

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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FESTIVAL OF THE GIRLS SCHOOL.

THE one hundred and thirteenth Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, to be celebrated on Wednesday next, under the presidency of the Pro Grand Master of England the Earl Amherst, is looked forward to with considerable interest in different parts of the kingdom, but more especially so in Kent, where his lordship has been beloved and respected for many years as Masonic ruler of the Province; and we anticipate the Brethren under Earl Amherst's rule there will particularly distinguish themselves as a proof of loyalty and esteem for their worthy chief.

The task Earl Amherst has set himself, of advocating the claims of one of the Masonic Institutions, is not a new one to his lordship, and we can only hope that the result of his previous efforts in this direction may not only be equalled on the present occasion, but that such a total may be collected as will convince his lordship that he is more popular than ever, and that the love of the Craft for the Institutions of the Order is even stronger than it has shown itself to be in years gone by. We think we are justified in saying such a result is probable, in view of the number of Stewards working in behalf of the Festival, the only matter for regret in this connection being the absence of a really representative Board of Metropolitan representatives, little more than a fourth of the London Lodges being represented.

The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls is doing a good work, and the efforts of the Stewards of the year, and others working in connection with the coming celebration, may well be directed toward the continuance and even the extension of that work. There are at the present time 264 girls being educated, clothed and maintained by the Institution, and that too in such a manner as to fully qualify them for any position they may rise to in years to come. While rigid economy is practised on every side nothing is neglected likely to add to the comfort or improvement of the children, for whose future welfare the greatest concern is evinced by those who have the management of the Institution; indeed, the only complaints of which even whispers have been heard in recent years, is as to whether the work is not being done "too well."

The Craft has answered this question in the past, by yearly subscribing the funds necessary to carry on the work, and even to allow of a huge surplus being invested; and great as are the needs of the Charity for the coming year, we have not the least doubt but that the outcome of Wednesday's Festival will be such as to allow of the work being continued, with the same high standard of excellence and, it may be, permit of a substantial addition being made to the invested capital of the Institution.

While on the subject of this accumulation we should like to ask the supporters of the Charity what good they imagine is likely to accrue if this surplus is allowed to go on increasing year by year as it has done in the last decade? We do not wish to ignore the possibilities of the proverbial "rainy day" coming to upset the affairs of this Charity, as it has done other equally good Institutions; but there is surely a limit even to prudence and forethought, when there are so many worthy objects around us on which to spend some of the

annual surplus. We think a sort of "sliding scale" arrangement might be introduced, providing for a half, or some other proportion, of each year's surplus income being spent on outside Scholarships, or in some equally advantageous manner; or even better still, commence the erection of a Junior or Senior School, on some eligible outside site, and so arrange for the permanent enlargement of the work of the Institution, without increasing the buildings at Chapham Junction, a course which we believe is regarded as being most undesirable, if not even impracticable in view of the crowded state of the locality.

The Province of Kent will, without a doubt, give a very good account of itself next Wednesday; and as a result of the coming Festival we shall not be at all surprised if the Committee find themselves in possession of a very handsome sum over and above what will be required for the year's work of the Institution. Could there be any better recognition of such a contingency than by the purchase of a Kentish estate—doubtless there are many most desirable sites which might be acquired—as the first step towards the removal of the School from London, a necessity which is becoming more and more marked year by year. But until the change is really found to be necessary the secondary School we have just referred to should alone be proceeded with.

THE annual visit of Stewards to the Institution, and distribution of prizes to the successful pupils, will take place on Monday, the proceedings commencing at 4 o'clock, with the singing of the National Anthem, after which there will be the usual displays of calisthenics and marching, part songs and pianoforte selections by the pupils, followed by the distribution of prizes by the Countess Amherst. Tea and refreshments will be served at 5 o'clock, after which visitors will have an opportunity of inspecting the Institution. At 6 o'clock there will be a musical selection, the whole concluding with the singing of the National Anthem, at 7 o'clock.

DURHAM.

A LARGELY attended meeting of the Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Sunderland Lodges has just been held, to consider the arrangements for the visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham to Sunderland in September. Bro. J. D. Todd was voted to the chair.

It was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Bro. J. C. Moor, seconded by Bro. E. G. Watson:—"That the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of the several Lodges meeting in Sunderland, having learnt with much satisfaction that Lord Barnard Provincial Grand Master-designate has expressed a desire to hold his first Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in Sunderland, hereby assures his lordship that every effort will be made to give his lordship and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge a fitting reception."

It was also agreed, on the motion of Bro. T. James, seconded by Bro. D. D. Smith, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Lord Barnard, and to the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. R. Hudson.

It was agreed, on the motion of Bro. H. T. Halfpenny, seconded by Bro. F. Forster, that the Mayor (Bro. J. G. Kirtley) be asked to take the Chairmanship of the General Committee, consisting of the Masters, Wardens, and Past

Masters of the Lodges in the town. His worship has consented to accept the Chairmanship, and will do his utmost to make the visit successful.

The following Officers were also appointed:—Vice-chairman, Bro. J. D. Todd; Secretaries, Bros. E. J. Willis and T. Harrison; Treasurer, Bro. Richard Todd. Sub-committees were also appointed. Brother Thos. Robinson P.P.S.G.D. represents the Provincial Grand Secretary on the Committee.

It was also agreed that a suitable memento of the event, in the form of an illuminated address in album form be presented to Lord Barnard on the occasion of his visit, this matter being placed in the hands of Bro. T. Robinson P.M.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

IT seems peculiarly fitting that the first Provincial Grand Lodge of Herefordshire to be held in the reign of King Edward VII., as Protector of the Craft, should, in the rotation of anniversaries, visit Leominster, in order to take place under the banner of the Royal Edward Lodge, because it is the memory of one of his Majesty's predecessors of ancient renown which is thus perpetuated in the local title. Interesting accounts of the Lodge and its possessions have already been published; suffice it to say, that Bro. J. B. Dowding Worshipful Master upheld the dignity of the Lodge and of the Craft generally in right royal manner on Monday, 22nd ult., in his reception of those who wear the purple. Although the Lodge is at present, we believe, not by any means the largest in the Province—but it would not be surprising to find it so very soon under its new Master—the assembly on Monday probably ranks among the biggest numerically of the last few years, the total being upwards of seventy. It was certainly one of the most enjoyable gatherings in the history of the Provincial Lodge, the Officers of the Royal Edward, as if put on their mettle, having made such arrangements as will furnish some of the happiest recollections of a life-time. The Town Hall was engaged and adapted for the occasion, the large plain room, in which Judge Lea and the magistrates ordinarily sit to adjudicate, being transformed into a splendid Grand Lodge by the Tyler of the Royal Edward Brother W. Baxter, with the proper Masonic furniture, and a profusion of banners and other decorative material; while Bro. W. Bradford, mine host at the Royal Oak Hotel, not only arranged the catering in first-class style, but induced several of his old Masonic friends in the musical world to come down from Westminster Abbey and other places to assist him in what is commonly called the harmony. Inasmuch as Leominster, and the Masonic Lodge especially, is rich in musical men, what with them and the visiting Brethren, the glorious old Masonic songs, as well as modern compositions, were heard to perfection. All this reflected honour on the W.M. and his circle of Officers. The only cause for regret was the inability of the Grand Master of the Province Lord Glanusk to be present. He had fully intended presiding, as usual, but late on the morning of Monday a telegram arrived saying that his medical adviser had ordered him south to the sea owing to the state of his health. However, Bro. H. C. Beddoe Deputy Provincial Grand Master proved an ideal substitute, his wide experience and spirited geniality ensuring a smooth and pleasant continuance of the programme.

After lunch at the Royal Oak Hotel, the Brethren proceeded to the Town Hall where, after formalities, the reports of the Lodges in the Province were handed in, and indicated a decided increase in the membership and a satisfactory financial condition.

Bro. W. W. Robinson, of Hereford, who had undertaken the Office of Secretary of the Herefordshire Masonic Charity Association on the retirement of Bro. T. Smith two years ago, presented his report in conformity with bye-law 20, pointing out that the individual subscription of a guinea a year for five years, or of several individual guinea subscriptions, constituted desirable amalgamations for using the votes. His report was as follows:—"Since this Association was formed, in August 1878, it has collected and remitted to the Masonic Institutions the following sums: To the Boys School, £504, to the Girls School £294, to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (male fund) £173 5s, (female fund) £152 5s, total £1,123 10s. The Committee beg to remark that, as the Province of Herefordshire, through its successful candidates, has so largely benefitted by the funds of the

Masonic Institutions, it ought to subscribe more to those funds than it has hitherto done. In conclusion, the Committee have much pleasure in stating that this Association for the purpose of using the votes, has, by the kind permission of the Provincial Grand Master, been amalgamated with the Midland Masonic Provinces Association, which comprises Staffordshire, Shropshire, North Wales, and Herefordshire; also that the D.P.G.M. Brother H. C. Beddoe has consented to act as one of the Committee, together with the Hon. Secretary of this Association, Bro. W. W. Robinson P.Prov. S.G.D. It was added that the Midland Masonic Provinces Association had elected Bros. Beddoe and Robinson to represent Herefordshire on their Committee.

Still another very useful subsidiary organisation appeared in the form of the Herefordshire Local Charity Association, of which the seventh annual report was presented by Bro. Hewett, of Ross. It showed that the amount received during the year 1900 was £150 19s 6d. The payments amounted to £128, so that the balance in hand had been increased during the year by £22 19s 6d. The total amount granted since the formation of the Association had been £558, an average of £80 per annum, while the total receipts had been £893 14s 7d. The Committee trust that the Brethren of the Province will continue the support which they have so generously given since the Association was established, and that it may continue to prosper and to help the needs of those who are really in want of assistance.

The D.P.G.M. said he had not received any notification from Lord Glanusk as to where the next Provincial Grand Lodge would be held. It was usual at this juncture to announce the place, and he assumed that Royal Arrow Lodge came next in rotation, but the Brethren would receive notice in due course.

The D.P.G.M. then appointed and invested the Officers for the ensuing year, as follow:

BRO. Thomas Blinkhorn	...	Senior Warden
A. Cutfield	...	Junior Warden
Rev. Wilfrid Buckle	...	Chaplain
J. E. S. Hewett	...	Treasurer
F. P. Young	...	Registrar
W. R. Stafford	...	Secretary
J. S. Norton	...	Senior Deacon
W. Hampton	...	Junior Deacon
L. U. Wooler	...	Supt. of Works
A. G. Hudson	...	Dir. of Ceremonies
H. H. Parry	...	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
R. Bright	...	Sword Bearer
B. A. Hamer	...	Standard Bearer
Sam Mayor	...	Organist
J. B. Dowding	...	Pursuivant
E. C. Gurney	...	Steward
W. H. Smith	...	Ditto
W. H. Church	...	Ditto
W. H. Powell	...	Ditto
C. A. Stephens	...	Tyler.

After the closing of the Provincial Grand Lodge a banquet was held at the Royal Oak Hotel.—"Hereford Times."

EAST LANCASHIRE.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at Darwen, on Wednesday, 15th inst.

SUSSEX.

