite impossible for the Brethren present that day—or at any meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge—binding others to any particular course of action in this matter. It was a question to be decided year by year and, as he had already said, it was for those present at each successive meeting to decide among themselves as to who should be elected as Treasurer.

Bro. Keyser said no one admitted more than he did the right of the Provincial Grand Lodge to have a new Treasurer year by year and if it was the opinion of the Lodge that a change should be made on every occasion he would cheerfully fall in with that view. He did not wish to dictate to others in this matter, but he might point out that the Brother he had first nominated—Bro. Cox—was an older member of the Province than either of the others, and he felt it would be more in accordance with the principles of Freemasonry if the Brethren assembled in Provincial Lodge refrained from competition on this occasion. He knew what a contest meant (a remark which was fully appreciated by those who knew of our esteemed Brother's experience in parliamentary and other elections), and he felt he was advising them for the best when he urged them to avoid a contest if they possibly could. It seemed to be the opinion of the Brethren of the Province that a change should be made year by year in the future—by all means let that course be carried out, he could assure them he would cheerfully support such a proposal, but he hoped the matter would not be forced to the ballot on the present occasion.

It was further pointed out that the present presented a favourable opportunity for making a change in the principle that had hitherto prevailed in Hertfordshire. Bro. Knynett had held the Office of Prov. G. Treasurer for several years, and it would have been a very delicate task to propose his removal; but now that he had given up the keys of the chest for a higher appointment, there could be no such difficulty, and it was well to start the new system—now generally recognised—with the new holder of the appointment.

The proposer of the second candidate, the Brother who had started the discussion, expressed his satisfaction at what had been said. He had no desire to press his candidate, and had only put him forward knowing him to be well worthy of the honour, for the purpose of ascertaining the feeling of Prov. Grand Lodge. He felt he had succeeded in his endeavour, and looked upon an annual change in the holder of the Office as virtually agreed upon. He therefore withdrew his nomination, as he had no desire to create a contest or any difference of opinion. The third candidate was also withdrawn, and so the field was cleared for Bro. J. R. Cox as the only Brother nominated, and he was declared duly elected.

The next item on the agenda was the installation of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The Prov. G.M. said he did not know if it was necessary for him to say anything special about this Office. As was known to the Brethren during the past year they had lost their Deputy Prov. G.M. Bro. Lake, and he felt it but right to say they had lost a most estimable Officer in him. They need not consider anything as to what had been said or done outside of Freemasonry; they only had to remember him as one who worked zealously with them, and as one who had done much to promote the best traditions of the Craft. He had appointed Bro. Knynett as his successor and desired the Provincial Grand Secretary to read his Patent of appointment, which having been done, the Prov. G.M. proceeded to obligate and regularly install his Deputy, after which the Prov. G. Officers for the year were appointed and invested.

On the question of appointing a Provincial Grand Tyler and an Assistant coming before the Lodge, the Prov. G.M. said they had been unconsciously acting in an unconstitutional manner for many years past in appointing an Assistant Grand Tyler, and as the fault had been pointed out to them he felt it right to at once admit it and take steps to prevent its recurrence. He proposed that in future they should nominate the Tyler of the local Lodge where they met year by year to assist their regular Officer, and award him the gratuity they had been accustomed to give to the Officer they were now told they had no power to appoint.

The report of the Board of Finance was next considered. The D.P.G.M.—as late Treasurer—said it had been a custom in that Provincial Grand Lodge to invest something from time to time in consols; they had started with an amount of about £100, which had gradually grown, until now they had about £370 so invested, and thus in case of a special call they had a fund from which they could meet it, and at once sell out. They had voted a hundred guineas two years ago on the special occasion of the Centenary of the Boys School, and last year, when their Brother Keyser presided at the Festival of the same Institution, they gave another fifty guineas. Although these two grants had overtaxed their current resources, he had asked permission to finance Provincial Grand Lodge for the time being, with the result that the two amounts had been paid, and other liabilities discharged, without entrenching on their investments, which had been kept intact and, consequently, had not now to be made up as would otherwise have been the case. He hoped there would not ever be any necessity to reduce their invested capital; but should an emergency arise there it was ready to meet it. The Report was received, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Twenty guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and then Bro. James Terry brought forward a motion—standing in his name—that a sum of £10 be voted to the Cecil Lodge towards defraying the expenses of entertaining Provincial Grand Lodge. He said they were in the habit of voting this amount on sufferance year by year, as they did not know how they were likely to be entertained; but, for all that, he felt pretty sure the vote would be unanimously agreed to, as was the case.

Bro. C. E. Keyser proposed a grant of ten guineas to the North Herts and South Beds Infirmary, explaining it was the custom of the Provincial Grand Lodge to mark their visit year by year by making a grant to one of the more prominent local Charity Funds. He had every confidence in proposing the grant on the present occasion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

The Prov. G. Secretary proposed that the publication of the Provincial Calendar be continued, and suggested that the Lodge Officials should forward the books to the different members as early as possible on receipt.

The Prov. G. Master said they owed the Provincial Secretary a debt of gratitude, he having been called upon at very short notice to take up the duties of the Office—no light task; and also to arrange for the publication of the Provincial Calendar with but few days in which to prepare it, indeed the latter work was imperative, and had been done in such a way as to deserve their commendation. The motion to continue the calendar was agreed to.

Bro. C. E. Keyser presented the Report of the Hertfordshire Masonic Charity Committee for the past year. He stated the Province had been very successful in securing the election of a number of candidates to the different Funds, and that being the case it was but fair that large amounts should be contributed year by year towards their support. He found that during the past three years they had sent up considerably over £5,000, but that sum had not been by any means evenly contributed. He thought that each Lodge should send up a Steward for one or other of the Institutions each year, thereby assuring a regular steady flow of contributions. The result this year was not quite up to what it had been in the two previous ones, which was accounted for by the fact that special efforts were made in connection with the celebration of the Centenary of the Boys School, while last year—when he presided at the Festival of the same Institution—Hertfordshire very naturally took a special interest in the work. Now they had come to about their normal position, for during the year there had been thirty-five Stewards, who took up £1,314 18s, which was very good, but the work had been unevenly divided, for whereas two of their Lodges had sent up Stewards to each of the Festivals

there were some which had not been represented at either. During the year they had secured the election of five candidates to the Institutions, polling over 23,000 votes; it was indeed a great undertaking to get this large number of votes together, and he considered it hardly fair when, a case having been taken up by the Province, neither the recommending Lodge or the friends appeared to take the slightest further interest in its success; in May last a recommending Lodge helped with thirty-four votes, and the candidate herself (an old lady) secured eight—which as they were well aware was very insignificant compared with the large number actually required. For October next there were already two girl candidates approved by the Institution, and it would require great and united efforts to secure their election. Since 1890, when he undertook the position of Charity Secretary of the Province, they had secured the election of twenty-eight candidates, and as theirs was but a small Province he considered it very wonderful they were able to carry their candidates so readily. If they succeeded this year with the two girls already referred to it would mean thirty cases in ten years, and as each pupil elected to one of the Schools meant £300 or £400, and each old Annuitant a very large sum they would see what a great amount Hertfordshire received from the Institutions.

The Provincial Grand Master felt that the thanks of the Province were due to Bro. Keyser for all that he had done. The principles on which the Charity Committee worked were now known throughout the Province, and that in great measure had enabled them to carry all their candidates on the first application, which was a very great thing to boast of.

