

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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NEW HALL AT CALSTOCK.

IN the absence of the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe Prov. Grand Master of Cornwall, the new Masonic Hall, which has been erected at Calstock at a cost, including the purchase of the site, of about £800, was dedicated on Monday, 1st inst., in the presence of a large number of Brethren, by Bro. P. Colville Smith P.G.D. England D.P.G.M. of Cornwall.

The foundation-stone of the new Hall, a very handsome and commodious building, was laid by Bro. Colville Smith on the 21st of August last, and the whole style and structure of the building does credit to the designers, Bros. H. Down and N. R. Rosekilly, the latter of whom has not only built the Hall, but is the first W.M. to preside in the new Lodge. The Lodge Room itself, apart from the other portions of the building, is an attractive, lofty, and convenient one. It measures 23 feet by 32, has an open hammer beam roof, is well lighted, and handsomely furnished, the furniture including two imposing Corinthian columns, with Doric capitals, placed one on each side of the W.M.'s chair, which were made in 1797, and were originally the property of Sir William Trelawny, of Harewood House, Calstock. These columns are the gift of Bro. H. Down. The Hall also includes a porch, a lobby, and two ante-rooms, and is altogether admirably suited to the purposes of the Craft.

WESTERN DISTRICT CHARITY.

THE annual meeting of the Western District Masonic Association was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Princess Square, Plymouth, Bro. F. B. Westlake P.P.S.G.W. of Devon and P.P.G.D.C. of England presiding.

Bro. Withell reported that the balance of £4 13s brought forward from last year had been increased to £6 4s 9d; but in view of probable exceptional expenditure during the coming year, it was decided to make the usual call on the Lodges.

On the motion of Bros. Allsford and Wilson, Bro. F. B. Westlake was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Association, and testimony was borne to the splendid services he renders to Freemasonry in the West. Bros. W. Staton and C. Mutten were elected as Vice-Presidents, Bro. Allsford was re-elected Hon. Treasurer, and Bro. Parker was elected Hon. Secretary, in the place of Bro. Major Tracy, who resigned in consequence of the pressure of his many other engagements.

DEVON CHARITY.

THE annual meeting and election of the Devon Masonic Educational Fund was held on Wednesday afternoon, 3rd inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Princess Square, Plymouth. Bro. F. B. Westlake P.P.S.G.W. and P.G.D.D.C. of England presided over a large attendance.

Bro. Lord Hon. Treasurer reported that the receipts last year, including a balance of £659 brought forward, amounted to £1,082 12s 9d, and the total value of the Fund was now £2,013 14s 9d, including £1,600 on deposit at the Devon and Cornwall Bank, bearing interest at 2½ per cent. They had been aiming for several years past to bring the value of their Fund up to £2,000, and he was glad to say that that goal had now been reached. The subscription for the year was rather in excess of the amount received up to the same date last year, and he hoped they had now turned the corner and that their financial condition would no longer give them any cause for anxiety. No doubt the falling off in the subscription last year was due to exceptional causes, other demands of a special character having been

made upon them, but he confidently looked forward to a better state of things in the future. The report having been adopted, Bro. H. Stocker proposed the re-election of Bro. Lord as Hon. Treasurer, and highly eulogised the services he had rendered in the past. Bro. Lord had done splendid work for a great number of years, and they would be wanting in their duty if they did not ask him to continue in the work so long as he was able and willing to undertake it. Bro. Parker seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and Bro. Lord, in reply, said it would always be his pleasure, as it was his duty, to do what he could to increase the usefulness of an Institution that had done so much good in the Province and was deserving of the cordial support of the Brethren at large.

Bro. C. Piper (Exeter) proposing the re-election of Bro. Gover as Hon. Secretary, remarked that all that had been said of Bro. Lord applied with equal force to Bro. Gover, who was one of the main pillars of the Institution, with which he had been usefully and honourably connected from its very foundation. He had done valuable work for the Charity and enjoyed the esteem and regard of every Mason in the Province, who honoured him for the work he had done. Bro. Lavers seconded, and the motion was carried with acclamation. In returning thanks for his re-election, Bro. Gover said he was one of the founders of the Institution, and he hoped he might be permitted to die in harness.

On the motion of Bro. Gover, seconded by Bro. Sweet, Bro. W. H. Dillon was re-elected as Assistant Secretary, and cordially thanked for valuable and ungrudging service rendered to the Fund for many years.

Bros. Allsford and Cornish were re-elected as Auditors, and Brothers C. G. Davie D.P.G.M., J. Stocker Prov. G Sec., F. B. Westlake P.P.G.S.W., and H. Stocker P.P.G.T. were elected on the Educational and General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year, in addition to one member nominated by each Lodge in the Province.

The election of a child on the Fund was then proceeded with. There were three candidates for one vacancy, and a child from Exeter was elected by a very large majority, polling 2,810, including 675 votes brought forward from the election in October last. The next candidate on the list, from Kingsbridge, obtained 1,476 votes, and these will count to his credit at the election in October next.

The Chairman then remarked that seeing they had with them that day their respected and beloved Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. John Stocker, they could not separate without conveying to him their sincere and cordial congratulations on the fact that Grand Lodge honours had recently been offered to, and would shortly be conferred upon him. They all knew, and greatly appreciated, the noble work he had done for Freemasonry in the Province of Devon for many years past. He had devoted himself unselfishly to the responsible and exacting duties of the Office which he filled with so much ability, without fee or reward, and this was all the more deserving of recognition when it was remembered that in some Provinces the Provincial Grand Secretaries received salaries amounting to £250 and £300 a year. In the name of the whole of the Brethren he congratulated Bro. Stocker on the well-deserved honour he was about to receive.

Bro. Gover, as the oldest Freemason in the room, joined his congratulations to those of the Chairman. During his long connection with Freemasonry he had had experience of several Provincial Grand Secretaries, all good men and true; it was, therefore, no reflection on those who had gone before to say that they had never had a Prov. Grand Secretary who could compare with Bro. Stocker. He had never failed in his duty, and in the discharge of that duty he had succeeded

in making hosts of friends and not a single enemy. Bro. Allsford also briefly referred to Bro. Stocker's many personal and Masonic virtues, and

Bro. Stocker, acknowledging the congratulations of the Brethren, assured them in all sincerity that while he was very proud indeed of the honour that was to be conferred upon him by Grand Lodge, he valued even more highly the kind and Fraternal words of congratulations that had just been addressed to him and had also reached him previously from other parts of the Province. Such good and kindly feeling was in itself worth working for. If he had given a good deal of time and attention to Freemasonry it was because he loved it, and his love for it increased the more he knew of it and saw what good it was doing. He felt that no labour on its behalf was too great, and no time that he could devote to it was mis-spent, and it was a special gratification to him to be assured, as he had been, that the honour about to be conferred upon him was a source of pleasure and satisfaction to the Brethren throughout the Province.

This concluded the business, and the visiting Brethren were afterwards entertained at tea.

TURKISH MASONS AND THE KING.

THE letter of congratulation forwarded by Turkish Freemasons at Constantinople to King Edward of England contains an appeal on behalf of the unfortunate Sultan Mourad V., Freemason himself, who, for a quarter of a century, has been imprisoned under the pretext of mental malady.

The Masons ask King Edward, on the question of humanity—a question strictly Masonic—to use his influence to obtain for Mourad the imprescriptible rights of a free man.—“Evening News and Post.”

The annual Ladies Night of the Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227, will be held on Monday, 22nd inst., at the Great Eastern Hotel. The price of tickets is 6s 6d each (Lady or Gentleman). Early application is desired by the Secretary (Bro. T. Clarke, 16 Erskine Road, Walthamstow), as the number is limited.

The tenth annual dinner of the West Middlesex Lodge of Instruction, No. 1612, will take place on Wednesday, 24th inst., at the Feathers Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets, exclusive of wine, are 5s each, and may be had from the Secretary Bro. J. G. Eden S.W. 2662 I.G. 1012 (14-15 High Street, Ealing, W.). Visiting Brethren, as well as members of the Lodge, are invited to attend.

At the annual banquet of Lodge Charity, No. 223, at the Masonic Club, Plymouth, on the 27th ult., the Worshipful Master Bro. Thomas Cole made a presentation to the retiring Treasurer of the Lodge Bro. James Hoyten. The presentation consisted of a gold watch bearing the following inscription: “Presented by the Brethren of Lodge Charity, 223, to Worshipful Brother James Hoyten P.M. P.P.G.S.B., in recognition of his valuable services as Treasurer to the Lodge for nine years.”

Local Masons are taking a very lively interest in Mr. McConnell Wood's new operetta, to be produced at the Tyne Theatre before long. The Masonic Charities are to benefit by the performances, which cover a whole week, and a great effort is being made to ensure that the week shall be a financial triumph. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. R. H. Holmes is actively interesting himself in the project, and the Tyne Theatre should, during that operetta week, draw a great crowd of Freemasons, says the “Newcastle Leader.”

The Fifteen Sections will be worked at the King Harold Instruction Lodge, No. 1327, at the Four Swans, Waltham Cross, on Saturday next, 20th inst. Bro. J. Robinson P.M. 1327 P.P.G.W. Preceptor will act as W.M., with Bros. E. G. Platt W.M. 1327 S.W., E. J. Witte S.W. 1327 J.W., R. Tuffee P.M. 2372 Treas., and J. Mark P.M. 1327 Secretary. The following Brethren have arranged to take the different Sections: First Lecture—Bros. Lambert 1327, G. Crockett J.W. 2372, E. J. Platt W.M. 1327, H. Park I.P.M. 1327, F. Everard S.W. 1457, E. J. Witte S.W. 1326, and D. Shep-

herd I.G. 1327. Second Lecture—Bros. G. Holdsworth S.W. 1327, H. Parsons 2552, R. Tuffee P.M. 2372, J. Robinson P.M. P.P.G.W. 1327, and W. E. Bailey S.W. 2376. Third Lecture—Bros. J. Priddle P.M. 1327, T. Hill 1327, and W. Curtis 13.

The many friends of Brother John Stocker, J.P., the esteemed Provincial Grand Secretary of Devonshire will rejoice to hear that his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught M.W. Grand Master of England has selected him as one of the Officers to be appointed and invested this month. The collar for Bro. Stocker is that of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. Bro. Stocker was initiated in the St. John Lodge, No. 39, Exeter, the senior of the Province, in 1872, and served as W.M. in 1878. Since then he has been appointed one of the Provincial Wardens, but for some time now has been the Provincial Grand Secretary, to the great advantage of the local Craft. There are some sixty Lodges in Devon, and as the Office of Provincial Grand Secretary is honorary, says the “Western Morning News,” the Brethren cannot too much appreciate the valuable services of their zealous and competent Brother.

The Marquess of Ripon Past Grand Master of England and his wife celebrated their golden wedding on the 8th inst., amid great rejoicings, in which we are convinced the Freemasons of England would have heartily participated, but for the absurd fancy which precludes his lordship, now that he has joined the Romish Church, from continuing his association with us. Lord Ripon must be a Freemason at heart, or he would never have risen to the dignity of Grand Master of England—a position he occupied for the four years preceding the accession of His Majesty the King (then Prince of Wales) to the Masonic throne—and we feel justified in greeting and congratulating him on the recent celebration, on behalf of the Freemasons of England. We are specially indebted to him in one particular—his resignation, on his joining the Romish Church—made it possible for the Prince of Wales to commence his glorious reign as Masonic Sovereign.

It is now understood that the Duke of Connaught will not be installed as Grand Master on the Wednesday following St. George's Day. It is, however, pretty certain that the ceremony will take place during the ensuing summer. Grand Festival will be held on the Wednesday after St. George's Day, and the new Grand Officers will be appointed. Earl Amherst Pro Grand Master will preside in Grand Lodge, which will meet an hour before Grand Festival is held, and the ceremonies will be in nowise different from the usual routine at Grand Lodge on the last Wednesday in April. Except on one or two occasions, the late Grand Master never appeared at these annual gatherings, and, although the meetings were very well attended on the chance of his making his appearance, the Brethren had to be satisfied with hearing him “proclaimed” as Grand Master, whereas if he had been in evidence they would have had the gratification of “saluting” him as well. On the 24th inst. the Duke of Connaught will be “proclaimed” only; but Earl Amherst will be proclaimed and saluted, and I suppose his customary acknowledgment will be heard: “Brethren, I greet you well.”—“Birmingham Daily Post.”