THE "West Sussex Gazette" gives the following interesting particulars respecting the new chief of this important Province. The Earl of March comes of a family which has been long identified with the Masonic Fraternity. His grandfather, the fifth Duke of Richmond, was Provincial Grand Master of Sussex from 1823 to 1860. The fourth Duke also held the Office from 1814 to 1819. Another Duke of Richmond was in 1695 appointed Grand Master of England, he then being Master of the Lodge at Chichester; and he had, as Deputy Grand Master, Sir Christopher Wren, who was then engaged in the building of St. Paul's Cathedral. Lord March's Masonic career began in 1877, when he was initiated in the Lodge of Union, No. 38, at Chichester. Five years later he was Worshipful Master of this Lodge and also Senior Grand Warden of England. His brothers, Lords Algernon and Walter Gordon-Lennox, have also been Masters of the Lodge at Chichester. Lord March has also been First Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter in the same city.

MARK MASONRY.

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NORTHUMBERLAND and DURHAM.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge has been convened by Brother Canon Tristram Provincial Grand Mark Master, to be held in the Central Masonic Hall, Newcastle, on the 16th inst., for the Consecration of two Mark Lodges for which Charters were recently granted.

The new Lodges are the Hartford, No. 546, which will hold its meetings in the Masonic Hall, Bedlington, and the Blagdon, No. 547, which will be held in the Masonic Hall, Beaconsfield Street, Blyth. The ceremony of Consecration will be performed by the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master the Earl of Euston, assisted by Bro. C. F. Matier P.G.W. Grand Secretary, and other Grand Officers who have consented to visit the Provincial Grand Lodge on this interesting occasion.

The first principal Officers of the Hartford Lodge are Bros. Augustus E. Burdon Worshipful Master, Robt. Weddell Senior Warden, and James Treble junior Warden; and of the Blagdon Lodge Bros. Adam Dodds Worshipful Master, John Tweedy Senior Warden, and Edward Forster Junior Warden.

Amongst the Founders of the Blagdon Lodge are the names of many well-known Mark Masons, including Viscount Ridley Past Grand Warden of England. At the close of the Consecration ceremony a banquet will be held in the same Hall.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masters will shortly be held at Sunderland, under the banner of the Union Lodge, No. 124. The local Brethren are making arrangements to accord a fitting entertainment on the occasion.

FREEMASONS IN ROME.

THE Freemasons have moved their quarters to the Giustiniani Palace from the Borghese. The latter was built some years ago by the Borghese Pope, and had always been the centre for rigid Catholicism. Then the family fell on evil days, and the palace passed into the hands of creditors, who rented the "piano nobile" to the Freemasons. Protest was vain, and the Masons remained until the Borgheses, by a rich marriage, regained their own. The Giustiniani Palace was built in 1580, in part with stones from Nero's bath. In 1170 an epidemic broke out in the city, and the whole Giustiniani family died with the exception of Niccolo, a monk. He at once, by a Papal Bull, left his monastery, married and raised twelve children. Having accomplished this duty to humanity and his house, he went tranquilly back, and died—a monk!—"Pall Mall Gazette" own Correspondent.

CUBAN MILITARY LODGE.

THERE is contained in a recent number of "La Gran Logia," of Cuba, printed in Spanish, an interesting account of the Cuban military Lodge, Independencia, and of its founder, Carlos M. de Cespedes, President of the Cuban republic. Bro. Cespedes was an enthusiastic Mason and the Master of the Lodge at Manzanillo. He was a great student and owned the most complete Masonic library in the island of Cuba. He was a fine linguist, speaking English, French, Italian, German, and Portuguese, besides his native tongue. He was a strict ritualist and excelled as a presiding Officer.

Finding himself surrounded by Masons during the Cuban revolution he founded a Military Lodge in Guaimaro, and called it "Independencia." At first the Lodge met and worked in the various edifices which opportunity afforded, and when these were no longer available the Brethren erected spacious huts constructed from mud or palms and in these rustic structures the sessions of the Military Lodge were held. Those charged with building a "hall" on removal to a new place prepared their own materials.

The meetings held conformed as strictly to ceremonial and proper form as if the Lodge were meeting under ordinary conditions. There was continual work. The meetings were never interrupted, and many initiates, after receiving the first degree, came from a great distance to be passed and raised. General Ramon Cespedes took the symbolic degrees in this Lodge and was one of its most ardent supporters. Francisco Aguilero, Francisco Maceo, Salvador Cisneros, Ignacio Mora, and others, distinguished in the Cuban war, met at these

sessions and assisted in the work of the Lodge. The Offices of Master, Orator, and Secretary were held by the same Brothers throughout the life of the Lodge; the other positions were filled by various Brethren.

Other Lodges might have had more luxurious quarters, more room, more perfectly arranged details, but none could have had more seriousness or earnestness than prevailed in this Lodge. All the implements of the Craft were at hand, even to the ballot-box. All the Lodge furniture was carried from place to place on the back of a mule, which was appropriately called "The Mason." The columns were made of stones, which fitted to each other, marked with the B. and J. Once during an attack by the enemy the mule was turned loose, but the load was not securely fastened and in his flight many articles of the Lodge fell to the ground and were captured. The ballot box and a section of the B. column are now said to be on exhibition in the Museum of Artillery at Madrid, among other relics of battlefields.

The rigours of the campaign finally demanded the suspension of the Lodge and it was never resuscitated.—"American Tyler."

The King, Grand Patron of the Order, has been graciously pleased to accept a copy of the H. F. Beaumont manuscript, an ancient parchment roll containing the regulations of the Craft. The reprint has been edited by Bro. W. Watson, of Leeds, P.Prov.G. Warden and Hon. Librarian of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire, a well-known writer on subjects relating to Freemasonry. The manuscript, which is ascribed to a date previous to 1690, was thought to have been lost, but was discovered at Whitley Beaumont, the residence of Mr. H. F. Beaumont, near Huddersfield, during last year. The roll was purchased from Mr. Beaumont by the Prov. Grand Lodge for the Library of the Province, which is now among the richest in early Masonic manuscripts of any library of a similar kind in the world, principally through the exertions of Bro. Watson. The manuscript is of great interest to members of the Order.

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We tender hearty congratulations to Bro. T. F. Strutt P.M. 2664 W.M. 1679 on his appointment as Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Westminster City Council. Bro. Strutt is a highly-qualified officer, of very considerable experience in the Strand district. His unfailing courtesy to everyone with whom his duties brought him in touch, long ago secured for him a host of friends and well-wishers; he does not, happily, possess that peculiar trait so often noticed in public officers, of more or less importance, and nowadays dubbed "side," and appears to have won the same respect and esteem in the outside world as have marked his career in Freemasonry. Though Bro. Strutt's name was not that recommended by the Committee considering the applications for the appointment in the first instance, he obtained a large majority on a show of hands, and was ultimately elected by thirty-nine votes to twenty-two given in favour of his most formidable rival for the appointment.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THE funeral took place on Monday afternoon, 22nd ult., of the late Bro. William Edwards, formerly chief steward of R.M.S. "Munster," plying to and from Kingstown. Deceased was twenty-eight years of age, and was in the employment of the City of Dublin Company for many years. Several members of the St. Cybi Lodge were present.

Bro. G. W. Speth, F.R.H.S.

BRO. SPETH was a personal friend of the author, and a brother Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Forgive, Most High, if now our lone hearts cry
Against those words of sorrow, "Dust to Dust";
For 'tis so hard to see our loved ones die.
Help us, Most High, and give us strength to trust,
We would not murmur Lord, but we are weak;
But all Thou dost, Thou doest for the best;
O teach us still on earth Thy praise to speak,
Thou but hast given Thy beloved rest,
Mourn not, ye Brethren, Bro. Speth 's at peace,
Mourn not, ye children—ye who loved him well,
Mourn not, oh Widow, for no earthly lease
Bindeth his body where his soul doth dwell,
But watch ye, pray ye, never, never cease,
And ye shall join him in Heaven's citadel!

BRO. CHAS. F. FORSHAW, LL.D.

48 Hanover Square, Bradford

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Monday.

- 16 Royal Alpha, Hotel Metropole
 45 Strong Man, Holborn Restaurant
 72 Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel
 188 Joppa, Freemasons' Tavern
 256 Unions, Freemasons' Hall
 1319 Asaph, Freemasons' Hall
 1321 Emblematic, Criterion
 1625 Tredegar, London Tavern
 1924 Wickham, St. Peter's Hall, Brockley
 1996 Priory, Berrymead Priory, Acton
 2098 Harlesden, National Schools, Harles.
 2242 Tyssen Amherst, Stoke Newington
 2535 Fellowship, Frascati
 2796 L'Entente Cordiale, Café Royal
 2807 Paddington Rifles, Harrow Road
 53 Royal Sussex, F.M.H., Bath
 61 Probita, F.M.H., Halifax
 107 Philanthropic, F.M.H., Lynn
 113 Unanimity, Bull, Preston
 119 Sun, Square & Compasses, Whitehaven
 135 Perpetual Friendship, Bridgwater
 154 Unanimity, F.M.H., Wakefield
 156 Harmony, F.M.H., Plymouth
 199 Peace and Harmony, F.M.H., Dover
 251 Loyal, F.M.H., Barnstable
 270 Royal Faith and Friendship, Berkeley
 302 Hope, F.M.H., Bradford
 307 Prince Frederick, Hebden Bridge
 328 St. John, F.M.H., Torquay
 331 Phoenix of Honour & Prudence, Truro
 338 Vitruvian, Royal, Ross
 388 Prudence, F.M.H., Halesworth
 395 Guy, Victoria House, Leamington
 431 St. George, F.M.H., North Shields
 441 Three Grand Principles, Cambridge
 467 Tudor, F.M.H., Oldham
 478 Churchill, F.M.H., Oxford
 482 St. James, Wretham Rm., Handsworth
 529 Semper Fidelis, F.M.H., Worcester
 543 Cleveland, F.M.H., Stokesley
 622 St. Cuthberga, F.M.H., Wimborne
 694 Oakley, F.M.H., Basingstoke
 699 Boscawen, F.M.H., Chacewater
 839 Rl. Gloucestershire, Bell, Gloucester
 850 St. Oswald, Town Hall, Ashborne
 928 Friendship, F.M.H., Petersfield
 959 Prince of Wales, F.M.H., Ipswich
 977 Fowey, F.M.H., Fowey
 1045 Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham
 1050 Gundulph, King's Head, Rochester
 1051 Rowley, F.M.H., Lancaster
 1071 Zetland, F.M.H., Saltash
 1077 Wilton, Red Lion, Blackley
 1180 Forward, F.M.H., Birmingham
 1211 Goderich, F.M.H., Leeds
 1239 Wentworth, F.M.H., Sheffield
 1254 Semper Fidelis, F.M.H., Exeter
 1264 Neptune, F.M.H., Liverpool
 1271 Friendship & Unity, Bradford-on-Avon
 1272 Tregenna, F.M.H., St. Ives, Cornwall
 1282 Ancholme, Masonic Rooms, Brigg
 1434 Nottinghamshire, F.M.H., Nottingham
 1486 Duncombe, F.M.H., Kingsbridge
 1573 Caradoc, F.M.H., Swansea
 1954 Molesworth, F.M.H., Wadebridge
 1977 Blackwater, Blue Boar, Maldon
 2039 Londonderry, F.M.H., Sunderland
 2078 St. Lawrence, F.M.H., Scunthorpe
 2163 Jersev. Railway Hotel, Southall
 2166 Cotehele, F.M.H., Calstock
 2237 Earl of Leicester, New Hall, Wells
 2240 Arrow, Burton, Kington
 2497 Carville, F.M.H., Wallsend-on-Tyne
 2520 Prince Wales, F.M.H., Newcastle-on-T.
 2533 Fitzwilliam, F.M.H., Peterborough
 2541 St. Andrew, F.M.H., Avonmouth
 2586 St. Nicholas, F.M.H., Scarborough
 2753 St. John's Thanet, Mas. Tem., Margate
 2812 St. Martin, Schools, Fenny Stratford.