The Prov. G. Secretary reported a total of 889 members in the Province; and drew attention to a practice in some of the Lodges of having more than the regulation number of Officers, by the appointment of "Assistants." Especially was this the case in connection with Assistant Directors of Ceremonies, and as this was contrary to the Constitutions of Grand Lodge he suggested that a notice from the Prov. G.M. as to its illegality would be the means of putting an end to the practice.

The Prov. G.M. endorsed what the Secretary had said in this direction, and hoped the Lodges under his rule would adhere to the regulations of the Craft in the future.

The Grand Lodge was then closed, and a number of the Brethren repaired to the Sun Hotel, where the annual Festival of the Province was celebrated.

SUFFOLK.

THE following Provincial Grand Officers were appointed at the annual meeting, held on the 13th, and reported elsewhere:

Bro. A. Gibb 114	-	-	-	Senior Warden
C. L. Oxborrow 376	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. W. E. Fletcher 376	-	-	-	} Chaplains
Rev. S. J. S. Banks 2371	-	-	-	
Philip J. Jolly 305	-	-	-	Treasurer
F. G. Mayhew 1452	-	-	-	Registrar
N. Tracy 376	-	-	-	Secretary
F. Spashett 71	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
C. C. Vincent 1823	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
T. T. Shillitoe 1008	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
J. M. Franks 376	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Alma Cocks 959	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
G. Andrews 388	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
G. W. Senton 225	-	-	-	} Standard Bearers
R. S. Joy 1224	-	-	-	
J. Price 376	-	-	-	Organist
Harry Cockrell 225	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
H. Rix 1668	-	-	-	Pursuivant
J. Durrant 1631	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
E. Hills 959	-	-	-	} Stewards
H. C. Rance 225	-	-	-	
J. Stringer 2371	-	-	-	} Tyler.
B. W. Syer 376	-	-	-	

DURHAM.

AFTER the lapse of several years, the annual meeting of the Province of Durham is to be held in the Cathedral city this year, and the gathering, it is anticipated, will be one of the largest and most successful held in the Province. A meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Old Elvet, Durham, on Wednesday evening, under the presidency of Bro. R. Hudson Provincial Grand Secretary, when the arrangements for the Provincial meeting were advanced a further stage,

and a Committee, embracing representatives of the Lodges in the city, was appointed for the purpose of completing the same. The Committee consists of Bro. J. Rickerby W.M. of the Marquis of Granby Lodge, Bro. T. J. R. Hindmarsh W.M. of the Norman Lodge, Bro. S. Fenny P.M., and Bro. J. Smith P.M. Marquis of Granby Lodge, Bro. T. Laidler P.M. Norman Lodge, Bro. G. S. Shaw P.M. Norman Lodge, with Bro. R. Hauxwell P.M. of the Norman Lodge as Secretary. Through the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Plummer, Master of Durham University, and W.M. of Universities Lodge, the Provincial meeting will be held in the Lecture Hall, Palace Green, and the subsequent banquet will take place in the Castle Hall. The Prov. Grand Master Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., F.R.S., as well as other distinguished members of the Province, will be present on the occasion. The date fixed is the 25th September.

It is quite cheering to see the name of our old friend Bro. F. Binckes, formerly Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, as among those attending a present day meeting of the Craft. He was among the Grand Officers who supported Lord Henniker on the occasion of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk, on the 13th inst., and is locally reported as having delivered a stirring speech in speaking of the Masonic Charities. Those who knew Bro. Binckes when he was a prominent figure in the Craft, can well recognise the appropriateness of the description of the utterances of "Our Hercules" in connection with his beloved theme of the Masonic Charities.

* * *

The Woodrow Lodge of Instruction, No. 1708, has ceased work for the summer, the next meeting being fixed for Monday, 1st October, at the regular meeting place: Brother Rudderforth's (Stone's) Restaurant, 24 Pantons Street, Haymarket, S.W.

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GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.**Bank Holiday and Season Excursions.**

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY.—To SHREWSBURY, Welshpool, ABERYST-WYTH, Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Festiniog, DOLGELLEY, BARMOUTH, Rhyl, LLANDUDNO, Bettws-y-coed, Carnarvon, Llanberis (for SNOWDON), &c., and to TAUNTON, MINEHEAD, Tiverton, &c.

EVERY WEDNESDAY NOON and FRIDAY NIGHT.—To WESTON-SUPER-MARE, Bridgwater, &c.

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT.—To Monmouth, Newport, CARDIFF, SWANSEA, Llanelli, Llandovery, Carmarthen, Newcastle Emlyn, Tenby, Cardigan, Goodwick, MILFORD, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY.—To MINEHEAD, Lynton, LYNMOUTH, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING and FRIDAY NIGHT.—To Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, TORQUAY, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, PLYMOUTH, Yealmpton, Tavistock, Launceston, BODMIN, Wadebridge, NEWQUAY, Truro, FALMOUTH, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY MIDNIGHT.—To CHESTER, BIRKENHEAD, and LIVERPOOL.

EVERY FRIDAY.—To NEWBURY, SAVERNAKE, Marlborough, Devizes, TROWBRIDGE, Frome, Shepton Mallet, Wells, YEOVIL, Bridport, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.—To the SCILLY ISLANDS.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT and SATURDAY.—To DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN).

EVERY FRIDAY and MONDAY.—To Swindon, BATH, BRISTOL, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH, Portland, Cirencester, Stroud, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, Ross, HEREFORD, &c.

EVERY TUESDAY until 4th SEPTEMBER.—HALF-DAY TRIP to Culham, Radley, Abingdon, OXFORD, and BLENHEIM AND WOOD-STOCK.

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

WEDNESDAY, 1st August.—To Chipping Norton, CHELTENHAM, WORCESTER, Malvern, HEREFORD, &c., for 8 days.

FRIDAY, 3rd August.—To Market Drayton, Crewe, Stockport, MANCHESTER, &c., for 7 days, and to STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Dudley, &c., for 3 or 6 days.

FRIDAY MIDNIGHT, 3rd August.—To Chepstow, Newport, CARDIFF, Swansea, Llanelli, Llandovery, CARMARTHEN, Newcastle Emlyn, TENBY, Cardigan, Goodwick, Milford, &c., for 3, 6 or 13 days; to Oxford, Leamington, BIRMINGHAM, Wolverhampton, Chester, Birkenhead, and Liverpool, for 3 or 6 days.

SATURDAY NIGHT, 4th August.—To Bath, BRISTOL, &c., for 2, 3, 6, 9, 13 or 16 days.

SUNDAY, 5th August. To CIRENCESTER, Stroud, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, &c., for 1, 2, 5, 9, 12 or 16 days.

SUNDAY NIGHT, 5th August.—To Weston-Super-Mare, Bridgwater, &c., for 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12 or 15 days; and to Taunton, EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, TORQUAY, PLYMOUTH, &c., for 1, 5, 8, 12 or 15 days.

SUNDAY MIDNIGHT, 5th August.—To OXFORD, Leamington, BIRMINGHAM, Wolverhampton, &c., for 1, 2 or 4 days.