ROYAL Masonic Institution for Girls.

The 113th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 8TH MAY 1901
THE
M.W. PRO GRAND MASTER
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL AMHERST
R.W. Prov. Grand Master Kent
IN THE CHAIR.

Brethren willing to act as Stewards on this important occasion are earnestly solicited to send in their names to the Secretary, as early as convenient. Stewards are much needed, and their services will be gratefully received.

F. R. W. HEDGES, Secretary.

Office—5 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

NECESSITY OF MASONIC INSTRUCTION.

THERE is indoctrinated in almost every human bosom, tincturing our thoughts and instigating to action, a certain powerful desire to advance in the pursuit to which we apply ourselves. Few men are so lost to feeling as to ignore this inward prompter; and it is only after long struggles and fierce encounters with circumstances, ending in final disappointment, that the man loses his hold on hope and gives up in despair. Some, indeed, cannot bear to know that the extinguishment of a great ambition is about to hurl them far down into the mires of despondency, and they pronounce judgment on themselves, by assailing heaven's handiwork and dying by suicide. It is hard to find only the black sea of ruin where one expected to possess the golden pinnacles of success; it brings a weary load of anguish to the brain when we fearfully contemplate the shrunken frame of a bright intellect, which, young in years, is stricken down by disease, just when we thought of a future tinged all over with honourable mention and enlightened glory. When the bud expands not to the flower, the blossom to the fruit, nor the seed to a beautiful maturity, how the heart bows down in sorrow and the lips bewail the untimely death. It seems no matter how glowing the prospect, the insidious moth crawls into our expanding future and eats away the slender fibres which support our hopes. If we would have the sun to shine upon our ideas, it very often rains, and sometimes a great flood sweeps us to obscurity, and the bright anticipations sink to the bottom, just as the scuttled ship heaves downward into the soundless deep.

Disappointments in life are caused by many and various circumstances. One, too modest to push himself against the powerful difficulties, and who, if he had favourable opportunities, would become prominent, shrinks quietly away and is never heard of, while the bold, blatant, empty-headed swaggerer takes a high place, because he is not afraid. Having nothing to lose, he takes the venture by the horns and vaults into power. Merit is thus often crowded in the sand, while arrogance blazes as the beacon light. Want of encouragement has been the death tone of many an able man—has been, and will be, as long as the uncharitable and the selfish brotherhood of man encourages impudence and despoils modesty.

These reflections do not directly apply to the existing workings of Masonry, but there is certainly an indifference in many Lodges to proper Masonic instruction. The work is done moderately well on some occasions, but at other times an ambitious aspirant applies for and receives permission to occupy the chairs. If he has studied the work, all is well, but if he be timid or not fully informed, the Craft suffers the horrors of bad work and insufficient lectures. This gives the candidate a poor opinion of the Fraternity. The first impressions are not favourable, and instances have occurred where parties have been so discouraged as not to attempt advancement. It is not fair to deprecate the desire to advance, but we do pronounce against the chairs being occupied by those who are not well qualified to fill them. There is no excuse for one who assumes to know all that he should, when he takes upon himself the Offices of the Lodge. There are so many ways by which he can inform himself and save the disgrace of being a bungler at his work. Perfection does not come to a man, he must work and toil after it in any profession, and so he must when he enters the Lodge room, if he desires to become a Worshipful Master. There is so much to learn that he cannot afford to slight anything pertaining to his duties. There is so much suggestive of the beautiful and the true that he ought not in conscience avoid any degree of labour to perfect himself in the principles as well as the practice of Masonry.

There is in almost every Lodge, members who are well qualified to instruct the remainder. There are many of the Craft who have no social intimacy with those who are distinguished for their knowledge, and, being modest, they cannot push themselves to an acquaintance whereby they could acquire the requisite information. They are, therefore, compelled to attend closely to Lodge meetings and they can only learn by observation. This involves a long period by which to arrive at perfection and the loss of much valuable time. If a system of lecturing, with working explanations, by accomplished Masters, were adopted by every Lodge, more could be learned in one evening than in many, where there was imperfect work to see and stammering lectures to hear.

A great many candidates enter the Fraternity with a

profound desire to rise, but the want of means of information completely blocks them, until they lose all interest, and they stop far short of those honours for which they long. Lodges of Instruction are, therefore a Masonic necessity; as all can observe who have ever attended those which have already been meted out to us. These occasional efforts do much good; but what is most needed is a regular system of instruction in every Lodge. If it should happen that a young Lodge did not have a member of their own sufficiently accomplished to lecture and instruct, those of other and older Lodges would deem it an honour to be invited for such a purpose, and would be glad to respond. Hence every Brother in this or any jurisdiction could become able to occupy any position in the Lodge room, and, instead of many imperfect exhibitions, we should have bright merit carving out in words of beauty the high objects of our Fraternity. Position, then, would be open to all, where now it is monopolised by the privileged few who possess the friendship of those learned in the work of the Craft.—"Indian Freemason."

PROSELYTISM IN MASONRY.

THE spirit of proselytism finds no encouragement in Masonic teachings. Every well instructed Craftsman understands that he is not to seek to obtain converts to Freemasonry, regarded as a system, nor to urge his friends to become members of the Fraternity. In no one respect, perhaps, is Freemasonry more distinctive than in this feature. It has a separateness of character, as contrasted with other systems and societies, by reason of its declared opposition to all proselytism as a means of increasing the numerical strength of the Institution.

This opposition to the spirit of proselytism is only to its special application within the lines of Freemasonry. The spirit of proselytism, rightly directed and guarded, is properly recognised as meritorious in the Christian Church. The great apostle of the Gentiles and the other apostles and teachers, who contributed so much to the marvellous advances of Christianity in that early period of the history of the Church, were ardent propagandists. Missionary interest and zeal are rightly called into activity in the present work of the Church, and converts are sought by urgent appeals on the part of the clergy and laity. In numerous friendly, reformatory, and Fraternal organisations, something of the same proselyting spirit is shown, as the members of these societies appeal to their acquaintances and friends to accept membership in the body and to unite with them in building up an efficient and popular association. Such advocacy is by no means objectionable under the conditions named.

Freemasonry, however, occupies a different position. It rests upon a basis of voluntary association. It urges no man to come within its lines and participate in its ceremonies. It expressly declares its opposition to the exercise of any such personal solicitation on the part of its members as might result in gaining adherents, influenced most likely by the urgency of friendly appeal rather than by their own independent judgment. It sets up the rule that any man, wishing to pass within Masonic lines, must come "unbiased by friends," and of his own "free will and accord."

It is well that this distinguishing characteristic of the Masonic Institution should be kept in mind, and that the practice thus enjoined should not be departed from. That the rule is sometimes disregarded goes without saying; we have known more than one instance where a considerable pressure had been exerted by a Mason to induce a friend to join the Fraternity, but however such action may be justified or apologised for, it cannot be made to harmonise with the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, and is likely to work harm to the stability and usefulness of the Masonic Institution.

The spirit of proselytism may be justifiable in other societies, but it is foreign to the character and purposes of our unique Fraternity. Members of those fraternities should understand that there is "a distinction with a difference," especially in respect to the point here considered, between other bodies and the Masonic organisation. "There are some men," says one of our esteemed contemporaries, "who, coming among us imbued with the principles and accustomed to the usages of these modern societies, consider it their duty to exert all their influence in persuading their friends to become members of the Craft. Men who thus misunderstand the true policy of our Institution should be instructed by

their older and more experienced Brethren, that it is wholly in opposition to all our laws and principles to ask any man to become a Mason, or to exercise any kind of influence upon the minds of others, except that of a truly Masonic life and a practical exemplification of its tenets, by which they may be induced to ask admission into our Lodges. We must not seek—we are to be sought."

It may be said that a strict adherence to this ancient landmark will retard the growth of Freemasonry and limit its influence. Not long ago the writer of this paper was present at the observance of an anniversary of a popular Beneficial Order, on which occasion the leading speaker advocated proselytism—the inviting and urging of outsiders to join the Order—as essential to its very life. He declared that all fraternal organisations depended upon the exercise of this proselyting spirit for their highest prosperity; and he added the statement that, being himself a Mason, he knew the Masonic Fraternity of the present time recognised the aid of proselytism to sustain it. Our thought is that the distinguished Brother was mistaken in his sweeping charge that Craftsmen generally are ready to ignore the ancient law. Surely there is no need that we should break away from it at this time when the popularity of our Fraternity is greater than ever before, and when numbers are making application for its privileges. There is no danger that Freemasonry will decline for want of new members; there is danger that it will increase too rapidly by accepting material not the best.

Let the old rule be emphasised that there ought to be no soliciting of candidates; and let it be more than a form of words when the novitiate declares that he comes to the door of Freemasonry of his own "free will and accord." Thus shall we stand on the old ways and yet make progress. Thus shall we gather and hold a membership of devoted men whose fidelity to Masonic principles will be the strongest guarantee of the permanence and prosperity of our cherished Institution.—Exchange.

A SERIOUS MATTER.

MEN who unite with Masonry should be impressed with the fact that they are entering upon a solemn work, one intended to be of personal benefit to them; that every lesson is intended to lead them to a higher regard for the duties they owe to one another, and to impress upon their minds the importance of preparing for the future. Every step that is taken by the candidate, from the time he affixes his name to his petition for the degrees to the hour he is raised, is a serious matter. There is no place in all the ritual, form and ceremony for any frivolity. In the preparation room, where too often, to the humiliation of Freemasonry be it said, there is a spirit of levity or fun, there should be exhibited the utmost dignity. It is the first impression that is lasting, and if the first impression is tainted with ridicule, or lack of solemn dignity, it cannot fail to make the candidate have a light regard for what follows. It is well nigh impossible for the Master, or other Officers of the Lodge, to undo the bad impression made upon the candidate in the preparation room.—"Standard."

PREFERMENT.

IN most Secret Societies there are many Offices which are held by appointment. It was no doubt intended that these places should be distributed among the regular attendants and workers as should be for the greatest benefit of the Lodge. But it does not always happen so. Civil Service reform does not rule in Fraternal matters, and when the elective Officers have been installed it is often the case that those who have attended most of the Lodge meetings, who have shown willingness to help and aptitude for the work, are entirely overlooked, and coveted places in the line of promotion given to members who, up to that time, came so rarely that but few knew them as Brothers of the Order. The whole affair turns out to be a matter of favouritism. Instead of working to the benefit of a Fraternity, the procedure militates against it. What inducement is there to a member to be punctual in attendance, to learn the ritual, to serve pro tem, for absent incumbents, if these services count for nothing? It would seem as if a man's chances for preferment was made greater the less he was posted and the more he stayed away. We remember a Brother of our own Lodge who showed much interest after initiation and memorised the entire degree work. At nearly every meeting

for a year he was a substitute in some position, and was highly complimented for his ability. But when the "annual" came around his claims for recognition in the appointments were entirely ignored, and the place many of his Brethren thought he had fairly earned was given to an almost unknown outsider. It was a cruel disappointment. There was no fault to be found with either character, ability or social standing. The presiding Officer had promised the Office to a friend, and felt obliged to keep the engagement, although the welfare of his society plainly pointed to the other man. After that the first-named Brother showed no more interest, and now seldom comes. His short career sadly reminds us of the inscription on the week-old baby's tombstone:

If so soon I was done for,
What was I begun for?

In this case the appointment, as a matter of favour, was clearly against the interest of the Fraternity, and the principle evidently wrong. That merit should be rewarded should be a law, quite as much as that wrong-doing should be punished. Let us recognise it as a part of the unwritten code, and see if it does not work well in our secret Orders.—"Fraternal News."