Tuesday.

- 18 Old Dundee, City Terminus Hotel
 1257 Grosvenor, Freemasons' Hall
 1259 Duke of Edinburgh, Three Nuns Tav.
 1472 Henley, Three Crowns, Nth. Woolwich
 1662 Beaconsfield, Brooke, Walthamstow
 2128 Un. North. Counties, Inns of Court
 2190 Savage Club, Freemasons' Hall
 2715 Acanthus, Gt. Eastern Hotel
 2738 Army and Navy, Anderton's
 47 Newstead, F.M.H., Nottingham
 70 St. John, F.M.H., Plymouth
 103 Beaufort, F.M.H., Bristol
 124 Marquis of Granby, F.M.H., Durham
 158 Adam, Britannia, Sheerness
 252 Harmonic, F.M.T., Dudley
 265 Royal Yorkshire, F.M.H., Keighley

- 315 Royal York, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 340 Alfred, F.M.H., Oxford
 364 Cambrian, F.M.H., Neath
 393 St. David, F.M.H., Berwick
 421 Loyal Industry, F.M.H., Southmolton
 457 Loyal Monmouth, F.M.H., Monmouth
 493 Royal Lebanon, Bell, Gloucester
 510 St. Martin, F.M.H., Liskeard
 558 Temple, F.M.H., Folkestone
 624 Abbey, F.M.H., Burton-on-Trent
 660 Camalodunum, F.M.H., New Malton
 673 St. John, F.M.H., Liverpool
 734 Londesborough, F.M.H., Bridlington
 794 Warden, New Royal, Sutton Coldfield
 804 Carnarvon, F.M.H., Havant
 847 Fortescue, F.M.H., Honiton
 948 St. Barnabas, Linslade
 960 Bute, F.M.H., Cardiff
 967 Three G. Principles, F.M.H., Penryn
 974 Pentalpha, F.M.H., Bradford
 995 Furness, Masonic Temple, Ulveston
 1002 Skiddaw, Masonic Rooms, Cockermouth
 1072 Aberystwith, F.M.H., Aberystwith
 1096 Lord Warden, Forester's H., Walmer
 1134 Newall, F.M.H., Manchester
 1222 Saint Kew, F.M.H., Weston-super-Mare
 1244 Marwood, F.M.H., Redcar
 1310 Harrow, King's Head, Harrow
 1336 Square & Compass, F.M.H., Wrexham
 1509 Madoc, F.M.H., Portmadoc
 1619 Sackville, F.M.H., East Grinstead
 1726 Gordon, Assembly Rooms, Bognor
 1780 Albert Edward, F.M.H., Southampton
 1785 St. Petroc, F.M.H., Padstow
 1807 Loyal Wye, F.M.H., Builth
 1908 Cholmondeley, F.M.H., Frodsham
 1970 Hadrian, F.M.H., South Shields
 1981 Arnold, Castle, East Molesey
 2120 Dorothy Vernon, Town Hall, Bakewell
 2133 Swan of Avon, Stratford-on-Avon
 2490 Amphill, White Hart, Amphill
 2676 Royal Connaught, Grand, Eastbourne
 2815 Southport Temperance, Southport

Wednesday.

Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

Committee R.M. Benevolent Inst., at 4.

- 3 Fidelity, Freemasons' Hall
 13 Union Waterloo, F.M.H., Plumstead
 15 Kent, Freemasons' Hall
 1629 United, Freemasons' Hall
 1827 Alliance, Albion
 1986 Honor Oak, Anderton's
 2347 Grafton, Grafton Rooms, Regent St.
 2470 Telegraph Cable, Hotel Cecil
 2662 Ealing, Victoria Hall, Ealing
 2765 Earl's Court, Royal Palace Hotel
 54 Hone, Spread Eagle, Rochdale
 84 Doyle's Fellowship, F.M.H., Guernsey
 128 Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bury
 146 Antiquity, F.M.H., Bolton
 187 Roy. Sussex Hospitality, M.H., Bristol
 204 Caledonian, F.M.H., Manchester
 225 St. Luke, F.M.H., Ipswich
 244 Yarrowburgh, Masonic Temple, Jersey
 250 Minerva, F.M.H., Hull
 274 Tranquillity, Boar's Head, Newchurch
 277 Friendship, F.M.H., Oldham
 281 Fortitude, F.M.H., Lancaster
 288 Harmony, F.M.H., Todmorden
 290 Huddersfield, F.M.H., Huddersfield
 323 Concord, Florist, Stockport
 483 Sympathy, Royal Clarendon, Gravesend
 498 Royal Standard, Dudley Arms, Dudley
 567 Unity, Woolpack, Warwick
 654 Peveril of the Peak, F.M.H., New Mills
 661 Fawcett, F.M.H., Seaham Harbour
 666 Benevolence, Wes. School, Princetown
 679 St. David, F.M.H., Aberdare
 708 Carnarvon, Hampton Court
 730 Ellesmere, F.M.H., Chorley
 731 Arboretum, F.M.H., Derby
 750 Friendship, F.M.H., Cleckheaton
 755 St. Tudno, F.M.H., Llandudno
 851 Worthing of Friendship, Worthing
 852 Zetland, F.M.H., Salford
 854 Albert, Duke of York, Shaw
 1005 Zetland, Bell, Gloucester
 1018 Shakespeare, F.M.H., Bradford
 1031 Fletcher, F.M.H., Birmingham
 1060 Marmion, 14 Church St., Tamworth
 1088 Royal Edward, Mas. Club, Stalybridge
 1094 Temple, F.M.H., Liverpool
 1101 Grey Friars, F.M.H., Reading
 1112 Shirley, F.M.H., Southampton
 1125 St. Peter, F.M.H., Tiverton
 1135 Concord, Masonic Temple, Ilfracombe
 1140 Ashton, Reform Club, Heaton Moor
 1181 De la Pole, F.M.H., Seaton

- 1209 Lewises, Royal, Ramsgate
 1220 Solway, F.M.H., Aspatria
 1242 Tynwald, F.M.H., Douglas
 1248 Denison, F.M.H., Scarborough
 1273 St. Michael, F.M.H., Sittingbourne
 1331 Aldershot Camp, So. Westn., Aldershot
 1342 Walker, F.M.H., Newcastle-on-Tyne
 1356 Toxteth, 80 North Hill St., Liverpool
 1398 Baldwin, Castle, Dalton-in-Furness
 1400 Curwen, F.M.H., Workington
 1403 West Lancashire, Bull, Preston
 1582 St. Idloes, Llanidloes
 1588 Prince Leopold, Angel, Stretford
 1643 Perseverance, M.H., Hebburn-on-Tyne
 1692 Hervey, Royal Bell, Bromley, Kent
 1703 Windrush, Corn Ex., Witney
 1721 Trinity, Golden Lion, Rayleigh
 1798 Zion, Grand, Manchester
 1848 Ferrum, F.M.H., Middlesborough
 1855 St. Maurice, Working Hall, Plympton
 1879 Lord Warkworth, F.M.H., Amble
 1895 Thames, F.M.H., Henley
 1932 Whitworth, F.M.H., Spennymoor
 1947 Stanford, Town Hall, Hove
 1958 St. George, F.M.H., Portsea
 2016 Shalden, Assembly Rooms, Alton
 2046 Robinson, F.M.H., Maidstone
 2156 Ar. Sullivan, Boar's Head, Manchester
 2259 St. Nicholas, Masonic Rooms, Thorne
 2284 Smyth, F.M.H., Grimsby
 2294 Wavertree, Coffee House, Wavertree
 2389 Avondale, King's Arms, Middlewich
 2423 St. Mark, Hare & H's, Connah's Quay
 2483 Hadrian, Devonshire, Bexhill
 2581 Empress, Cafe Royal
 2583 St. Thomas, F.M.H., Tibshelf
 2591 St. Mary, Town Hall, New Shoreham
 2727 St. Audrey, F.M.H., Ely
 2734 Harlow, Victoria Hall, Harlow
 2758 Fylde, Palatine, Blackpool
 2769 East Surrey, Hoskins's Arms, Oxted

Thursday.

- 19 Royal Athelstan, City Terminus Hotel
 91 Regularity, Freemasons' Hall
 206 Friendship, Ship and Turtle
 238 Pilgrim, Freemasons' Hall
 534 Polish National, Freemasons' Hall
 879 Southwark, Bridge House Hotel
 1076 Capper, Guildhall Tavern
 1155 Excelsior, Bridge House Hotel
 1227 Upton, Great Eastern Hotel
 1558 Duke of Connaught, Surrey Mas. Hall
 1642 Earl of Carnarvon, Notting Hill
 2033 University of London, Freemasons' H.
 2168 Derby Allcroft, Midland Grand Hotel
 2417 Bolingbroke, Mun. Bg., Lavender Hill
 2509 Barnet, Assembly Rooms, New Barnet
 2754 Thomas-a-Becket, Old Kent Road
 2809 Capital and Counties, Hotel Cecil
 35 Medina, F.M.H., Cowes
 50 Knights of Malta, Hinckley
 97 Palatine, F.M.H., Sunderland
 130 Royal Gloucester, M.H., Southampton
 132 Unity, F.M.H., Ringwood
 139 Britannia, F.M.H., Sheffield
 191 St. John, Knowsley, Bury
 215 Commerce, Commercial, Haslingden
 324 Moira, Wellington, Stalybridge
 333 Royal Preston, Castle, Preston
 344 Faith, Ram's Head, Radcliffe
 369 Limestone Rock, Swan, Clitheroe
 381 Harmony & Industry, M.H., Darwen
 437 Science, F.M.H., Wincanton
 442 St. Peter, F.M.H., Peterborough
 477 Mersey, Mas. Chambers, Birkenhead
 487 Portsmouth, F.M.H., Portsmouth
 546 Etruscan, F.M.H., Longton
 561 Zetland, F.M.H., Guisborough
 586 Elias De Derham, F.M.H., Salisbury
 588 St. Botolph, Corn Exchange, Sleaford
 625 Devonshire, F.M.H., Glossop
 725 Stoneleigh, Craven Arms, Coventry
 732 Royal Brunswick, Pavilion, Brighton
 739 Temperance, F.M.H., Birmingham
 784 Wellington, Public Rooms, Deal
 816 Royd, Falcon, Littleborough
 945 Abbev. Council Chamber, Abingdon
 971 Trafalgar, F.M.H., Batley
 973 Royal Somerset, F.M.H., Frome
 991 Tyne, F.M.H., Wallsend
 1035 Pr. of Wales, Skelmers. Hall, Liverpool
 1055 Derby, Victoria, Manchester
 1061 Triumph, County & Com., Lytham
 1098 St. George, Temper. Hall, Tredegar
 1099 Huyshe, F.M.H., Stoke
 1107 Cornwallis, Bull, Chislehurst
 1143 Royal Denbigh, Town Hall, Denbigh
 1144 Milton, George and D., Ashton-u-Lyne
 1145 Equality, Red Lion, Accrington
 1147 St. David, F.M.H., Manchester