MONDAY, AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY.—To READING, Pangbourne, Goring, Wallingford, Faringdon, &c., for day trip; to Bath, Bristol, &c., for 1, 2, 5, 8, 12 or 15 days; to Weston-Super-Mare, &c., for 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15 or 16 days; and to Swindon, Cirencester, Stroud, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, &c., for 1, 4, 8, 11 or 15 days.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.—THURSDAYS, 2nd, 16th, 30th AUGUST, 13th and 27th SEPTEMBER.—For CORK and KILLARNEY.

FRIDAYS, 3rd, 17th, 31st AUGUST, 14th and 28th SEPTEMBER.—For WATERFORD, Dungarvan, Lismore, Clonmel, Tipperary, Kilkenny, KILLARNEY, BELFAST, GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, &c.

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

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

J. L. WILKINSON, GENERAL MANAGER.

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GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

CHEAP AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS from LONDON (Marylebone, near Baker Street and Edgware Road):

On Fridays, 3rd, 17th and 31st August (for 16 days).

To Ireland (via Liverpool).....See Pamphlet.

7.45 p.m. for Northallerton, Darlington, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban, Fort William (for 4, 10 or 16 days), calling at Harrow.

10.30 p.m. for Douglas (via Liverpool) (for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days).

On Friday, 3rd August and Saturday, 4th August (for 3, 6 and 8 days).

10.30 p.m. for Rugby, Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Liverpool, Guide Bridge, and Manchester, calling at Harrow.

Every Saturday commencing 4th August (for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days).

8.0 a.m. for Bridlington, Filey, Scarborough, Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay, Saltburn, Redcar, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, Cullercoats, Douglas.

10.0 a.m. for Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, St. Anne's, Lytham.

12.0 noon for Grimsby, New Clee, Cleethorpes, Chester.

4.0 p.m. for Douglas (Isle of Man) (via Liverpool).

On Saturday, 4th August (for 3, 6 or 8 days).

8.0 a.m. for Bridlington, Filey, Middlesboro', Newcastle, Scarborough, York.

10.0 a.m. for Knutsford, Northwich, St. Helens, Southport, Widnes, Wigan.

11.15 a.m. for Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester (London Road), Nottingham (Victoria), Penistone, Rotherham and Masboro', Rugby (Cen.), Sheffield (Victoria).

12.0 noon for Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Gainsboro', Grimsby, Hull, Retford.

4.15 p.m. for Guide Bridge, Penistone, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield.

5.40 p.m. for Chesterfield, Heath, Kirkby and Pinxton, New Basford, Staveley Town.

6.0 p.m. for Culworth, Fimmere, Helmdon, Woodford and Hinton.

7.45 p.m. for Brackley, Leicester, Loughboro', Rotherham and Masboro', Rugby, York.

On Sunday, 5th August (for 2 or 5 days).

11.0 a.m. for Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Guide Bridge, and Manchester.

On Monday, 6th August.

8.15 a.m. (for 1, 2 or 3 days), 11.30 a.m. (for 1 day and 2 or 3 days) to Fimmere, Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', and Nottingham, calling at Harrow.

WEEK-ENDS IN THE COUNTRY.

Every Saturday (for Half-day and 2 or 3 days), at 12.8 noon and 6.0 p.m., every Sunday (for 1 or 2 days), at 9.30 a.m., and every Monday (for 1 day) at 8.15 a.m. for Calvert, Fimmere, Brackley, Helmdon, Culworth, Woodford and Hinton, Charwelton and Willoughby.

For full particulars see printed pamphlet, which can be obtained at any of the Company's Receiving Offices, or Marylebone Station, and from Messrs. Dean and Dawson, 55 Charing Cross, Trafalgar Square, London.

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WILLIAM POLLITT, General Manager.

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MIDLAND RAILWAY.

BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS
From **St. PANCRAS, CITY STATIONS,**
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SCOTLAND.

* **FRIDAY, 3rd August, to EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, Dumfries, Ayr, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, and ALL PARTS OF SCOTLAND,** allowing of return up to 16 days.

PROVINCIAL TOWNS AND SEASIDE.

* **FRIDAY MIDNIGHT, 3rd August, for 3, 6, or 7 days, and on Saturday midnight, 4th August, for 2, 5, or 6 days, to LEICESTER, NOTTINGHAM, MANCHESTER, Stockport, LIVERPOOL, SHEFFIELD, LEEDS, BRADFORD, &c.**

* **SATURDAY, 4th August, to BIRMINGHAM, Nuneaton, Hinckley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, MATLOCK, BUXTON, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Blackpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Hull, SCARBORO', MORECAMBE, THE LAKE DISTRICT, and other HOLIDAY RESORTS in Derbyshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the North Eastern District, &c., returning on 6th, 9th or 10th August.**

* Bookings from Woolwich and Greenwich by these trains.

MONDAY, 6th August, to SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, St. ALBANS, HARPENDEN, LUTON, BEDFORD, KETTERING, LEICESTER, BIRMINGHAM, Loughboro', NOTTINGHAM, Stockport, and MANCHESTER; returning as per bills.

SUMMER SEASON EXCURSIONS.

For particulars of Season Excursions to **ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, THE ISLE of MAN, MORECAMBE, LANCASTER, LIVERPOOL, SOUTHPORT, BLACKPOOL, MATLOCK, BUXTON, SCARBORO', BRIDLINGTON, the NORTH OF ENGLAND and SCOTLAND.** See special bills.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

CHEAP TICKETS are now issued to **DUBLIN, and South of Ireland, LONDONDERRY, BELFAST, PORTLUSH, and the NORTH OF IRELAND.** See Bills for times, fares, routes, &c.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS

are now issued every Friday and Saturday from **LONDON (St. PANCRAS)** and other principal Midland Stations to the **CHIEF SEASIDE and MIDLAND HOLIDAY RESORTS,** including the Peak District of Derbyshire, Yorkshire, the North East Coast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dumfries, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Greenock, Melrose, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, &c., &c., available for return on the following Sunday (where train service permits), Monday or Tuesday. Tickets issued on 3rd and 4th August will be available for return up to 8th August.

TICKETS, WEEK-END EXCURSION PROGRAMMES, BILLS, &c., may be had at the **MIDLAND STATIONS and CITY BOOKING OFFICES,** and from **Thos. Cook and Son, Ludgate Circus, and Branch Offices.**

GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager.

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			a.m.	a.m.	p.m.
London (Euston)	...	dep.	9 30	11 15	1 30
Rhyl	...	arr.	2 32	4 30	6 53
Colwyn Bay	...	"	3 3	4 50	7 33
Llandudno	...	"	3 30	5 20	7 20
Penmaenmawr	...	"	4 8	5 22	7 36
Bangor	...	"	3 24	5 43	7 55
Pwllheli	...	"	5 5	—	9 50
Criccieth	...	"	5 8	—	9 38

			a.m.	a.m.	p.m.
London (Euston)	...	dep.	9 30	11 0	2 35
Barmouth	...	arr.	4 35	5 55	—
Aberystwyth	...	"	4 20	5 30	9 45

Central Wales.

			a.m.	p.m.
London (Euston)	...	dep.	11 0	1 30
Llandrindod Wells	...	arr.	4 15	7 5
Llangamarch Wells	...	"	4 52	7 38
Llanwrtyd Wells	...	"	5 5	7 44

Blackpool and English Lake District.

			a.m.	a.m.
London (Euston)	...	dep.	10 25	11 30
Blackpool	...	arr.	4 7	—
Morecambe	...	"	3 49	—
Windermere	...	"	—	5 15
Keswick	...	"	—	6 33

For further particulars see the Company's Time Tables and Notices.

