

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE BOYS SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

WE are now within a few days of the celebration of the one hundred and third Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, which event is fixed for Wednesday next, to be held at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., a Brother who has won universal regard among all with whom he has come in contact, and not only enjoys the outside distinction of being Father of the English House of Commons, but as a ruler of the Craft comes fifth in point of seniority among our Provincial Grand Masters, having ruled over his Province since June 1869, and has probably presided on more occasions at the meetings of Grand Lodge than any other Brother still among us.

In view of the splendid totals already announced in connection with the Charity Festivals of the present year—both of them having produced record subscriptions—it requires more than ordinary pluck to predict a “success” for the coming event, for the reason that success at the present day means so much; but we have little hesitation in venturing the opinion that the result to be announced next week will be found to compare favourably with the totals of recent years, and although it may not be that Brother Beach is able to follow the example of the previous Chairmen of the year—the Earl of Warwick and Earl Amherst—in securing a “record” announcement, there is little fear but that he will have sufficient on which to compliment himself, the Brethren of his Province, the other Stewards, and the members of the Craft who respond to their appeals.

The Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight includes less than fifty Lodges, but so general is the respect and even love displayed towards its Masonic chief, that what it lacks in numbers will, to a great extent, be made up for in enthusiasm, so that we may fairly look for a splendid return from that Province; and as the total number of Stewards now exceeds five hundred—a larger proportion of whom, however, are this year “unattached”—the general outlook is most promising for a successful Festival, although not so much so as to allow of our expecting anything so stupendous as was achieved by the Benevolent Institution in February, or by the Girls School last month.

The needs of the Boys School are well known to the Craft. It is doing good work, and doing it well; and what is perhaps far more to the purpose, it is making steady progress with a scheme of enlargement which will allow of a great extension of the good work, and for which, naturally, increased help is asked from the Craft. At the present time just on three hundred boys are being educated, clothed and maintained by the Institution, which to a very great extent is dependent year by year on the voluntary subscriptions of the Craft for its support, the items of permanent income, arising from interest on invested capital and other sources, being really very small, when compared with the sum annually required to pay the current expenses of the year.

We trust the Festival of Wednesday next will produce an amount ample to meet all the requirements of the coming twelvemonth, and also allow of a substantial sum being added to the reserve which has gradually arisen, so as to enable the Committee of Management to maintain, and even extend the work of the Institution so soon as the completion of the new buildings in course of erection at Bushey gives them the opportunity of doing so. It is satisfactory to know that the decision to hold the Festival at the Crystal Palace seems to meet with general approval, and that either on that account or in the general interests of the Charity a larger number of Ladies and Brethren than usual are likely to attend the celebration. We recognise that little, if anything, is done on such occasions to swell the announcement of the day, but we do believe that a large assembly at one of the Festivals means increased interest in the work of the Charities, and a corresponding benefit in years to come. It is some years since one of the Festivals was held at Sydenham, but it has a very good record in these matters, and we can but fervently hope its reputation in this respect may be materially increased by the result of the one hundred and third Anniversary of the Boys School, to be held there next Wednesday.

IMPOSTORS IN FREEMASONRY.

WE have lately been requested by the Brethren of a well known south country Lodge to publish the portrait of one of their old members, who for some time past has been making a living by appealing to members of the Craft in different parts of the country; together with a report of the police court proceedings which resulted in his conviction as an impostor early in the present year, so that Brethren in other parts may be warned, and put on their guard against one who seems to have been able to do fairly well by appealing to the benevolent feelings of members of the Craft.

We have the greatest sympathy with the Brethren of the Lodge in question, and should much like to do as they wish, but it is well known that the law of our country, so far as this particular feature is concerned, appears to favour the impostor, and at times presses very heavily on the newspaper proprietor or public official who desires to do what he deems to be his duty in warning his fellows against imposition. We have given the matter full consideration, and feel the risk of an action is more than we can reasonably be expected to run, even though our desire is to do everything possible to promote the best interests of the Craft. But the matter calls for consideration, and, we think, action in another direction.

It is not in England alone that the Craft is beset with Masonic Impostors, as is apparent from the extract we give in this issue from our American contemporary the “Keystone,” many of the remarks which appear therein being so near the facts in regard to our own cases as to apply with equal force this, as on the other side of the Atlantic, and we can most cordially endorse the closing observation of our

contemporary—"the sooner it ceases to pay for the impostor to hang on the outskirts of the Fraternity, the better it will be for Freemasonry. Let the straggling clan of impostors be abolished, carefully, but surely." Just so, but how is this to be accomplished? Much has been done in this country—and apparently in America also—in recent years, through better organisation of centres for charitable purposes, and the greater facilities which the post, the telegraph, and the telephone now afford for making rapid enquiry, and circulating warnings; but something more is needed and, as we urged many years since, we consider the authorities of the Craft ought to be aroused to take action, and do it. In the case to which we particularly refer at the head of these remarks the Lodge to which the erring Brother belonged has taken special action—a portrait of the impostor and a report of the police court proceedings has been prepared and widely circulated, but it is not to be expected a Private Lodge can do enough to put a national aspect on the case. We suggest that Grand Lodge should send a copy of the slip referred to with every copy of the next agenda for Grand Lodge that is sent out, and if this were done a blow would be laid at the root of Masonic imposture which we venture to think would do far more to check it than is likely to be the case if individual Lodges or Provinces are left to do the work by themselves. Once let it be known that the head authorities of the Craft are taking a lively interest in the work, and impostors would be careful of keeping clear of the official "Portrait Gallery," while legitimate Brethren really in distress would be able with greater confidence to appeal to their Brethren, with the certainty of getting the relief they desire, and which the Craft is anxious to afford, but which under existing circumstances is withheld because there is no certainty that fraud and imposition will be properly punished when clearly established, or its continuance rendered difficult by united action on the part of the heads of the Craft.

MIDDLESEX.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge will be held on Saturday next, at Harrow, when it is expected the Provincial chief Lord George Hamilton will preside.

KENT.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Chapter will be held at the Town Hall, Gravesend, on Friday, 12th prox., at 3 p.m. The usual business is on the agenda, and a banquet will follow at the Clarendon Hotel, at half past four, tickets for which, including wine, are 12s 6d each. Companions intending to be present at the banquet are requested to signify the same to Comp. Orlton Cooper, 9 Woodville, Gravesend, from whom tickets can be obtained.

NEW HALL AT MILLOM.

ON the 14th inst., a Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Millom, when Colonel F. R. Sewell Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Cumberland and Westmorland performed the ceremony of laying the chief corner stone of a new Masonic Hall. There was a large gathering of Brethren from all parts of the North of England and Scotland.

In his address Colonel Sewell said they were assembled at the erection of a building that would promote honour and brotherly love throughout the ages until time was no more.

ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR.

AT a meeting of the Premier Conclave of the Order, held at the Holborn Restaurant, on Thursday, 6th inst., Bro. N. Brokenshire, of Lewisham, P.G.C. and Secretary of the Conclave, was presented with a service of plate and a salver suitably inscribed, in recognition of his services as Secretary and Preceptor for many years.

CONSECRATION.

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The Chère Reine Lodge, No. 2853.

THIS new London Lodge was Consecrated on the 7th inst., at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, by Brother Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Secretary, assisted by Bros. R. Grey P.G.W. as S.W., Edward Terry P.G.T. as J.W., Rev. Sir Borradaile Savory G.Chaplain as Chaplain, Fitzroy Tower as D.C., and Woodhouse Braine, F.R.C.S., S.G.D. as I.G.

The Chère Reine Lodge is the sixth Lodge connected with medicine to be established in the metropolis, and Charing Cross Hospital is the fifth of the London Hospitals to associate itself with Freemasonry, following the good lead set by St. Bartholomew's, St. Mary's, the West London, and the Middlesex Hospitals.

The Officers appointed were Bros. Rev. A. W. Oxford, M.D. Oxon., P.G.D., W.M., John Abercrombie, M.D. Cantab., F.R.C.P., S.W., Amand Routh, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., J.W., J. Astley Bloxam, F.R.C.S. Eng., acting I.P.M., C. E. Wright Chaplain, Robert Grey P.G.W. Treasurer, C. Carter Braine, F.R.C.S., Secretary, Frederick Wallis, M.B. Cantab, F.R.C.S. Eng., S.D., Victor Corbould, M.D. Brux., J.D., J. W. Eyre M.D. Durh., I.G., Arthur E. Reade Organist, and P. L. Daniel, F.R.C.S., Eng., and J. Humphreys, L.D.S. Eng., Stewards.

After the ceremony of Consecration and the conclusion of business the Founders entertained their numerous guests at a banquet. The usual Loyal toasts having been honoured the Worshipful Master proposed the Consecrating Officers, which was suitably acknowledged by the Grand Secretary.

The Worshipful Master was proposed by Bro. Astley Bloxam, and Bro. Oxford, in replying, modestly regretted that he was filling a post which ought to have been occupied by one of the staff of the hospital had circumstances permitted.

He then proposed the toast of the Visitors, which was responded to by Bro. Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Kiallmark W.M. of the University of London Lodge, Bro. L. Bidwell, F.R.C.S., W.M. of the Cavendish Lodge (West London Hospital), and Bro. A. E. Sansom, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P., who is W.M.-designate of the Lodge shortly to be founded in connection with the London Hospital.

The Officers of the Lodge was acknowledged by Bro. Abercrombie, Bro. Routh, and Bro. Carter Braine, the last-named remarking that although it might be imagined that the name "Chère Reine" had been adopted in connection with the name of the hospital this was not actually so. It was rather selected because one of the crosses erected by King Edward I. to commemorate the route of Queen Eleanor's funeral procession was at the village of Charing, near to Westminster Abbey, and because it was thought that the recent death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who was Patroness of Charing Cross Hospital, would make "Chère Reine" a doubly appropriate designation for their Lodge.