GOOD, BAD AND INDIFFERENT.

THE good Mason is one who knows his obligations and keeps them to the letter. The indifferent Mason may or may not know his obligations, but is too indolent to make a reasonable attempt to live up to their requirements. The bad Mason is one who knows the obligations, but makes only a pretence of keeping them, while he insists that others should not fail, in any particular, to be Masons without guile.

The good Mason is always a good man. He may be a little more enthusiastic at times than is well for his own convenience or comfort, but he always gains in happiness of the higher sort, much more than enough to compensate him for any physical discomfort which he may have suffered. He feels that a cold heart in a comfortable body is infinitely less desirable than a warm heart whose beats keep time to the music of merciful deeds, in a body shivering in the chilling blasts of winter. To him, the Angel of Mercy watches over his labours and, when they are finished, folds him in her ample wings and lulls him into peaceful slumbers. He has learned the secret of happiness, and neither jealousy nor envy can rob him of his reward.

The indifferent Mason is a negation. If we attempt to write his true worth, in figures, we begin and end with 0. His name on our books is a stain; let it remain. To attempt to remove it would only result in a blot.

The bad Mason is not necessarily a bad man, at least he may mean well and may be a fairly good citizen. He may really believe that he is specially fitted for the task of keeping others from straying from the paths of rectitude. He has his own peculiar notions as to how a Mason should conduct himself, but is inclined to believe that there are exceptions to all rules that in any way interfere with his personal comfort. If he attends his Lodge regularly, it is more for the purpose of "keeping things straight" than to learn humility, or any other virtue that would be a benefit to himself. The Brother who is always finding fault with those who are not wilfully bad, or who tries to force his own notions on those who have opinions of their own, is a bad Mason, no matter how kindly he may treat those who do him reverence. He is entitled to very little consideration at the hands of his Brethren, and even that little should be of the negative order.—"Missouri Freemason."

Freemasonry is a social institution and in a large degree answers that law of our nature "man's dependence upon man." We owe our happiness in a large measure to the presence of others. Our Fraternity is not a natural growth of society, it is more—it is not a divine institution in the sense that we thus distinguish the church, but there was much of divine wisdom in those who instituted it and they builded better than they knew.—C. W. Blodgett, New York.

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Whatever ideals do for the family, the church, the state, Freemasonry, or any other institution, depends upon what they do for the individual.—James R. Killian, Colorado.

BOOKS OF THE DAY.

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

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Highways and Byways in East Anglia. By William A. Dutt, with illustrations by Joseph Pennell (6s).—Macmillan and Co., Limited.

THIS volume is in no respect inferior to that of Mr. Arthur H. Norway upon the highways and byways of Yorkshire, which is saying a great deal. Mr. Dutt has two very necessary qualifications for such a task; he has read extensively, and he writes agreeably. Dullness is detrimental to any book, whatever its subject; it is fatal in such a series as this which Messrs. Macmillan are caring for so lavishly. Mr. Dutt is never dull. He is a keen observer of everything that passes under his eye, and almost as enthusiastic a naturalist as Thoreau, whom, by the by, he refers to in language of warm appreciation. No picturesque bit of landscape is unnoticed, no curious inscription escapes his eye, no ancient church but has its message from the past to be set down in Mr. Dutt's note book. The result of such skilful industry is before us in this volume, and it is difficult to see how any other contributor to this series can hope to better its example. It should however be remembered that, in writing a book of this description, an author has an unrivalled opportunity of displaying his skill in literary style, his general knowledge of literature, his acquaintance with the life of the hedgerow and the field, his learning in regard to monkish legend and Anglican Church history. He has practically a free hand; with few exceptions he goes where he pleases; he dismisses a town in a paragraph, and depicts a village in five pages if he can thereby heighten the effect of his chapter. All these liberties Mr. Dutt has freely used; but he has shown such admirable discrimination in his choice of materials that we are glad he was so far unfettered. We are not sure that we admire all of Mr. Pennell's sketches; but some of them are so excellent that we readily pardon any inferior workmanship which we have noticed in others. East Anglians will buy this book extensively.

Martyred Missionaries of the China Inland Mission. With a record of the perils and sufferings of some who escaped. With portraits, maps, and illustrations. Edited by Marshall Broomhall, B.A. (5s).—Morgan and Scott.

It is not a pleasant task to read this book. The whole subject is one which it would be wise to regard from a broad and impartial standpoint; but such a philosophic attitude can hardly be looked for from those whose relations or friends have lost their lives at the hands of the Boxers. Mr. Marshall Broomhall has edited a volume which is of great use to such as are interested in those missionaries whose martyrdom it narrates, and the portraits, many of which are evidently excellent, will greatly enhance its value in many eyes. So conflicting were the narratives of these events which appeared in the newspapers that we formerly despaired of understanding fully what the disturbances in China were all about; but with such volumes as the one now before us it is comparatively easy to do so. There will be a large demand for this book in religious circles.

Souvenir of the Siege of Mafeking. Being fac-simile reproductions of the most interesting general orders issued to the garrison of Mafeking by General Baden-Powell during the siege. With introduction by Chas. E. Hands, War Correspondent for the "Daily Mail" (6d).—John Lewis and Co.

WE shall presently be buried beneath such publications as this; but so far only a few on similar lines have been issued, so Messrs. Lewis and Co. should find no difficulty in disposing of large numbers of this "souvenir." Many of the orders issued by "Colonel R. S. S. Baden Powell" are eminently characteristic; he saw everything, knew everything, and cared for everything. This souvenir speaks volumes for the value of the typewriter in warfare; for the orders which it contains are facsimile reproductions of the typewritten originals. The fact that they can be read by a rapid glance must commend itself to everybody interested in military efficiency. Mr. Hands has written an able, concise introduction.

A Path of Thorns. By Ernest Alfred Vizetelly (6s).—Chatto and Windus.

MR. ERNEST VIZETELLY has given us plenty for our money, and we are not disposed to fraternise with that critic who suggested that it would have been far better had he given us less. For we cannot believe many readers will find these pages unnecessarily prolix—the characters are too well drawn for that. The Countess de Trévy is endowed by her creator with a wealth of beauty which would be alluring indeed were she not likewise inordinately passionate and given to pursuing her hatreds, as well as her loves, to the bitter end. Her companion-dependent, educated by Romish sisters at the orphanage of the Order of the Holy Cross at Déols, is likewise eminently attractive, and the way in which her attractions prove detrimental at times to those of her mistress is well described by Mr. Vizetelly. For those who love a carefully written story, thoroughly characteristic of French life and manners, loves and hatreds, this novel will afford genuine pleasure. We are pleased to find that Mr. Vizetelly, who has translated into English almost everything written by M. Zola, has contrived to imitate successfully the many virtues of his literary godfather, without imitating his vices likewise. Nothing can be gained by deliberately essaying to write with the pen of another; as a rule it is far better to write with one's own. Mr. Vizetelly has, we think, sometimes borrowed the pen of M. Zola, but he need not have done so, for he writes equally well with his own. This path of thorns leads at length to the day of orange blossoms; there is a wedding at the end of the book, so the young ladies will not be disappointed when they finish the last chapter.

The Great Magician. By T. R. Threlfall. Illustrated by W. S. Stacey (3s 6d).—Ward, Lock and Co., Limited.

WE have a solemn warning to impart to our readers. If you are tired and intend to retire early to bed, you must not sit down at nine o'clock to commence "The Great Magician." Mr. Threlfall cares little whether readers are interested in his topic at the beginning, for he knows he will soon have the whip hand of them. Seldom have the fierce passions of the Mohammedan been more forcibly portrayed. The whole story is, as a critic once said of Mr. Threlfall's "Phillippi the Guardsman," rigorously managed. We suspect there is more description in this book than many will welcome; there is certainly less dialogue than most folks would like to see; but the descriptions are so ably written and the dialogue, where we have it, is so admirably brisk and sustained that we cannot think many will be so bold as to question the wisdom of Mr. Threlfall's methods. The ladies are certainly very self assertive, and the men, for the most part, hardly lovable; but these are common failings in several countries and we must take people as we find them. Readers who are fond of powerful description for its own sake and who would care to know something of what their feelings would be if lost in the Soudan, should carefully read the second chapter of this book. The lurid cover, and the lady in red and yellow who figures upon it, will by no means repulse this sensational, bizarre generation. The book should prove a profitable speculation.

Mr. Murray is preparing a fresh impression of the works of Crabbe. It is to be a reprint of the edition of 1834. We have seen this edition, and handled it; if the present public admire it as much as ourselves Mr. Murray will sell a great many copies.

Messrs. George Newnes Limited are to publish "The Story of Wild Flowers," by the Rev. Prof. Henslow; "The Story of Books," by G. B. Rawlings; "Russian Life in Town and Country," by Francis H. E. Palmer.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin has many new stories in the press or in course of writing: e.g.: "Mistress Barbara Cunliffe," by Halliwell Sutcliffe; "Yorke the Adventurer," by Louis Becke; "Black Mary," by Allan McAulay; "The Yellow Friend," by Mrs. Alexander; "John Jones, Curate," by Miss G. Pyrc; "Sister Teresa," by George Moore; and many others. Also, he announces in other departments of literature, "In Tibet and Chinese Turkestan," by Captain Deasy; "The Barbarian Invasion of Italy," by Pasquale Villari; and "The Papal Monarchy from Gregory the Great to Boniface VIII.," by Dr. William Barry.

Mr. David Nutt has published the first of a series to be entitled "The ancient East." This first volume is "The Realms of the Egyptian Dead," by Prof. Alfred Wiedemann, and will be followed by a volume from the pen of Dr. C. Niebuhr, entitled "The Tel-el-Amarna Period."

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ROYAL Masonic Institution for Girls. CLAPHAM JUNCTION, S.W.

AT a General Court of this Institution, held at Freemasons' Tavern, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., on Thursday, 11th April 1901, HENRY SMITH ESQ., Patron, in the chair, after the general business was disposed of, the GOVERNORS and SUBSCRIBERS proceeded to the ELECTION by ballot of 15 GIRLS into the Institution from a list of 22 approved candidates, when the following were declared duly ELECTED:

No. on Poll. List.	NAMES.	Votes.	No. on Poll. List.	NAMES.	Votes.
1 13	Cheek, M. P.	6,342	9 16	Chapman, M. W.	4,663
2 17	Allardyce, M. M.	5,733	10 12	Watts, M. H.	4,552
3 9	Hooper, W. A.	5,274	11 5	Hopkins, C. P.	4,339
4 22	Kennett, O.	5,182	12 2	Caine, D.	4,310
5 20	Park, E. C.	5,114	13 14	Rees, N. M.	4,254
6 4	Sall, D.	5,002	14 15	Blundell, E.	4,016
7 7	Peace, A. K.	4,847	15 6	Ferry, E.	3,439
8 8	Edwards, W. B.	4,774			

The numbers of the votes recorded for unsuccessful candidates can be obtained on application at the Secretary's Office, and they will be duly carried forward at the next election, if eligible.

F. R. W. HEDGES, Secretary.

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per lb.; Galantine of Wild Boar's Head, with Pistachion, 1/6; Dressed Wild
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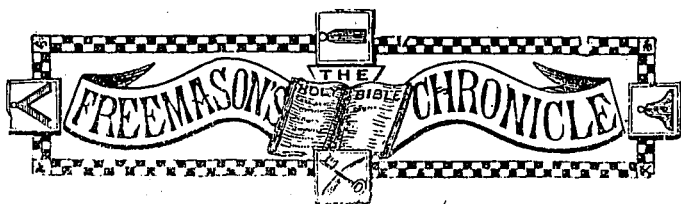
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SATURDAY, 13TH APRIL 1901.