FRED. HARRISON,
Euston, July 1900.

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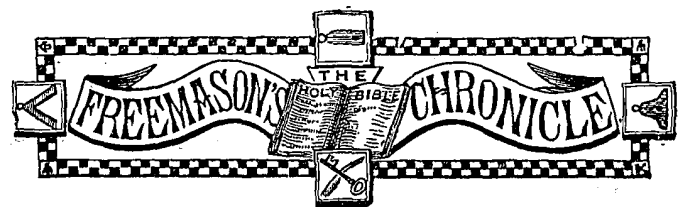
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SATURDAY, 28TH JULY 1900.

NEW HALL AT LEEDS.

THE Deputy Grand Master of England the Earl of Warwick laid the foundation-stone of the new Masonic Hall, in Great George Street, Leeds, on Wednesday, 18th inst., and the event was made the occasion of a Masonic demonstration which is quite out of the common. On only one previous occasion has Leeds been the scene of so impressive a Masonic celebration, and favoured by delightfully fine weather on Wednesday there was a very large attendance.

The proceedings opened with a Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in the Albert Hall, at which the Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P.,

presided. On the entry of the Grand Officers, who were duly saluted, the Earl of Warwick took the chair, and an illuminated address of welcome was presented to him by the Prov. Grand Master, on behalf of the Province.

In replying, the Earl of Warwick said he knew how popular Masonry was in the great county of Yorkshire, and how devoted they were to the great Masonic duties and to the principles of charity. During the past twelve months there had been many calls for India and South Africa, yet, he was proud to say, the Masons had subscribed no less than £64,000 towards the three great Masonic Charities, and his presence in Leeds that day was only a small acknowledgment on the part of himself and the Grand Officers of the cordial support which West Yorkshire had always accorded those Institutions.

A procession of the Brethren in their full regalia was formed, and proceeded to the building.

On arrival at the building in Great George Street, the Grand Officers and others proceeded to a specially erected platform in front of the foundation-stone. A large number of Ladies witnessed the ceremonial, including the Lady Mayoress of Leeds Mrs. John Gordon.

In inviting the Earl of Warwick to lay the foundation-stone, the Prov. Grand Master said that was a day they had long looked forward to, and the duty his Lordship was to perform would, they hoped, mark yet another stage in the progress of the Order in West Yorkshire.

The stone was then laid with all the interesting form and ceremonial pertaining to Masonry. In a cavity in the stone was deposited a glass bottle containing coins of the realm, copies of the "Yorkshire Post," the "Leeds Mercury," and the "Freemason," together with a copy of the articles of association of the new Hall and Club. These were covered with a plate bearing an inscription, and the Earl of Warwick duly laid the stone, with a trowel presented by the architect and a mallet presented by the builder. Prayers were offered by the Rev. Dr. Smyth.

In declaring the stone laid, the Deputy Grand Master, after applying the plumb-line, affirmed that "the Craftsmen who prepared it are true and trusty." A test with a level was followed by the words:—"I find this stone to be level, and that the Craftsmen have laboured skilfully." Finally the square was applied, and then his Lordship said: "I find this stone to be plumb, level, and square, and I declare it to be properly and duly laid, and that the Craftsmen have worked well." The formal proceedings closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Smyth, and the pronouncement of the Benediction.

The stone, which is a solid block of Shap granite, was presented by Bro. Tom Atkinson. Upon its surface, with due solemnity, corn, wine, and oil were poured by the Deputy Grand Master, emblematical of plenty, cheerfulness, and peace and contentment.

CHURCH STONE-LAYING.

THE foundation-stone of the new Church of St. Chad, Smethwick, was laid on the 16th inst., in the presence of a large gathering of Brethren and of the general public, by the Earl of Dartmouth, Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Provincial Grand Master of the county.

The district is one which has developed rapidly of late years, and some time since the little iron chapel, which has done duty for years as a mission church—an offshoot of Smethwick Old Church—proved not only inadequate, but unsafe. A decision was then come to to erect a substantial building upon economical lines, to be known as the Church of St. Chad. Efforts will be made in the future to secure the formation of a separate ecclesiastical parish, with St. Chad's as the parish church. The cost of the new church will be about £4,500, and towards this nearly £2,000 has already been subscribed.

The ceremony, with Masonic rites, was of an interesting and impressive character.

Lord Dartmouth, in the course of an address, said it was one of the great duties of Freemasons to help in these good works, and he hoped the success of that ceremony would be an augury of the future success of the church. It was very important that in those great centres of population the Church should keep pace with the growth of the district. The great difficulty was the matter of obtaining funds, and although nobody realised more than he did the many calls this year, he hoped they would not neglect the support of

the Church. A collection was made, which realised £90 14s 10½d.

In reply to a vote of thanks, Lord Dartmouth congratulated Smethwick upon its newly acquired municipal honours. He hoped that the progress and advancement which the locality had made in late years would be continued.

R. M. I. BOYS.

WE have much pleasure in announcing the following further successes gained by "Our Boys" at recent public examinations:—

LONDON UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION.—3 boys entered: H. W. Roberts aged 16 years 9 months, H. D. A. Maidment aged 16¼ years, L. W. Croft aged 16½ years. All passed in the First (highest) Division.

TRINITY COLLEGE, LONDON, Musical Theory:—W. D. Coales intermediate honours with 84 per cent. of the marks, P. S. Coleman junior honours with 72 per cent., F. H. Gabbutt junior honours with 73 per cent.

Three Boys have also gained third class, and one a second class, certificates in Pitman's Shorthand.

The ex-pupil Groombridge has passed the intermediate examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

The ex-pupil Leeming has passed the final examination of the Institute of Bankers.

During the last five years ten boys have been entered, and all passed in the London University Matriculation, nine of them in the first and one in the second Division—the average age being under seventeen years.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

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LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

THIS Company announce that the ticket offices at Euston, Broad Street, Victoria (Pimlico), Kensington, and Willesden Junction will be open throughout the day, from Monday, 30th July, to Monday, 6th August, inclusive, so that passengers wishing to obtain tickets for any destination on the London and North Western Railway can do so at any time of the day prior to the starting of the trains.

Tickets, dated to suit the convenience of passengers, can also be obtained at any time (Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted) at the Town Receiving Offices of the Company.

Additional express trains will be run, and special arrangements made in connection with the passenger trains during the Holidays.

The Company also announce cheap excursions for August Bank Holiday, as follows:—On Friday, 3rd August, to Ashbourne, Burton, Buxton, Derby, Leicester, Lichfield, Nuneaton, Tamworth, Thorpe Clod (for Dove Dale), Birkenhead, Chester, &c., for 6 and 8 days. To Abergavenny, Brynmawr, Carmarthen, Dowlais, Llandilo, Merthyr, Swansea, Tredegar, &c., for 7 days. On Friday night, 3rd August, to Ashton, Batley, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Bradford, Carlisle, Carnforth, Crewe, Dewsbury, the English Lake District, Fleetwood, Furness Line Stations, Halifax, Huddersfield, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Lytham, Macclesfield, Manchester, Morecambe, North Staffordshire Stations, Northwich, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Rugby, Runcorn, St. Annes, Southport, Stafford, Stalybridge, Stockport, Warrington, Whitechurch, Whitehaven, Widnes, Wigan, Workington, &c., for 6 or 7 days. To Liverpool, Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington, for 3, 6, or 7 days. On Saturday night, 4th August, to Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Dudley Port, Kenilworth, Leamington, Walsall, Warwick, Wednesbury, and Wolverhampton, for 3, 6 and 7 days. On Sunday midnight, 5th August, to Liverpool, Manchester, Stockport, and Warrington, for 2 and 5 days. To Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Dudley Port, Kenilworth, Leamington, Walsall, Warwick, Wednesbury, and Wolverhampton, for 1, 2, 4, and 5 days.

