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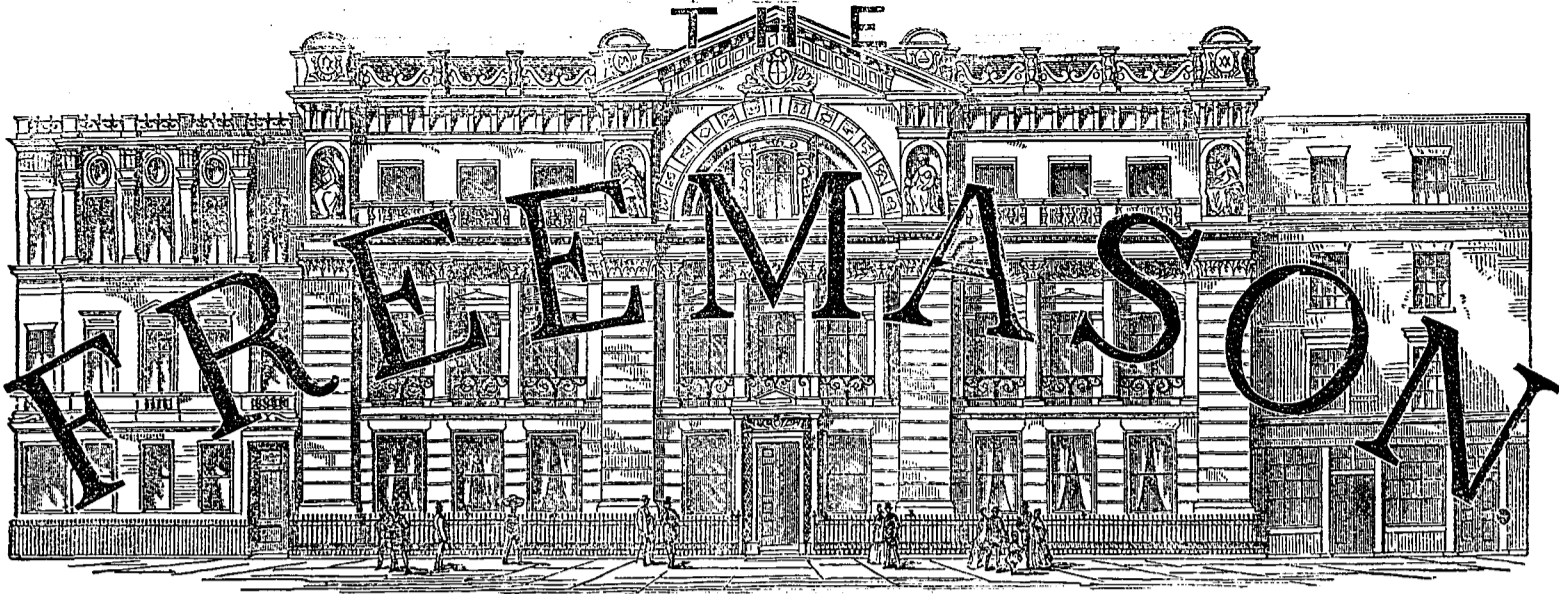
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"Truth is the Body of God, and Light is His Shadow."—PLATO

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 1.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1869.

[PRICE 2D.]

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OUR ADDRESS.

IN assuming the rôle and responsibility of editorial functions, we do so with a hearty fraternal greeting to all our readers. Upon their indulgence we rely to excuse imperfections, and to their sympathies we confidently appeal for support in this attempt to establish a journal which we hope will become a worthy organ of the great Masonic Fraternity.

It is beyond dispute that the progress of Freemasonry, not only in England but in every part of the globe, has been for some time past almost incalculable. Candidates for admission through the hallowed porch-ways of our Temple, while men of every clime and creed, are found zealously promoting the welfare of the Craft by the study of its mysteries and the dissemination of its principles. A society at once so admirable and so extensive, and which embraces within its ample fold so many members of talent and influence, ought to be, we conceive, as fully represented in the Press of Great Britain as it is in that of Germany, France, or the United States of America. It will therefore be our mission to

act as the exponent of our brethren's enlightened views, as well as the historian of their proceedings; and in the discharge of this duty we shall sedulously avoid giving publicity to any document, from whatever source, which might in the slightest degree infringe the laws of the Order by disclosing the arcana of Freemasonry. We invite the cordial co-operation of every Mason, as our columns will be opened to reports of meetings in every established degree and every existing rite.

Among other subjects to be considered or discussed in THE FREEMASON, will be found "Masonic Jurisprudence." Under this heading we purpose giving expositions of the laws of the Masonic institution in its several branches, according to the most generally received interpretations, and not merely as our own editorial opinions.