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

THE half yearly election took place on Thursday, when fifteen girls were admitted to the benefits of the Institution. The list of those successful is given in our advertisement column, the unsuccessful, and the number of votes polled on behalf of each, were as follow:

No.	Name.	Votes:		
		Forward.	Polled.	Total.
11	Meade, Dorothy Helena	—	3229	3229
18	Leftwich, Doris Elizabeth	—	1206	1206
19	Brown, Annie	—	430	430
1	Lerpiniere, Lillian Irene	104	209	313
21	Powell, Helen Sothorn	—	168	168
3	Hodgkinson, Clarice Lillian	33	25	58
10	Edwards, Mary Coslett	—	10	10

Wansfell Chapter, No. 2745.

THIS Chapter, attached to the Ambleside Lodge, was consecrated at the Queen's Hotel, Ambleside, on Friday, 29th ult. The Consecrating Officer was Comp. Col. Sewell Prov.G. Superintendent Cumberland and Westmorland and the principal Officers installed on the occasion were Comps. T. A. Argles, R. J. Nelson, and Thomas Taylor.

The Middlesex Hospital Lodge has been founded in connection with Middlesex Hospital, and its Consecration will take place on Tuesday, 7th May. The Officers named in the Warrant are Bros. T. J. A. Burns, M.R.C.S. Eng., as Worshipful Master; W. Duncan, M.D. Brux., F.R.C.S. Eng., as Senior Warden; and F. J. Wethered, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., as Junior Warden. Bro. Henry Morris, F.R.C.S. Eng., will, it is understood, be the Treasurer. This is the third Lodge that has, within recent years, been founded in connection with the great London hospitals, the other two being the Rahere Lodge, associated with St. Bartholomew's, and the Sancta Maria Lodge, with St. Mary's. The Middlesex Hospital Lodge starts under good auspices and will, we trust, prove as successful as have the Rahere and the Sancta Maria Lodges. Particulars concerning the new Lodge can be obtained from the Secretary, Bro. F. Clare Melhado, Middlesex Hospital, W.

The petitioners for a Warrant for the "Polytechnic" Lodge have been informed that their request has been granted, the number assigned to the new Lodge being 2847. Further particulars may be had of Bro. A. G. Lee, 14 Ingham Road, West Hampstead.

An amusing and perfectly true story comes from Tientsin. The Masonic Hall was very much damaged by shells last summer, and after the bombardment was over it was occupied by Japanese troops. It appears that in the third degree in Masonry a skull and cross-bones are employed; and these horrifying properties were in a chest in the Hall, with a pall. The Japanese soldiers found them, and knowing nothing of Masonic secrets or ceremonies, came to the conclusion that they were the ghastly evidence of a murder, which they duly reported to their colonels, who ordered the relics to be reverently buried. This was done, and now the Freemasons of Tientsin, who have recovered and repaired their Hall, cannot find where their precious properties were deposited, and have to do the best they can with the cast-off skeleton of a Boxer.—"Edinburgh Evening Dispatch."

THE MINISTRY AND THE LODGE.

THE following timely sermon was preached by Rev. Sir Morgan A. Peters, of East Mauch Chunk, Pa., and will be found well worthy of careful perusal:

In the twenty-fifth chapter of the Book of Proverbs, and in the ninth verse, we read thus: Discover not a secret one to another. From these words it appears to me that a minister, as well as anyone else, is included in the passage, and that there is nothing in it that will prevent him from belonging to a Secret Order. A minister's relation to a Secret Order is such that as long as he belongs to none and knows of nothing of their workings, he can only, as a minister of the Gospel, have the same regard for the Order as he may have for the best members of the Order with which he may come in contact. For the simple reason that I feel it is our bounden duty to judge impartially of such Orders, and knowing that there are good men at the head of these Orders, men who are true to the Protestant faith, men who uphold the Church in all her details, I feel it is also the duty of the clergy to do likewise.

It seems that in all periods of the world there were people too much disposed not only to tell all they knew, but even more. A physiological suggestion is that we have but one tongue and two ears, thus giving us to understand that we ought to hear twice as much as we ought to tell. By the power of a secret divulged, churches, families, neighbours, nations fly apart. By the power of a secret kept, great charities, socialities, reformatory movements and Christian enterprise may be advanced. Men are gregarious; cattle in herds, fish in schools, birds in flocks, men in social circles. You may discharge a gun and thus scatter a flock of quail, but they will gather themselves together again. If you by some new power could break the associations in which men now stand, they would again adhere. God meant it so. He has gathered all the flowers and shrubs into associations. Plants love company. You will find them talking to each other in the dew.

You sometimes see a man with no outbreathings of sympathy. His nature is cold and hard, like a ship's mast, ice-glazed, which the most agile sailor could never climb. Others have a thousand roots and a thousand branches. Innumerable tendrils climb their hearts and blossom all the way up, and the fowls of heaven sing in the branches. In consequence of this tendency we find men coming together in tribes, in communities, in churches, in societies. Dare we cry out against it? If we do, we cry out against a tendency divinely implanted. Our relation to Secret Orders is such that if we condemn them and preach long sermons against them it will do just as much good as if we would preach a long sermon to a busy ant-hill concerning Secret Orders.

The oft-discussed question whether associations that do their work with closed doors and admit their members by passwords and greet each other with a secret grip are right or wrong. I answer that it depends entirely on the nature of the object for which they meet. Is it to pass the hour in revelry, wassail, blasphemy and obscene talk, or to plot trouble to the State, or to debauch the innocent, then I say, with an emphasis no man can mistake, they are wrong! But is the object the defence of the rights of any class against oppression, the improvement of the mind, the advancement of art, the defence of the Government, the extirpation of crime, or the kindling of a pure-hearted sociability, then I say, with just as much emphasis, they are right! As a general of an army knows well the intentions of his army, so the Protestant minister ought to know the intentions and the workings of Secret Orders, and he, like the general, can only know these secrets by belonging to the Order. Let us look upon the greatest enemies we have; are they in the Secret Orders? No, they are nearly all strictly Protestant and American, and for this very reason I feel our relation to Secret Orders to be very near and dear.

Our Roman Catholic enemies who call us heretics because we do not fall at the feet of their Roman bull, Pope Leo XIII, are fearfully opposing our Secret Orders in America; they know that these Orders are opposing them both religiously as well as politically. In the halls of these Secret Orders the Roman Catholics are barred out, and they are bold in their assertions when they say that they desire to boycott every member of the Secret Orders in this heretical nation who will not vote for candidates of their faith, nor in any way support their Church.

I ask: What is our duty as Protestant ministers toward such Orders as will bury the dead, support the widow, and educate the orphan? Ought we to suppress them or uphold them? Look at our many Orders who do this work, and who will stand by the Constitution of the United States, against which the Roman Church is continually fighting. The light of the United States is too bright for them, but the motto of the Protestant clergy, as well as of these Secret Orders, is in substance as follows: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. lviii. 1). And the object: To fight Popery and all that crushes free thought, free press, free worship, free schools, free shops, and a free ballot. And now, in order that our many young Americans may be rightly instructed in these things, let them take an obligation, and let the minister of to-day do likewise, and go to these meetings of these Secret Orders, and there try to instruct them in their various duties as Protestant American-born citizens. There are many things of major importance about which the minister does not like to talk from the pulpit, but in the halls of these Secret Orders he will find all the encouragement necessary, and thus he will be able to enlighten his Brothers.

While I am ready to admit that not all the workings from time to time may be just in harmony with all the teachings of the Bible, in these Secret Orders, so I also admit that not all the workings in our churches are always in best harmony with Holy Writ. Our being members of Secret Orders will never injure us if we will but act in accordance with the Obligation. Being that the work is secret will never harm us. Secrecy of plot and execution are wrong only when the objects and ends are nefarious. Every family is a Secret Society, or at least ought to be; so is every business firm and every banking and insurance institution. Those men who have no capacity to keep a secret are unfit for positions of trust anywhere. There is a time to keep silence as well as a time to speak.

There are Secret Orders in this and other countries centuries old, and I have hundreds of friends who belong to them, friends who are consecrated to God, pillars in the Protestant Church, faithful in all relations of life, examples of virtue and piety. They are the kind of men whom I would have to carry me out to the last sleep when I am dead. Nobody can make me believe that they would belong to bad Institutions.

Can we denounce, with an open heart, the Secret Orders who give annually millions of dollars for the relief of the sick and the burying of the dead?

I am a member of Secret Societies, and when one gives me the grip I know it, but when I give it to one that is not a member he is ignorant, and so it is with the password. All things are easy when you know them. To conclude then, my idea is that the relation of the ministry to Secret Orders is so close that they ought to belong to at least one or two good Christian Secret Orders who have for their membership only such men as believe in the inspired Word of God, and in God Himself.—"Keystone."

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

By the death of Bro. Samuel Moore P.M. 992 1117 and 1773 P.P.G.Supt. of Works East Lancashire Freemasonry in all its branches has lost a beloved and distinguished member. The industrial world of Cottonopolis has also sustained a blow which will be far-reaching in its effects, for our late Bro. Moore was a prominent citizen, and one of those men whose name will be enshrined amongst the multitudinous ones who have added to the prestige and renown of Manchester city. He was a link which connected the old school of work with the new school of thought. By sheer perseverance and indomitable labour he built up a printing and bookbinding concern which to-day stands as a monumental evidence of what faith and hope, steady devotion to a set purpose, and absolute "grit" can do. He began life with poor materials, but he reached success, and in his striving for the latter, did not ruthlessly push on one side those equally deserving ones who were pilgrims to the same shrine. The prosperity happily vouchsafed to him was to prove a blessing to others, inasmuch as he identified himself with many educational and charitable objects, and became an enthusiast for good works effected in an unobtrusive and unostentatious manner. In his younger days he was an

athlete of some standing, and as a result of careful training evinced in the days of his maturity signs of remarkable constitutional vigour. Though he developed into a prominent and well-respected citizen, yet he absolutely declined to become a candidate for those public honours which he could easily have obtained, and which are generally conferred as the reward of industry and popularity. Bro. Moore was a man possessed of a sunny temperament, and unconsciously insinuated himself into the good graces of those around him, for his especial attributes seemed to have had a bracing, vigorous and helpful effect upon those who came into contact with him. The fragrance which clings around his memory will sanctify every object with which he was connected, and the best condolence we can offer to those nearest and dearest who are left to mourn his loss is contained in the admirable lines of a popular poet:

"Only the future can reach up to lay
The laurel on that lofty nature."

WE regret to announce the death of one of Middlesbrough's leading citizens, Bro. William Henry Cowper, J.P., which sad event occurred at a late hour on Monday night, 8th inst., entirely unexpectedly, as he was of robust and powerful physique and in the prime of life, and as late as Saturday was at business and his club. Few gentlemen in the North of England have been more prominently identified with Freemasonry than Bro. Cowper, and he rose to the highest Offices connected with the Craft, holding the distinguished position of Standard Bearer in the Grand Lodge of England. Bro. Cowper's initiation as a Freemason dates back to 1871. Eight years later he filled the position of Worshipful Master of the North York Lodge, No. 602, and in 1880 he founded the Ferrum Lodge, Middlesbrough. In 1881 he was appointed Provincial Grand Registrar, and in 1894 Provincial Grand Senior Warden. As a Royal Arch Mason Bro. Cowper filled numerous high Offices, and he was a Past Grand Sojourner in the Grand Chapter of England. He also attained high rank as a Mark Mason, having been Worshipful Master of the Middlesbrough Lodge, Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and Inner Guard in the Grand Lodge of England. As a Knight Templar he was admitted into the Ancient Ebor Preceptory, York, in 1884, and became its Eminent Preceptor in 1887, and Provincial Grand Constable in the Priory of North and East Yorkshire in 1895. He was also Past Eminent Prior of the Knights of Malta, Past M.W.S. of the Rose Croix degree, a member of the Allied Degrees, a founder and Past Senior Grand Guardian of the Yorkshire Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, whilst he further filled the Office of Celebrant of the York College of the Rosicrucian Society of England in 1895. Masonic Charities benefitted largely by Bro. Cowper's generosity, and he was Patron of the Provincial Education Fund of North and East Yorkshire, and a Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and the Boys and Girls Institutions. Brother Cowper was always most helpful to the Brethren of his own town and neighbourhood. His valuable assistance was never looked for in vain, and his presence as a Past Officer of Grand Lodge was an honour always very greatly appreciated. His loss will be keenly felt.