Cheap week-end tickets will be issued on Friday, 3rd August, from London, to Aberystwyth, Bangor, Barmouth, Blackpool, Carlisle, Church Stretton, Grange, Lancaster, Leamington, Llandrindod, Llandudno, Llanwrtyd, Llangammarch, Malvern, Morecambe, Oxford, Rhyl, Stratford-on-Avon, Windermere, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Inverness, Montrose, Oban, Perth, Stirling, and other places, available for return on the following Sunday (where train service permits), Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.

Tourist tickets are issued daily to Scotland, Ireland, North, South, and Central Wales, Cambrian Line Stations, Blackpool, Southport, Morecambe, Windermere, Grange, Ulverston, the English Lake District, Isle of Man, Leamington, Buxton, Malvern, Scarborough, and other seaside and inland watering places.

We gave a summary of the Company's regular weekly excursions in our issue of the 14th, but for fuller particulars see the Company's announcements.

* * *

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

THE Great Western Railway Company issue ordinary as well as excursion tickets at their principal city and west-end offices, and this arrangement is probably never so much appreciated as during the week preceding the Bank Holiday, when large numbers of people avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded for obtaining tickets at their own time and without the crowding and worry inseparable from a large railway station at holiday seasons. The fares charged are the same as at Paddington. Tickets can also be obtained at Clapham Junction, Kensington (Addison Road), Uxbridge Road, Hammersmith, and other stations.

The booking offices at Paddington station will be open for the issue of tickets all day on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

and 4th August, and the tickets issued (except those for specified excursion trains) will be available for use on any of those days.

To meet the expected additional traffic by the ordinary trains on Saturday, 4th August, the Company will run in duplicate the 11.45 a.m., and 1.15, 3.0 and 9.0 p.m. trains from London to the West of England, the 4.45 and 6.50 p.m. trains to the north, and the 9.20 a.m., 12.0 noon, and 3.15 p.m. trains to Weymouth, Cheltenham, Hereford, and South Wales. The first portion of the 11.45 a.m., 3.0 and 9.0 p.m. trains will leave Paddington at 11.38 a.m., 2.55 p.m. and 8.55 p.m. respectively, but the first portions of the other trains will leave at the advertised times, and the second a few minutes afterwards, the long distance passengers being as far as possible taken in the first portion, but with a few exceptions both trains will stop at the advertised stations to take up and set down passengers.

Fast excursion trains leave Paddington every Wednesday for Shrewsbury, Aberystwyth, Dolgelley, Barmouth, Llandudno, &c.; Taunton, Minehead, &c.; every Wednesday noon and Friday night, to Weston-Super-Mare, Bridgwater, &c.; every Wednesday night to Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Tenby, New Milford, and other places in South Wales; every Thursday, to Minehead, Lynton, Lynmouth, &c.; every Thursday morning and Friday night, to Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Plymouth, Falmouth, Penzance, and other resorts in the West of England; every Thursday midnight, to Chester, Birkenhead and Liverpool; every Friday, to Newbury, Marlborough, Devizes, Trowbridge, Frome, Yeovil, Bridport, &c.; every Friday night, to the Scilly Islands; every Friday night and Saturday, to Douglas (Isle of Man), and every Friday and Monday, to Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Weymouth, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Hereford, &c.

Cheap half-day excursions are also run every Tuesday, to Abingdon, Oxford, Blenheim and Woodstock, &c.; and every Thursday, to Stratford-on-Avon, Banbury, and Leamington.

Excursion tickets, at a return fare of 2s., are issued to Guernsey and Jersey by trains leaving Paddington at 9.20 a.m. every Saturday morning, and Waterloo at 9.50 p.m. every Friday night during the season. The service to and from the Islands being now worked jointly by the Great Western and London and South Western Railway Companies, passengers travelling on the forward journey via Paddington and Weymouth may, if they so desire, return via Southampton and Waterloo, and those proceeding via Waterloo and Southampton may return via Weymouth and Paddington.

On Wednesday, 1st August, an excursion will run to Cheltenham Worcester, Malvern, Hereford, &c.; on Thursday, 2nd, to Cork and Killarney; on Friday, 3rd, to Stratford-on-Avon, Crewe, Manchester, Waterford, Killarney, Belfast, Giant's Causeway, &c.; and at midnight to Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, Tenby, New Milford, Oxford, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Chester, Birkenhead, Liverpool, &c.; on Saturday night, 4th, to Bath, Bristol, &c.; on Sunday, 5th, to Gloucester, Cheltenham, Weston-Super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Plymouth, &c.; and at midnight to Oxford, Leamington, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, &c. On the Bank Holiday excursions will be run to Reading, Goring, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Weston-Super-Mare, Gloucester, Cheltenham, &c.

Excursions will be run to London from most of the principal stations and cross country trips have also been arranged.

Cheap tickets are issued daily from London and many suburban stations to Staines, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Henley, Goring, and other riverside resorts. These tickets can be obtained during the whole of the summer months. The train service to and from the riverside stations has also been considerably improved.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

ON Bank Holiday, 6th August, Tuesday, 7th, and on the previous Saturday, certain booked trains will be discontinued, of which due notice will be given by special bills at the stations.

For the convenience of the public the Midland Railway Company have arranged that the booking offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate Street Stations shall be open for the issue of tickets all day on Friday and Saturday, 4th and 5th August. Tickets to all principal stations on the Midland Railway will also be obtainable beforehand at their City and Suburban Offices, in all parts of the metropolis. The tickets obtained at these Offices will be available from St. Pancras station, and will be issued at the same fares as charged at that station, and dated to suit the convenience of passengers.

Cheap excursion trains will be run from London on Friday night, 3rd August, to Stirling, Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, &c., for 4 or 10 days, and to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Ayr, &c., for 4 and 10 days, by which trains third class return tickets will be issued at about a single fare for the double journey, available for 16 days. Cheap excursion tickets will be issued from London (St. Pancras) to Dublin, Belfast, Londonderry, &c. (see bills for times, fares, routes, &c.). On Friday midnight, 3rd, for 3, 6, or 7 days, and on Saturday midnight, 4th, for 2, 5, or 6 days, to Leicester, Nottingham, Manchester, Stockport, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, &c. On Saturday, 4th, a cheap excursion train will be run to Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Melton, Burton-on-Trent, Derby, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Preston, Wigan, Blackpool, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, the Furness District, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Barnsley, Keighley, York, Hull, Scarborough, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, Carlisle, &c., for 3, 6, or 7 days. On Monday, 6th August, day trip trains will be run from London (St. Pancras) to Southend-on-Sea, St. Albans, Harpenden, Luton, Bedford and Kettering. There will also be a 1, 2, or 3 days trip to Leicester, Loughboro', and Nottingham; a 1, 2, 4 or 5 days trip to Birmingham, and a 2 or 5 days excursion to Nottingham, Stockport and Manchester. Tickets for these trains for starting from St. Pancras Station can be obtained on the two days previous to the running of the trains at the various Offices.