POLITICS AND FREEMASONRY.

BY a judicious ordinance of the Constitutions of the Order Freemasons are recommended to abstain from all topics of religious and political discussion, and it is for the benefit of the Craft that so wise a regulation was established. But Freemasonry has its political and religious aspects, and there are particular occasions when such subjects may be referred to. Such a special occasion was the emergency meeting of the Empress Lodge, No. 2581, held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W., on Thursday of last week, when representatives of nearly all parts of the British Empire assembled to commemorate the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The conception of the meeting originated with Bro. J. H. Dimsdale, who was zealously supported by the W.M., Officers and Past Masters, and nothing was left undone to make the gathering worthy of so auspicious an occasion. It must be borne in mind that the Empress Lodge was established for the express purpose of uniting Brethren from all parts of the Empire, and in order that Masons from the colonies visiting the mother country might be welcomed and find friends upon their arrival.

Many Officers of Grand Lodge graced the meeting with

their company, among those present being the Earl of Halsbury Lord High Chancellor, Viscount Templetown, Edward Letchworth, George Richards District Grand Master of the Transvaal, C. Trevor Mold Past Deputy Grand Master of South Australia, Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Agent General for South Australia, Dr. J. Byrne District Grand Master of Queensland, Hon. Henry Copeland Agent General for New South Wales, Justice Hodges of Victoria, Sir Horace Tozer Agent General for Queensland, D. P. Cama, Sir John B. Monckton, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, M.P., first Master of the Empress Lodge, Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, Rev. W. H. Turner, Sir M. Bhowndagree, M.P., K.C.I.E., Sir Montague Nelson, K.C.M.G., Bernard Marks of Melbourne, H. R. Hoyles D.G.Sec. Bombay, Alfred J. Thomas, Henry Neville, Dr. Maitland Coffin, J. D. Langton Under Sheriff, Dr. Khory of Bombay, Dr. Lennox Browne, T. P. Griffin, Frank Richardson, Major Woodhall, J. Strachan, W. R. McConnell, A. Berridge, C. E. Keyser, J. M. McLeod, W. S. Hooper, G. C. Breese S.W., J. S. Bhungara J.W., Imre Kiralfy Treasurer, Percival Dixon Secretary, G. R. Blades S.D., G. G. Kirchner J.D., W. H. Bond I.G., W. E. Garstin, Dr. F. Allen, Dr. Bertrand Dawson, W. H. Jefferat, Arthur Tite, Tom Fraser, Gordon Hunter, Lionel Gowing, Alfred Robbins, Orlton Cooper, &c., &c.

The Lodge was opened at half past five, when the ballot was taken for Mr. Isidore Spielmann as a candidate for initiation, which having proved unanimous, that gentleman was admitted and regularly initiated into Freemasonry. Those who were privileged to be present were much gratified at the able manner in which the ceremony was performed by Bro. Coleman, who was very efficiently assisted by his Officers.

The Lodge was then closed, and the company, numbering about 120, adjourned to the banquet room, where a choice repast was served by the courteous manager of the establishment. The menu cards were extremely elegant, and contained photographs of interesting places in London and Australia.

A souvenir of the occasion was presented to each guest, in the shape of an allegorical picture of the British Empire. It was designed by Dr. Maitland Coffin and depicted the British Lion, surrounded by tiger, kangaroo, ostrich, beaver, codfish, and parrot, pledging Queen Victoria, whose portrait overlooked the group.

The toast of the King and the Craft was drank with loyal enthusiasm, and the same reception was accorded to that of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

The Earl of Halsbury Past Grand Warden responded for the Officers of Grand Lodge. In the course of a most felicitous speech he said he felt very diffident at being called upon to respond for the Officers of Grand Lodge, when there were others present who were so much better qualified to do so. But he could hardly imagine a more appropriate celebration of a great national event than the present meeting of Brethren of the Craft from all parts of the Empire. There was a time which, unfortunately, he was old enough to remember, when it was supposed that the sooner we got rid of our colonies the better, as they were considered a drag upon the national prosperity. He was, however, happy to believe that that stage had long since passed away, and that recent events had shown what the colonies could do for us, and what we felt towards them. The experience was not only a lesson to us, but an example for the civilisation of mankind, in showing how much could be done by a spirit of unity and a real fraternity towards each other. Freemasonry had been the means of joining men of various nationalities in one vast Brotherhood, and if all nations were actuated by the spirit of Freemasonry we might look forward to the time when "the war drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled, in the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world;" when mankind would be bound by cords of love, rather than by bonds of steel.

Bro. Coleman was equally happy in proposing the Commonwealth of Australia. The Duke of York had been ordained by Queen Victoria to celebrate the grand conception of a United Australia, and the present gathering was a happy simile of what had been effected in the Antipodes. He referred to the gallant services rendered by the colonial troops, 20,000 of whom had gone to South Africa, and the Empire would never forget the part our brothers had played

in the struggle. When love, peace, and harmony had been restored, he hoped the country would settle down and form a part of our great Empire.

Sir John Cockburn, replying to the toast, said that as one who had laboured in the cause they celebrated that evening he felt it to be the great honour of his life that he had assisted in forming the Commonwealth. The journey of the Duke of Cornwall was a great object lesson to the world. He was threading the pearls of the Empire in all quarters of the globe, and his reception had been worthy of the occasion. Considering the long relation of the King with Freemasonry he might refer to the vast strides the Craft had made in Australia. When he was initiated there were only 300 Lodges, now there were 1,900, and they had their own Grand Lodges. But that made them none the less loyal to the Grand Lodge of dear old England, and they rather took the position of an affectionate and respectful daughter of the Mother Country. Many of the Governors had been Grand Masters of their districts, and Lord Kintore was able to travel 2,000 miles in visiting all the Grand Lodges in Australia. Freemasonry had achieved much, but its eye was fixed on a star of hope, and would never cease its work till the world was one Grand Lodge, and all its peoples were Brothers.

Sir Joseph Dimsdale, in giving the toast of India and the other portions of the Empire, regretted the absence of Lord George Hamilton, whose duty called him to another place, and also of Sir Gerard Smith. This country had recently passed through a most momentous crisis; the authority of the Crown had been impugned, and the integrity of the Empire had been assailed. India had risen as one man to assist us, and it was a great regret that the Princes could not be permitted to take part in the struggle. It was no wonder then that the Empress Lodge has seized the opportunity of celebrating the great event that had just been accomplished, and they were honoured by the presence of His Majesty's most prominent minister to enhance the pleasure of the evening.

Sir M. Bhowndagree, M.P. and Bro. George Richards each replied to the toast in stirring speeches, which evoked the utmost enthusiasm, but which want of space alone prevents us from inserting.

Bro. Charles J. Kiralfy proposed the Worshipful Master, to which Bro. Coleman briefly replied, and Bro. Alf. J. Thomas having responded for the visitors this interesting meeting terminated at a late hour.

An excellent musical entertainment was provided by Bro. James Kift, in which Miss Edith Serpell, Miss Florence Venning, and Bros. H. Harden, John Josey, and Walter Churcher took part.

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NORTHS AND HUNTS.

THE annual meeting of the Lodges of the Province of Norths and Hunts was held under the banner of the Euston Lodge, No. 2283, at the Church Schools, St. Neots, on Friday, 7th inst. The Earl of Euston, D.L., Prov.G.M. presided, and was supported by the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, and many Brethren from all parts of the Province.

At the opening of the Lodge Brother H. Manfield P.G. Treasurer of England occupied the S.W. chair, and Bro. Owen Parker that of J.W., the Prov.G.M. being supported by Bro. T. P. Dorman P.G.A.D.C. England acting as Deputy Prov.G.M. in the regrettable absence through indisposition of the Deputy Bro. John Haviland.

The Prov.G.M. appointed and invested the following Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Clarabut 442	...	Senior Warden
G. F. E. Wilkinson 360	...	Junior Warden
Rev. L. T. Jones 442	...	Chaplain
Rev. J. R. Pullan 2283	...	Ditto
A. Cockerill 360	...	Treasurer
B. Baker 455	...	Registrar
Geo. Ellard 360	...	Secretary
W. F. Tipler 1764	...	Senior Deacon
T. Horton 2555	...	Junior Deacon
W. R. Todd 373	...	Supt. of Works
J. J. Hart 360	...	Dir. of Ceremonies
W. G. Hobbs 1011	...	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
W. T. King 607	...	Sword Bearer
H. Edwards 737	...	Standard Bearer
W. Clarke 455	...	Ditto
Boyer 442	...	Organist
H. J. Burt 2684	...	Pursuivant
W. H. Hodges 1764	...	Steward
W. J. Hull 1764	...	Ditto
W. J. Arnsby 360	...	Ditto
E. H. W. Howe 2431	...	Ditto
G. H. Dunckley 445	...	Ditto
J. Lynn 2283	...	Ditto
W. Chapman 2283	...	Tyler.

The Prov.G.M. announced with regret that owing to his advancing years and the state of his health Bro. F. G. Buckle, who for a quarter of a century had filled the Office of Secretary of the Province with so much ability and to the satisfaction of the Brethren, had felt it necessary to resign the position. He moved that the best thanks of the Province be given to Bro. Buckle for the valuable services he had rendered the Brethren during his tenure of the Office. Bro. Dorman seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously, and the new Secretary, Bro. Ellard, was asked to convey to his predecessor the resolution which had been passed.

On the motion of Bro. Clarabut, seconded by Brother Dorman, a vote of sympathy with Bro. John Haviland Dep. Prov.G.M., on his absence, through illness, was carried with equal unanimity.