The utility of "Masonic Notes and Queries" is unquestionable; many stray facts may be jotted down, and many little incidents brought to light through the medium of this unpretending mode of inquiring, or of communicating information.

The "Antiquities, Records, and Bibliography" of the Order will occupy the position due to the importance of those monuments of the past, and we rejoice to hail our esteemed Brother HUGHAN as the first craftsman in this department of labour.

In our "Portfolio" we shall give excerpts from choice publications; and this being a work in which all our friends can lend a helping hand, we earnestly solicit them to forward suitable extracts from books in their possession. *Non omnia possumus omnes* was the saying of an ancient sage, but it is fair to add that we may all achieve something.

A prominent feature in THE FREEMASON will be leading articles upon subjects of interest to the Order, or upon remarkable events in its history and progress. The "Craft Universal" will, of course, first claim our attention, and we promise to devote our utmost endeavours to promote the success of those noble charities which are near and dear to the heart of every true Mason. Arrangements will also be made to obtain foreign Masonic intelligence, and we shall be glad to receive from our brother editors in America and on the Continent copies of their magazines or journals in exchange for THE FREEMASON.

This, friendly readers, is our programme.

Regarding Freemasonry as a pure system of ethics which contains every element that can constitute real greatness and goodness in life, we shall honestly and fearlessly advocate its interests in the most comprehensive sense of the word. We shall direct attention to its principles and its practices, investigate its records, and demonstrate its utility. In short, it will be our constant aim to sustain the reputation and enhance the renown of an Institution which has been so long

To fame immortally allied,
And crowned with glory.

Our readers will observe that our frontispiece is an engraving of Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, the Grand Temple of English Freemasonry, and we trust this will be accepted as an evidence that, whilst working under theegis of lawfully-constituted authority, and paying due deference to the ordinances of ruling powers, we shall ever remember that we are "free" Masons, and vindicate our position as such by maintaining a just independence as the organ of a great and "free" fraternity.

THE MASONIC PRESS ABROAD.

One of the best magazines published in America is the "Masonic Monthly," of Boston. We extract from it the following apposite remarks upon Masonic Literature:—

The existence of a Masonic Science, and a Philosophy of Masonry, suggests and renders possible, a Masonic Literature. Science and philosophy are essential to the existence of any literature. They are its food and its life. The existence of the one presupposes that of the other.

Of late years the literature of Freemasonry has assumed large proportions. It has been developed to such an extent as to give considerable prominence and importance to the question—What is its mission and its duty. It is a weighty matter how the conductors of the Masonic Press solve this problem. We much fear that some of them have not given the subject very much of their thought, while some, we imagine, regard the earnings as of more consequence than the influence of their organs.

We consider that the mission of the Masonic Press is to occupy the field of Masonic science, history, and philosophy, and to disseminate the principles of true Masonic life, with the end in view of winning back the Craft into the old ways of our ancient brethren, who sought to penetrate into and obtain a mastery over every department of Masonry. The lodges have neglected the pursuit of science and philosophy, and confined themselves simply and exclusively to Masonry as an art. Masonic literature is, or should be, a reaction to this tendency, and as a reaction may, we hope for it all success.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

[The Editor will be happy to receive Reports of Lodge Meetings at the earliest possible moment, to insure their insertion.]

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Macdonald Lodge, No. 1216.

A meeting of this lodge—formed in May last in connection with the 1st Surrey Rifle Volunteer corps, and taking its name from the esteemed Lieut-Colonel Commandant of that corps—was held at the Lodge-room, Head Quarters, Camberwell, on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., when were present:—Bro. Major A. L. Irvine, P.M. and P.Z., W.M.; Bro. James Stevens, P.M. and P.Z., S.W.; Bro. John Thomas, P.M. and P.Z., Acting J.W. (in the absence of Bro. P. de Keyser); Bro. J. J. Curtis, Secretary; Bro. Waterall as S.D.; Bro. Wagstaffe, J.D.; Bro. J. Green, I.G.; also Bros. Captains Wire and Thos. Irvine, Lieuts. H. Puckle and Fletcher, Busign Fourdrinier, Dr. Cronin, Dicker, Hastie, Bridges, Carnell, Ball, Larham, Kethro, Patton, Wolton, Cowdry, Newton, and other members, and Bros. Griffiths, Thomas, Dix, and other visitors.