1182 Duke of Edinburgh, M.H., Liverpool
 1204 Royd, F.M.H., Malvern
 1213 Bridgwater, Assembly Rooms, Eccles
 1387 Chorlton, M.H., Chorlton-cum-Hardy
 1416 Falcon, F.M.H., Thirsk
 1429 Albert Edward P. W., Newport, Mon.
 1457 Bagshaw, Public Hall, Loughton
 1495 Arkwright, New Bath H., Matlock Bath
 1514 Thornhill, F.M.H., Huddersfield
 1583 Corbet, Whitehall House, Towyn
 1592 Abbey, F.M.H., Bury St. Edmunds
 1697 Hospitality, Royal, Waterfoot
 1750 Coleridge, Public Hall, Clevedon
 1863 Priory, F.M.H., Tynemouth
 1915 Graystone, Foresters H., Whitstable
 1992 Tennant, Masonic Temple, Cardiff
 2038 Portcullis, St. Mary's Chapel, Langport
 2109 Pr. Edward, Assy. Hall, Heaton Moor
 2132 Egerton, F.M.H., New Brighton
 2217 Windermere, Mas. Room, Windermere
 2227 White Horse, F.M.H., Westbury
 2234 Onslow, F.M.H., Guildford
 2262 Dagmar, Anglers Rest, Wraybury
 2285 Eden, Masonic Rooms, Workington
 2372 James Terry, Falcon, Waltham Cross
 2449 Duke of York, Albion, Manchester
 2501 Ixion, Roebuck, Buckhurst Hill
 2523 Roll Call, Oddfellows' Hall, Hounslow
 2568 Delaval, Central, Newcastle-on-Tyne
 2606 Fforest, Masonic Rooms, Treharris
 2619 New Brighton, Victoria, New Brighton

2722 Edward Terry, Barnes
 2806 Three Pillars, Parish R., Cockington

Friday.

33 Britannic, Freemasons' Hall
 1201 Eclectic, Freemasons' Hall
 1602 Sir Hugh Myddelton, Agricultural Hall
 1997 John Carpenter, Albion
 2399 Ordnance, F.M.H., Plumstead
 2663 Commemoration, Holborn Restaurant
 36 Glamorgan, F.M.H., Cardiff
 81 Doric, Private Room, Woodbridge
 170 All Souls, F.M.H., Weymouth
 458 Aire and Calder, F.M.H., Goole
 516 Phoenix, Fox, Stowmarket
 526 Honour, Star & Garter, Wolverhampton
 786 Croxteth United Service, Liverpool
 815 Blair, Town Hall, Hulme
 1001 Harrogate & Claro, F.M.H., Harrogate
 1087 Beaudesert, Ass. Rs., Leighton Buzzard
 1102 Mirfield, F.M.H., Mirfield
 1121 Wear Valley, F.M.H., Bishop Auckland
 1289 Rock, Masonic Chambers, Birkenhead
 1428 United Service, F.M.H., Landport
 1605 De la Pole, F.M.H., Hull
 1661 Newton, F.M.H., Newark-upon-Trent
 1676 St. Nicholas, Cen. M.H., Newcastle-o-T.
 1715 A. J. Brogden, M.H., Grange-o-Sands
 1983 Martyn, Town Hall, Southwold
 2359 Doric, F.M.H., Chorlton-cum-Hardy

2380 Beneventa, Wheatsheaf, Daventry
 2554 Manchester, F.M.H., Manchester
 2558 Furnival, F.M.H., Sheffield
 2594 Old Priory, Masonic Rooms, Beeston
 2608 Headingley, Parochial Institute, Leeds
 2652 Albany, Kingston-on-Thames
 2660 Crane, George, Cranbrook
 2674 Ravensworth, F.M.H., Gateshead
 2677 Calcaria, Masonic Rooms, Tadcaster

Saturday.

173 Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall
 1328 Granite, Holborn Restaurant
 1685 Guelph, Town Hall, Leyton
 1686 Paxton, Surrey Masonic Hall
 2029 King Solomon, Freemasons' Hall
 2579 Lewisham, Parish Hall, Lewisham
 2599 Engineer, 33 Golden Square
 2664 Hygeia, Holborn Restaurant
 737 Wentworth, F.M.H., Wellingborough
 869 Gresham, Great House, Cheshunt
 1347 Lorne, F.M.H., Sutton
 1556 Addiscombe, Public Hall, Croydon
 1755 Eldon, Royal, Portishead
 2005 Caterham, F.M.H., Caterham
 2006 Tilbury, Tilbury, Tilbury Docks
 2105 Cama, Greyhound, Hampton Court
 2278 Kingswood, Crown, Broxbourne
 2442 St. Clement, Bell, Leigh
 2757 Charles Dickens, King's H., Chigwell

Most intelligent Masons know that non-affiliation is not a crime, and that a Grand Lodge cannot make it a crime. It is equally true—though not so generally understood—that no Grand Lodge has any legislative jurisdiction over a non-affiliate, and no Lodge can lawfully try a Mason for disobedience to a mere Grand Lodge regulation of a jurisdiction to which he does not belong. The non-affiliate is subject to the general laws of the Masonic Institution, but not to those of any Lodge or Grand Lodge. In the face of such travesties on Masonic law and common sense, a certain school of writers keep on reiterating the nonsensical assertion that when so august a body as a Grand Lodge "determines" any matter, its utterances are "absolutely binding" on all the world—whether it had any jurisdiction to "determine" the matter or not.—Wm. H. Upton, Washington.

Capitular Masonry is permeated with religion. At every step of its unfolding it points to Jehovah and to his blessed rule throughout the great universe of which He is the Creator. It seeks to quicken an intelligent faith in God as the Almighty Power, the Supreme Beauty, the Infinite Perfection; it sets forth by direct teaching and by a wonderfully impressive symbolism great and precious truths pertaining to the divine being and authority, while it enforces obedience on the part of man to God's will. It is often said that Freemasonry is not a religion, but that it is essentially religious. It presents itself in this character at every advancing step, and because of this profound religiousness—this aim of moral teaching; this call to faith, trust, and righteousness of life—it has abiding strength.—H. W. Rugg, Rhode Island.

What boots it that the star blazes in the midst of the mosaic pavement, if we live our lives thoughtless of that divine Providence which the star symbolises? If men handle the twenty-four inch gauge never so often, and forget that its symbolism teaches that a proper division of their time would give much time to the service of God, of what value is such a symbol to their God-forgetting lives and hearts? Nay, Brethren, the beautiful trellis of Masonic symbolism finds its value in a life adorned with religion and charity and rectitude. It becomes but a bare and useless trellis if it sustains not such a life.—Rev. Stephen S. Estey, Kansas.

We do not believe in the principle of enforced affiliation. There are many instances throughout the world where men have become Masons and are not in sympathy with its teachings who have quietly taken their demit and ceased to be identified with the Order. Others, entertaining or acquiring religious ideas, which in their judgment are inconsistent with the teaching of Masonry, have quietly dropped out, neither of which should be forced to affiliate with the Lodge, and being conscientious in their belief, ought not to be placed under the ban of expulsion.—J. C. Postlethwaite, Iowa.

While the Grand Master in person may, by the exercise of one of his prerogatives, make a Mason at sight, yet he cannot, without violating the Constitution of Masonry and the edicts of this Grand Lodge, grant dispensations to delegate his authority to another person to confer the degrees on a candidate in any other manner than the prescribed form.—Joseph Hall, West Virginia.

Consider carefully every interest of the Order, and let each one bear his part of the responsibility. Do not leave others to do the work and then offer criticism in regard to the legislation enacted.—E. S. Gatchell, Alabama.

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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.

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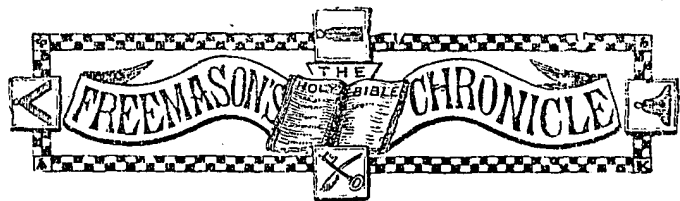
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SATURDAY, 4TH MAY 1901.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

THE following were appointed the Officers of Grand Lodge for the year, at the Annual Festival held on Wednesday of last week:

BRO. Viscount Templetown (second year)	Senior Warden
F. S. W. Cornwallis	Junior Warden
Rev. Sir Borradaile Savory	Chaplain
Rev. W. C. R. Bedford	Ditto
Horace Brooks Marshall	Treasurer
John Strachan, K.C.	Registrar
John V. Vesey Fitzgerald, K.C.	Deputy Registrar
R. Loveland Loveland, K.C.	Pres. Bd. Gen. Purps.
E. Letchworth, F.S.A.	Secretary
J. H. Matthews	Pres. Bd. Benevolence
Edmund Pontifex	Senior Deacon
F. Woodhouse Braine	Ditto
C. R. Lyne	Ditto
C. D. Cheetham	Junior Deacon
T. Taylor	Ditto
P. Scratchley	Ditto
Henry L. Florence	Supt. of Works
Sir Albert W. Woods	Dir. of Ceremonies
Frank Richardson	Acting Dir. of Cers.
E. Roehrich	Dep. Dir. of Cers.
W. A. Hart	Asst. Dir. of Cers.
John Stocker	Ditto
W. A. Dawson	Ditto
Colonel C. M. Molony, C.B.	Sword Bearer
Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Dixon	Dep. Sword Bearer
J. Whittaker Burgess	Standard Bearer
Charles Pulman	Ditto
H. Walmesley Little, Mus. Doc.	Organist
William Lake	Assistant Secretary
C. Kupferschmidt	Sec. German Corres.
G. Felton Lancaster	Pursuivant
William Kipps	Assistant Pursuivant
Henry Sadler	Tyler.

IRISH CHARITY.

IN connection with the Irish Masonic Charities, a most interesting meeting was recently held in Belfast, which took the form of a social gathering. The great usefulness of the allied institutions may be gathered when it is stated that during the past year 121 widows and nearly 500 individuals in all have been assisted by the fund. There has been a fair addition to the amount of invested capital, and it is gratifying to note that the expenses amounted to only 3 or 4 per cent on the total amount distributed.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent will be held at Dover, on 12th June next.

The Earl of Shaftesbury has been installed Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, the ceremony being performed by Sir James Creed Meredith Deputy Grand Master of Ireland.

A proposal to have a "Masonic Day" at the Glasgow International Exhibition was brought before the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, and the matter remitted to a Committee to consider and report.

The tenth annual dinner of the West Middlesex Lodge of Instruction, No. 1612, was held at the Feathers Hotel, Ealing, on Wednesday, 24th ult., and proved most enjoyable. Our report of the proceedings will appear next week.

The regular meeting of the Upton Lodge, No. 1227, will be held on Thursday next, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, E.C., under the presidency of Bro. W. J. Carroll W.M. There is, as usual at this Lodge, a heavy list of work, including five candidates for raising, one for passing, and four for ballot and initiation.

We are asked to draw the attention of our West London readers to the fact that a grand evening concert is to be given at the Town Hall, Kensington, on Thursday next, 9th inst., by Miss Greta Williams, the daughter of Bro. R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Middlesex and Preceptor of some half dozen Lodges of Instruction. Miss Williams will be remembered as one of the survivors when the S.S. Stella was totally lost on the rocks of Jersey, and she helped to comfort those who escaped in the boat by singing "O Rest in the Lord."