Cheap season excursion tickets are now issued each Saturday, until 29th September, from London (St. Pancras), to Matlock, Buxton, Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, Lytham, St. Anne's-on-Sea, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby, Morecambe, Lancaster, the English Lake District, &c., available for passengers to return in either 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days, and to the Isle of Man on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days. Fortnightly excursions to Northallerton, Richmond, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, and Berwick will be run on alternate Fridays, from 3rd August to 28th September inclusive, leaving St. Pancras at 8.30 p.m., and affording facilities for 4, 10, or 16 days' stay.

Cheap week-end tickets are issued every Friday and Saturday from London (St. Pancras) and other principal Midland Stations to numerous seaside and inland holiday resorts, including the "Peak" district of Derbyshire, Yorkshire, the North East Coast, Morecambe, Dumfries, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Greenock, Melrose, Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, etc., etc. The tickets are available for return on the following

Sunday (where train service permits), Monday or Tuesday, and those issued on 3rd and 4th August will be available for return up to Wednesday, 8th August.

A cheap excursion train will be run to London on Saturday, 4th, from Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, &c., for 3, 4, or 6 days; and from Carlisle, Keighley, Bradford, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Rochdale, Burton-on-Trent, Derby, Lincoln, Nottingham, Leicester, &c., for 6 or 8 days; also from Liverpool, Southport, Warrington, Manchester, &c., for 1, 3, 6, or 8 days. Passengers will be booked at cheap fares to Brighton and other South Coast stations for 8 or 15 days; and to Paris and other places on the continent, having the privilege of returning within 16 days. On Monday, 6th August, cheap day excursion trains to London will be run from Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Bedford, Luton, St. Albans, &c., a 2 and 4 days trip from Bradford, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Blackburn, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Stockport, &c., and a 1, 2, and 5 days trip from Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, &c.

Cheap daily and week-end excursion tickets are issued from St. Pancras and other Midland Stations to Southend-on-Sea, by the new and shorter route, via the Tottenham and Forest Gate Line.

Holiday travellers are reminded that the Midland Railway Company have increased the amount of luggage which passengers travelling between stations on the Midland Railway are allowed to carry free of charge to first class, 150 lbs.; third class, 100 lbs. Excess luggage beyond the above weights will be charged for on the advertised scale hitherto in operation, but no excess charge will be made unless amounting to 6d or upwards. It may be added that facilities for the collection, conveyance in advance, and delivery of passengers' luggage at 1s per package will remain in operation on the Midland Railway. Conditions and further particulars may be obtained on application to the Company.

For holiday companions, travellers cannot do better than secure copies of the new publications which have just been issued by the Midland Railway Company, including "Country and Seaside Holidays," 1900 (an illustrated guide with list of furnished apartments in the country and by the seaside); "Choose aye the Middle Course," an illustrated account of the most interesting route to Scotland; "Pocket Guide to the Midland Railway"; "Pocket Diary and Guide to the Isle of Man and English Lake District"; "The Peak of Derbyshire"; "Scotch Tourists' Programme," &c. The Books may be obtained at any Midland station or agency.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

THIS Company announce a series of excursions for the holidays from London (Marylebone).

On Fridays, 3rd, 17th, and 31st August an excursion for sixteen days will be run to Ireland, via Liverpool; and to Northallerton, Darlington, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban, Fort William, for 4, 10, or 16 days, calling at Harrow; and to Douglas (Isle of Man) for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days.

On Friday and Saturday, 3rd and 4th August, to Rugby, Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Liverpool, Guide Bridge, Manchester, &c., for 3, 6, or 8 days, calling at Harrow.

Commencing 4th August, and every Saturday thereafter, to Bridlington, Filey, Scarborough, Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay, Saltburn, Redcar, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, Cullercoats, Douglas (Isle of Man), Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, St. Anne's, Lytham, Fleetwood, Grimsby, New Glee, Cleethorpes, Chester, for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days.

On Saturday, 4th August, to Bridlington, Filey, Middlesboro', Newcastle, Scarborough, York, Knutsford, Northwich, St. Helens, Southport, Widnes, Wigan, Barnsley, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester (London Road), Nottingham (Victoria), Penistone, Rotherham and Masboro', Rugby (Central), Sheffield (Victoria), Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Gainsboro', Grimsby, Hull, Retford, Guide Bridge, Chesterfield Heath, Kirby and Pinxton, New Basford, Staveley Town, Culworth, Finmere, Helmdon, Woodford and Hinton, Brackley, Loughboro', for 3, 6, or 8 days.

On Sunday, 5th August, to Leicester, Nottingham, (Victoria), Sheffield (Victoria), Penistone, Guide Bridge, and Manchester (London Road), for 2 or 5 days.

On Monday, 6th August, to Finmere, Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', and Nottingham for half-day and 1, 2, or 3 days.

Also cheap week-end trips in the country every Saturday (for half-day and 2 or 3 days), every Sunday (for 1 or 2 days), and every Monday (for 1 day), to Culvert, Finmere, Brackley, Helmdon, Culworth, Woodford and Hinton, Charwelton and Willoughby.

For further details passengers should obtain the printed pamphlet issued by the Great Central Railway Company.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

THIS Company announce that on each Wednesday until 19th September inclusive, cheap excursions will be run for 8 days, to Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, and Mablethorpe, from King's Cross (G.N.) at 8.45 a.m.; also for 8 days to Sheringham, Cromer (Beach), Mundesley-on-Sea, and Yarmouth (Beach), from King's Cross (G.N.) at 3.0 p.m., and that each Saturday until 29th September inclusive (for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days), to the principal holiday resorts.

Numerous cheap trains will be run on Friday and Saturday of next week, and on the Bank Holiday, while the cheap week-end tickets usually issued each Friday and Saturday will be issued on Friday, 3rd August, and Saturday, 4th August, available for return on Sunday (if train service admits), Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th August.

To prevent inconvenience from crowding at the Company's principal terminal station, King's Cross, tickets, dated in advance, will be issued at King's Cross (G.N.R.), Victoria (S.E. and C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, and suburban stations, and at the ticket offices throughout London.

Tickets available from Woolwich and Greenwich can be obtained from the Great Northern Agent, 7 Beresford Square, South Woolwich, and Thornton House, South Street, Greenwich, respectively.

The beauty of Freemasonry consists in its sublime principles—its great truths—its perfect symmetry. Its temple, with God as its supreme architect and light, comprehends all of good in time and in eternity. Is it any wonder then that Freemasonry's true devotees love it?—"Taggart's Times."

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

THE Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter will be held on Wednesday next, 1st August, at Freemasons' Hall, London, at six o'clock in the evening, punctually.

BUSINESS.

The Minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the Accounts from the 18th April to the 18th July 1900, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:

To Balance, Grand Chapter	-	£80 11 10	
" " Unappropriated Account	-	258 13 0	
" Subsequent Receipts	-	308 11 7	
			£647 16 5
By Disbursements during the Quarter	-	£356 3 0	
" Balance	-	35 10 5	
" " Unappropriated Account	-	256 3 0	
			£647 16 5

which Balances are in the Bank of England, Law Courts Branch.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following Petitions:—

1st. From Companions Charles Henry Youngman as Z, William Farrow Stratford as H, Thomas Augustus Woodroffe as J, and nine others for a Chapter to be attached to the Apollo Lodge, No. 305, Beccles, to be called "The Saint Michael's Chapter," and to meet at the Town Hall, Beccles, Suffolk.