BRO. WM. BALDWIN, of the Duke of Fife Lodge, No. 2345, editor and proprietor of the "Clapham Observer," after many months of severe suffering, passed away on Easter Day. He had always been a very hard worker, and his health had not been good for some time. He took Office for some years, being A.D.C. in 1896, but relinquished it as his health did not allow him to perform his duties, when he became I.G. He was very highly respected, and ever ready to give a helping hand in any good work. The poor will miss him much. Only a short time since a testimonial was presented to him by those who wished to cheer him in his sufferings. The first part of the burial service will take place in Clapham Parish Church at 2 o'clock this (Saturday) afternoon, and the interment will be in Nunhead Cemetery.

THE interment of the remains of Bro. Sidney Dean took place on the 3rd inst., at the Wolverhampton Cemetery, and was attended by a large number of Freemasons and the choir of St. Leonard's Church, Bilston, where he had been organist for a number of years.

REPRESENTATIVES wanted for the "Freemason's Chronicle," in all the principal towns of the Country. Apply to the Publisher, Fleet Works, New Barnet.

WITCHCRAFT IN THE OLDEN TIME.

THE following article, from the pen of the veteran ex-Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Bro. D. Murray Lyon, a man not less distinguished for his services to Freemasonry than for his perseverance and industry in rescuing from oblivion the early history of the town of Ayr, will be read with much interest. (It is about to be printed for private circulation.) Apart altogether from the personality of the writer, the subject dealt with is one that is still of considerable interest. Trials for witchcraft were extremely common all over Scotland. It may be doubted, we think, whether the whole truth concerning these trials is generally known:—

Though from wording of certain minutes of the Ayr Town Council there is ground for believing that a woman named Marion Grieve had been burned in Ayr in the year 1595 for witchcraft, the Burgh Records did not contain conclusive evidence on the point, or of the infliction of death upon any other person convicted of the crime. In a subsequent examination of the Session Records we have discovered an entry showing that the Kirk Session had seen fit to alter its day of meeting on account of the trial of Margaret Wallace for witchcraft—and further, that the said Margaret was condemned on the 9th and burned to death on the morning of Tuesday, the 13th October 1629: "Apud Ayre ix Oct., 1629: All processis contenewad till ye next daye, in respect of the assyis to be haldin on Margrat Wallace suspect of witchcraft. Condemnit this daye, and burnt on the morne on Twysdaye 13 Oct."

This memorandum of the Kirk Session of Ayr is valuable as being, so far as is known, the only authentic record of an execution for witchcraft having taken place in the burgh. And it is worthy of notice that this occurred at a time when the cure of the parish was served by an Episcopal minister, Mr. William Annand.

It appears from certain minutes of Presbytery, 1643 and 1650, that the communities of Ayr and Newton-upon-Ayr were so greatly troubled with witches that applications for commissions to try these unfortunate persons were made to the Secret Council. The intended raid upon witches resident in Ayr and Newton, as ordered by the Presbytery, is thus referred to in their minutes:—

"This day (March 22, 1643) in respect of sundrie depositions given in before the Prbrie, against Susanna Shang spous to David Barclay burges of Ayr, wherin thair wer fund great presumptions of the sin of witchcraft, thairfore the Prbrie, considering heirof ordained a letter to be directed to the Lords of Counsell for purchasing ane warrant to try the said Susanna, qlk suld be subscrybed by the moderator (Fergushill) and clerk in thair names." "(May 1, 1650: present the two ministers of Ayr, Eccles and Adair, Lord Cathcart, etc.) The Prbrie, taking to there serious consideration the points of dittay presented to them by Gilbert Richard provist of Air and Gilbert McAmount baillie there against Jonnet McGraine, Helene Girvan, Jonnet Smelly, all guiltie by there awn confessions of that horrid and develish sin of sorcerie, did judge the particular points conteand in the said dittayes against the saids persones a sufficient ground to obteane a commission for there tryall and condigne punishment, and therefore ordained that a supplication might be drawne vp by the saids magistrats to the Lords of Secret Counsell to that effect. As lykwise the Prbrie, having maturely considered the points of dittay against Jonnet Mores in Newtowne of Air, guiltie of witchcraft by her own confession, ordained the judges of the said Newtowne to supplicat the saids Lords of Secret Counsell for a commission against the said Jonet Mores." "(May 15, 1650) Mr. Hew Eccles modr. made report that he had written to the States for a generall commission against witches, as also to the Baillies of Carrik to vse the lyke diligence against witches within there bounds. The Pibre, having considered the points of dittay given in against Bessie McKallum in Newtowne of Air suspect of sorcerie, did judge the same ane sufficient ground for obteaning a commission against her."

A WITCH'S DEAD BODY BURN'T.

Nothing is known of the result of these applications, and except in the case of Janet Smellie we are equally ignorant of the fate of the women against whom the warrants were sought. Smellie having in May 1650 died in prison, her body was burned at the foot of the gallows. A piece of ground adjacent to Mill Street now crossed by the railway was the then common place of execution. As a "filthie sklanderer & blasphemmer," this woman was a standing pest to the town for more than thirty years. Innumerable were her appearances in the jugs at the Fish Cross with the spur in her mouth: a considerable portion of her time was spent in the "woman housse," a dungeon under the tolbooth stair: and often banished the town, she as often returned. Her love of "stark [strong] drink" is apparent from the wording of one of the sentences passed upon her by the Kirk Session:—

"Comperit Jonnet Smellie (1613) being convict of filthie & sclandrous speiches towardis hir neighbours was ordanit to be cairtit to the Fish Croce and the spurr to be put in hir mouth, according to ane former act given out aganes hir. Comperit (1621) and granted her vnchristian raylingis aganis Johne Power and submitted herself humblie to the Sessionis will, ordanit to paye xxs and satisfie heeche [in the most exposed part of the kirk], and ye minister yat receaves her to shawe yat she was convicted for intending to poyson herself qn put into ye bradzean and spurr for blaspheming, imprisoned diverse tymes for numerous misbehaviouris to sindrie persones, quhairwpon banishment was concluded aganis her & that now shee should satisfie for ye said raylings and the same to be particularlie laid to her chairge (1628) For great injuries done to her haill nyghtbors and contempt vsed aganes ye Session to be apprehendit instantlie and put into ye woman housse wnder the tolbuith staire, and remaine thair for the space of fourteine dayes vpon bread & water in ye meanest sort, and quha presumes to transgresse yis ordinance in given her ayall or wyne or onye wther stark driak to paye fyve libs and be in the Sessionis will."

In the end of 1629 she was remitted to the magistrates by the Session, as an incorrigible offender; and, according to the Burgh Records, was, in March 1630, tried "on suspitioun of witchcraft and sorcerie," and banished the sheriffdom of Ayr. In an entry in their books of corresponding date, the Session are represented as referring to the Council "the hinderris of the executioun of Janet Smeallie." This is suggestive of her having been sentenced to death, but that the severity of her sentence having excited the public sympathy she had been released from the gibbet, to undergo the milder punishment.

MAGGIE OSBORNE.

The burning of this person at the Market Cross for witchcraft about the middle of the 17th century is the subject of local tradition. According to this authority it was through her familiarity with the devil that Maggie Osborne had accomplished the erection of a house in the High Street of Ayr in the course of one night, and by her incantations had effected the loss of many a ship. Her infernal cantrips were believed to be pursued under various transformations—as a cat upon her own house-top, as a black cow upon the kirk rigging, as a cock, a crow, a bumbee, and a spider. The terror of the town's-people, she was often put into ward, and as often, according to the tradition in question, escaped by the keyhole of her prison. On the suggestion of the parish minister, she was unshod, and the spell being thus broken (the compact between her and the prince of darkness being kept in her bauchels) she confessed to having been in league with the devil, and was afterwards burned as a witch.

" Scorch'd to deyth like a deid cinder,
Black as a sheepheid they singed her:
Doun tae the Cross then Satan flew,
Up frae the flames her body drew,
Then wi' a yell and horrid laugh,
Tae hell he wi' his prize flew aff."

No record exists, either local or national, of the trial or execution of any such person at Ayr. But this need not be wondered at, nor can it be held as showing that the tradition is a fiction, for it is only through an incidental notice in one of the preceding minutes that we are made aware of an assize ever having been held at Ayr for the trial of a witch. The house Nos. 76 and 78 High Street, nearly opposite the site of the Fish Cross, has beyond the memory of any now living been pointed to as that with the building of which tradition has associated the name of Maggie Osborne. In the writer's researches for material for the present article, he has found in a minute of the Town Council of 28th March 1626, what may be held as confirmatory of the fact that a house was built at this place by Margaret Osborne—a point that has hitherto escaped observation. This house seems to have been built on the site of an older one, whose boundary had been overstepped, so that the foundation of the new erection encroached upon the public street. In these circumstances Maggie went to the Town Council, and acknowledging their powers and putting herself "in their will" in the matter of indemnification, was allowed to proceed with the erection of her house on the line she had chosen:—

"The qlk day comperit Mergaret Osburne ye spouis of Johnne Rankene merchand burges of vis burt, quha became in ye will of ye provest baillies and counsall yrof in ye name & behalf of hir said spouis anent ye bigging and setting furt be hir and hir said spouis of yr tenement in ye flesche mercat of yis burt ferder furt vpoun ye hie streit yrof nor ye auld foundation of ye auld wallis of ye samen qlk she hes now in bigging, and anent quhat satisfactioun ye said Mergaret and hir said spouis sall gif ye saids provest baillies and counsall for ye licence yrto ye said Mergaret for herself and hir said spouis faytfullie promiseist to abyed yrat vnderly & fulfill ye samen in all pointis bot ony dirogatioun or revocatioun aganis ye samen."

Margaret seems to have had a capacity for business; and by means of the bustling energy which your practical managing woman often possesses, she may have urged on the work with an expedition which to the slow-moving minds of our ancestors may have appeared "uncanny." The story talked of for years and gradually magnified may at length have created the belief that the house was built by the aid of the devil. What was pointed out as Maggie Osborne's grave has disappeared with the feuing of that portion of the Fort which two hundred and fifty years ago embraced the parish kirkyard.

WITCH-FINDERS AND FORTUNE-TELLERS.

The employment of a professional witch-finder by the Kirk Session of Straiton was in 1644 disallowed by the Presbytery, on the ground that the practice had been condemned by the General Assembly: "A letter preysented from Mr. Johne McQuorne minister at Straiton, wherin he requyred the Prbries advyse whither or not a young woman in Galloway called Jeane McMurran might be consulted with for tryell of sundrie persones suspect of witchcraft in his paroche, in respect the said Jeane took wpon her the discoverie of witches throw the countrey. Mr. James Bonner declared that the late Generall Assemblie holden in Edr. had condemned and discharged the foirsd practise in all tyme comming, wherewith the Prbrie did condescend." The only other recorded proceedings of the Presbytery in connection with witchcraft have reference to the flight from Tarbolton to Auchinleck of a witch and her husband, who seem to have been hunted out of the county.

In a case before the Session in 1630, the charge of suspected witchcraft was supported by the statement that the accused on one occasion had "folowed her nythours kye with a cogge full of blood." It was then a common practice for men and women of all ranks to seek "charms" from reputed witches. Half a century nearer our own time the Session found it necessary to undertake a crusade against persons "pretending to tell fortunes and find things lost." Well on in the nineteenth century the burgh afforded shelter and means of support to more than one professional spawife, whose patrons were not confined to the humbler ranks.—"North British Daily Mail."

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Monday.