The lodge having been duly opened in the three degrees, Bros. Fletcher and Cowdry were severally raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, in that most solemn and impressive manner for which the Macdonald Lodge, although so young, has already earned a reputation in the Craft. We have observed that on each occasion of our visits the respective ceremonies—but more especially that in the third degree—have been rendered with enhanced attention to detail and effect, and certainly we have never yet witnessed so perfect and imposing a ceremonial as on this evening. The entire arrangements of the lodge in respect of drapery and lighting, and the musical accessories under the direction of Bro. Captain Wire, are such as cannot fail to impress visitors with a full conviction that Masonry, as it should be practised, is well understood by the members of this lodge, and in their hands will not be allowed to subside into a mere prosaic rendering of sublime language unaccompanied, in too many instances, by even the remotest evidence of feeling or animation. We recommend our brethren to visit the Macdonald Lodge whenever opportunity may offer, if only to observe the working of this degree.

On the termination of the Raisings, the lodge was closed in the third degree, resumed to the first, and called off for light refreshment. After remaining under the charge of the J.W. for about twenty minutes, it was again called on, resumed to the second degree, and Bros. Patton and Wolton were respectively passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was closed to the first degree, and Mr. William Arthur Willis was introduced to the Light of Masonry. Here again the foregoing observations as to impressiveness of ceremonial apply. Every officer knows his duty well, and the habit of discipline practised in the corps is made available in the lodge-room to cause the business there to go well and smoothly.

Proposals for initiation and joining having been taken, the W.M. proceeded to fill up a vacant office to which no appointment had hitherto been made—that of Director of Ceremonies. Giving consideration to the progress made by one of the junior brethren of the lodge—through his attention to the Lodge of Improvement—and that he had really qualified himself for the office, the W.M. selected Bro. Bridges, and invested him with the collar of D.C.

The W.M. then read a letter from Bro. H. J. Godden, resigning, in consequence of inability to attend on many occasions of the lodge meeting, his office of Treasurer. The resignation having been accepted with regret, Dr. Cronin was proposed by Bro. Stevens, S.W., to fill the office *pro tem.*, and that Brother was unanimously appointed thereto.

The W.M. stated that he had commenced his canvass, as the representative of the lodge, as Steward at the ensuing Festival of the Boys' Masonic School. He desired to evince his appreciation of the position he had accepted, and his interest in the charity by constituting himself a life governor of the institution.

Bro. Stevens, S.W., proposed, Bro. Wagstaffe, J.D., seconded, and it was unanimously resolved: "That a sum of ten guineas be voted to the Boys' School, to be placed on the W.M.'s list, to constitute the lodge a life governor of the institution."

Several members then gave their names for individual subscriptions, and there can be no doubt that the Macdonald Lodge was not near the bottom of the list, in regard to amount of subscriptions, when the stewards' returns were read out at the Festival on the 10th inst.

Some further matters of business were then attended to, and, although nearly twelve o'clock, in the same orderly manner as at the commencement of the evening.

The lodge was then closed in perfect harmony.

We are informed that it is the intention of the principal officers and some of the members of this lodge

to form a Conclave of the Christian and Military Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, for which purpose an assembly was called for the 12th instant (last evening). We predict for such Conclave a most brilliant success, and shall be glad to watch and report its progress.

Egyptian Lodge, No. 27.—A regular meeting of this Lodge took place at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 4th inst. The W.M., Bro. Libbis, opened the proceedings and went through the entire business of the evening in a careful and efficient manner. Mr. Charles Walter was initiated, Bro. Sutherland passed, and Bro. Jones raised. The election of a Steward to represent the lodge at the Inauguration of Freemasons' Hall resulted in the unanimous choice of Bro. H. G. Buss, P.M., the respected Secretary, as the recipient of this coveted distinction. As usual, the worthy "Egyptians" maintained their reputation for benevolence, as Bro. Jacobs, P.M., who is Steward for the Girls' School Festival reported the subscriptions on his list as having reached the handsome sum of £60.

Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.—A meeting of this old lodge was held on Thursday, the 4th inst., at the Cannon-street Hotel. The lodge was opened by the W.M., assisted by the officers and brethren in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Cohn raised to the degree of M.M. The lodge was then closed down to the second degree, and Bros. Taylor, Haynes, and Crofty were passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then resumed to the first degree, when Mr. Arkell and Mr. Younger were balloted for and approved of, and were regularly initiated into Freemasonry; the ceremonies of the three degrees being worked by Bro. C. Hosgood, P.M. Among the brethren present were Bros. Goodyer, P.M. and Treasurer; I. G. Marsh, I.P.M.; H. Cates, P.M.; Higman, S.W.; Roberts, I.W.; Child, S.D.; Trott, J.D.; Newman, I.G.; and several others. Visitors, Bros. Dr. O'Connor, P.M., 27; Anthony O'Neal Haye, P.M.; J. Brett, P.M., 177; and Levy, P.M., 188. The lodge was then closed in due form and the brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment. Those loyal and masonic toasts were then given and responded to. The W.M. then presented the I.P.M. with a P.M. Jewel, of the value of 10 guineas, manufactured by Bro. G. Kenning, of Little Britain, which gave the greatest satisfaction to the brethren present. The attention of the members was then called to the masonic charity for aged freemasons, when the sum of £31 was collected for the same. The several toasts being interspersed with some very good harmony by Bros. Levy, Garden and Gardner, which brought the evening to a happy termination.