Bro. Young conveyed to the Prov. Grand Lodge an invitation from the Brethren of the Merit Lodge to hold the next annual Provincial meeting at Stamford. Bro. Harry Manfield conveyed a similar invitation from the Brethren of the Pomfret Lodge, to hold the meeting at Northampton. The Stamford Brethren ultimately conceded their claim to Northampton, it being understood that the succeeding meeting should be held at the border town.

An excellent banquet was afterwards served in the Public Rooms by Miss Cranstone, of the Cross Keys, Earl Euston presiding.

The appointment of Bro. G. Ellard as Secretary was referred to with much approval during the evening, and Bro. Ellard, in reply, said the appointment which the Provincial Grand Master had been pleased to confer upon him that day was an onerous one, and it would take him all his time to perform the duties of the Office with the same zeal and ability with which they had been discharged by their old friend Bro. Buckle. Bro. Buckle had held the Office something like twenty-five years, and not a single mistake had been made; but the work had been done grandly and well. He trusted he might have health and strength to follow worthily in Bro. Buckle's footsteps.

Bro. Geo. Ellard is a Past Master of the Pomfret and Eleanor Cross Lodges, and present Secretary of the Pomfret, the senior Lodge of the Province, and has for many years been distinguished for his devotion to Masonic interests, and especially for his splendid endeavours for the Masonic

Charities, as the representative of the Province. Brother Ellard's appointment to the vacant Office was acclaimed on all sides.

The weather during the day was perfect, and the arrangements of the Brethren at St. Neots left nothing to be desired to contribute to the complete success of the gathering.

WEST LANCASHIRE.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire was held on Wednesday, 12th inst., at the Co-operative Hall, Leigh. The Earl of Lathom Provincial Grand Master presided, and there were also present Bros. R. Wylie P.G.D. Deputy Provincial Grand Master, T. T. Shann Prov.J.G.W., J. J. Lambert P.G.D., Rev. T. Barton Spencer P.G.Chaplain, J. Houlding P.G.D., and W. Goodacre P.G.S.B. Prov.G.Sec.

Among the visitors was Bro. J. R. Spurgeon LL.B., a native of Liberia, Grand Lecturer and Past Grand Warden of the Order in Liberia, to whom a special greeting was extended, and who responded in the name of the Liberian Brethren.

Apologies for absence were received from the Earl of Derby Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, T. E. Withington Prov.S.G.W., N. W. Helme, M.P., P.P.G.W., and others. There was a large attendance. Of the 127 Lodges in the Province one only was unrepresented.

The accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer Bro. T. Edwards showed that grants from the funds of the Province had been made as follow: To the Benevolence Committee £143, to the Royal Lancaster Asylum £33, to the Indian Famine Fund 50 guineas, to the Fund for Loyal Brethren in South Africa 50 guineas, to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution 50 guineas, to the Alpass Benevolent Institution 50 guineas, and to the Hamer Benevolent Institution 25 guineas. After necessary expenses had been paid there remained satisfactory balances in hand. The financial statement was adopted, on the motion of Bro. J. Houlding, seconded by Bro. the Rev. T. B. Spencer.

The Provincial Grand Secretary submitted his annual report. He said since their last annual meeting they had to regret the loss of Queen Victoria, and the severance of that intimate connection which had been continued for so many years between their late Grand Master the King and themselves. When His Majesty, then Prince of Wales, succeeded the Marquis of Ripon as Grand Master there were about 1,500 Lodges under the English Constitution. When the King surrendered the Grand Mastership that number had nearly doubled. The great progress made during the quarter of a century had been largely represented in the Province of West Lancashire. In 1875 there were in that Province 69 Lodges, with a roll of 4,400 members. In 1885 there were 82 Lodges, with a roll of 4,600 members, whereas at the present time there were 127 Lodges, with a roll of membership exceeding 8,500. In the last fifteen years therefore the Lodges in West Lancashire had increased by 55 per cent., and the roll of members by 85 per cent. That fact should emphasise the exhortation so frequently given by their Prov. Grand Master to see that all candidates for the Order were good men and true. As to the work of the year, the Lord Lathom Memorial Fund, which was not quite completed last year, had risen to over £3,500, and it had been allocated to the Benevolent Institutions of the Province. Presentations by the Provincial Grand Master had been granted in return for the sums given. Several new Lodges had been constituted during the year, and there was a desire still further to increase the number. Encouragement, however, was only given in those cases where the necessity was apparent, and the petitioners of such standing in the Order as afforded reasonable hope of success. During the year grants from the Fund of Benevolence had been made to eight recipients to the extent of £140. Three children from the Province had been elected on the foundation of the Institutions in London. He was glad to be able to report that a spirit of harmony prevailed among the Lodges generally, and that the Benevolent Institutions had received generous support. Referring, for the purposes of comparison, to their position twenty years ago, he found that they had in the Province at that time an Educational Institution, with an income of £1,280 a year, educating ninety-three children at a cost of £671, and invested funds amounting to £15,900.

The income of that Institution was now, according to the last report £3,044. The number of children being educated was 210, at a cost of £1,580, while the invested funds had increased from £15,900 to £25,600. The Hamer Benevolent Institution fifteen years ago had an income of £290, from which grants were made to distressed Brethren of the Province. Last year the income was £1,374, and twenty-one distressed Brethren received grants and annuities amounting to £408. The capital account, which stood at £1,850, now reached £8,600. Since the years with which he had been comparing their present position two new Benevolent Institutions had been brought into existence—the Alpass Benevolent Fund and the Victoria Fund of Benevolence. Up to 1885 there was in the Province no provision for the assistance of widows beyond a small grant from the Provincial Fund of Benevolence. They had now the Alpass Institution, which during the past year had an income of £3,250 and which made grants and annuities to widows amounting to £1,130, and had an invested fund of £9,500. In 1897 the West Lancashire Victoria Fund was established for the assistance of those sons and daughters of deceased Brethren who were not considered eligible for aid from any previously existing Masonic Fund. From that Fund grants had been made to thirteen daughters of Freemasons, amounting to £100. Beyond the benevolent work evidenced by those Institutions a generous response had been made to an appeal for the erection of a new church at Skelmersdale. He trusted that the present flourishing condition of the Order in West Lancashire might be maintained.

The Provincial Grand Master said they could congratulate themselves most heartily upon their position, as revealed by Bro. Goodacre's report, that everything should be so flourishing at the beginning of the new century. He hoped it would incite them to fresh efforts for the prosperity of the Craft, which they all loved so dearly. He thanked them once again for the magnificent testimonial to the worth of his late father that they had given him. It was always most touching and very dear to him to think of the way in which the Brethren loved his father. He could not help referring to it again and again when he met them. He thanked them also for the hearty support which they had given to something outside Masonry, and he should never forget their subscription of £350 to the fund for a new church at Skelmersdale. They had made the building possible, and they would be hospitably received by the Brethren of Skelmersdale when they went, as he hoped many of them would, to see the laying of the foundation stone. He hoped the Brethren would always remember that increased strength did not consist alone in increased numbers. Their true strength lay in loyalty to the Craft.

Bro. J. J. Lambert paid a high compliment to Bro. Thomas Edwards for his able discharge of the duties of Prov. Grand Treasurer during the past year, and proposed as his successor Bro. A. Pickford, of the Architect Lodge, No. 1375, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. Bro. Thomas Edwards seconded the nomination, which was supported by Bro. J. Slyman P.P.G.D., and unanimously agreed to.

Bro. Lambert next proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Thomas Edwards, and it was heartily accorded.

On the motion of Bro. R. Wylie, seconded by Bro. John Houlding, Bros. J. J. Lambert P.P.G.D., James Platt P.P.G.D., T. Callow P.P.G.T., G. A. Harradon P.P.G.T., and Thomas Edwards P.P.G.T., were elected Auditors.

Bro. John Houlding moved that the allowance to the Provincial Grand Secretary be increased by £60 per annum, to enable him to provide assistance in the clerical work of his office. Bro. Lambert seconded, and Bro. Wylie supported the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On the proposition of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master the sum of £100 was voted to the funds of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, and 150 guineas to be divided equally between the Alpass, the Educational, and the Hamer Institutions.

The Provincial Grand Master said they would, as usual, take a collection for a charity in the town, and the Mayor of Leigh (Bro. T. Shaw) had suggested that one of the most deserving was the Leigh Nursing Association. The nurses visited 5,000 or 6,000 patients during the year, and the Charity was supported by voluntary contributions. They would, therefore, hand the sum raised to the Association. The collection

amounted to £26. The Mayor of Leigh thanked the Brethren for their gift, which, he said, would come as a surprise to the Nursing Association, and would help the Committee to meet many of the difficulties they would have to face in the coming year.

The Provincial Grand Officers were invested as follow:

Bro. R. K. Fenton 1314	...	Senior Warden
W. Pierpoint 148	...	Junior Warden
Rev. T. J. Preece 155	...	Chaplain
Rev. T. Storey-Bates 1032	...	Ditto
A. Pickford 1375	...	Treasurer
W. H. J. Jenkins 1050	...	Registrar
W. W. Jones 786	...	Deputy Registrar
W. Goodacre (re-appointed)	...	Secretary
Thomas Baxter 1561	...	Senior Deacon
A. J. Cunliffe 1032	...	Ditto
Edward Wilson 1061	...	Ditto
G. R. Johnson 216	...	Junior Deacon
H. P. McLaughlin 2154	...	Ditto
J. Clayton 2714	...	Ditto
R. Green 2708	...	Supt. of Works
T. Bush 2290	...	Dir. of Ceremonies
H. Bouchier 1335	...	Dep. Dir. of Cers.
E. Bradshaw 613	...	Asst. Dir. of Cers.
J. Plumpton 1570	...	Ditto
W. M. Varley 2324	...	Ditto
J. Matthews 1384	...	Sword Bearer
J. T. Bramley 2631	...	Dep. Sword Bearer
J. Hargreaves 1398	...	Standard Bearer
Thomas Ball 1213	...	Ditto
J. Birchall 897	...	Organist
R. Knowles 178	...	Assistant Secretary
John Bell 2525	...	Pursuivant
James Iddon 2376	...	Assistant Pursuivant
E. Taylor 2349	...	Steward
J. A. Muir 2042	...	Ditto
T. W. Travers 1354	...	Ditto
R. Shocklady 249	...	Ditto
W. H. C. Trense 594	...	Ditto
J. Dickenson 1354	...	Ditto
W. J. Doran (re-appointed)	...	Tyler.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was afterwards closed.