- 1 Grand Masters', Freemasons' Tavern
 8 British, Freemasons' Hall
 21 Emulation, Albion
 907 Royal Albert, Freemasons' Hall
 1506 White Horse of Kent, Holborn Via. H.
 1694 Imperial, Holborn Restaurant
 2545 Iris, Hotel Cecil
 2549 Benevolentia, Holborn Restaurant
 2699 Wandle, Town Hall, Wandsworth
 37 Anchor and Hope, F.M.H., Bolton
 77 Freedom, Public Hall, Gravesend
 125 Prince Edwin, Bank Bldgs., Hythe
 236 York, F.M.H., York
 248 True Love & Unity, F.M.H., Brixham
 312 Lion, F.M.H., Whitby
 353 Royal Sussex, The Institute, Winhill
 359 Peace & Har., F.M.H., Southampton
 377 Hope & Charity, F.M.H., Kidderminster
 424 Borough, Masonic Rooms, Gateshead
 455 Perseverance, F.M.H., Kettering
 466 Merit, George, Stamford Baron
 872 Lewis, F.M.H., Whitehaven
 900 St. George, Swan, Tewkesbury
 925 Bedford, F.M.H., Birmingham
 934 Merit, Masons' Arms, Whitefield
 949 Williamson, F.M.H., Monkwearmouth
 986 Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston, Preston
 1030 Egerton, George, Heaton Norris
 1113 Anglesea, F.M.H., Menai Bridge
 1141 Mid-Sussex, Black Horse, Horsham
 1146 De Moulham, Mowden Inst., Swanage
 1170 St. George, F.M.H., Manchester
 1199 Agriculture, Assembly Rooms, Yatton
 1208 Corinthian, Masonic Temple, Dover
 1238 Gooch, Albany, Twickenham
 1255 Dundas, F.M.H., Plymouth
 1443 Salem, F.M.H., Dawlish
 1502 Israel, F.M.H., Liverpool
 1631 St. Andrew, Duke's Head, Gorleston
 1674 Caradoc, F.M.H., Rhyl
 1814 Worsley, Court House, Worsley
 1833 St. Keyna, F.M.H., Keynsham
 1909 Carnarvon, F.M.H., Nottingham
 2049 Ellan Vannin, F.M.H., Douglas
 2050 St. Trinians, F.M.H., Douglas
 2069 Prudence, F.M.H., Leeds
 2074 St. Clair, F.M.H., Landport
 2081 Golden Fleece, F.M.H., Leicester
 2114 Prudence, F.M.H., Liverpool
 2208 Horsa, F.M.H., Bournemouth
 2289 Blundellsands, Ass. Rooms, Gt. Crosby
 2295 Scarisbrick, F.M.H., Southport
 2316 Princes, Deaf & Dumb Inst., Liverpool
 2327 St. Oswin, F.M.H., North Shields
 2340 W. Lanc. Century, F.M.H., Blackpool
 2425 Ecclesburne, White Hart, Duffield
 2482 Duchess of York, Victoria, Manchester
 2557 Temperance, M.H., Newcastle-on-Tyne
 2669 Victoria, F.M.H., Bradford

Tuesday.

- Board of General Purposes, F.M.H., at 5.
 30 United Mariners, Frascati
 95 Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle
 162 Cadogan, Freemasons' Hall
 194 St. Paul, City Terminus Hotel
 435 Salisbury, Freemasons' Hall
 1339 Stockwell, Surrey Masonic Hall
 1695 New Finsbury Park, Holborn Rest.
 2022 Haven, Public Buildings, Ealing
 2045 Wharton, Holborn Restaurant
 2191 Anglo American, Holborn Restaurant
 213 Perseverance, 47 St. Giles St., Norwich
 223 Charity, F.M.H., Plymouth
 384 St. David, F.M.H., Bangor
 402 Royal Sussex, George, Nottingham
 414 Union, F.M.H., Reading
 418 Menturia, F.M.H., Hanley
 432 Abbey, Newdegate Arms, Nuneaton
 468 Light, Great Western, Birmingham
 476 St. Peter, F.M.H., Carmarthen
 551 Yarborough, F.M.H., Ventnor
 560 Vernon, F.M.H., Stourport
 667 Alliance, F.M.H., Liverpool
 707 St. Mary, F.M.H., Bridport
 830 Endeavour, Queen's Arms, Dukinfield
 958 St. Aubin, Masonic Temple, Jersey
 960 Bute, F.M.H., Cardiff
 1006 Tregullow, Masonic Rooms, St. Day
 1028 Royal Alfred, George, Alfreton
 1046 St. Andrew, Bush, Farnham
 1075 St. Maughold, Ramsey, Isle of Man
 1089 De Shurland, Britannia, Sheerness
 1096 Lord Warden, Foresters' Hall, Walmer
 1225 Hindpool, F.M.H., Barrow-in-Furness
 1276 Warren, Seacombe Hotel, Seacombe
 1419 St. Peter & St. Paul, Newport Pagnel

- 1427 Percy, F.M.H., Newcastle-on-Tyne
 1551 Charity, F.M.H., Birmingham
 1570 Prince Arthur, F.M.H., Liverpool
 1621 Castle, Crown, Bridgnorth
 1764 Eleanor Cross, F.M.H., Northampton
 1787 Grenville, F.M.H., Buckingham
 1826 Parthenon, F.M.H., Sutton
 1894 Herschel, F.M.H., Slough
 1903 Pr. Ed. Saxe Weimar, M.H., P'tsmouth
 1941 St. Augustine, Shrewsbury A., Rugeley
 2135 Constance, F.M.H., Consett
 2146 Surbiton, Maple Hall, Surbiton
 2155 Makerfield, Pied Bull, Newton-l-Willows
 2360 Victoria, F.M.H., Southport
 2407 Hicks-Beach, Sub. Rooms, Stroud
 2414 Wychwood, F.M.H., Burford
 2572 Tyldesley, Masonic Rooms, Tyldesley
 2659 Northcote, F.M.H., Exeter
 2681 Queen, Skelmersdale Hall, Liverpool
 2747 St. Michael, F.M.H., Newquay

Wednesday.

- General Committee, Grand Chapter, at 4.
 Board of Benevolence, at 5.
 Grand Stewards, Freemasons' Hall
 7 Royal York of Perseverance, Albion
 169 Temperance, Tower Bridge Hotel
 174 Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern
 190 Oak, Freemasons' Hall
 969 Maybury, Inns of Court Hotel
 1044 Wandsworth, Lavender Hill, S.W.
 1150 Buckingham & Chandos, F.M.H.
 1149 Friars, Ship and Turtle
 1182 Corinthian, George, Cubitt Town
 1571 Leopold, Holborn Restaurant
 1073 Welcome, Cafe Royal
 1681 Londesborough, Cafe Royal
 2266 Cator, Public Hall, Beckenham
 2272 Rve, Holborn Restaurant
 2348 Lombardian, Ship and Turtle
 2409 Woodgrange, Prin. Alice, Forest Gate
 2578 National Artillery, Criterion Restaurant
 2687 Italia, Cafe Monico
 121 Mount Sinai, F.M.H., Penzance
 127 Union, Masonic Temple, Margate
 137 Amity, F.M.H., Poole
 175 East Medina, F.M.H., Ryde
 178 Antiquity, F.M.H., Wigan
 200 Old Globe, F.M.H., Scarborough
 210 Duke of Athol, Denton, nr. Manchester
 221 St. John, F.M.H., Bolton
 243 Loyalty, Masonic Temple, Guernsey
 246 Royal Union, F.M.H., Cheltenham
 261 Unanimity & Sincerity, M.H., Taunton
 280 Worcester, Masonic Cham., Worcester
 285 Love & Honour, M.H., Shepton Mallet
 311 South Saxon, F.M.H., Lewes
 325 St. John, F.M.H., Salford
 342 Royal Sussex, F.M.H., Landport
 376 Perfect Friendship, F.M.H., Ipswich
 451 Sutherland, Town Hall, Burslem
 537 Zetland, Masonic Chambers, Birkenhead
 580 Harmony, Wheatheaf Inn, Ormskirk
 581 Faith, Bradford, Manchester
 592 Cotteswold, King's Head, Cirencester
 610 Colston, F.M.H., Bristol
 662 Dartmouth, F.M.H., West Bromwich
 683 Isca, F.M.H., Newport, Mon.
 726 Staffordshire Knot, Swan, Stafford
 823 Everton, F.M.H., Liverpool
 874 Holmesdale, Tunbridge Wells
 938 Grosvenor, F.M.H., Birmingham
 950 Hesketh, Crown, Fleetwood
 962 Sun & Sector, Ass. Rooms, Workington
 972 St. Augustine, F.M.H., Canterbury
 1019 Sincerity, F.M.H., Wakefield
 1040 Sykes, F.M.H., Driffild
 1086 Walton, F.M.H., Kirkdale
 1114 Joppa, Corn Hall, Fakenham
 1129 St. Chad, Roebuck, Rochdale
 1136 Carew, F.M.H., Torpoint
 1161 De Grey & Ripon, M.H., Manchester
 1179 Rutland, Rutland Hotel, Ilkeston
 1212 Elms, F.M.H., Devonport
 1246 Holte, Victoria, Aston
 1301 Brighthouse, F.M.H., Brighthouse
 1323 Talbot, Masonic Rooms, Swansea
 1334 Norman, F.M.H., Durham
 1337 Anchor, F.M.H., Northallerton
 1353 Duke of Lancaster, F.M.H., Lancaster
 1511 Alexandra, F.M.H., Hornsea
 1634 Starkie, Grant Arms, Ramsbottom
 1638 Brownrigg, Sun, Kingston-on-Thames
 1774 Mellor, Railway, Manchester
 1797 South Down, Downs, Keymer
 1973 Saye and Sele, Mas. Rooms, Belvedere
 1988 Mawddach, F.M.H., Barmouth
 2153 Hope, India Arms, Gosport
 2203 Farnborough & N. Camp, Farnborough
 2258 W.D. United Ser., M.H., E. Stonehouse
 2260 Ridley, F.M.H., Newcastle-on-Tyne

- 2330 St. Lawrence, Masonic Rooms, Pudsey
 2412 Ashfield, Town Hall, Sutton-in-Ashfield
 2434 Anderida, Queen, Eastbourne
 2514 City, Alexandra, Liverpool
 2525 Thurston, Ship Inn, Coniston
 2587 Radnor, F.M.H., Folkestone
 2688 Wythenshawe, Tatton A., Northenden
 2702 Hollingsworth, F.M.H., Oldham
 2725 Maristowe, Yelverton Hotel, Yelverton
 2793 Assheton-Egerton, Altrincham

Thursday.