* * *

On the occasion of the installation meeting of the Bootle-Wilbraham Lodge, No. 2463, held at Knotty Ash, and attended by nearly one hundred Brethren, the retiring W.M. Bro. T. Holme was presented with a diamond brooch for his wife, and a silver tea and coffee service, ornaments, &c., in recognition of the valuable services he had rendered to the Lodge.

* * *

The tenth annual Ladies' night of the Gallery Lodge, No. 1928, was held on Saturday, at the Criterion Restaurant, under the presidency of Bro. L. F. Gowing W.M. In the course of the evening a gold chain was presented to Mrs. F. W. Brodie, the wife of the Immediate Past Master, to mark the Brethren's sense of the admirable manner in which her husband had discharged his duties during the preceding year. Each of the lady visitors was the recipient of a dainty sachet of chocolate. An excellent entertainment was arranged.

* * *

The Secretaryship of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, vacant by the death of Bro. G. W. Speth, F.R.Hist. Soc., will be filled by the appointment of Brother W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., M.R.A.S., Past A.G.D. of C. England, one of the Past Masters of the Lodge. Bro. Sir Walter Besant P.M. will continue to be the Treasurer. The W.M. is Bro. E. Conder jun., F.S.A., the historian of the Masons' Company, London. The annual archaeological outing was to have been at Norwich, but is now indefinitely postponed.

* * *

A most successful concert was given on Monday, 22nd ult., by Bros. G. W. Turner and John Josey, at the Town Hall, Hammersmith. They were supported by Bro. Thos. Chamberlen the Mayor, and by almost every member of the Hammersmith and other Lodges meeting in the district. From first to last everything passed off splendidly. Bro. G. W. Turner was in excellent voice and was heard to perfection in "Once Again" and "Genevieve." Special praise must also be given to the Marguerite Quartette, who won the hearty applause of all present.

* * *

General Ballington Booth is a Master Mason and a member of Montclair Lodge, No. 144, Montclair, New Jersey. After he was raised, he said: "I had previously understood that there was much in Masonry which was commendable, but I had no conception that its principles were so noble, its work so instructive and beautiful, or its pledges so sacred and helpful. I no longer wonder at its surpassing strength and influence as a society, and I can now safely challenge any man of honour or integrity to find anything in the work which does not harmonise with the highest form of truth and righteousness."

* * *

On the occasion of the regular meeting of the Tristram Lodge, No. 2415, held at the Masonic Hall, Shildon, Bro. Pilate Alderson W.M. presiding, a Past Master's tablet, presented to the Lodge by Brother Babington Boulton P.P.S.G.W., was unveiled at the request of the W.M., on behalf of the Lodge, by Bro. R. Hudson Prov. G. Secretary P.G.S.B. England, in the presence of a large gathering of Brethren. Bro. Hudson, in unveiling the tablet, referred to the great interest Bro. Babington Boulton had taken in Masonry in the Province for many years, and said his gift to the Lodge would be one which would bear the names of Past Masters, and testify in the future to those who had done good service to the Lodge. The W.M. accepted the tablet on behalf of the Lodge. Thanks were passed to Bro. R. Hudson and to Bro. Babington Boulton for their deep interest in the Tristram Lodge and the present of the tablet. Bro. Boulton, in reply, acknowledged the kindness of the Brethren and the work of Bro. Spaven P.M. and Bro. Parkins in the designing and making of the tablet.

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.

—:0:—

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

—:0:—

Prudent Brethren Lodge, No. 145.

ON Tuesday, 23rd ult., the members of this old Lodge held their closing meeting of the season, at the Freemasons' Hall, W.C., Bro. Alfred B. Bayfield W.M. occupying the chair.

Following the confirmation of the minutes Bro. E. C. Tarran was raised to the third degree.

Amongst the communications the Secretary had the melancholy duty of announcing the death of Bro. Eugene Henri Thiellay, who was initiated in the Lodge in 1868, and was Master of the Lodge in 1876, being the Centenary Master, and a most distinguished Mason. He was a Founder, P.M. and Treasurer of the New Cross Lodge, No. 1540; a P.M. of the Era Lodge, No. 1423; Founder and first Master of La France Lodge, No. 2060; and Past Grand Sword Bearer of Middlesex.

In Royal Arch Masonry Brother Thiellay was Past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies of Middlesex, First Principal and Treasurer of the Era Chapter.

He was also a Past Master of the St. Mark Lodge; Past Most Wise Sovereign of the Palestine Chapter Rose Croix, No. 29; a member of the 30th degree; a Past Celebrant Metro College Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia; a Knight Templar of the Preceptory and Past Sovereign Plantagenet Conclave of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, and a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

At the conclusion of the business the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, after which the customary toasts were honoured.

Bro. T. P. Warwick I.P.M. proposed the health of the W.M., and Bro. A. B. Bayfield suitably responded.

During the evening a most enjoyable programme of music was rendered, under the direction of Bro. Arthur J. Wilson, ably assisted by Mr. John Ortner, Mr. Geo. O'Hagan, and Mr. Sidney Barnes, who rendered in an excellent manner "Big Ben," and "Out on the Deep."

Amongst those present were Bros. T. P. Warwick I.P.M., E. T. Harley S.W., Geo. Newnham J.W., Geo. Vears P.M. D.C., J. Gunn, G. Darlison, J. Taylor, H. Guy, Percy Hill, Geo. Lewis, W. Acton Steward, H. B. Spaul P.M. and Secretary, and many others.

The Visitors included Bros. R. Howland 1366, J. C. Harwar 862, Swan Woodcock J.W. 1685, H. R. Cooper 177, R. C. Webb 357 (Detroit, Mich., U.S.A.), and F. W. Bird 2552.

The Tyler's toast brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

Hammersmith Lodge, No. 2090.

INSTALLATION OF BROTHER HARRY WARREN.

THE annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Town Hall, Hammersmith, on Thursday, 11th ult., under the presidency of Bro. T. G. Hodgson W.M., who was supported by Bros. C. Pascall I.P.M., Harry Warren S.W. and W.M.-elect, Thomas Chamberlen (Mayor of Hammersmith) J.W., H. Mace S.D., A. F. Hunt J.D., R. Dare Treasurer, A. Williams P.M. Secretary, W. Hillier P.M. D.C., G. A. Payne I.G., R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.D. Middx., W. Elliott P.M., J. W. Barker P.M., J. M. Levy P.M., F. J. Oliver P.M. Organist, G. Finckham, J. A. Barnett, F. W. Harden, C. Vincent, H. T. Lea, E. W. Scolding, E. R. Pomeroy, H. Broadway, R. W. Gale, H. Leslie Simpson, H. E. Pryor, Harry Pryor, W. Lowe, F. H. Currie, A. D. Cutes, F. W. Chilton, A. B. Watson, G. W. Barker, G. Wimpey, R. Bevan, J. H. Cooke, E. C. Rawlings.

Visitors: Bros. W. Atkinson S.W. 1275, W. Hide P.M. 1275, R. Reid P.M. 1275, G. Mitchell Steward 1275, H. D. Woods Sec. 2816, T. Goldby 2816, T. G. Hellyar 2512, B. McLarty 2512, J. L. Aprey P.M. 534, F. Payne 1348, F. J. Ingram S.D. 144, G. J. Crow P.M. 2362, C. Dennington 1694, W. C. Simpson 1364, C. J. Smith P.M. and Sec. 2648, J. W. Richardson P.M. 1828, E. J. Hiscock Steward 1604, J. Bratt J.W. 858, G. W. Turner I.G. 858, J. H. Stone 185, M. F. Wilkins J.D. 834, H. A. Barnett 526, E. H. Harriss P.M. 201, Thos. Bore W.M. 1275, E. Clarke 2358.

The Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. A ballot was then taken for Mr. J. H. Cooke, Commercial Traveller, who was proposed by Bro. R. W. Gale and seconded by Bro. W. Elliott P.M. He was unanimously elected.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. F. J. Harden and J. A. Barnett were examined and entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the third, and those Brethren were raised to the degree of Master Mason.

Bro. R. E. Watson was examined in the first degree, and was subsequently passed a Fellow Craft.

The Auditors' report, showing a balance in favour of the Lodge of £216 15s 3d was then read, adopted and ordered to be entered on the minutes. The Auditors reported that they found the accounts satisfactorily kept.

Bro. Harry Warren S.W. and W.M.-elect was then installed into the chair of K.S. by the outgoing W.M. Bro. T. G. Hodgson and received the congratulations of a large Board of Installed Masters. The ceremony, with the concluding addresses, was completed by Bro. W. Hillier P.M. and D.C.

The W.M. with exceedingly well chosen language appointed and invested his Officers, as follow: Thos. Chamberlen S.W., H. Mace J.W., R. Dare Treasurer, A. Williams P.M. Secretary, A. F. Hunt S.D., G. A. Payne J.D., E. C. Rawlings I.G., R. H. Williams P.M. D.C., F. Oliver Organist, P. Finckham Steward, A. D. Cutes Asst. Steward, Smith Tyler.

The new W.M. initiated Mr. J. H. Cooke into ancient Freemasonry in a most admirable manner.

Bro. Hillier reported that the candidate supported by the West London Masonic Election Association for the Girls School (Winifred Edwards) was elected, polling 4,770 votes.

The sum of £10 10s was voted to the widow of a Brother lately deceased. Mr. J. E. M. Payne was proposed for initiation at next meeting, two resignations were received with regret, and the Lodge was closed in due form, according to ancient custom.

At the banquet which followed, a handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. T. G. Hodgson, who cordially thanked the Brethren.

A capital programme of music was carried out during the evening, under the arrangement of the W.M., assisted by Mrs. Norden, Miss Pascall, Miss Atkinson, and Bros. Goldby and G. W. Turner.

INSTRUCTION.

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Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25.

A GOOD meeting was held on Tuesday, at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford Street, W., when we had the pleasure of seeing Bro. J. Livien acting as W.M., with Bros. R. Fitch sen. S.W., W. Hudson J.W., E. C. Mulvey P.M. P.G.P. Preceptor, W. H. Snowden acting Sec., A. Goldsmith S.D., Fitch jun. J.D., E. Johnson I.G., W. Giles, Collins, J. Wynman.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Collins being candidate. Bro. Mulvey worked the first and second sections of the lecture, Bro. Fitch giving the answers.

Bro. Fitch sen. was elected W.M. for Tuesday. Bro. Mulvey proposed that a hearty vote of compliment be passed and recorded on the minutes for the very able manner in which the W.M. had fulfilled the duties of the chair for the first time in that or any other Lodge, which was seconded and unanimously carried. The W.M. thanked Bro. Mulvey for his encouragement; it was an agreeable surprise to him that the vote was accorded him. He was initiated only last November, and what he knew he had to thank Bro. Mulvey for. He hoped to continue to give satisfaction.

Confidence Lodge, No. 193.

KNOWING by experience that a hearty welcome as well as a perfect rendition of Masonic ritual awaits the visitor to this famous old Lodge of Instruction, it was with more than usual satisfaction we turned our steps in the direction of its meeting place—the Hercules, Leadenhall Street, E.C.—on Wednesday; and we were not disappointed. We had the pleasure of seeing Bro. J. Mears P.M. acting as Worshipful Master on the occasion, he being ably supported by Bros. W. Haughton S.W., A. Cook J.W., G. Spice P.M. Prec., J. K. Pitt P.M. Sec., J. Done S.D., H. G. Sweptone, G. Carr I.G., J. W. Simeons P.M., J. Cohn W.M.-elect Samson Lodge, H. Rowland, N. Wood, T. A. Stanner P.M., M. Johnson, E. G. Bygrave, A. Hearn, Metcalfe Baillie, J. Wynman, W. Chittock.