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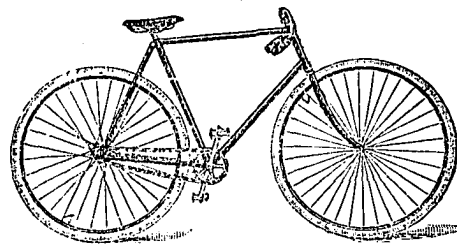
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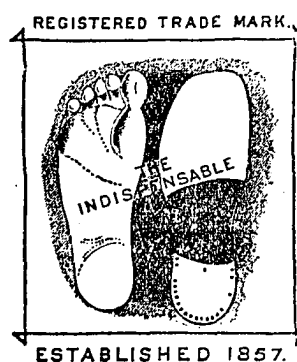
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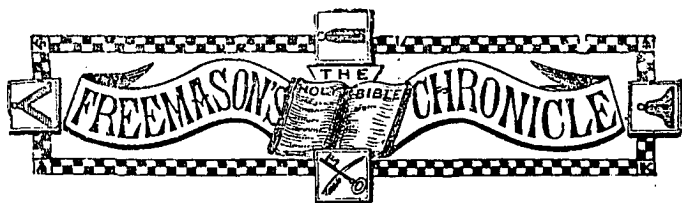
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SATURDAY, 22ND JUNE 1901.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

THE annual visit of Stewards to the Institution, and Distribution of Prizes to the successful pupils, will take place on Monday, at the Schools, Wood Green, the proceedings commencing at 3 p.m. The Chairman of the year, the popular Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, will no doubt be present, as his wife Mrs. W. W. Bramston Beach has kindly consented to make the awards to the boys, a gracious act on the part of that lady which not only proves sympathy with her husband in the work of Freemasonry, but shows that like that well tried Brother, and in spite of advancing years, she yet takes a lively interest in the education and training of the young. We trust her presence on the occasion may be as much appreciated by the pupils as it deserves to be.

Fire at the New Schools.

LAST week a misfortune befel the new buildings in course of erection at Bushey, for the purposes of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, which happily proved less serious than appeared at one time to be threatened, but which was sufficient to cause considerable damage and, it may be, delay in the completion of the new home for "Our Boys."

A few minutes before midnight on Sunday, 9th inst., a fire was discovered in the large dining hall of the establishment in course of erection, and from the local reports it appears that only the early discovery of the outbreak, the kindly action of a neighbour who cycled to Watford for the fire engines, and the ready response and active efforts of the brigade, prevented what might have led to the undoing of much of the work that has thus far been accomplished in erecting the new Boys School at Bushey. We have visited the site since the outbreak, and in the calm which surrounds the neighbourhood in broad daylight, admit there does not seem much cause for real alarm; but as one of those who have assisted at country fires in the middle of the night, and can appreciate the efforts often made by willing helpers to remove possible sources of danger, and take a part in the task of stopping a conflagration, we can well believe the local reports are not too highly coloured. However, good luck seemed to continue its sway over the new buildings of the School, and happily the damage is probably covered by a thousand pounds, a loss which we fear may fall somewhat heavily upon the contractor, but which, it may be, will prove a cheap lesson, as the Executive will now more than ever recognise that it is imperative to make special provision for a possible calamity when the new Schools come to be fully occupied, and will be generally supported in any action they may deem desirable to guard those entrusted to their care.

The following is copy of the report of the outbreak, as published by the "Watford Observer":

On Sunday night, a few minutes before midnight, a report was received at the Fire Station of an outbreak of fire at the Masonic Schools, now nearing completion on the Bushey Grove Park Estate. In double quick time the engine was manned and on the way to the scene. The fire was found to be in the large dining hall, which measures over 100 feet by 45 feet, and the flames had a good hold on the building when the brigade arrived. The tie beams and principals, which were in the course of erection, had collapsed, and the roof boarding and rolls of felt, which were on the floor ready for use were also beyond recovery. The bath stone of the windows in some cases will have to be replaced, and the Portland stone columns where the fire raged fiercest were all splintered. There was an excellent force of water from the Colne Valley mains, and Mr. Blackburn was in attendance with an assistant. The Metropolitan police, under Inspector Giffard, were also strongly represented, and rendered the firemen no small help.

It was at first thought that the fire could not be confined to the scene of the outbreak, but the efforts of the firemen were successful, otherwise the kitchen block and the wing on the right side would have been demolished. Foreman carpenter T. Nevill, foreman

mason L. Gover, and foreman of the works C. Woolley, were present and rendered valuable aid. Nothing is known as to the origin of the fire. The day watchman, who left in the evening, noticed nothing unusual on taking his departure. The outbreak was first noticed by one of the Bushey police, who immediately gave the alarm. But for the kindness of a Mr. Woodville, who resides in the Avenue, in volunteering to cycle to Watford to call the brigade, the result would have been much more serious. Owing to some misunderstanding, Messrs. Sedgwick's brigade did not receive the call, but on hearing of the fire they soon put in an appearance, Lieutenant Sedgwick in command. The Rickmansworth brigade, who presumably received notice from the police, kindly turned up under Captain Henderson, with a hose cart and steamer, but the fire was under control before their arrival. Much more loss would have been sustained had it not been for the pulling down of the scaffolding, thus preventing the spreading of the flames. It is estimated that the damage done will not be less than £1,000. We believe the Caledonian Insurance Company are involved. The Watford Brigade, who were under Captain Peacock, are to be congratulated on the success which attended their efforts, for when they arrived on the scene the whole building appeared in imminent danger. The call was received at 11.55 p.m., and four minutes later the brigade was careering down the High Street.

AMERICAN MASONS AND THE KING.

AS recorded in our issue of the 18th May the Worshipful Master of the Eccentric Lodge, No. 2488, Bro. Thomas Fraser was entrusted by Bro. General John Corson Smith, Venerable Chief of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois, with an address of sympathy on the death of the Queen, and congratulation to the King on his accession to the throne, and attended by appointment at Marlborough House for the purpose of delivering the Address to Sir Francis Knollys, who, by the King's permission, accepted it on His Majesty's behalf.

The presentation has been acknowledged to General Smith both by Lord Lansdowne, from the Foreign Office; and by Bro. Letchworth, as Secretary of Grand Lodge; while General Smith, on behalf of the body he presides over, has thanked Bro. Fraser for the part he took in delivering the document. The two official letters addressed to our worthy transatlantic Brother are in the following terms:

"Foreign Office, London,
May 13th, 1901.

SIR,—I duly laid before the King my Sovereign your letter of the 2nd ultimo, transmitting an Address which the Masonic Association of Illinois desired to present to His Majesty, as a token of their respect for Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and in which they also express their good wishes on the occasion of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne. And I have received the King's commands to request you to be good enough to convey to the members of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois His sincere thanks for their message of sympathy and good-will, which His Majesty has received with high appreciation.

I am, Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
LANSDOWNE.

General J. C. Smith,
65 Sibley Street, Chicago."

United Grand Lodge of England,
Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, London, W.C.,
10th May 1901.

DEAR BROTHER AND VENERABLE CHIEF,—I have received the commands of the King to ask you to accept, and to be so good as to convey to the other members of the Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois, His Majesty's most grateful and fraternal thanks for the touching tribute to the memory of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, so eloquently expressed in the address signed by you on behalf of the Association of which His Majesty is himself a member.

I have the honour to be,
Dear Brother and Venerable Chief,
Yours fraternally,
E. LETCHWORTH.

General John Corson Smith,
Venerable Chief
Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois, U.S.A., &c."

It is announced that the unique event in the history of English Freemasonry of two Royal brothers being successively the occupants of the Masonic throne will be celebrated by a long array of honours conferred for distinguished services in Masonry.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE Board of Benevolence met on Wednesday evening for its June assembly, and was presided over by Bros. J. H. Matthews President, D. D. Mercer Senior Vice President, and H. Garrod Junior Vice President. Bros. W. Lake Assist. G.S., W. Dodd, and G. S. Recknell represented the official department.

Recommendations that the Grand Master should approve of awards made at the May meeting to the amount of £740 were first confirmed, and the new list of thirty cases was dealt with as follows: £100 in two cases recommended for the confirmation of Grand Lodge; £40 in three cases, and £30 in eight cases referred for the sanction of the Grand Master; seven grants of £20 each, one of £15, four of £10 each, and one of £5; a total of £760. Three cases were dismissed, and one was deferred.

ABOUT IMPOSTORS.