ISLEWORTH.—Villiers Lodge, No. 1194.—A special meeting of this lodge was held at the Northumberland Arms Hotel, Isleworth, on the 27th ult., the W.M., Bro. Sidney E. Clarke, presided, supported by Bros. J. Trickett, S.W.; W. Dodd, J.W.; R. Gurney, Treasurer; R. W. Little, P.M., Secretary; E. T. Osbaldeston, I.G.; T. Smale, D.C.; and a number of non-official brethren. Major Henry W. Palmer was initiated by the W.M., who was then compelled to leave, owing to the illness of a relative. Bro. Walters, P.M., then passed Bro. Tustin to the second degree, and Bro. Little raised Bro. Bailey to the degree of M.M. The circular respecting the Inauguration Festival at Freemasons' Hall, on the 14th April, having been read, Bro. R. Wentworth Little, P.M., was unanimously chosen as the Steward to represent the "Villiers" upon that occasion. The lodge was then closed.

PROVINCIAL.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.—Skiddaw Lodge, No. 1002.—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the lodge rooms (Bro. Thwaites'), Market-place, Cocker-mouth, on Tuesday, the 2nd inst. Present, the W.M., Bro. Shilton, in the chair; Bro. Puxley, P.P.G.C., as S.W.; Bro. Robinson, S.W., as J.W.; Br. Thwaites, P.J.W., as Secretary; and Bro. Evening, I.G.; there were also present Bro. Faithfull, I.P.M., and P.P.J.G.W.; Bro. Dodson, P.M.; Bro. Rapley, Bro. Wybergh; Bro. Haunmil; Bro. C. Marpon, S.D.; Bro. Bailey, P.S.D.; Bro. Pearson, P.S.W.; and Bro. Potts, Tyler. The lodge being opened the minutes of the preceding meeting were confirmed, as also the minutes of a special meeting, when it was unanimously agreed to subscribe £5 5s. from the lodge funds to the Zeland Memorial Fund, and Bro. Faithfull, P.P.G.J.W., P.M., was unanimously elected steward to the same. The ballot was then taken for the Rev. W. Williams of Christ Church, Cocker-mouth, and he was afterwards duly entered and initiated; Bro. Dr. Dodgson, P.M., officiating with his usual ability as Deacon; the Senior Warden's chair being filled by the vicar, Br. Puxley. Nothing further remaining to be done the lodge was closed according to ancient usage. One particular feature of this lodge

is that it is held at private rooms, which have been fitted up in an elaborate style, and no refreshments (so called) are allowed, so that brethren are not led into the temptation of late hours.

MARGATE.—The Union Lodge, No. 127.—This ancient lodge met on Friday, the 5th inst., when an unusual circumstance occurred—namely, there was no ceremony to be worked, an event of rare occurrence; whereupon Bro. P.M. E. C. Hayward, P. Prov. S.G.D. Kent, who is also the valued Masonic Instructor, Installing Master, and Treasurer of the lodge, in the absence of the W.M. assumed the gavel and ascended the chair. The lodge having been duly opened and the minutes of the last regular lodge read and confirmed, the acting W.M. availed himself of this pause in the general routine of lodge business to test the quality of the brethren in respect to their Masonic knowledge, and at once proceeded to work the seven sections of the 1st degree, and all present were gratified to hear the able manner in which the answers were given by the brethren:—Bro. T. M. Compton, to the 1st section; Bro. Alfred Wootton, to the 2nd and 3rd; Bro. W. K. Treves, S.D., to the 4th; Bro. P. M. Townsend, to the 5th and 6th; and Bro. Geo. E. Hawkes, S.W., to the 7th. The answers were given by each of those Brothers in a distinct and impressive manner, and afforded much Masonic instruction and pleasure to the numerous brethren present. It is intended at any future time when a similar opportunity may occur, to embrace it by working, in open lodge, the sections in all the degrees, thus laying before the brethren the whole of that beautiful teaching which is recognised and esteemed by all good Masons as the most perfect system of morality ever unveiled before the human mind.—At the conclusion of this interesting work, Bro. P. M. Brasier, Past Prov. G.S.B. Kent, proposed, and Bro. P. M. Dixon seconded—

"That as a strenuous and laudable effort is now being made throughout London and the various provinces to raise a sufficient sum to pay off the heavy debt with which the Masonic Boys' School is at present encumbered, at the ensuing Festival on the 10th instant, a further subscription of Ten Guineas be voted from this lodge in aid of the fund for that purpose."