The formalities having been observed, the Lodge was opened in the second degree, when the W.M. proposed to rehearse the ceremony of installation. Bro. J. Cohn was presented as W.M.-elect by Bro. J. W. Simeons, who made an excellent Director of Ceremonies. After the obligation the Lodge was opened in the third degree and the new Master was placed in the chair and saluted in the various degrees. He afterwards proceeded to invest the Officers in good style. Bro. Mears delivered the three addresses. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Hearn acting as the candidate. Bro. Cohn vacated the chair for the W.M., who resumed the Lodge to the first degree.

Bro. Spice P.M. Preceptor proposed Bro. Haughton S.W. as W.M. for Wednesday next, he being so well acquainted with the ritual of Freemasonry. No doubt he would surprise the Brethren with his faultless working, although it would be the first time he had officiated. Bro. Haughton said he would do all in his power, and thanked the Preceptor for the compliment he had paid him.

Bro. Simeons proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the appreciated gift of a pair of wands by Bros. Metcalf Baillie, Green, and Chittock. The W.M., in announcing this, said it gave further proof that the Brethren really had a love for the Lodge. Bro. Baillie thanked the W.M. for his kind remarks. He wished to follow the good example of the Mother Lodge, and show that whatever he and other Brethren could do for the welfare of the Instruction Lodge they would be happy to carry out.

Yarborough Lodge, No. 554.

ANNUAL SUPPER.

THIS event was celebrated on Tuesday, 23rd ult., at Brother Butlin's, the Citizen, Houndsditch. Bro. Henshaw W.M. presided, supported by Bros. Stock S.W., Mahany J.W., Taurmac I.P.M., Cross P.M., Hawes P.M., Thomas P.M. (all of the Mother Lodge), L. A. DaCosta P.M., L. Norden P.M., T. A. Starnes P.M., D. Mc Nish P.M., Andrews, Butlin, Calton, Davis, George, Gibbard, Harvey, Tatham, Jagers, Wollaston, Underwood, Delamonti, Packer, Maconegal, Sasseini, and J. Norden.

The first toast was the King and the Craft, which was duly honoured.

Bro. L. A. DaCosta next gave the Mother Lodge, including the W.M. and the Officers, which was replied to by the W.M.

The W.M. then gave the Preceptor; he regretted to say Bro. T. Cowell was absent through illness, but was sure all present hoped to see him among them again shortly. He called on Bro. L. A. DaCosta to respond.

In his reply that Brother said how sorry he was to miss Bro. T. Cowell on that very pleasant occasion. He urged on all the Brethren, especially the younger ones, to attend the Lodge of Instruction, for unless they did they would not gain preferment in their Mother Lodge. He might say the Lodge of Instruction was the workshop of the Lodge, and they would always welcome those who wanted to learn the ritual, and give them all the assistance they required.

The next toast was that of the Secretary Bro. D. McNish who, in reply, stated he had held the Office many years, and was glad to see such a good attendance. He hoped to see many of those present at the regular meetings, which were held every Tuesday, at the Citizen, at 8 o'clock.

The following Brethren assisted with songs and recitations: Bros. George, Wollaston, Gibbard, Andrews, and Taurmac. Bro. Stocks brought his gramophone, and gave some selections with it. Mr. S. R. George, son of Bro. George, gave some excellent illustrations with the X Rays, which were greatly appreciated.

Bros. George and Gibbard acted as the Stewards.

Ranelagh Lodge, No. 834.

ON Friday, 26th ult., Bro. Walter Atkinson occupied the chair, with Bros. K. M. Ross S.W., G. White J.W., A. Williams P.M. Preceptor, W. Hinds P.M. Treasurer, F. Craggs P.M. Sec., H. G. Cox S.D., J. H. Hillam J.D., J. Lee I.G., R. Reid P.M., H. J. Cousens P.M., W. Hide P.M., J. H. Cumming P.M., R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.J.D. Middx., T. Harrington P.M. P.P.G.P. Essex, G. T. Meek, W. Stokes, H. Butt.

The initiation ceremony was gone through, the candidate being Bro. Lee. The ancient charge was given in a perfect manner.

Lodge was called off and on. Bro. Meek having offered as a candidate for passing was examined and entrusted, and the second ceremony was rehearsed.

Bro. K. M. Ross was elected by those present to occupy the chair on the next occasion, and the Preceptor asked the Brethren to congratulate Bro. Atkinson on his proficiency in carrying out the duties of the chair.

Metropolitan (Victoria) Lodge, No. 1056.

THAT Freemasonry is a luxury highly appreciated by a large number of Brethren was manifest on the occasion of a visit to this Lodge, on Friday of last week, at the Mail Coach, Farringdon Street, E.C., the special occasion being the working of the Fifteen Sections, an event which attracted a large assembly of Brethren. It is an especial pleasure to us to be able to record that not one of the Section workers was absent, which it must be admitted is an unusual experience on such occasions, as so many causes arise to prevent the attendance of all the Brethren set down on the programme. Those present included Bros. H. Hill P.M. 1305 (Preceptor of several Lodges) who acted as W.M., J. Knight I.P.M. 861 S.W., H. B. Spaul P.M. 145 J.W., F. P. Weinell P.M. 1828 Preceptor of the Lodge I.P.M., J. D. Webb P.M. Treasurer, W. R. Witt P.M. Secretary, W. Hayward 1745 I.G., A. B. Clayton W.M.-elect 1686, and P. Waldvogel P.M. 1828 Stewards, Green, Blake, Hoffmann, Malcolm, Clark, Howland, J. Warwick P.M., Backhoffner P.M., Russell, Patrick P.M., Wentz, L. DaCosta P.M., Nielson, Gresham, Shergers, F. Young, Reeley, Yoger P.M., Skelton, Wynman, J. Thom, G. A. Sturgess, J. Hill, Blake, W. Tipton, Lees, J. Lieven, Hayne, Dew, Langton, Thompson, Dave, &c., in all about sixty Brethren being present.

The Lodge being duly formed was opened to the third degree and resumed to the first, when the Sections were worked by Bros. W. Hayward, James W. Harding P.M., A. B. Clayton W.M.-elect, H. B. Spaul P.M., J. Knight P.M., G. G. Canning 1623, and H. P. Lardner P.M. Lodge was then called off and on, and then resumed in the second degree, when the Sections were worked by Bros. R. Waldvogel P.M., G. Newnham J.W. 145, J. D. Webb P.M., F. P. Weinell P.M., and John Thom (by special desire in place of Bro. H. Hill the chairman). The Lodge was advanced to the third degree, and Bros. G. Knight W.M. 1828, W. R. Witt, and R. Fitch Asst. Steward 87 brought the working of the Sections to a conclusion.

The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and the following Brethren were elected members: G. Thompson P.M. 508, Frank Dave I.P.M. 2055, G. A. Sturgess W.M. 538, John Thom I.G. 2331, J. Hill 125, Blake 1745, W. Tipton 1679, H. E. Lees 2694, J. Lieven 25, H. Hayne 1672, F. W. Dew 87, and A. L. Langton. The W.M. in informing the Brethren that they were elected congratulated them on becoming members of the Lodge, as it would be impossible to find a better Preceptor than Bro. Weinell. He called upon Brother Thompson P.M. 508 to respond. That Brother said he had enjoyed the working; it had been a real Masonic treat. In their Lodge of Instruction they did not work the Fifteen Sections, but he should now strongly advise the members to do so in future, and he felt sure if they would take his advice they would become better acquainted with the ritual of Freemasonry. On behalf of himself and the other Brethren he thanked the members for having elected them.

Bro. Weinell P.M. said the W.M. of the evening was an old member of the Lodge, and was already an honorary member; he had heard his work fifteen years ago, and had enjoyed it then. Now he had the pleasure to propose that a hearty vote of thanks be passed and recorded on the minutes, complimenting him on the able manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of the chair. Bro. Knight S.W. seconded the proposition, and said he was sure the Brethren had

enjoyed the working of the W.M., which had been done in a quiet, easy, and perfect manner.

Bro. Hill thanked Bros. Weinell and Knight for their kind remarks, but he did not think he was so very perfect as they had made out. He had done his best, and was pleased the Brethren had enjoyed the working. It was a pleasure to him to see the Lodge in such a prosperous condition. He sincerely thanked the Officers for their great assistance. There were many young members who wished to advance in Freemasonry; whatever assistance he could render them he should always be pleased to afford.

Bro. Weinell proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be passed to the Brethren who had worked the Sections, also to the Senior Warden for his kind assistance. Bro. Hill, in seconding this, said he felt proud the Sections had been worked; it showed that they were masters of the ritual. He could not let the opportunity pass without also complimenting Bro. John Thom, who was unexpectedly called upon to work the Section for which he (the chairman) was appointed. This compliment having been acknowledged, the Lodge was closed.

Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507.

ON Monday, at the Globe Tavern and Restaurant, Moorgate Street, E.C., Bros. A. C. Bradley W.M.-elect 1507 W.M., G. W. Collins S.W., R. Hunt J.W., J. F. Saunders P.M. Prec., G. Ryon acting Sec., J. Webster S.D., E. Pidduck J.D., H. Johnson I.G., H. Meadows P.M., J. Wynman, H. W. Newman, G. Knight P.M., G. Emblin P.M., J. W. Honniball, Abrahams P.M.

Lodge was advanced to the third degree and resumed to the first, when the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Meadows acting as candidate. Bro. Newman answered the questions in the second degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed.

Bro. Hilton Johnson was elected a member. Bro. Saunders P.M. Preceptor proposed a hearty vote of congratulation to the W.M., for the able manner in which he had rehearsed the ceremonies for the first time in the Lodge. Bro. Knight P.M. had very much pleasure in seconding the proposition. He felt the Brethren of the Metropolitan Mother Lodge might be proud of having elected him Worshipful Master; his working that evening was perfection. Bro. Bradley in a few well chosen words acknowledged the compliment paid him.

Bro. G. Collins was elected W.M. for Monday next.

Leopold Lodge, No. 1571.

ON Thursday, at 7 o'clock, at the Moorgate Tavern, Moorgate Street, E.C., Bros. J. Harrison W.M., A. Gooding S.W., R. Blacksee J.W., D. Harlow P.M. Prec., H. Meadows P.M. Sec., W. E. Letchworth S.D., L. Phillips J.D., W. Rich I.G., Jas. Brown, C. Morris, W. Morgan, W. Farmer, T. Prickett, W. Egles, J. Duffield, R. Lee, Jos. Durrel, W. Allen, F. Moon, J. Wynman.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Egles acting as candidate. This was followed by a passing, Bro. T. Prickett acting as candidate. Both the ceremonies were well rendered.

Bro. Gooding was elected W.M. for Thursday next.

ON the 25th ult., Bros. W. Egles W.M., Harrison S.W., A. Gooding I.W., D. Harlow P.M. Preceptor, H. Meadows P.M. Sec., R. Blacksee S.D., T. A. Prickett I.D., J. Cohn I.G., G. Howell, J. Duffield, J. Brown, R. Lee, L. Phillips, Jos. Durrel, W. Letchworth, J. Motly, A. Watts P.M., J. Wynman, C. Morris, &c.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Lee candidate. Bro. Motly answered the questions, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bro. Harlow Preceptor gave the explanation of the working tools.