THE Masonic designation, "impostor," may be justly applied to an individual belonging to either of two classes—the profane who pretend to be Masons, or unworthy Masons. Practically now it may be almost limited to the latter class. In other words, it is impossible for a profane to prove himself a Mason. Get what knowledge he may clandestinely, it is unavailable in lawful Masonic circles. Any examining committee at all competent to perform its duties can quickly detect such an impostor. This fact clears the field almost entirely of the first class named. The second class is the troublesome one. Members of it may be able to stand the test of a rigid examination. They were all once "brought to Light," but have since forfeited the privileges of a Mason, and the right to aid in distress, by their own deliberate act. They have been suspended or expelled for un-Masonic conduct, or non-payment of dues. They have long ceased to be members of any Lodge, or to contribute anything for the support of the Craft. Such men are withered branches, excrescences on the trunk of Masonry, Masonically dead. Their names are stricken from the roll, and the fault is theirs only. There are too many such Masons—Masons in name, vagrants in act. They go from Lodge to Lodge, striving to live off the Fraternity. They are, in the truest sense, unworthy. Yet their pretended needs are always great and urgent. They have no money, no home, no friends. They are strangers in a strange land. Misfortune has overtaken them. They would work, but cannot find an employer. They only desire to get to the next town or city. Give them once, and you shall never see them again. Very true, perhaps. But many another Mason will see them, and have the same deceptive story retailed in his hearing at harrowing length. Yet, how can Lodges discriminate? On the instant it is often difficult so to do. That is the reason the impostor is always in haste. He must have something "now." If the Masonic body or Brother act now, he can only act on appearances. The questions to be answered are, First, Is the applicant a Mason? Next, Is he a worthy Mason? And last, Is he in distress? His Masonry may be discovered by an examination. His worthiness may be attested, to a degree, by his possession of a recently dated Masonic certificate, and the verification of his signature by a comparison of it with the signature on the margin of his certificate. If he be without this, the question of his worthiness and distress on the instant can only be determined by catechising him with regard to himself and his recent history. Under the pressure of instant request for relief, mistakes cannot but be frequently made. The apparentness of this fact proves the wisdom of that course which, as a rule, relegates all such cases to a Board of Relief, or a Committee on Charity, which shall not act until inquiry has been made, and it is established that the applicant is what he assumes to be. Money undoubtedly is improvidently bestowed under any other form of procedure. The only trouble is, that such a form forbids the granting of that instant relief which is asked, and sometimes required. At the same time it is possible now to communicate so speedily, by telephone, telegraph or letter, that in many instances the desired information may be speedily gained that will justify the granting of relief, or the denial of it on account of unworthiness. In not a few instances the mere initiation of a process of inquiry will be sufficient to send the "impostor" away.

He courts examination here and now, where he is unknown, not to-morrow, by those to whom he is well known. It is quite time that everywhere a systematic plan should be adopted to further the aid of the worthy distressed Mason, and the exposure and arrest of impostors. The latter have no rights which good men and true are bound to respect. They are false Brethren, if Brethren at all. They discredit Freemasonry. They deserve to be cast aside among the rubbish. Whoever aids them fosters their imposture. Whoever lends them is a deluded man. Whoever gives them aid helps a bad cause. The sooner it ceases to pay for the impostor to hang on the outskirts of the Fraternity, the better it will be for Freemasonry. Let the straggling clan of impostors be abolished, carefully, but surely.—"Keystone."

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

BY the death on Sunday, 9th inst., of Bro. Arthur Savill, Aldershot has lost another of its most familiar faces and a much esteemed citizen. Though he was never ambitious to share prominently in the government of the town, he took a keen interest in all that pertained to its welfare and acquired considered property in the place; it was, however, as a Freemason that he was perhaps best known. His mother Lodge was the Royal Military, at Canterbury, and with this he retained a connection to the last. At Aldershot he became associated with the Panmure, No. 723, of which he was elected W.M.; with the Panmure Chapter, No. 723, wherein he served as First Principal; with the Military Mark Lodge, No. 54, which chose him for its W.M.; and with the William Stuart Preceptory, No. 76, whose Eminent Preceptor he became in due course. Quite recently he was admitted to the Royal Military Rose Croix Chapter, No. 89. The funeral took place on the 12th, the many lovely wreaths which hung about the funeral carriage, and gave it the appearance of a floral car, being further evidence of the great esteem in which Bro. Savill was held, and of the wide circle of his friends. All the Masonic Lodges with which he was connected sent handsome tributes. That from the M.W.I. and Brethren of the Rose Croix Chapter bore indications of its origin in the red cross of geraniums which lay across the centre of the wreath of white flowers. "Yesterday we welcomed, to-day we bid adieu," was the inscription in reference to the short term of deceased's membership of the Chapter. The wreath from the Officers and Brethren of the Panmure Chapter had the emblem of the R.A. in red and white in the midst, while other magnificent flowers came from the W.M., Officers, and Brethren of the Panmure Lodge, and the Officers and Brethren of the William Stuart Preceptory, and the Military Mark Lodge.

THE funeral of the late Brother William Darling, of Keighley, took place on Wednesday, 12th inst., and was numerously attended. A large number of workpeople, a number of the local Brethren and many business and personal friends were present. A service at the Parish Church was conducted by the Rev. H. J. Palmer (rector) and the Rev. H. B. Lester (senior curate), and Mr. Palmer performed the last rites at the cemetery. The floral tokens were numerous, and included one from the Keighley Lodge.

THE funeral of Bro. William Hugh Crouch, who died on the 11th inst., at his residence, New Brighton, took place at Anfield Cemetery, on the 14th, in the presence of a large gathering of mourners. The deceased Brother was very popular amongst his colleagues, and had won the distinction of Treasurer of his Lodge, the Egerton, No. 2132, which was well represented at the funeral.

THE funeral of the late Bro. Henry Burrows, of Ormskirk, whose death took place under sad circumstances on Friday, 7th inst., took place at the Ormskirk Parish Church in the presence of a large assembly of sympathisers, including many members of the Craft. Bro. Burrows was one of the Stewards of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 580.

BRO. GEORGE BROWN Secretary of the St. George Lodge, No. 140, died somewhat suddenly at his residence at Brockley, on Saturday, 8th inst. The deceased, who was 66 years of age, was initiated in St. George Lodge in 1875. He was elected Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction in 1878, was W.M. in 1882, and Secretary since 1883.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

—:o:—

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.

—:o:—

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

—:o:—

Samson Lodge, No. 1668.

AN emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, W., on Thursday, 13th inst., when the W.M. Bro. J. Cohn was supported by Bros. S. J. Heilbron I.P.M., A. F. Casperd P.M. as S.W., W. Smith Rose J.W., Baron D. Barnett P.M. Sec., J. D. Hood P.M., J. N. Nash P.M., A. H. Marks P.M. S.D., G. Levin P.M. as J.D., Leon Rolff as I.G., L. G. Reinhardt Tyler, L. B. Goldhill, S. Goldhill, S. Kellert, J. H. Levy, N. Hart, J. Cole, M. M. Nersessian, J. Hess, Van Orme, D. Levin, H. Abrahams, B. Goldberg, M. Simsohn, A. H. Saxton, J. I. Saxton, Max Van Orme.

The Visitors included Bros. G. Kaufman 185, E. J. Francis 2466 (Town Clerk, Bloemfontein, South Africa), B. Levy 659, A. Levy 1524, and J. Wynman.

The special business of the meeting included the raising of Bro. L. B. Goldhill, and the passing of Bros. J. H. Levy, D. Levin, H. Abrahams, A. H. Saxton, J. I. Saxton, and S. Kellert, the ceremonial work being well rendered by the W.M.

The name of a candidate for initiation at the next regular meeting was mentioned, and Lodge closed with the usual formalities.

Engineer Lodge, No. 2599.

THIS prosperous military Lodge, which was recently removed from Golden Square, W., to the Restaurant Frascati, Oxford Street, in order that its ever-increasing numbers might be more amply accommodated, held its last regular meeting for the season on Saturday, 8th inst., at the latter place. There was a very good attendance, notwithstanding the fact that the greater part of the members of the Lodge are spread over the four quarters of the globe, the Lodge being thus in keeping with the ubiquitous character of the corps to which it belongs.

The Officers present included Bros. J. Kearney W.M., J. Percy White I.P.M., Capt. L. H. Coles P.M. Treas., J. Coombs P.M. Chap., J. R. Morgan Sec., John Fitch S.W., C. G. Sleight J.W., W. H. Snowden S.D., W. Wadkinson J.D., J. Taylor I.G., M. J. Webb D.C., Captain A. T. Smythe Org., J. S. Storr, J. W. Clemons, and T. H. Watts Stewards.

The Lodge was opened in the usual form, and the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Mr. Albert Victor Luxon, and proved unanimous. He was initiated into the mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry by the Worshipful Master, Bro. J. R. Morgan Sec. delivering the ancient charge to the newly-initiated Brother in an impressive manner.

Bros. Brodie, Fisher, Eyles, Mitchell, Glover, and Gingell having signified their desire to be passed to the second degree, and having answered the usual questions, that ceremony was also performed on their behalf by the W.M. in a style clear and effective.

After the presentation of Grand Lodge Certificates to Bros. Rowling, Lawry, and Williams the W.M. announced that an emergency meeting would be held on the 13th July.

The visitors expressed their hearty good wishes, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to dinner.

In replying to the toast of the W.M. of Engineer Lodge, Bro. Kearney said he felt proud of being Master of such a Lodge, as he was certain it had a great future before it. He hoped the Brethren would support him as much as possible at their monthly reunions, and pointed out how very desirable it was in the interests of the Lodge that such support should be accorded.

Bro. T. F. Strutt P.M. 1679 and 2664, in replying for the visitors, congratulated the Officers, especially the Deacons, on the way they did their work. He believed he had never seen before as many as six candidates passed simultaneously to the second degree, and he was sure that it was only in a military Lodge that such a task could be performed with anything like tolerable success.

Bros. Ruse, Austin, Fisher, and Gingell, who had just lately returned from the Boer War, were specially toasted on the proposition of the W.M., and in reply Bro. Ruse gave a most interesting account of his career, particularly his Masonic experiences, at the front.

The proceedings were interspersed with music and singing, the principal contributors being Bros. Strutt, Johnston, Morgan, Eyles, and Ceiley.

PROVINCIAL.

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Lebanon Lodge, No. 1326.

THE election meeting was held on Saturday, 15th inst., at the Railway Hotel, Feltham, Middlesex, there being a full agenda of business.