This resolution having been carried unanimously, the gratifying fact was announced that Miss Hayward, the daughter of P.M. Hayward, the presiding W.M., had herself collected a further sum of £10 10s. for the same noble purpose, which would be forwarded at the same time, making a sum of 20 guineas in aid of the movement for the emancipation of one of our magnificent charities from its temporary difficulty.—We may mention that it was intended to have presented to the I.P.M., Bro. Townsend, who is also, and has been for many years, the indefatigable Secretary of the lodge, a P.M.'s Jewel, which had been previously voted by the lodge, but owing to the absence of the W.M. the presentation was deferred, at the suggestion of the I.P.M. himself, until the next meeting, on the 19th inst.

IPSWICH.—Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 959.—The members of this lodge held their usual monthly meeting on Monday, 1st inst., in their beautiful hall, which has just been decorated by Bro. F. Crisp, of Ipswich. The W.M., the Rev. R. N. Sanderson, presided. After the usual preliminaries, two gentlemen were balloted for and, having been duly accepted, were admitted and initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. The working tools of an E.A.P. were described by the M. of the Ceremonies, and the charge delivered to the newly initiated by P.M. Townsend. The lodge was afterwards closed in ancient form.

ABINGDON.—Abbey Lodge, No. 945.—Bro. J. T. Morland has undertaken the duties of steward for this province, in connection with the following Anniversary Festival of the Masonic Institution for Boys, and we are gratified to learn that Br. Morland's appeal for subscriptions and donations on behalf of that excellent institution has been responded to by several lodges.

NEWBURY.—Lodge of Hope, No. 574.—Bro. W. C. Bland, P.G.J.W., has been installed for the fourth year as W.M. of this lodge. The installing member was Bro. W. Biggs, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., Wilts. The officers invested were as follows: I.P.M., Br. G. Boyer; S.W., Bro. W. W. King, P.M.; J.W., Bro. A. Burns; Treasurer, Bro. F. G. Hall, P.M.; Secretary, Bro. Geo. J. Cosburn, (Herald office); S.D., Bro. Johnson; J.D., Bro. Charles Wheeler; I.G., Bro. Jos. Wheeler; Tyler, Bro. Stillmin. A banquet was afterwards held, and several brethren from the Reading lodges were present.

LEICESTER.—St. John's Lodge, No. 279.—A regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, on Wednesday, the 3rd instant. There were present:—Bros. Kelly, Dep. Pro. G.M., and W.M., in the chair; P.M.'s Pettifor, P.P.S.G.W.; Dr. Buck, P.P.J.W.; Kinder, P.P.J.G.W.; Weare, P.P.G.D. and Treas.; and Clarke, P.G.S.D.; Stanley, S.W.; Stretton, P.P.G.Reg.; J.W. T. Crow, Secy; and about thirty other Brethren. The visitors were Bros. Duff, W.M.; Toller, S.W.;