- House Com., R.M.I.G., Battersea, 4.30.
 6 Friendship, Criterion Restaurant
 23 Globe, Freemasons' Hall
 55 Constitutional, City Terminus Hotel
 63 St. Mary, Freemasons' Hall
 170 Manchester, Anderton's Hotel
 657 Canonbury, Holborn Restaurant
 733 Westbourne, Holborn Restaurant
 1320 Blackheath, Bridge House Hotel
 1475 Peckham, Surrey Masonic Hall
 1598 Ley Spring, Anderton's Hotel
 1613 Cripplegate, Albion
 1716 All Saints, 117 High Street, Poplar
 1901 Selwyn, Montpelier, Peckham
 2551 Clissold, Great Eastern Hotel
 2612 Navy, Hotel Cecil
 42 Relief, Grey Mare, Bury, Lanc.
 56 Howard of Brotherly Love, Littleh'pton
 57 Humber, F.M.H., Hull
 98 St. Martin, Town Hall, Burslem
 100 Friendship, Great Yarmouth
 203 Ancient Union, F.M.H., Liverpool
 245 Mechanics, Masonic Temple, Jersey
 267 Unity, Macclesfield A., Macclesfield
 268 Union, Queen's A., Ashton-under-Lyne
 286 Samaritan, Green Man, Bacup
 322 Peace, Bulkeley Arms, Stockport
 343 Concord, Bull and Royal, Preston
 345 Perseverance, Old Bull, Blackburn
 350 Charity, Railway, Bolton
 363 Keystone, Red Lion, Whitworth
 367 Probity & Freedom, F.M.H., Rochdale
 394 Southampton, F.M.H., Southampton
 425 Cestrian, F.M.H., Chester
 430 Fidelity, Pitt & Nelson, Ashton-u-Lyne
 489 Benevolence, F.M.H., Bideford
 523 John of Gaunt, F.M.H., Leicester
 591 Buckingham, F.M.H., Aylesbury
 600 Harmony, F.M.H., Bradford
 605 Combermere, Music Hall, Birkenhead
 659 Blagdon, F.M.H., Blyth
 663 Wiltshire Fidelity, F.M.H., Devizes
 758 Ellesmere, F.M.H., Runcorn
 802 Renose, F.M.H., Derby
 833 Afan, F.M.H., Aberavon
 939 Pelham, F.M.H., Workop
 940 Philanthropy, F.M.H., Stockton
 1000 Priory, Middleton, Southend
 1011 Richmond, Old Boar, Manchester
 1037 Portland, F.M.H., Portland
 1042 Excelsior, F.M.H., Leeds
 1184 Abbey, F.M.H., Battle
 1299 Pembroke, Bear's Paw, Liverpool
 1332 Unity, F.M.H., Crediton
 1386 St. Hugh, F.M.H., Lincoln
 1393 Hamer, F.M.H., Liverpool
 1432 Fitz-Alan, Wynnstay Arms, Oswestry
 1459 Ashbury, Justice Birch, West Gorton
 1464 Erasmus Wilson, Falcon, Gravesend
 1470 Chiltern, Old Sugar Loaf, Dunstable
 1534 Concord, District Council, Prestwich
 1562 Homfray, F.M.H., Risca
 1776 Landport, F.M.H., Landport
 1782 Machin, F.M.H., Birmingham
 1821 Atlingworth, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 1869 Sandown, F.M.H., Sandown
 1872 St. Margaret, Maple Hall, Surbiton
 1887 St. Hilda, Lamb, Wallingford
 1893 Lumley, Estate Office, Skegness
 2226 St. David, Local Board, Rhymney
 2268 Hallamshire, F.M.H., Sheffield
 2302 St. Mary, Assembly Rooms, Southwell
 2304 Stour, Bank Street Hall, Ashford
 2325 Rose of Lancaster, F.M.H., Southport
 2341 Clemency, F.M.H., Oldham
 2352 Universities, F.M.H., Durham
 2390 Exmoor, Public Hall, Minehead
 2495 Goodacre, F.M.H., Bootle
 2555 England's Centre, Weedon
 2570 Prince Llewellyn, Mas. Temple, Cardiff
 2598 St. Sampson, Commercial, Guernsey
 2703 Wallsend, F.M.H., Wallsend
 2707 Weald, Lion and Lamb, Brentwood
 2711 Imperial, Sefton Park, Liverpool
 2745 Ambleside, Queen's, Ambleside

Friday.

- 975 Rose of Denmark, Horns, Kennington
 1962 London Rifle Brigade, Anderton's H.

2157 St. Mark's College, Holborn Rest.
 152 Virtue, F.M.H., Manchester
 155 perseverance, F.M.H., Liverpool
 271 Royal Clarence, Pavilion, Brighton
 347 Noah's Ark, Waggon & Horses, Tipton
 541 De Loraine, F.M.H., Newcastle-on-T.
 599 Cherwell, F.M.H., Banbury
 904 Phoenix, Masonic Bldgs., Rotherham
 993 Alexandra, Midland, Levenshulme
 1108 Royal Wharfedale, Mas. Rooms, Otley
 1311 Zetland, F.M.H., Leeds
 1330 St. Peter, Swans, Market Harborough
 1357 Cope, Brookland's, Sale
 1389 Fenwick, F.M.H., Sunderland

1626 Hotspur, Newcastle-on-Tyne
 1773 Albert Victor, Town Hall, Pendleton
 1794 De Vere, F.M.H., Nottingham
 2003 St. Osyth Priory, Clacton-on-Sea
 2231 Talbot, Council Offices, Old Trafford
 2234 Cowper and Newton, F.M.H., Olney
 2237 Palatine, Albion, Manchester
 2610 Beresford Peirse, Assem. R., Bedale
 2644 Chaloner, F.M.H., Melksham
 2657 Liscard, Concert Hall, Liscard
 2695 Doric, F.M.H., Harrogate

Saturday.

715 Panmure, City Terminus Hotel

1185 Lewis, Holborn Restaurant
 1364 Earl of Zetland, Ship and Turtle
 1641 Crichton, Frascati
 2041 West Kent Volunteers, M.H. Plumstead
 2773 Assistance, Freemasons' Hall
 811 Yarborough, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 1126 Oakwood, Sale Hotel, Sale
 1194 Villiers, Mitre, Hampton Court
 1897 Citadel, Railway Hotel, Harrow Station
 2035 Beaumont, F.M.H., Kirkburton
 2508 Th. Ralling, Roebuck, Buckhurst Hill
 2671 Victoria, F.M.H., Windsor
 2717 Albert Lucking, M.H., Southend-o-Sea

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. We do not sanction anyone attending Lodge meetings as our representative without a specific invitation.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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Royal Standard Lodge, No. 1298.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. JOHN RICHARD CUTHBERTSON.

THE annual festival of this Lodge, which has now entered upon its thirty-third year, was celebrated with great success on Wednesday, 3rd inst., at the Holborn Restaurant. In spite of the wretched weather there was a full attendance of members, and a goodly array of visitors, who attended to take part in the interesting proceedings.

Bro. H. A. Badman W.M. opened the Lodge soon after six o'clock, being assisted by his Officers, and supported by the following Brethren:—G. S. Bigley P.M., E. E. Streat P.M., H. E. Cooper P.M., W. Haynes Dunn P.M. P.G.S. of Wks. Herts., J. E. Carver P.M., S. H. Pearsall P.M. Secretary, J. A. Stone P.M., F. Calmady Richardson P.M., George S. Elliott P.P.G.D.C. Herts., J. J. Lamigeon P.P.G.D.C. Surrey, George Cuthbertson (father of the W.M.-elect), Harry Townsend P.M. 2265, John Billson W.M. 1385, W. F. Sanger S.W. 2162, S. Roper 1839, A. D. Holmes 410, William Whitehouse 2551, H. Hill P.M. 1305, T. R. Vernon 1539, M. R. Moore 1545, Orlton Cooper P.M. 211, W. Powell, H. Greenwood, A. J. Brown, J. D. Woodroffe, E. McRae, F. H. Lyon, E. K. Moore.

After the minutes had been read and confirmed, Bro. Badman read a letter from Bro. Edward Letchworth G.S., written by command of the King, thanking the Lodge for the expression of their sympathy forwarded at their last meeting. The letter was ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Lodge.

Bros. J. R. Arnold and Charles Cox presented the Auditors' Report, which showed that the Lodge was in easy financial circumstances, though there was a large amount of subscriptions remaining in arrears. In this connection it is interesting to bear in mind the opinion of our present Grand Master, who, when presiding as the Provincial Grand Master of Sussex, at Lewes, a few years ago spoke very strongly on this matter and recommended a strict observance of the regulations. On that occasion the Duke of Connaught said he wished he could have heard that there were no arrears of subscriptions. It was not kind to a Brother who, from circumstances, was unable to pay, to keep him on the books, thus increasing his indebtedness. He should be invited to resign at once, if he could not pay. His arrears would then be small, and could be paid at any time to clear himself, and thus enable him to rejoin the Lodge if approved by the Brethren. With regard to those who could pay but would not, they did not deserve any sympathy; they should be warned, and, if necessary, after due formalities, excluded from the Lodge. The subject is an interesting one, and with a Brother at our head who has thus shown a personal interest in it there may be the possibility of inaugurating measures likely to lead to improvement. The first thing necessary is to devise some method of allowing members to rejoin a Lodge at a nominal fee, if approved by the present members, if they have been compelled by adverse circumstances to adopt the suggestion of the present Grand Master—that of resigning when unforeseen circumstances rendered it necessary or desirable to do so.

The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Badman declared all Offices vacant, and appointed Bros. H. E. Cooper S.W., E. E. Streat J.W., J. E. Carver D.C. to assist him. Bro. John Richard Cuthbertson W.M.-elect was duly presented, and gave his assent to the ancient charges and regulations. A Board of Installed Masters was afterwards formed, and the new Master was installed with the usual ceremony.

Upon the return of the Brethren Bro. Cuthbertson was regularly proclaimed and saluted, and the Warrant of the Lodge was entrusted to his keeping. The following Officers were invested:—A. J. Ward S.W., J. E. Rugg J.W., W. Haynes Dunn Treasurer, S. H. Pearsall Secretary, H. Langridge S.D., A. E. Nicholson J.D., J. Murphy I.G., J. E. Carver D.C., John K. Fuller A.D.C., J. R. Arnold, Chas. Cox, and John McLennan Stewards, and T. Edmonds Tyler. The addresses were admirably delivered by Bro. Badman, who received the approbation of the Brethren.

The resignation of a member was accepted with regret, and there being no further business, the visitors tendered their good wishes, the Lodge was closed, and the meeting adjourned.

The installation banquet was held in the Gordon Room of the establishment, and was worthy the reputation of this popular house.

The menu was printed on white satin, with an elegant design woven into it, and will form a pretty souvenir of the auspicious occasion.

The customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted from the chair, and received by the company with enthusiasm.

Bro. Badman I.P.M. proposed the health of his successor, saying he had had the opportunity of working with Bro. Cuthbertson both as an assistant and as a principal Officer, and could therefore bear testimony to his capacity for his present position. He had filled every Office in the Lodge, so that now he had reached the chair he was fully qualified to undertake and discharge the duties.

Bro. Cuthbertson, in reply, thanked the Brethren for their kind reception, and hoped with the assistance of his Officers to carry out the work to their satisfaction.

In proposing the Installing Master the W.M. said he could not express too highly his pleasure at the beautiful ceremony performed that day by Bro. Badman. Throughout his year of Office he had set them a pattern of excellence which they would all try to emulate. It now became his privilege to present him with the Lodge jewel that had been voted by the members, to mark their appreciation of his services as Master of the Lodge, and in pinning it to his breast he hoped he would long live to wear and enjoy it.

Bro. Badman returned thanks, saying he had passed through a very pleasant, happy and fairly prosperous year of Office, and he took that opportunity of thanking his Officers and Past Masters for the help and encouragement they had extended towards him. He was proud to be the recipient of the jewel, which he should always regard with pleasure. To the junior members of the Lodge he would direct attention that there was a capital Lodge of Instruction held on Fridays, at the Castle Hotel, Holloway Road, where he would be very pleased to welcome them.

Bro. George Cuthbertson, father of the Master, returned thanks for the Visitors, and in an interesting speech said he was highly delighted to be present on that auspicious occasion. He was very proud of his son, and was glad to see him as Master of the Lodge. He knew that he had given great attention to the work, and hoped he would be a credit and honour to the Lodge.

Bro. G. S. Elliott also replied, and said he was in a similar position to the previous speaker "only more so." His, Bro. Elliott's, father was present when he was placed in the chair of his Lodge, and presently he hoped to be present at the installation of his son, whom he had initiated into Freemasonry. The pleasant proceedings were brought to a close at a late hour by the customary remembrance of all distressed Masons.

An agreeable programme of music interspersed the speeches, and tended greatly to enhance the pleasure of the evening. Among the artistes who appeared were Miss Kate Hullett, Miss Jessie Potter, Bros. Henry Laneridge, Fredric H. Lyon (violin), Ernest Ruston, and Alfred E. Nicholson.

INSTRUCTION.

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Selwyn Lodge, No. 1901.

ON Friday, 20th ult., the annual supper of this Lodge of Instruction was held at the Montpelier Hotel, Choumert Road, Peckham, and it proved to be unusually successful and enjoyable, upwards of sixty Brethren being present.