Kensington Lodge, No. 1767.

ON Tuesday, 23rd ult., the usual weekly meeting took place at the Town Hall Tavern, Kensington.

Bro. W. H. Dresden P.M. took the chair, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. W. B. Neville, who was detained in town, Bros. Arthur Williams P.M. S.W., J. Dearlove J.W., W. Hellier P.M. Preceptor, F. Craggs P.M. Sec., T. W. Blott P.M. S.D., H. J. Cousens P.M. J.D., J. H. Cumming P.M. I.G.

The Lodge was opened in the three degrees, then resumed to the second. Bro. Craggs, acting as D.C., presented Bro. Williams as W.M.-elect, and he gave his assent to the qualifications, and the Lodge being resumed to the third degree Bro. Dresden gave the addresses in such a perfect manner that he was complimented by those present. Bro. A. Williams invested the Officers. We were glad to notice that he in some measure departed from some of the monotonous stereotyped phrases in use on these occasions.

Bro. A. Williams was unanimously elected to act as W.M. on the next assembly.

Woodrow Lodge, No. 2271.

ON Monday, at 3 o'clock, at Stone's Restaurant, Pantons Street, Haymarket, Bros. G. Yeowell W.M., J. E. Culverhouse S.W., L. Lake J.W., C. Woodrow P.M. Prec., J. W. Simeons P.M. Sec., G. W. Lacy S.D., T. Burgess J.D., B. A. Calot I.G., W. H. Making P.M., M. M. Taylor P.M., A. Grille, J. C. Lobb, W. Rudderforth P.M., J. H. Francis, J. Wynman, J. H. Warwick P.M., Th. Baker P.M., C. Blake.

The Lodge being opened, the W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Making P.M., who opened in the second degree, when Bro. Grille answered the questions and was entrusted. The Lodge was further advanced, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. The W.M. resumed the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Warwick candidate.

Bros. T. Baker W.M. 1853 and Charles Blake 1987 were elected members, and Bro. Culverhouse W.M. for Monday next.

VALUE OF FREEMASONRY.

WE do not desire to startle the reader by any remarks that might be justly characterised as unduly laudatory, but we do wish to do justice to Freemasonry, and if in so doing we go beyond the views of some, we trust they will fairly weigh our remarks before they assume to cast them over among the rubbish.

The Masonic Fraternity is a wonderful one in whatever aspect it is viewed, the most wonderful that has come down to mankind through the ages. It is an elect society, and in numbers the elect are a great army. They could do anything they would; they choose to do only that which is for the highest and best advantage of themselves, and at the same time, and only in a less degree, for the advantage of their fellow-men; for whatsoever lifts up, morally and mentally, any class of men, indirectly benefits every other class. It is an ancient society. No one can locate, in time or place, its beginning. It has existed since a time beyond which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. We find evident landmarks of its existence back through the ages, even where little else is found. There is a charm to many minds in searching for evidences of its material works, and its labours of love. They feel that they are en route to an "undiscovered country," from which the traveller may return. They are encouraged by frequent "finds," and they thus go on, enlarging the boundaries of knowledge, and completing the history of the Craft. It is a charitable society, charitable in its best sense. It does not merely dole out pecuniary aid; the world can do that, and often does it. Whenever it gives it gives feelingly, fraternally. In giving to a Brother, it feels that it is giving to itself. All that it has belongs to the Brotherhood, and from its members in distress it can withhold none of its possessions. The charity of Freemasonry is merely incident to its Brotherly Love. It is a moral society. Its morality is that of the First Great Light. All of its symbols and working tools are instrumental in teaching its "beautiful system of morality." It does not supplant the Church; it assumes only to be the "handmaid of religion." But it is a powerful ally. Its teaching is always and everywhere the same, and always and everywhere for good morals. It is an intellectual society. The philosophic system of Freemasonry, in its principles and teachings, is to the thoughtful observer its most remarkable characteristic. There seems practically to be no end to the beauty, force and variety of its philosophic system. Men of the largest culture and the profoundest thought find pleasure and profit in its studies. No one can give it attention without having the field of his reflections enlarged, and deriving intellectual pleasure of the highest character. The many may be satisfied with the spectacular exhibition of what is termed the "work of the floor." Even this they may see without comprehending more than its merest surface-meaning. In doing so they throw away opportunities for the most satisfying and delightful instruction. Indeed, it is scarcely too much to say that they gather the husk and throw away the corn. This is owing, in part, to the Officers of Lodges, and other Masonic bodies, themselves. They do not explain, they do not illustrate. But this knowledge, which the Brethren cannot at times gather within the tyled doors, is not all contraband. Some of it, at least, nay, much of it, may be found in the acknowledged literature of the Craft. Freemasonry now has a literature of which it may justly be proud. The proceedings of its different Grand Bodies, and the Reports on Foreign Correspondence therein contained, are replete with instruction. The published works of such Brethren as Mackey, Fort, Lyon, Woodford, Hughan and Gould are worthy of the most careful reading. They give facts and principles that are truly Masonic. They are logical, accurate and entertaining. The Brother who has them in his Masonic library has an unfailing source of literary pleasure. He may know all of Freemasonry, and thereby become a complete Freemason. He becomes also, as a consequence, practically more regular and punctual in his attendance on his Masonic bodies, and more useful as a member. He is an intelligent member. He advises wisely, and acts promptly. He not only knows the work, but he understands its meaning. He comprehends the entire scope of Freemasonry. To him it is no longer a mystery. It should not be a mystery to any of its members. Yet alas, how many Master Masons are there in name, that are only Entered Apprentices in fact. They have been "brought to light," but afterwards have wandered into darkness. You must remain in the light, and

use that light, if you would receive its proffered advantages. Welcome the day when initiates shall no longer play Masonry, but fairly and earnestly work it. It is not a play-thing. It is not a show. It is a Fraternity with unlimited capacities for enlarging the understanding, purifying the heart, and elevating the character of its Brethren, while at the same time it ministers to the healthy development of their social and convivial propensities. Whoever forgets this, or neglects it, voluntarily resigns a part of his noble heritage as a Craftsman.—"Keystone."

We have stood and must still stand for great forward movements in the world of thought and faith. Masonry has at times been charged with being anti-religious, anti-Christian, anti-church. Never this. But when religion has sunk to superstition and Christianity to a rigid system, and the church to a priest or creed-ridden set or sect, then Masonry has entered her protest and plea for liberty. Human and imperfect, our Fraternity has sometimes let the pendulum swing too far in antagonism to the church, but in it all has been the aim to spread human freedom.—John Facille, Illinois.

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The constitution of our country, founded upon the principles of freedom and equal rights, has been amended from time to time to meet new conditions and new issues. And so with Masonry, while we pledge our unqualified allegiance to its great truths, we must, to perpetuate those truths, add to and change our constitution and laws, as the necessities of the time may require.—Winheld S. Choate, Maine.

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Back dues appear to haunt the minds of Grand Masters generally, as one hardly ever takes up the proceedings of a Grand Lodge that he does not find "back dues" staring him in the face. The writer of this imperfect review holds the opinion that arrears of dues need not be such a bug-bear as they appear to be. The evil is attributable solely to the Lodge itself.—Thomas Mowbray, Nova Scotia.

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The work of establishing and maintaining Masonic homes goes on with most encouraging progress. Masonry is thus demonstrating its true mission and right to a place among the great and good institutions of our advancing civilisation. Never in its history has the Fraternity presented such credentials to the confidence and approbation of the general public.—John D. Vincil, Missouri.

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The idea of the sovereignty of every Grand Lodge is good, and I am not in favour of anything that would impair it; but it is evident that that supremacy, being a state supremacy, cannot possibly have anything to say concerning those questions which are larger than Grand Lodge questions and belong to Freemasonry everywhere.—J. M. Rumsey, Wyoming.

A LAUREL CROWN.

To C. F. Forshaw, Esq., LL.D., F.R.S.L., on his election as Councillor of the Royal Society of Literature, 24th April 1901.

Oh, I am glad that England gives,
"Thy genius a memorial shrine,"
The poet's whisper always lives:
Immortal as the "Soul divine."

And many hearts shall throb and glow,
To see this garland on thy brow,
My sweetest buds of thought shall blow,
To twine around thy pathway now.

For thou hast tried by song and deed,
To rouse the weak, to cheer the sad,
A helper thou hast been indeed,
And so to-night our hearts are glad.

To see this crown of Emerald leaves
Rest lightly on thy noble head,
Oh! may each spray that friendship weaves,
Be ever green and never dead.

My song is weak, my chords are frail,
Yet let my weakest whisper tell,
"That all bow down to crown and hail."
Our poet that we prize so well.

E. SWEETMAN, F.R.S.L.

149 Clonliffe Road, Dublin,
3rd May 1901.

THE THEOLOGICAL LADDER.

An oration by Brother E. Hamilton, delivered publicly at the Court House, Wagoner (Indian Territory), in the presence of the members of the Grand Lodge and a large number of ladies and gentlemen—citizens of the City of Wagoner—15th August 1900.

THE religion of humanity through all the ages has never varied in its basic principles. In matters of detail divisions have arisen, controversy has flourished round doctrine, in questions of interpretation a multitude of leaders and would-be leaders have endeavoured to force their views upon mankind. But under every form of belief the principles have ever remained the same. In the Babel of languages, in the conflict of races it would seem that the prevailing law was "Many men, many minds," and the common opinion was emphatically expressed in that most infelicitous of all terms, the word "Protestant," one who protests against everybody else's belief. On the surface the history of human opinion is a story of cross purposes, it is a battle ground at once discordant and disgraceful. Men pursue shadows, forgetting realities; principles are ignored and details of no importance made paramount. Truth is in eclipse, and around its varied names are ranged the children of darkness, ready to battle and if need be to die for their Shibboleth. The Chinese Boxer is the present day representative of Torquemada, the Dominican priest, and the "foreign devils" in the Middle Kingdom are the objects of hate of an Oriental Holy Office of the Inquisition. History repeats itself. The legations at Peking remind us of the shambles of St. Bartholomew and the Sicilian Vespers; machine guns and Mauser rifles have taken the place of the amphitheatre and the Numidian lions; modern death-dealing instruments have superseded frying on gridirons, boiling in oil, the thumb screw, and the rack; and the hapless minority is done to death as in the times of Diocletian the Tyrant. In the strife of tongues, the clash of opinions and the changing of creeds, Masonry, the elemental religion, stands calmly looking on. In the great work of Humanity's reconciliation, Masonry assembles the sons of Light around a common and universal altar, and enforces a common and universal duty. Outside is the fierce and inhuman strife of competition, politics and religions, with its uncertainties, its doubts and its will-o'-the-wisp chasing; around the altar of Masonry are perfect calm, peace and love of mankind through faith in God. This system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols, is a religion in the true sense. Religion is a bond of union, not an element of discord; religion binds men together as a band of brothers, and cannot and ought not to separate the children of men. Religion being universal, as well suited to proclaim righteousness to the wandering Arab of the desert as to the cultured product of civilisation, should therefore have in it no element that will appeal to one race and not to another, to one age and not to the next. Among the many symbols of the ancient Craft that teach morality, the primæval religion, the Theological Ladder is the clearest in conception, and the most perfect in its development of truth. Clear in conception, for the simplest mind may grasp it in its fulness, perfect in its development of truth, for it holds the key to the problems that men in all ages of history have endeavoured to solve. Let me quote: "Heaven, where all good Masons hope at last to arrive by the aid of that Theological Ladder that Jacob in his vision saw ascending from earth to Heaven, the three principal rungs of which are Faith, Hope and Charity, and which admonish us to have faith in God, hope in immortality and charity to all mankind. Faith may be lost in sight, hope ends in fruition, but charity extends beyond the grave to the boundless realms of eternity." The three greatest moral forces, says Bro. Albert Pike, "are Faith, which is the only true wisdom and the foundation of all government; Hope, which is strength and insures success; and Charity, which is beauty and alone makes animated united effort possible." The first invocation pronounced at the initiation of a candidate for Masonry, appeals to the Almighty Father of the Universe. The Deity is not hailed as the God of the Saxon, the Latin or the Mongolian; He is not invoked as being attentive to one race and careless of the other. He is the All-Father, the Almighty Father of all the children of men. The prayer may fall on unheeding ears, its breadth of vision, its comprehensiveness may be lost on the audience, but it is a summary of Masonic belief.