2nd. From Companions Crichton Walker as Z, John Percy White as H, Ernest Sidney Standing as J, and twenty others for a Chapter to be attached to the Engineer Lodge, No. 2599, London, to be called "The Engineer Chapter," and to meet at 33 Golden Square, London.

The foregoing Petitions being regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have also received Memorials with extracts of Minutes, for permission to remove the following Chapters:—

"The Truth Chapter," No. 1458, from Mosley Hotel, to the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper Street, Manchester.

"The Henry Levander Chapter," No. 2048, from the Railway Hotel, Harrow Station, to the King's Head Hotel, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

"The Victoria Chapter," No. 2184, from the Phoenix Hotel, Rainham, Essex, to the King's Head Hotel, Chigwell, Essex.

"The Eastern Star Chapter," No. 95, from the Ship and Turtle Hotel, Leadenhall Street, to the Queen's Hotel, Leicester Square, London.

The Committee having satisfied themselves of the reasonableness of the requests, recommend that the removal of these Chapters be sanctioned.

A Memorial with particulars has been received from Thomas Henry Salter Z, Stephen James Halliday H, Francis Arkinstall J, and the other Members of the Dartmouth Chapter, No. 662, West Bromwich, for a Charter of Confirmation, the original Charter having been lost.

The Committee being satisfied of the reasonableness of the request, recommend that the Charter of Confirmation be granted.

(Signed) GEORGE DAVID HARRIS, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

18th July 1900.

THE BEST MASONS.

THE best Masons are those who have the biggest hearts and souls within them. Those who are ready to sacrifice something for the good of the Order. The real power of Freemasonry consists in the amount of heart and soul to be found among its members.

A Mason may have the ritual, and be a valuable member in a Lodge, but if he has not a soul within him, if he is not willing to sacrifice some of his own interest for the benefit of the Order, he belongs to an inferior grade.

Such a Brother may be a very useful member, but he is not a power in the Order. He may be an excellent ritualist, and possess many qualities whose tendency is to pull down rather than build up.

Again a Mason may have literary attainments, and may be able to make a good speech, to deliver a finished address, and be a valuable man on dress parade occasions; he may be useful and ornamental, he may exercise considerable influence, but will be ephemeral; there is nothing in it that is a power, because it does not form an essential element of the Institution.

Whenever the ritualist, or jurist, or orator has himself in view, rather than the interest of Masonry, he lacks the soul, the spirit, and does not belong to the class of best Masons.—"Masonic Guide."

The duty before us is plain—preserve unimpaired the ancient landmarks as they have come down to us from our forefathers, and at the same time keep step with the movements of the times and the changing conditions of social life.—E. P. Rohrbaugh, Wyoming.

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution

FOR

AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS.

Offices—4 FREEMASONS' HALL, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Grand Patron and President—H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

Treasurer—JOHN A. FARNFIELD, Esq.

Bankers—LONDON & WESTMINSTER BANK, LTD. (BLOOMSBURY BRANCH), HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Upwards of 1672 Annuitants have received the benefits of the Institution since its foundation. 210 Men and 250 Widows are Annuitants at the present time; 28 Widows are receiving half their late husband's annuity in addition.

AMOUNT PAID IN ANNUITIES £17,016.

The 59th Anniversary Festival will be held in February 1901, under the very distinguished Presidency of
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF WARWICK,
 Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of England,

R.W. PROV. G.M. OF ESSEX.

Brethren are earnestly solicited to accept the Stewardship upon this most important occasion and to kindly forward their names, as soon as possible, with full particulars to

JAMES TERRY, PATRON, P.G.S.B., *Secretary*,

4 FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C.

QUEEN'S

Hotel & Restaurant,

LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.

Table d'Hôte Luncheon, 3/-
Table d'Hôte Dinner, 5/-
Theatre Suppers à la Carte.

The Grand Dining Hall of this Hotel is admitted to
be one of the Finest in Europe.

THE MAGNIFICENT GRILL-ROOM OPEN TILL MIDNIGHT.

THE QUEEN'S ORCHESTRA PERFORMS DAILY.

*A Suite of Rooms adapted for
Masonic purposes is one of the
features of this Hotel. Inspection
invited.*

TELEPHONE: 2088 GERRARD.

EYRE ARMS HOTEL AND WELLINGTON HALL, St. JOHN'S WOOD, N.W.

The accommodation at this old and popular establishment.
FOR
MASONIC LODGES, CHAPTERS, BALLS, DANCES, DINNERS, &c
will be found of the most complete character.

The LODGE ROOMS are commodious and well appointed.

The Handsome Ball Room,
with Electric Light, and floor on Roller Springs, is one of the
finest in London.

THE BANQUET HALL WILL SEAT OVER 400.

These elegant rooms are also to let for Weddings, Private Parties, Concerts, &c.

COFFEE ROOM & BILLIARD ROOM OPEN ALL DAY.

The Eyre Lodge, No. 2742; and the Instruction Lodge, every Wednesday, at 8,
hold their meetings at this establishment.

Bro. ALFRED J. BARRELL, Manager.

HOSKIN'S HOTEL, OXTED, SURREY,

One minute's walk from S.E. and L.B. & S.C. Railway Stations.

Proprietor - - BRO. THOMAS TUCKER.

Special Accommodation for Lodges and Chapters.

Spacious Banquet Room, Ante-Rooms, and other conveniences.

EVERY FACILITY FOR SUMMER OUTINGS.

Culinary arrangements perfection. Wines, Cigars, &c., of finest brands.

The East Surrey Lodge, 2769, meets at this establishment.

GOOD STABLING. SPLENDID SCENERY

Charges very Moderate. For further particulars apply to the Proprietor.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

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LODGE OF FAITH, No. 581.

THE annual pic-nic of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, the 11th instant, ample arrangements having been made for a day's pleasure in the good old farming county of Cheshire. The party, which consisted of members of the Lodge, and their lady friends, were, in the first instance conveyed by train to Alderley, where a welcome luncheon was partaken of at the Queen's Hotel, this being followed by a drive through Mobberley, Chelford, Siddington, and Monk's Heath. The day was beautifully fine, and the trees and pasturage having reached their altitude of loveliness, the scenery was abundantly appreciated. Each of the places above mentioned boasts its own peculiar attractions, some new—which our representative has more than once dilated upon in these columns—some old enough to have also claimed a description in Earwaker's "East Cheshire."

A very nice break was made at one of the Chelford hostleries, refreshments being provided. Here the company was entertained by songs and sketches, rendered by Brothers Chas. H. Griffiths and Ed. Roberts Past Masters and J. T. Moorhouse, the Worshipful Master (Dr. E. E. Jones) officiating at the pianoforte. On arrival at the Queen's Hotel, a very substantial tea was partaken of, after which some of the many places of interest with which Alderley abounds were visited.

We must not omit to mention that the health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Griffiths, and duly responded to by Bro. Jones, who expressed the pleasure he had derived from seeing so many happy faces around him. The return journey to Manchester was accomplished without difficulty.