The toasts of the King and the Craft, and the Queen and members of the Royal Family, were duly honoured.

Bro. John Lightfoot P.M. D.C. 1901 proposed the toast of the Selwyn Lodge of Instruction, and testified to the thoroughness of the work carried on by the Preceptor Bro. J. W. Wimble P.M. and Secretary 1901. He said the Lodge had laid the foundation of many most successful Freemasons, who now occupied prominent positions in the Craft, and complimented the Secretary Bro. Jos. S. Pointon W.M. 1901 and P.M. 1861 on the manner in which he performed his duties; he was entitled to the highest praise.

The Secretary, in the course of his reply, said he was deeply grateful for the manner in which the toast had been proposed and the enthusiastic way in which it was received. He hoped he might continue to have the cordial co-operation of the Brethren, and he was certain that in that case the other Officers, as well as himself, would find the greatest pleasure in continuing the work of conducting the Lodge.

Bro. Channon P.M. 1601 proposed the toast of the Preceptor. He said the duties were always performed in a most masterly manner and with scrupulous care and kindness. Bro. Wimble had proved himself a true friend and Brother. His magnanimous character had endeared him to every member of the Lodge, and many hundreds had benefitted and were benefitting by his careful instruction.

Bro. Wimble, in his reply, expressed gratification that his work met with approval, and hoped to continue it as long as his health and strength permitted.

Bro. J. Ellinger P.M. next proposed the toast of the Officers of

the Selwyn Lodge of Instruction. The toast being duly honoured it was responded to by Bros. J. W. Wimble P.M., Channon P.M., F. E. Pow P.M., J. S. Pointon P.M. and Boulton.

The Mother Lodge was proposed by the Preceptor, Bros. J. S. Pointon P.M., Dr. R. Weddall Thomas P.M., A. H. Fraser P.M., John Lightfoot P.M., and F. E. Pow P.M. responding.

Bro. Ramsden replied to the toast of the Visitors.

The toast of Kindred Lodges of Instruction was proposed by the Preceptor, who made special reference to the great assistance that had been rendered by neighbouring Lodges of Instruction in the case of a Brother for whom they were endeavouring to get the benefit of one of the Masonic Charities. He referred very kindly to Bro. C. W. Mayo P.M. 1686 Secretary 1541, &c., Preceptor of the Vitruvian Lodge of Instruction, as well as to the Secretary Bro. Reynolds, both of whom had given valuable assistance. The toast was responded to by Bros. William H. Bale P.M., Henry Cornfield W.M., Reynolds, and W. T. Greenland.

Interspersed with the toasts an excellent programme of music was given under the direction of Bro. Blewett Faull. Bro. H. J. White sang a song "In the pale moonlight." Bro. Debonnaire sang beautifully "The island of dreams," and afterwards as an encore "O promise me." Miss Eugenie Faull sang very artistically Ardit's "Il bacio." Two clarionette solos were given by Bro. M. Tuck. Bro. Greenaway related some reminiscences of a humorous character. Bro. Frank Jennings P.M. sang the "Char-a-bang," and Bro. W. M. Cooper "The Noah's ark," and other Brethren contributed to the entertainment during the evening.

Among those who were present were: Bros. J. Ellinger P.M. and Secretary 2222, A. H. Fraser P.M. 1901, Channon P.M. 1901, Frances P.M., William H. Bale P.M. and Treasurer 87, Spauld P.M., Wint P.M., J. H. Cooper W.M. 1475, F. E. Pow P.M. 1901, Frank Jennings P.M. 73, Henry Cornfield W.M. 1320 P.M. 1922, H. C. Turner P.M. 1662, Dr. R. Weddall Thomas I.P.M., J. W. Wimble P.M. 1 Preceptor, and Jos. S. Pointon P.M. 1861 Secretary, Boulton Assistant Secretary, Blewett Faull Organist, also Bros. Woodgate, E. Pow, Courtwright, Tuck, Hart, Wyburg, Gurney, Wood, W. T. Greenland Secretary 1861, Merrill, Hayward, Thomas Tufts, A. S. Jennings, Frank Rayden, Ramsden, Reynolds, Fitch, Debonnaire, Stevens, Day, Underdown, Holmes, Potter, W. J. White, H. P. White, Maybaum, Bates, Moseley, Cutts, Abbis, Butcher, Wearey, Philip, and Dealey.

Skelmersdale Lodge, No. 1658.

THE regular weekly meeting was held on Thursday, at the magnificent Masonic Rooms of Bro. John Shaw, the Duke of Clarence, Vauxhall Street, Kennington, S.E., those present including Bros. J. C. Davies W.M., J. Shaw S.W., W. R. Hummerston J.W., C. Plant P.M. Preceptor, B. Cohen Sec., J. R. Papworth S.D., J. Wynman J.D., F. Bridge I.G., and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. John Down acting as candidate. The ceremony was rendered without the slightest hitch, Bro. B. Cohen giving the ancient charge. By desire of the W.M. Bro. Plant, with the assistance of the Brethren, worked the second section of the lecture.

Bro. John Down, who was initiated at the Mother Lodge at the last meeting, was introduced and accepted as a member, which compliment was acknowledged.

Bro. John Shaw was unanimously elected W.M. for Thursday next, and his perfect working being well known, we expect to see another good meeting. We hope the good example shown by Bro. J. Down will be followed by other young members of the Craft.

PROVINCIAL.

Lodge of Sympathy, No. 483.

THE Brethren of this Lodge assembled on Wednesday, at the Royal Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, for one of the regular meetings. The agenda, paper showed work in the three degrees, and a pleasurable evening was anticipated. The Lodge was opened by Bro. R. J. Beamish in the absence of Bro. W. Spencer Bowen W.M., and he was supported by Bros. A. J. Walklin as I.P.M., H. Foras P.M. acting S.W., J. A. Gillett J.W., A. E. Lockhart Secretary, J. A. Axcell S.D., Percy Bowen J.D., T. A. Mummery I.G., J. Hewison D.C., G. A. Grant A.D.C., Robert Matthews Organist, Joseph Davis W.M. 77, F. Pettingale, David Mulley, E. J. Allen, H. E. Turner, J. A. Merchant, A. Tulk, T. Kemp, W. F. Buckland, R. L. Morris, C. W. Whiddett, T. C. Davis, S. Blandford, L. Drake, R. W. Letten, and several others.

The Lodge having been regularly opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's report was presented, which showed the flourishing financial condition of the Lodge.

Bros. W. C. Puddy and W. Holland answered the usual questions leading to the second degree and were subsequently passed to the rank of Fellow Craft.

Bros. G. A. Pattison, R. Manning, W. G. Beard, and A. G. Pattison proved their proficiency as Craftsmen.

The work thus far was conducted by Bro. Beamish in his customary excellent manner. Bro. Spencer Bowen, who had been detained by business, now assumed the chair, and opened the Lodge in the third degree. Bros. G. Pattison, Manning, Beard, and A. Pattison were admitted, and were raised to the sublime degree, and invested as Master Masons. The ceremony was admirably rendered by Bro. Spencer Bowen, who gave the whole of the traditional history, and the explanation of the working tools. The candidate for initiation did not attend.

The W.M. made an appeal to the Brethren for support at the

approaching Festival of the Girls School, in order to achieve a record in the matter of subscriptions upon the occasion of the Provincial Grand Master Earl Amherst Pro Grand Master kindly presiding.

Two candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and there being no further business the closing hymn was sung, and the Brethren adjourned to dinner.

Lodge of Faith, No. 581.

THE regular meeting was held at the Bradford Hotel, Mill Street, Manchester, on Wednesday, 20th ult., Bro. Samuel Andrew Worshipful Master, there being an attendance of about forty members and visitors.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, Messrs. Charles Johnson, Droydsden, and Harry Dootson, Fairfield, were successfully balloted for and initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry. These ceremonies were followed by the raising of Bros. James Littlewood and Geo. Richard Drewery to the sublime degree of M.M.

Many important matters were afterwards discussed and voted upon, amongst others being a proposition by Bro. William Jones P.M. Charity Representative, "that twenty guineas be granted to the East Lancashire Starkie Memorial Fund," which amount was generously accorded by the Brethren. The usual festive board followed.

Concord Lodge, No. 1534.

AT the conclusion of the ordinary business of the above Lodge, held in the Local Board Offices, Prestwich, on Thursday, 21st ult., the Brethren betook themselves to the Liberal Club adjoining, where friends of both sexes awaited them. Here, under the presidency of Bro. Geo. H. Nield Worshipful Master a very harmonious evening was spent, the contributaries being Bros. Alfred Boyd Organist 1030, and Edward Roberts P.M. P.G.Tr., with humorous sketches; John Wardle P.M. and Southan, who furnished recitations; Walter Hallard, Wade, Bruce, Madame Archer, and Miss Bruschmeit, whose songs were much appreciated; a pleasant variant being the piano and violin solo by Miss Kershaw and Bro. Sedgwick.

Loyal and Masonic toasts were introduced, that of the Ladies being proposed by Bro. John W. Thompson P.M. P.P.G.S.B., and responded to by Bro. John Wardle P.M. The attendance was between fifty and sixty.

ROYAL ARCH.

Ranelagh Chapter, No. 834.

A WELL attended meeting of this old established Chapter took place at the Criterion Restaurant, on Thursday, 28th ult.

The M.E.Z. Comp. Arthur Williams was supported by Comps. J. Worth as H., W. Hillier P.Z. as J., H. P. Gilbert P.Z. Treas., W. J. Coplestone P.Z. Scribe E., F. Craggs Scibe N., J. Franklin P.Sej. Among the Visitors were Comps. C. G. Hatt P.Z., John H. Cumming and J. Langdon. Comps. Maurice Spiegel P.Z. and Purdue P.Z. were also present.

We were pleased to notice that the Brethren who had been accepted as exaltees were present in excellent time. They were Bros. H. G. Cox, F. Stovold, J. G. Stovold, J. E. Humphreys, all members of the Earls Court Lodge, No. 2765, and H. J. West, of the Woodgrange Lodge, No. 2409. These Brethren were all proposed by Comp. Worth and seconded by the M.E.Z.

After the usual formalities the Brethren were admitted, and the ceremony of exaltation was proceeded with. We may remark that through our lengthened experience it has never been our lot to hear the ritual better rendered than it was by Comp. Arthur Williams. His Officers were equally well acquainted with their duties.

The Companions afterwards dined together, and after the Loyal toasts had been honoured, Comp. Purdue proposed the health of the M.E.Z.

Comp. Williams, in reply, stated how pleased he was to see the flourishing condition the Chapter had risen to, both numerically and financially, and assured those present that he would do everything in his power to hand it over in a like state to his successor.

He gave the toast of the exaltees, stating the gratification he felt at having to exalt five Brethren, all proposed by Comp. Worth, who had done so much for the benefit of the Ranelagh Chapter. He advised those whom he had exalted that evening to attend as often as possible, and make themselves well acquainted with the beautiful teachings of the Royal Arch degree. All the exaltees responded.

The Officers' toast was received with enthusiasm, and the replies called forth great applause.

There are Concerts—and Concerts. We have been present at entertainments which most certainly did not deserve their name, and others which afforded most pleasurable enjoyment; and no doubt many of our friends have had similar experiences. We never remember seeing a more varied and entertaining programme than that arranged by Bro. Thos. Powell for his annual concert given at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Monday, 25th ult., when no less than fifty artistes were included in the list, and a very large proportion of them attended and delighted the audience. The Great Hall of the Hotel was full, and the Concert proceeded without a hitch from 7 to 11 p.m. Mr. Alfred Moore was an excellent Chairman, and in a short speech made some very complimentary references to the beneficiaries, who suitably replied. Everyone seemed thoroughly pleased, and encores were numerous. The artistes included some of the best known performers of the day, and they indeed worked hard to secure the success of the entertainment. Bro. Powell should be addressed at 86 Waller Road, New Cross, in reference to engagements.