Sculthorpe, Sec.; Partridge, Bethrey, Baines, and other members of No. 523. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. Jno. Edw. Montague Finch, M.A.; Cantab, M.R.C.S., &c., of the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum; and for Mr. Joseph Hellaby Skevington, of Rothley, as candidates for initiation; and for Bro. Levi Lincoln Atwood, of Garden City Lodge, Chicago, U.S., as a joining member, which was unanimous in their favour. An F.C.'s Lodge was opened, and Bros. Jacobs and Palmer, having passed a satisfactory examination, retired; when the lodge was opened in the third degree, and those Brethren were duly raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was then lowered to the first degree, and Bros. W. H. Pegg and R. W. Widderson were called to the pedestal and the usual questions put to them to test their proficiency as entered apprentices, after which, the lodge having been resumed in the second degree, they were passed as Fellow Crafts. The lodge having been resumed in the first degree, Mr. James Astill, of Anstey, elected at the last meeting, and Messrs. Finch and Skevington were then severally initiated into Freemasonry.—*Letters* were read from Bro. the Marquis of Hamilton, M.P., and Bro. Colonel the Hon. Leicester Smyth, C.B., &c., (son-in-law and son of the Right Hon. Earl Howe, senior Past Master of the lodge, and R.W.P. Grand Master), expressing their great gratification at the honour conferred upon them in being elected honorary members of the lodge, and which were ordered to be recorded in the minutes.—The W.M. announced that on Monday, the 8th inst., the young Earl Ferrers would be initiated into Freemasonry, in the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch; an event which would possess a double interest to the Brethren of the St. John's and John of Gaunt Lodges, from the fact that the last Earl but one was a member of the former lodge, and the late Earl was a member of the latter lodge, as well as one of the founders of the lodge at Ashby. He added that it was his intention to pay an official visit to Ashby on the occasion, as Dep. Pro. Grand Master, and would be glad to be accompanied by such of the officers of the P.G. Lodge, and others, as could attend.—Three gentlemen were then proposed as candidates, and the W.M. intimated his intention of holding a lodge of emergency for their initiation, on account of the great amount of business on the minute book. The lodge after being at work from 6 o'clock to 9.30, was then closed, and the Brethren adjourned to refreshment. After supper the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly given and heartily responded to, including that of the newly-initiated Brethren. The harmony of the evening was greatly enhanced by the excellent singing of Bros. C. Johnson, Crow (who presided at the piano), Palmer, Atwood, Hunt, Thorpe, and Bithrey. At twelve the 'Tylers' toast and the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*The Rutland Lodge, No. 1130.*—The annual Festival of this flourishing young lodge was celebrated at the George Hotel, on Thursday the 25th ult., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. the Rev. W. Kay Robinson, B.A. There were also present, the Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly; the W.M. elect, Bro. the Rev. W. Langley, M.A.; and upwards of thirty other brethren. The visitors were Bro. Corby, No. 169, Stamford; Bros. S Pettifor, P.M. and P.P.S.G.W., No. 219, Leicester; Hunt, Pro. G. Steward, No. 523, Leicester; and Atwood, Garden City Lodge, Chicago, U.S. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, Mr. Thomas Bernard, architect, was initiated into our mysteries. Bro. Berridge was then examined as to his proficiency as an E.A., and an F.C.'s Lodge having been opened, he was passed to the second degree. Bros. Clarke, Hardy, and Sadlin, then passed a satisfactory examination as F.C.'s, and the lodge having been opened in the third degree, they were severally raised to the sublime degree of M.M., in a most impressive manner. The whole of the ceremonies, indeed, were worked by the officers, from the W.M. down to the I.G., in a most efficient and admirable manner. The chair was then taken by the Dep. Pro. G.M., who proceeded, according to ancient custom, to install the Rev. Bro. Langley as the W.M. for the ensuing year, after which the newly-installed W.M. was proclaimed and saluted in the several degrees, and had the usual charges addressed to him. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers, as follows:—Bro. the Rev. W. K. Robinson, I.P.M.; Douglas, S.W.; East, J.W.; Adcock (elected) Treas.; Weaver, Sec.; Bright, S.D.; Markham, J.D.; Ferneley, Org.; Main, I.G.; and Turville, Tyler. The appointment of Stewards was postponed until the next meeting. The W.M. proposed a cordial vote of thanks to his predecessor, the Rev. Bro. Robinson, for the very efficient manner in which he had discharged the onerous duties of the chair during the past year. This was seconded in strong terms of eulogy by the D.P.G.M., who expressed his great satisfaction, as one of its founders, at witnessing the prosperous condition and the admirable working of the lodge. The vote was, of course, carried unanimously, and the retiring W.M. was then presented

with a life subscription to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the presentation having taken that form at the Rev. Bro.'s request, in lieu of a P.M.'s Jewel voted to him at the last lodge. Bro. Robinson returned thanks. After several gentlemen had been proposed as candidates, the lodge was closed and the brethren sat down to an elegant banquet served in Bro. Selby's well-known first-rate style. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were duly honoured, interspersed with some excellent songs, and a very pleasant evening was spent by the brethren. It should be mentioned that during the ceremonies the chants arranged by Bros. Johnson and Hopkins were performed, conducted by Bro. Ferneley, organist. During the evening a petition was signed by nine of the members for a Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to the lodge, and several brethren who are residents in the county of Rutland are about to apply for a warrant for a new lodge at Oakham, in that county, which has not yet possessed one, and towards the formation of which the officers of No. 1130 will render every assistance.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Lodge, No. 200.*—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Mansion Hall, on Tuesday, the 2nd of March, when the following brethren were present:—Bros. W. Peacock, W.M.; J. W. Woodall, P.M., P.P.G.S.W., Mayor of Scarborough; W. F. Rooke, P.M., P.P.G.J.W.; H. C. Martin, P.M., P.P.G.D., Hon. Sec.; H. A. Williamson, P.M.; F. J. Spurr, P.M.; R. H. Peacock, S.W.; D. Fletcher, J.W.; G. H. Walshaw, S.D.; J. Hardgrave, J.D.; G. Raddock, I.G.; I. Ash, Tyler; and Bros. J. Verity, C. B. Breary, T. Westlake, F. Robinson, T. Raper, W. Milner, J. D. C. Jackson, and J. Chapman. The lodge was opened at 7.30 p.m. Bro. J. W. Woodall, P.M., P.P.G.S.W., proposed, "That the lodge subscribe out of its funds the sum of 30 guineas, which, with the two life governorships purchased last year, be incorporated into a vice-presidency of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys." Bro. R. H. Peacock, S.W., seconded the same, which was put to the vote, and carried unanimously. Bro. J. W. Woodall, P.M., &c., proposed, and W. F. Rooke, P.M., &c., seconded, a vote of condolence to the family of the late highly-esteemed Bro. Sir J. V. B. Johnstone, Bart., M.P. for Scarborough, who had been a member of this lodge since 1842, which was unanimously agreed to.