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CONCORD LODGE, No. 1534.

THE annual pic-nic took place on Thursday, 12th inst., the place selected being Dovedale. Early in the morning the members, with their friends, assembled at London Road Station, Manchester, and proceeded by train (via Buxton) to Alsop-en-le-Dale, where conveyances awaited their arrival, the party being then driven to Mill Dale, a distance of about two miles. Here the visitors separated, some selecting to walk through Dovedale and view its magnificent and ever changing scenery, whilst others continued the drive through the picturesque and model village of Ilam, past Ilam Hall, the seat of the Rt. Hon. R. W. Hanbury, M.P., and thence to the south entrance to Dovedale, the two sections of the party again joining, and by a short route arriving at the Peveril Hotel, where refreshments were provided. Another drive of about five miles brought the party to the town of Ashbourne, the object of greatest interest here being its ancient church, which some of the party took the opportunity of inspecting.

A substantial dinner was provided at the Ashbourne Hall Hotel, and was very much appreciated. Bro. J. W. Thompson P.M., &c., proposed the health of the principal Officer in a neat and appropriate speech, to which Brother James Kershaw Worshipful Master responded.

The return journey was enlivened by songs, &c., rendered by the members of the Lodge and others.

* * *

INSTRUCTION.

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CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

NOTWITHSTANDING the tropical heat of Wednesday, the 25th, members of this Lodge of Instruction assembled in sufficient force to hold their meeting in due form at the Bunch of Grapes, Lime Street, E.C.

Bro. Metcalfe Baillie occupied the chair, and rehearsed the first and second degrees. Bro. Done was S.W., and Bro. Hobday, a P.M. of 169, J.W. Bro. Hobday has only just joined the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, on the introduction of Bro. Latham, and will no doubt become a pillar of strength to those younger enthusiastic Brethren who intend to master the ritual. Bro. Past Master Secretary Pitt, a Past Officer of the Province of Surrey, acted as Preceptor and we know well what his working means—accuracy, and no slips.

Bro. Done was elected W.M. for Wednesday next.

At the weekly meeting on the 18th, Bro. Myers P.M. occupied the chair, ably supported by the elected Officers.

The first two ceremonies were rehearsed, and a very pleasant social gathering was brought to a close at nine o'clock.

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CITY OF LONDON LODGE, No. 901.

ON Tuesday, at 6.30 p.m., at the King's Head, Shoreditch, Bros. W. H. Drackford W.M., W. Reeve S.W., W. Quin J.W., W. Haylock P.M. Prec., W. H. Haylock W.M. 901 Sec., H. P. Hill S.D., J. Almond J.D., A. Payne I.G., Henderson, Wynman, Hahn.

The Lodge was opened by the W.M., who is only a young Mason, in excellent form, after which the minutes were confirmed, and the W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. W. H. Haylock, who appointed as his Officers Bros. W. Reeve S.W., H. P. Hill J.W., J. Wynman Sec., A. Payne S.D., W. H. Drackford I.G. The W.M. next rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Francis Hahn acting as candidate. The W.M. asked the Brethren the questions leading to the second degree, and repeated them to Bro. Francis Hahn, who answered in a very creditable manner, considering he was only initiated about a fortnight since.

Bro. Hahn, of the Acacia Lodge, No. 1814, was elected a member, which compliment was acknowledged. Bro. W. Reeve was elected W.M. for 14th August, to which date the Lodge was adjourned.

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WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

ON Monday, 23rd inst., at Stone's Restaurant, 24 Panton Street, Haymarket, Bros. W. West W.M., G. E. Genet S.W., J. G. Lobb

J.W., G. T. Baker S.D., J. E. Culverhouse J.D., J. Burgess I.G., Woodrow P.M. Preceptor, J. W. Simeons Sec., A. H. Higgins, A. Menn, and others.

The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Menn candidate. The Lodge was then adjourned until 1st October for the summer vacation. A Benevolent Association ballot for £5 5s resulted in favour of Bro. Frank Sweetland.

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ZODIAC LODGE, No. 2615.

THE members of this Lodge knowing they would receive a real Masonic treat in witnessing the working of Bro. R. Thomson did not study the excessive heat, but attended in good numbers on Wednesday, at the Denmark Hotel, East Ham. The W.M. was supported by Bros. A. Hall S.W., H. Henshaw J.W., G. Dale W.M. 1615 Dep. Prec., Henshaw Sec., W. Sturton S.D., W. Clark J.D., G. Douglas I.G., J. Wynman, and several others whose names we had not the pleasure of knowing. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. G. Dale as the candidate, and that Brother gave the ancient charge, to the great delight of the Brethren.

Bro. Hall was elected W.M. for Wednesday next.

Bro. Dale proposed that a letter of sympathy be sent to Bro. S. Steer, wishing him a speedy recovery from his illness, which proposition was seconded by Bro. Douglas, and unanimously agreed to.

ROTATION IN OFFICE.

GRAND Master Hall took strong ground against the principle of "rotation in office," which he termed a "despotic innovation" on the democratic principles of Masonry.

"To say that because a Brother is elected Junior Warden of a Lodge, or a Brother promoted to the Office of Senior Warden, he should be elected to the Office of Worshipful Master, though he may have no qualification for that Office," argued the Grand Master, "is but to place a premium upon unfitness, conceit and arrogance, and to imply that the Brethren who elevated either of them to the office of Junior or Senior Warden had no right to judge of their future fitness because of this established but unwarranted rule, 'rotation in Office.' Many Brethren in the Lodges of West Virginia are thus elected to such positions under such circumstances who, after their installation, demonstrate their utter inability in every particular to be advanced to the exalted Office of Worshipful Master, not only that they are unlearned in the ritual, but on account of their ignorance of Masonic law. Yet they are elected and installed into Office as Worshipful Masters, and sometimes to the Grand East, because they are good fellows, well met."

The Grove Park (Kent) Lodge, No. 2824 is to be consecrated on Monday, at the Freemasons' Hall, London, by the Grand Secretary Bro. Letchworth. The ceremony is fixed for 4.30 p.m., and will be followed by a banquet at 7 o'clock.

The Theatres, &c.

Avenue.—8, His Wife's Picture. 8.45, A Message from Mars. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Covent Garden.—On Monday, 8, Faust.
Criterion.—8.30, Lady Huntworth's Experiment.
Daly's.—8.15, San Toy. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Gt. Queen Street.—8.15, A Boer Meisje. 9, The Private Secretary. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Lyric.—8, Florodora. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
Savoy.—8.15, The Outpost. 8.45, The Pirates of Penzance. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Casino Girl. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Vaudeville.—8.15, The Lady Volunteers. 8.50, Kitty Grey.
Alexandra.—Next week, 8, My Sweetheart.
Surrey.—Next week, 7.45, A London Arab.
Standard.—Next week, 7.45, The terror of Paris.
Alhambra.—7.45, Variety Entertainment, &c.
Aquarium.—The World's great Show. Varied performances, daily.
Empire.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. Round the Town Again, &c.
Oxford.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2.15 also.
Palace.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c. Saturday, 1.45 also.
Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30 also.
Tivoli.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2.15 also.
Alexandra Palace.—Thursday and Saturday, varied entertainments.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Thursday and Saturday Fireworks, &c.
Earl's Court.—Woman's Exhibition.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
London Hippodrome.—2 and 8, Varied attractions, &c.
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