After the usual formalities the ballot was taken for five gentlemen, candidates for initiation: Mr. Walter Harrison, Mr. George Scriven, Mr. W. J. Hopkins, Mr. W. F. Wheeler, and Mr. H. W.

Foster. They were all favourably received, and afterwards initiated by the W.M. Bro. W. J. Burton.

Brother Kilner was passed, and Brother Dumville raised to the sublime degree, after which the Bye-laws of the Lodge were read.

The choice of the Brethren fell upon Bro. A. F. Holland S.W., who was elected to preside over the Lodge during the ensuing year, and was complimented on his selection. The installation is fixed for Saturday, 20th July.

The Treasurer and Tyler were re-elected, Auditors appointed, a jewel voted to the outgoing Master, and other business disposed of, after which Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to banquet.

Christopher Lodge, No. 2309.

INSTALLATION OF BROTHER F. M. RIDLEY.

The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, 10th inst., at the Christopher Hotel, Eton.

The Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer shortly after three o'clock by Bro. Kirkham P.M.

Bro. T. A. Pinder was examined in the first degree and subsequently passed as a Fellow Craft. The minutes, and the Auditors' report were dealt with, and the balance sheet was passed. The Lodge is improving financially, but some of the Brethren apparently ignore the courteous communications of Bro. Cobden the late Secretary, and they will have to be taken in hand by Bro. Pacy, who has been appointed as his successor.

Bro. F. M. Ridley S.W. and W.M.-elect was then installed, and on the admittance of the Brethren was proclaimed and saluted in the various degrees; the entire ceremony and subsequent addresses being admirably rendered by Bro. R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.D. Middlesex.

The new W.M. invested his Officers as follow: Bros. A. Whitmore S.W., R. S. Cobden J.W., A. Garratt S.D., A. E. Trigg J.D., W. H. Street I.G., C. Rollason D.C., Alfred Luker Steward, and Samuel Ellis P.M. Tyler. The W.M. evinced conspicuous ability in the investiture of all. Bro. F. T. Larkman P.M. performed the duties of D.C. with easy grace and marked precision.

The installing Officer was supported by Past Masters E. D. Everard I.P.M., Kirkham, Bellerby, James Hemmings 2398, K. Williams 1767, and F. T. Larkman 780.

Bro. J. E. Bowen D.P.G.M. who attended, was, on entering the Lodge, accorded the usual honours, which he cordially acknowledged.

The newly installed W.M. now gave an exhibition of the capable manner in which he can work the various degrees, by opening in the third, and raising Bro. H. Slocombe, who had been previously examined and entrusted in the second degree. This was done as to the manner born, and proclaimed the W.M. to be worthily chosen for his high position.

A Past Master's jewel having been unanimously voted to Bro. Everard, the W.M. pinned it upon his breast, with a few pleasing remarks apropos of the occasion, and Bro. Everard neatly replied. The remaining business having been transacted the Lodge was closed in due form.

There was an excellent banquet for the delectation of the assembly, and the host deserved the encomiums passed upon his extra effort.

The usual Loyal toasts were all well given by the W.M. and cordially honoured. That of the Prov.G.M., the Dep. Prov.G.M., &c. was duly acclaimed, and responded to by Bro. J. E. Bowen D.P.G.M., who gave the Brethren some excellent advice to act upon, and stated his intention of going more frequently to the Lodges, which sentiment was heartily cheered.

The W.M., the Installing Master, the Visitors, Past Masters, Officers, and the Tyler's toast were all given and attended to, with commendable brevity, in fact the W.M. set an excellent standard in that respect, and his short, pithy, and to the point speeches went home to all, and were properly appreciated.

Amongst those present were Bros. J. Bailey 948, W. F. Barnes 250, J. T. Mears 2572, W. S. Gilbert 1585, C. Reiman 511, H. Bryne-Jones 1670, G. H. Bridger, A. J. Robins, T. H. Dovey, and T. Johnson 780, G. A. Ball 981, H. Layton, W. Holdup, T. Slocombe, T. A. Pinder, and others.

The musical arrangements were good, and afforded quite a harmonic refresher. The artistes were Miss Florentina Testar and Bros. Reg. H. Yarrow and J. Robinson. The accompanists were Bro. R. H. Yarrow and Mr. Fred. H. A. Larkman.

St. Albans Lodge, No. 2786.

THE regular meeting was held at St. Albans on Thursday, 6th inst., when the W.M. Bro. Frank Crocker presided, supported by the following Brethren and visitors: Bros. H. Watts S.W., W. S. Lee J.W., E. L. Berry P.M. P.P.G.D. Surrey Sec., R. J. Campbell P.M. P.Z. acting S.D., H. Burkett J.D., J. T. Matthews I.G., Miskin P.M. P.P.G.Supt. Works, Cooper, Weelhas, Balderson, Mitchell, Merryweather, Bridgman P.M., Worley, Marchant, Oakley, Rose, Lewis, Markham P.M., and others.

The Lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer. The minutes of the installation meeting were read and confirmed.

The ballot was taken for the admission of Mr. G. O. Wilkinson, and having proved unanimous in his favour the ceremony of the first degree was proceeded with.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree and Bro. Cooper having answered the necessary questions was examined and proved his proficiency in that degree. He was entrusted and retired. The

Lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Cooper was raised to the rank of Master Mason.

The Lodge having been resumed to the first degree, three ballots were taken for Life Subscriberships.

Letters of regret for inability to be present at the meeting were read from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Brother Kynvett and Bro. the Rev. O. C. Cockren Prov. Grand Chaplain.

After the banquet, a very agreeable duty devolved upon the W.M., who, with a few well chosen remarks, made a presentation to a Brother of a silver salver, from the members of the Lodge on the occasion of his marriage. The present bore the following inscription:

Presented to

BRO. T. A. MITCHELL,

by the members of the St. Albans Lodge, No. 2786,
on the occasion of his marriage.

April 11th, 1901.

Bro. Mitchell suitably returned thanks. He said the gift had come quite as a surprise, the secret having been well kept by the subscribers.

METROPOLITAN: INSTRUCTION.

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Confidence Lodge, No. 193.

AT the Hercules, Leadenhall Street, on Wednesday evening, 12th inst., a number of the Brethren gathered to support Bro. Bushell, the popular Junior Warden of the Mother Lodge. Bro. Done was S.W., and the remaining chairs were filled by well known faces who are seldom absent from these weekly gatherings.

The first ceremony was beautifully rendered. Lodge was called off and on, and then closed down in the three degrees. Bro. Mears P.M. gave the ancient charge, while Bro. Cohn officiated as Preceptor in the absence through ill health of Bro. Spice.

A section of the lecture was worked by Bro. J. K. Pitt, assisted by the Brethren. Bro. Done was elected to occupy the chair on the following Wednesday evening, and announced that his working would be chiefly in the first degree. The hour of meeting of this Lodge is 7 p.m., and Lodge will be closed not later than 9 o'clock.

ON the 19th inst., Bro. Done was in the chair, with Bros. J. Hobday S.W., A. Green J.W., E. J. Davey P.M. acting Preceptor, Metcalfe Baillie acting Sec., H. A. Swepstone S.D., W. Chittock J.D., S. Fells I.G., J. Mears P.M., H. Haughton, A. Hearn, J. Wynman, Fred Cole.

The Lodge was opened in the three degrees, and then the W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. S. Fells W.M. of the Mother Lodge, who rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Done acting as the candidate. The W.M. resumed his chair, and rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Cole candidate. This latter Brother was afterwards elected a member of the Lodge, and Bro. Hobday W.M. for next week's meeting.

Ranelagh Lodge, No. 834.

THIS old established Lodge of Instruction has met at its present quarters, the Six Bells Hotel, Hammersmith, for over a quarter of a century, and for many years previously to that at a hostelry only a few yards distant; at all seasons of the year it is well attended, in fact at times the room placed at the disposal of the members is scarcely large enough to accommodate the number of Masonic students who wish to place themselves under the Preceptorship of Bro. Arthur Williams P.M., who is rarely absent.

Friday, the 31st ult. was no exception to the rule. The chair was occupied by Bro. J. Hallam, with Bros. W. Atkinson S.W., H. Stokes J.W., A. Williams P.M. Prec., R. H. Williams P.M. Deputy Preceptor, F. Craggs P.M. Sec., W. Hinds P.M. Treas., H. White S.D., M. F. Wilkins J.D., Hellyar I.G., H. J. Cousens P.M., K. M. Ross P.M., H. Lee, &c.

The ceremony of initiation was gone through. The Lodge being opened in the second degree the W.M. vacated his chair in favour of Bro. Atkinson, who put the usual questions to Bro. Cox, who was entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the W.M. rendered the raising ceremony to the entire satisfaction of those present.

Earl's Court Lodge, No. 2765.

ON Thursday, 30th ult., at the Greyhound Hotel, Kensington Square, Bros. K. Von Donat W.M., W. Binfield S.W., H. G. Cox J.W., J. Worth P.M. Preceptor, H. J. Cousens P.M. Sec., J. Smethurst S.D., J. Slater J.D., R. Young I.G., M. Davis P.M., Todd Lewis, C. G. Hatt P.M., J. McNaughten.

The W.M. rehearsed the initiation ceremony, with Bro. Davis as candidate, after which the Lodge having been opened in the second degree, Bro. Davis was examined and entrusted. The raising ceremony was gone through.