RYE.—*Wellington Lodge, No. 341.*—At the anniversary, on February 25th, Bro. J. Howland was installed W.M. of the lodge, who nominated Bro. J. G. Terry, S.W.; Bro. W. P. Tanner, J.W.; Bro. B. A. Hearn, P.P.J.W., Sussex, P.M., No. 311, Hon. Sec. Bro. W. Dawes, P.M., P.G.R., Sussex, performed the installation ceremony.

CARNARVON.—*Segontium Lodge, No. 606.*—At a meeting of this lodge, held at the Sportsman's Hotel, Carnarvon, on the 24th ult., the following brethren were present:—Bros. Robt. Humphreys, Secy.; E. H. Williams, S.D.; M. W. Poole, J.D.; Geo. C. Bradbury, I. G.; John Pritchard; John Roberts; O. T. Williams; Percy Hennett; Rev. John Hughes, Chaplain; J. B. Morgan; R. I. Davids; Rob. Arthur Jones; Richard Rowlands, Owen Jones; William Hayward; J. C. Fourdrinier, P.M., No. 2; Edward Westley, Zetland Lodge, Hong-Kong; W. H. Brewis, Alexandria Lodge, No. 993; James Hawkridge, Tyler. In the absence of Bro. Potter, P.M., the chair was taken by Bro. J. C. Fourdrinier, P.M., No. 2. The lodge was opened in due form, after which Mr. Dyson Weston was duly initiated into Freemasonry. The lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. Percy Bennett was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The lodge was opened in third degree, and Bro. J. B. Morgan raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, a ballot taken for Bro. J. C. Fourdrinier, P.M., No. 2, and Bro. T. C. Roden, of Llandudno, P.M. of this lodge, and they were unanimously elected Hon. Members of the lodge. The W.M. read a letter received from Bro. Chas. Wigan, Provincial Grand Secretary, announcing that the next Provincial Grand Lodge would be held at Carnarvon in or about August next. The lodge was then closed, and the Brethren sat down at 5 o'clock to the banquet, provided by Bro. John Moreton in his usual liberal style. The Masonic and other toasts were drunk with the usual honours. After spending a very agreeable evening the brethren broke up at eight o'clock.

LANCASTER.—*Rowley Lodge, No. 1051.*—The members of this lodge held their regular meeting on Monday, 1st inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Athenaeum, Lancaster. The chair of K.S. was occupied by W. Bro. Mason, W.M., who was supported by the following officers and brethren, viz.: Bros. Hall, S.W.; Bro. Dr. Mercer, J.W.; W. Bro. Bagnall, P.M.; Bro. John Hatch, S.W., 281, as S.D.; W. Bro. E. Storey, W.M., 281, as J.D.; Bro. Taylor, I.G.; Bro. Walton, Tyler; Bro. O. Armistead, F.C.; and Bro. Jesse Banning, visitor. After the usual business of the lodge had been transacted, the ballot was taken for Bro. R. Barlow Simpson, of Lancaster, and of St. Michael's Lodge, Tenbury, who had been proposed at a previous meeting, was now unanimously elected

as a joining member of the lodge. Notice of motion having been given, the sum of three guineas was voted to the Zetland Commemoration Fund. The W.M. directed the attention of the brethren to several communications he had received. Bro. Armistead, F.C., being a candidate for the third degree, was found qualified and duly raised as a M.M. by W. Bro. Bagnall. Bro. Jesse Banning advocated the cause of the Masonic Life Boat, asking for subscriptions from the lodge, and, after some conversation it was decided to allow the matter to stand over until the next meeting. There being no other business before the lodge it was closed in due order.