"Father of all—in every age,
In every clime adored,
By saint, by savage, and by sage,
Jehovah, Jove or Lord."

I do not wish to be understood as implying that the idea of God is the same everywhere and to all men, but I do insist that the faith in God which is the foundation of Masonry is not a belief in a restricted God, in a limited God, in a circumscribed God. Faith too frequently is a profession in a being who loves a sect, who is bolstered up by a creed, who is delighted by a certain hedged-in ceremonial faith, is too often understood as implying acceptance of one race and the rejection of the other, and still too frequently as the arraying of one class of men against their Brethren as good and as honest as they. The history of human faith is a record of blood. Hate has been the animating principle instead of love, and men speak of religion only to abuse each other. Faith, in the common understanding of it, is responsible for the majority of the wars that have devastated the world. From the murder of Cain to the assassination of Christian Chinese, from the earliest pages of human history to the newspaper annals of to-day, faith in a God has been the paramount issue productive of human suffering, bloodshed, and death. So Masonry assembles the sons of Light around a common altar, where controversy can never find entrance, where differences of opinion are silenced, where creeds are dumb, where all tongues, and races, and classes, where all the ages can worship, and cries out:—"Almighty Father of the Universe—we do not invoke Thee because Thou lovest us and hatest Thy other children, because Thou hast revealed Thyself to us and not to others; but realising that the greater the knowledge the greater the responsibility, the greater the light the greater the positive duty, we assemble here, and call Thee Father, the Father of all the children of men."

"To Him on high, no great, no small,
He fills, He bounds, connects, and equals all."

It was this faith that led Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees, that made Moses the deliverer of the enslaved makers of bricks without straw; it was this faith in the All-Father that has animated the reformers, the prophets, the Saviour of mankind. This faith is the only true wisdom. I have no desire to enter into the question of the evidences of the Divine existence, for I am addressing a body of men who believe in Him, to every one of whom it has been said on their confession of Him: "Your trust being in God, your faith is well founded," but I wish to consider the human side of this great truth. And this leads me to the second rung of the Theological Ladder—Hope—which has been defined as an anchor sure and steadfast that enters within the Veil of the Holy Place. Hope is another Faith—faith in self by reason of faith in God—from wisdom comes strength. The Supreme Architect of the Universe, the Uncreated Wisdom, has left nothing to chance. His purposes are from everlasting and His plans are devised of old. "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, yet not one of them shall fall without your Father knowing it. The hairs of your head are numbered. If God so clothe the grass which to-day is and to-morrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe ye? Ye are of more value than many sparrows."

This is the language of the Great Light in Masonry, telling us of the great care and love of the Almighty Father, and it makes men strong. Have faith in yourself, my Brother, because God lives. You have been taught that you are a man and a Mason, and given in charge ever strictly to walk as such towards the great destiny of immortality that awaits you. "No one," says Richter, "is so much alone in the world as a denier of God." To this statement I would add another: No one is so much alone in the world as a denier of man. Man, the heir of all the ages, if he know himself, his destiny, his power, his opportunities, if to this knowledge are added the activity, the resolution, the courage, the hope that springs therefrom, man is a ruler, the master. But if he ignores all this—if life be but a struggle for physical existence and comparative comfort, a ship without a rudder or compass on an unknown sea, drifting in the darkness to an unknown shore—the very creation is in league against him to make him unhappy. No man can succeed in life who does not believe in himself. I can say this in no spirit of Pharasaism, but in the hope of setting forth an exact truth. We are what we think; we act according to our own estimate of the greatness or littleness of life. This is the key to success or failure. A man

who thinks himself of little consequence will act in keeping with his views; while the man who knows and who wills can take the material, the mental, and the very spiritual things of existence and make them do his bidding. When the kings and nobility of Europe attempted to throttle civil liberty and enslave the masses, there were men of the people who said: Trace your genealogy back, if you wish, to some conqueror or tyrant of yesterday, and by it prove that your blood is blue and ours is simply red, and by reason of that you have a divine right to govern wrong, but we can trace our genealogy back to the very origin of the race, and there we find in God's doomsday books our names inscribed as His very children. So they arose in the might of their splendid manhood, and on many a hard fought battlefield the cry of God and liberty rang out in glad accents of glorious victory. When at the birth of this nation the patriots insisted that all government is based on the consent of the governed, they simply gave expression to the faith they had in themselves, that they were able to manage their own affairs and work out their own destiny, not only without the assistance of king, prince, or potentate, but in spite of them. As it is in the larger sphere of national affairs, so it is in the more limited sphere of individual life. Character cannot exist without faith in oneself, and the stronger the character the stronger the faith. I take it then, that hope is the adapting of faith in God to one's own personal life, having a high estimate of our own nature elevated and refined by the processes of religious development and civilisation, and I insist that no man who has a mean opinion of himself, in the invidious sense of that term, can ever be anything but a mean, contemptible man. How life is glorified by this faith in oneself; how difficulties are overcome by

"The mighty hopes that make us men."

Great men, says a prominent socialist, are great only because we are on our knees; let us arise in our manhood and we will find ourselves as great as they; on what meat, says Brutus, has this our Cæsar fed that he had become so great; all expressive of the same thought. Masonry makes us meet on the level of equality, but that level is a high ideal of true worth and manhood, no longer in darkness, but brought to the light of its possibilities, its powers, its grand destiny. Hence the second rung of the theological ladder. Hope, which springs from faith in God, or true wisdom, is productive of strength. Strong hearts are more than coronets, and simple faith than Norman blood, says Tennyson. The greatest of these is Charity. Let us place our feet on the third rung of the symbolical ladder, that charity that extends beyond the grave to the boundless realms of eternity, which cannot exist without faith and hope, inasmuch as it is a logical consequence of them. Faith in God, faith in oneself by reason of that faith in God, and faith in our fellow-men because God hath of one blood made all the nations of men that dwell on the face of the earth. Faith not simply in our own nation or race, but faith in all men. This faith in our fellow-men is the grandest and most sublime of all Masonic teaching, and without its exemplification there is not nor can there be any true religion. This confidence in man is clearly inculcated in every degree of Ancient Craft Masonry. Moses had faith in the ignorant and semi-savage Israelites in Egyptian bondage, or he would never have led them out to become a great nation, and legislate for all nations to the end of time. Captain Phillips at Santiago had faith in his bluejackets, when he said, "Don't cheer, the poor devils are dying." This Government had faith in its citizens when it initiated a struggle with Spain to remove the unutterable cruelty of its rule from the island of Cuba. The great powers have faith in civilisation in attempting to force their views of righteousness upon the yellow race. This duty of faith in one's fellow-men has been called in national life "The White Man's Burden," and whatever mistakes are made, and there are and will be many, yet the ultimate outcome will be harmony, equilibrium, beauty. It was in some such sense that the Psalmist cried out: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, of help of charity of faith in one's fellows. There is no hope for the progress of any race of men, or for any individual of the race without faith in them—faith often betrayed, faith made use of by the recipient to injure, but faith undimmed, charity cloudless nevertheless. This has an ennobling influence on our own lives. If we have no faith in our fellows, or charity for them, we are small, suspicious, resentful, covetous; if we look on them as men,

with all the possibilities of manly development and progress, how we enlarge our own character, and ennoble our own nature. We shall frequently be misunderstood, often imposed upon, the unworthy will misconstrue our motives and take advantage of our faith, but what of that? Confidence begets confidence, and faith produces faith. The bewilderment of the defeated tribes of the desert, who do not understand the trend of civilisation, is aptly set forth by Rudyard Kipling, who depicts one of them saying in his amazement:

"Allah created the English mad, the maddest of all mankind. They do not consider the meaning of things, they consult neither creed or clan; For behold they clap the slave on the back, and behold he becometh a man. They terribly carpet the earth with dead, and before their cannon cool They walk unarmed by twos and threes, and call the living to school."

In the light of the teaching of the symbolical ladder, all governmental, national and racial problems can be solved, and in no other can there be a correct and righteous solution. This is the primitive religion, of which all teaching is either a development or an explanation; this is the religion of humanity through all the ages, never varying in its grand and elevating principles:

Faith, Hope, Charity; Wisdom, Strength, Beauty.

The holding up of which and the exemplification of which if persevered in will bring to pass: The Parliament of Man the Federation of the World.—"Masonry."

I think it may be stated without qualification that any body of men and women organised upon right principles, and for a good purpose, though primarily calculated to benefit only its own members, does nevertheless, exert a potent influence far outrunning its immediate object and aim. Masonry, therefore, though established upon the idea that it is a Brotherhood limited by its membership, must, and does, help toward the consummation of universal Brotherhood. In this respect, and in many others, it very nearly approaches the idea of the family and the home, and as the recognition of the family tie, and the mutual interest of the members of the family, constitute the very basis of our civilisation, so the recognition of Masonic ties and the sentiment of mutual helpfulness tend to uplift civilisation as a whole.—Orville H. Platt, Connecticut.

Charity does not consist solely in furnishing financial aid to the needy (though that is a duty not to be disregarded); but where there is one opportunity for action in this direction, there are a score where our duty is just as plain: to assist and sustain a falling Brother; to whisper good counsel; to vindicate his character; to keep a tongue of good report; to judge not. Who can measure the power for good of these duties well done? Misfortune may come to you, friends forsake you. Slander may smirch your good name. In such an hour what greater comfort than the cheering words of the Brother who will believe no evil—spoken as well behind your back as before your face?—W. H. Roddle, South Dakota.

A Mason must be—he is—a moral man. He must so live that when the world looks upon him its verdict will be, he is a Mason, therefore he is an upright, honest and honourable man. Brethren, the world is watching us closely. It is passing judgment upon us, not by our professions but by our deeds. The Lodges should be purged. The greatest Lodge is not necessarily the largest Lodge. The Lord says: "Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit."—Wm. M. Lee, North Carolina.

The necessity of caution in accepting petitions has often been mentioned, but I would add that it is of equal importance to watch well the conduct of those who compose the Lodges, that no act or strife may mar that goodwill and harmony that should prevail.—John C. Muerman, Idaho.

"Faith without works is dead." What does it profit us, or those about us, that we meet around our sacred altar in solemn ceremonies, if we do not at least endeavour to live out of the Lodge what we teach in it?—W. H. Roddle, South Dakota.