The choice of the Brethren fell on Bro. Binfield S.W., who was asked to take the chair at the next meeting. Bro. Binfield accepted the offer, and appointed his Officers, after which the Lodge was closed in ancient form.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

WITH the view of introducing material improvements in the train service between England and Scotland the Midland Company

has had under review the whole time table of express and subsidiary trains between St. Pancras and the North, and largely recast it for the coming summer. In revising the service the following objects have been kept in view, viz.:—(1) To give an efficient service of express trains between London and other parts of the Midland line, and all parts of Scotland, and afford passengers selecting the Midland route at least equal advantages in respect to through carriages and infrequent changes as they can obtain by any other route at the present time. (2) To materially improve and accelerate the service between London and Yorkshire, and between London and other Midland towns and the Lake District. (3) To afford an improved and quicker service between the west and north of England. In order to carry out these alterations longer uninterrupted runs have been arranged for the express trains, and on the northern section of the line new express passenger engines will be placed in the service. Some alteration has been found necessary in the time fixed for the departure of some of the express trains, and in one or two instances slightly earlier departures have been decided upon. These, however, will be fully compensated for by the earlier arrivals at the north and south capitals, which will admit of connections being established with the north of Scotland and the south and west of England.

THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY issue a number of gratuitous holiday publications which are calculated to prove of interest; copies of them are obtainable of the Superintendent of the Line at Liverpool Street Station, and at the Company's stations and offices. A tasty little work entitled "Holidays in the Eastern Counties" is an entirely new booklet by Percy Lindley, and contains rail, walking and cycling routes, boating, fishing and golf notes, with additional information of practical use to intending visitors. The Farmhouse and Country Lodgings List this year includes information as to Hotels and Boarding Houses at the East Coast resorts and Hotel and Inn accommodation in the Norfolk Broads district, which has not been given in previous issues.

THE GREAT WESTERN COMPANY announce that a large number of important train alterations will come into operation on 1st July. Expresses will run from London to Birmingham without stopping, and also between London and Exeter. The journey between Paddington and Penzance will be shortened by forty minutes.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made under the direction of the well known Holiday organisers, Dr. Henry S. Lunn, and Connop F. S. Perowne, for Automobile Tours in Normandy and Brittany, in a carriage to hold eight to ten persons, provided by one of the leading French manufacturers. The Tour will be in charge of Mr. Harold Dawson, of Thornton Hall, near Bradford, who has had considerable experience in Automobiling on the Continent. The cost of the Tour from Havre back to Havre will be about £10 10s, this sum to include travelling and hotel expenses, breakfast, lunch, dinner, bed, lights, and attendance, and gratuities to hotel servants for seven days. The cost of the journey from London to Havre and back is not included. Further particulars may be had of the Secretary, 5 Endsleigh Gardens, London, N.W.

La Marguerite.—After a most successful trial trip which took place on Wednesday, the above steamer of the New Palace Steamers, Limited, will commence her season's sailings on Wednesday next, 26th inst., when she will leave Tilbury at 7.10 a.m. (special train from Fenchurch Street Station at 6.15 a.m.) for Margate and Boulogne and back in a day. A new feature will be introduced into the programme this season in the shape of a special sailing to Calais and back every Thursday, leaving Tilbury at 8.30 a.m. (special train from Fenchurch Street Station at 7.30 a.m.) and this arrangement will allow passengers about two hours ashore at the popular French port. "La Marguerite" has been thoroughly overhauled during the winter months, and on her trial trip fully maintained her high reputation for speed, accomplishing somewhat over twenty-one knots an hour. With the advent of "La Marguerite" on the station the Company have also arranged to supply a long-felt want, namely, a Saturday afternoon boat to Margate, and the "Koh-i-noor" will, on and after 29th inst., leave Old Swan Pier, London Bridge, every Saturday at ten minutes before 2 o'clock, as the Husbands' Boat, calling at Tilbury at 3.45 p.m. (special train from Fenchurch Street Station 2.40).

TILBURY HOTEL, TILBURY.

UNDER ENTIRELY NEW MANAGEMENT.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR

MASONIC MEETINGS,
BANQUETS OR GARDEN PARTIES.
CUISINE AND WINES OF THE FINEST QUALITY.

TRAINS FROM FENCHURCH STREET EVERY 50 MINUTES.

En Pension Terms for staying Visitors.

PUBLIC DRAWING, SMOKING AND BILLIARD ROOMS.

Spacious Gardens with Lawns for Tennis.

FULL PARTICULARS ON APPLICATION TO

BRO. L. C. BENTLEY, Manager.

PRESENTATION TO A GRAND OFFICER.

AT a regular meeting of the Star Lodge, No. 1275, held at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, on Friday, 14th inst., Bro. Wm. Kipps, the senior member of the Lodge, was presented with the clothing (both full and undress) appertaining to his new appointment by the M.W.G.M. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, as Assistant Grand Pursuivant of England. In making the presentation in the name of the Lodge the W.M. Bro. William Bore referred to the long association (upwards of thirty years) of Bro. Kipps with them, and to his untiring energy and interest in everything connected with the Lodge. Their present very prosperous condition was in no small measure due to that Brother's care and experience. Brother Major Woolmer Williams P.M. and Secretary was delighted to endorse the remarks of the W.M., and in wishing Brother Kipps many years of life and health knew he was expressing a sentiment shared by all. This was the first occasion upon which Grand honours had been conferred upon a member of the Lodge, and he felt assured that every member would agree with him that no more fitting representative could have been selected by the M.W.G.M.

In thanking the Lodge for their thoughtful and valuable addition to his Masonic clothing Bro. Kipps said the kindly and flattering remarks of both the W.M. and Bro. Major Woolmer Williams made it especially difficult for him to give expression to his feelings of appreciation. But it was another evidence that his work in the grand Institution of Freemasonry had not been time expended and energy lost, and he begged the members of the Lodge to remember the words of Bro. Woolmer Williams—that the honour was conferred not only upon him, as one of them, but upon the Lodge itself.

Owing to the lamented death of Lord Wantage Prov. Grand Master, and of Bro. Edwin Head, of Thatcham, the special Lodge and complimentary banquet, which had been arranged for Wednesday last, at Newbury, in honour of Past Master Major Ricardo, on his return from active service in South Africa, will be held at a later date.

The members of the Loyal Cambrian Lodge, No. 110, paid an excursion visit to Barry on Thursday, 13th inst., and sat down to dinner at the Marine Hotel, Barry Island. In the afternoon they were taken for a cruise through the docks in a Barry Company's steam launch, and subsequently they were the guests of the local Lodge at the Barry Hotel.

Bro. James Taylor jun. S.P.G.M. presided on Tuesday at a meeting of the Special Committee appointed to consider the suggested Masonic Day at the International Exhibition at Glasgow. The probable cost of the arrangements were estimated at a high figure, and this had the effect intended by those who were not in favour of the turnout. The "Masonic Day" is therefore abandoned.

The Concord Lodge held a soiree at the Runnavleave Hall, Ilfracombe, on Tuesday evening, 28th ult. The proceedings commenced with a concert, conducted by Dr. J. T. Gardner, Miss Emily Foxcroft, the well-known contralto, contributing three songs to the programme. Supper was served in the hotel dining room, and was followed by a dance, which was well patronised, and kept up until two o'clock.

The Home and Colonial School Society has, owing to the Board of Education requiring it to provide new premises, arranged to acquire the fine pile of buildings belonging to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys at Wood Green, at a cost of £45,000, for the purposes of its training college for women teachers in elementary schools. The Masonic Institution is removing in June 1903 to Bushey, when the Home and Colonial School Society will take over the property, with its thirteen acres of ground. In the new building there will be accommodation for 200 resident students. At least £30,000 will be required to enable the Society to carry out the scheme, and subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. J. F. W. Deacon, 20 Birchin Lane; or to the Hon. Sec., Mr. T. Robertson, or the Rev. D. J. Thomas, the Principal, at the College, Gray's Inn Road.—"Standard."

BOOKS OF THE DAY.

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

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The Redemption of David Corson. By Charles Frederick Goss (6s).—Methuen and Co.

AMERICAN books are a potent factor in the literary world just now. They are coming across to us not as single spies but in whole battalions. We give them a hearty welcome; not merely for the sake of fraternity and politeness, but because, on the whole, their authors deserve well at our hands. Mr. Goss, as one of our contemporaries has put it, has very nearly given us "a really great book." We ought, indeed, to get a great book sometimes, for those who are trying to provide us with such are, like Abraham's progeny, as the sand by the sea-shore for multitude. Mr. Goss might say, like Byron, that description is his "forte"; many of his purely descriptive passages are of such deft workmanship that they would go far towards atoning for a weak story. Mr. Goss has given us a strong one. David Corson, brought up among Quaker associates, is a character worthy the attention of a Bunyan or a Swedenborg, and might fill a fresh chapter in Mr. Baring Gould's "Freaks of Fanaticism." He doubts not that he has received a call to preach the Word. But he has to learn by experience something of the difficulties of belief, and the passages in which Mr. Goss shows these difficulties at their height have several times strongly reminded us of Bunyan's "Grace Abounding." Then we have Pepita, the gipsy girl, whom a quack doctor has married by stealth. How the doctor engages the services of David to cry up the merits of his wares and how David's preaching brings him in the end a reward which he hardly deserves must be left for readers to learn for themselves. We are fond of sorting novelists into classes, and usually endeavour to point out wherein they resemble or differ from one another; but Mr. Goss is hardly a good subject for comparative criticism. He stands by himself.

Harrow. By J. Fischer Williams, M.A., sometime Fellow of New College, Oxford, and Scholar of Harrow School. With forty-eight illustrations from photographs, old engravings, and water-colour drawings (3s 6d).—George Bell and Sons.

WE have before expressed our appreciation of "The Great Public Schools," a series of excellent handbooks now in course of publication by Messrs. Bell. The volume before us is as good as that upon Eton, already reviewed in these columns, and readers acquainted with that book will agree with us that in saying so much we say a great deal. Extremes always meet, and after centuries of Greek and Latin we are now being told that the "dead languages" might safely be ignored altogether. We are partial to specialistic opinion and are willing to believe that at Harrow, as elsewhere, the masters understand the education of youth very well indeed and have proved as much by the eminent scholars which they from time to time have produced. Mr. Fischer Williams has depicted life at Harrow School with a fulness of detail which is rare enough in books of this order: he is a writer of such broad sympathies and so wide an outlook that all phases of his subject receive adequate treatment. Hence we have an excellent account of the daily routine at Harrow—the studies, the sports, the fagging, the rewards, the punishments. 'Tis a long story, for the school was first authorised by royal charter in 1571 and has been a busy institution ever since, but the whole subject is compressed into a small volume without any serious omissions, and if readers cannot learn the story of Harrow School from Mr. Fischer Williams's volume they will hardly learn it elsewhere. There are nearly fifty illustrations, and appendices showing the curriculum of the different forms; so the requirements of all classes of readers are abundantly satisfied. This series will in course of time become invaluable to the historian. We hope it is selling well.

New Century Library (2s net per vol.).—T. Nelson and Sons.

The Works of SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

Vol. vi., **A Legend of Montrose** and **The Black Dwarf**.

"SIR WALTER reigned before me" wrote Byron, in "Don Juan." A twentieth century wag might pencil in the margin of his copy of that interminable poem "and after." For, despite the ill-concealed sneers of a few critics touching the fame of "dear Sir Walter" there is no sign of any shrinkage in the demand for the works of Scott. The two short novels contained in the volume before us have never been regarded as ranking among the great novelist's very best work; but they are both so excellent in many ways that we, at least, are disposed very kindly towards them. Of the two, we prefer "The Black Dwarf," but merely on grounds of personal tastes: and we should be the last to deny that there are many passages in "The Legend of Montrose" of much pathos and power. There are few volumes by Scott which lack a woman whom, as Ruskin insisted, we are all better and nobler for knowing, and the sooner young folk can introduce themselves to such ladies as Grace Armstrong and Isabel Vere the better. They will be in good company.

A Wild Proxy. By Mrs. W. K. Clifford (6d).—George Newnes.

MESSRS. NEWNES are steadily adding to their list of sixpenny reprints, and they will do the public a great service if they can from time to time reprint the novels of writers so able as Mrs. Clifford. "A Wild Proxy" is the work of one who regards life in a truly philosophic spirit and from a broad, a cosmopolitan standpoint. Much of the dialogue in these pages is inordinately clever, so clever that we think the book among the best of its kind that has appeared during the last two or three years. Many readers will

consider the plot inadequate in detail and the story consequently too brief, but this is a fault on the right side. Writers seldom err on the side of brevity.

The Death Ship. Being an account of a cruise in the "Flying Dutchman," collected from the papers of the late Geoffrey Fenton, of Poplar, master mariner. By W. Clark Russell. A new edition (3s 6d).—Chatto and Windus.

We are never surprised when a novel by the indefatigable Mr. Clark Russell runs into a new edition. There is hardly a more remarkable feature in the literature of the day than the fecundity of this author, which is perhaps only excelled by that of the Rev. S. Baring Gould and Mr. Andrew Lang, who can and do write about everything, whereas Mr. Clark Russell writes almost solely upon one topic—the sea and life thereon. We are afraid that many are or will be somewhat disappointed with "The Death Ship." Like all the stories of this author, it is fluent and masterly enough at times; but we must say that this story appears to us to be drawn out to unreasonable lengths and to be lacking in those qualities of brisk movement and sailorly spirit and enthusiasm which are so characteristic of this writer in his happiest efforts. Nor is the story remarkable for freshness of plot or treatment. We have, as usual, the sea in calm and in storm; the eccentricities of several seamen; the honest, well disciplined mate, and the good looking young lady who is miraculously thrown across his path in order that she may become his betrothed. Mr. Clark Russell has written of these things many times, and usually, we think, with greater success than in the present instance, but he contrives to throw such a chain around his theme that his stories are never wholly dull. Moreover, his well-earned fame is so universally known among men that we have no doubt whatever than any volume from his pen commands considerable patronage—as for instance, in the case of "The Death Ship." As a new edition we give this volume unqualified approval; for it could hardly be better printed or bound at the price, very large type and thin but strong paper have rendered this an excellent example of what a reprint should be. We should like, some future day, to see such a uniform edition of the entire novels of Mr. Clark Russell.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Wide World Sea Adventure (2s 6d).—George Newnes, Ltd.
The Marquis of Lossie. By George Macdonald (6d).—Geo. Newnes, Limited.

Stray Leaves from a Border Garden. By Mary Pamela Milne Horne. With eight illustrations by F. L. B. Griggs.—John Lane.

The Story of Wild Flowers. By Rev. Professor G. Henslow, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c. With fifty-six figures in text (1s).—George Newnes, Limited.

New Century Library (2s net per vol.).—T. Nelson and Sons.
The Works of SIR WALTER SCOTT, Bart.

Vol. vii., **The Heart of Midlothian.**

Vol. viii., **The Bride of Lammermoor.**

The Whirligig. By Mayne Lindsay. Illustrated by Maurice Greiffenhagen (6s).—Ward, Lock and Co., Limited.

The Book of the Cheese. Being traits and stories of "Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese," Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, E.C. Compiled by the late T. W. Reid. Third edition, revised by William Hussey Graham. Fourth edition, edited by R. R. D. Adams, M.A. Illustrated by Messrs. Seymour Lucas, R.A., Herbert Railton, Joseph Pennell, Walter Allen, and George Cruickshank (2s).—T. Fisher Unwin.

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LADY FREEMASONS.

AN interesting gathering took place in the National Hotel, Regent Quay, Aberdeen, on Thursday, 30th ult., when about thirty members of the Aberdeen Chapter, No. 1, of the Order of the Eastern Star, assembled to meet Bro. Alonzo J. Burton, New York, a prominent Mason, who is at present making a tour of Scotland. Bro. William Walker presided.

Bro. Burton, it was intimated, had been requested by the officials of the General Grand Chapter, representing over 200,000 members, in the United States, to ask the members in Scotland to recognise and identify themselves with that body, in order that the advantages and privileges might be made world-wide instead of being restricted to Scotland as at present. The proceedings were most satisfactory, and a resolution was adopted that the identification be put on a permanent basis by taking a Charter from the American General Chapter. The evening was spent in an exchange of opinions and sentiment. Songs and toasts were interspersed. Bro. Burton, who was pleased with the success of his visit, returned to Glasgow.

It may be mentioned in connection with the Order of the Eastern Star in Aberdeen, that at a recent meeting of the Chapter, Mrs. James Peddie was presented by the members with a handsome gold star, in recognition of her services; and Bro. Adam A. Smith was made the recipient of a gold mounted umbrella for his services as patron of the Chapter.—"Aberdeen Journal."

At a meeting of the Bon-Accord Lodge, No. 669 (S.C.), held in the Masonic Hall, Aberdeen, on Wednesday, 29th ult., Bro. George Hardie was congratulated on his return from South Africa, and was presented with a Masonic jewel as a tangible memento of his campaign in that colony, the W.M. remarking that the jewel would always bring to his remembrance that he was one of those who took an active part in one of the greatest struggles the country had ever been engaged in, and expressing the hope that he would be long spared to wear it. The courage shown by Bro. Hardie in volunteering to fight for his country had endeared him to the Lodge. He was glad to welcome him home again, sound in body and uninjured by the bullets of the Boers. Brother Hardie feelingly replied. A pleasant evening was afterwards spent in the Waverley Hotel.

A banquet was held at the Wellington Hotel, Brecon, on Wednesday evening, 29th ult., when Bro. J. M. Brookes W.M. and the Brethren of the Brecknock Lodge were honoured by a visit from Bro. W. Vaughan Morgan P.G. Treasurer of England, and an alderman and one of the sheriffs of the City of London. Our Brother is a native of Breconshire, and began his professional career in the town of Brecon. He is a brother of the late Mr. Octavius Morgan, the first M.P. for Battersea, and also of the late Major Wm. Vaughan Morgan, who contested the Borough of Brecon in the Liberal interest in the year 1874. The Brethren of the Brecknock Lodge have recently secured Alderman Vaughan Morgan's portrait to hang in their Lodge room. There was a large attendance at the banquet, and the visitors included Brethren of Merthyr, Hay, and Builth Lodges.

Freemasonry once saved the life of Mr. Conger, the American Ambassador, who was with the besieged in the Legations at Pekin. At the age of nineteen he was fighting in the Union Army. In the forced marches across Tennessee many men, overcome by the intense heat, fell out. Conger was among them. Weak and delirious with fever, he was left by the wayside in the enemy's country, with only a comrade, who was to wait for the end and then rejoin the regiment. With scarcely anything to eat and no shelter the situation was appalling. Finally a plan suggested itself to the watcher. He went as quickly as possible to the nearest village, and approaching the first group of men said: "I am a Mason; is there a Mason among you or near at hand?" One of the most prominent citizens of the village stepped forward and warmly greeted him, and in a few minutes Conger was removed to the village and given the best of treatment.—"Sun."

Bro. Nathan Heywood P.M. Sec., a member of a well-known firm of Manchester solicitors, has compiled "The Bye-laws and History of the Lodge of Friendship, No. 44." This Lodge was consecrated on 18th June 1755, as No. 39 on the roll of the "Ancients" or "Athol" Masons, and was cancelled in 1793, but revived in 1795. The Lodge afterwards joined the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813, but it was not till the following year that it abandoned its old form of working. In 1835 a new Warrant was granted, the old one having become illegible, the Lodge number being altered to 52. At the re-numbering in 1863 it was again changed to 44. A few more efforts of a similar character on the part of our Secretaries ought to make the task of the future historian of the Lancashire Provinces a comparatively easy one, says the writer of "Masonic Notes," in the "Manchester Courier."

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