ULVERSTON.—*Lodge of Furness, No. 995.*—The monthly meeting of this prosperous and well-conducted lodge was held on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., at the Masonic Temple. The lodge was opened in due form by Bro. Roper, W.M., supported by Bros. Hodgson, S.W.; Pearson, L.W.; Thompson, S.O.; Podmore, J.D.; Paxton, I.G.; Remington, I.P.M.; Barber, P.M.; Proctor, Chaplain; James, Secretary; Butcher, Treasurer; Callon, Organist; and Wilson, S.S. The minutes of last communication were read and confirmed; Bro. James also read quarterly statement of accounts, which, after some discussion, were agreed to. Bro. Cook, P.M., 119, P.P.G.S.W.; then delivered the lectures on the tracing boards, to which the brethren paid marked attention. In conclusion the W.M. proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Cook, for the very able and eloquent manner in which he had delivered the lectures, which was heartily agreed to. Bro. Pearson, J.W., was unanimously elected as the steward to represent this lodge on the Inauguration Festival, on Wednesday, April 14th, who generously promised to pay all expenses attending it. There being no other business, the lodge was finally and formally closed at 8.50 p.m.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—*Milton Lodge No. 1144.*—Held at the house of Bro. John Stafford, the Burlington Hotel, this lodge held its third anniversary and installation on Monday, March 1st 1869, when a goodly number of Brethren were present on the occasion. Bro. Robert Kenyon, W.M., opened the lodge up to the third degree. Bro. Past Master S.D. Lees Provincial Senior Grand Warden of East Lancashire, the installing Master proceeded in the installation, when Bro. James Smith Ross, of Stanford House, was presented by Bro. Thomas Stafford, P.P.D.C., Cheshire, in the usual way, for the benefit of installation, the laws were read over to him by the Secretary, which he assented to, the brethren then retired, when a board of Installed Masters were opened, the brethren were then admitted, and Bro. Ross was invested and conducted to his chair, he then appointed his officers. Bros. Alvin Willis, S.W.; James Pollett, J.W.; Samuel Garside, Treas.; Thos. Stafford, Secy.; John Thomas Kerrison, S.D.; David Radcliffe, J.D.; and Bro. John Jones, I.G.; Bro. S. D. Lees, then gave the ancient charges to the W.M. and Wardens. The lodge was then closed by the newly appointed officers, during the year fourteen new members have been added to the lodge, there have been also several valuable presents given to the lodge by Bro. Edward Lees, the three tracing boards framed in handsome gilt frames, &c., Bro. Ross, a charity box, carved in oak, with a beautiful inscription on. Bro. Jones, a splendid burnished lamp, and Bro. Ried. Boney, with a Mosaic floor-cloth. There was also granted at this meeting fifty-five guineas to the Masonic Boys School, it is also the intention to subscribe to all the charities in connection with Freemasonry. The brethren then retired for a short time, when a most sumptuous spread was laid out by the host; after the cloth was drawn Bro. Ross took the chair and was supported by several Provincial Grand officers, after the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given and responded to, the Brethren retired after spending a pleasant evening about 10 o'clock.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

Rose of Denmark Chapter, No. 975.—The fourth anniversary of this flourishing Chapter, was celebrated on the 6th inst., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, when 26 Companions were present, including Comps W. Mann, Z. 186; W. Ough, Z. 657; P.Z. 749; C. Hosgood Z. 1056; and F. Walters, P.Z. 73; as visitors:—Comp. Pendlebury, (P.Z. 1056) was inducted into the chair of Z., after which Comp. Smith was installed as H., and Comp. Powell as T. The other officers are Comps. R. W. Little, P.Z. S.E.; Tamer, S.N.; Buss, (P.Z.) Treas.; Price P.S.; Dodd, first A.S.; Gurney, second A.S.; Walford, D.C.; Quilty, G.S. Bro. Cazley, of the Egyptian Lodge, No. 27, was exalted into the Order, the ceremony being most ably worked by Comp. J. Terry, the retiring Z., who with Comp. Brett, P.Z., also performed the installations. Two Brethren were proposed for exaltation, and the Chapter was closed. An excellent banquet followed, after which Comp.

(Continued on page 6.)

Masonic Miscellanea.

THE Inauguration Festival at Freemasons' Hall will be held on the 14th proximo. The G. Stewards, 20 brethren nominated by the M.W. Grand Master, and upwards of 80 elected by various lodges will compose the Board of Stewards on this important occasion.

THE Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire, will be held at the Abbey Lodge, No. 432, Newdegate Arms, Nuneaton, on Wednesday, March 31st. A Sermon will be preached at the parish church by Bro. the Rev. C. J. E. Smith, P.G.C., Warwickshire, and a collection made on behalf of the Annuity and Benevolent Funds. Banquet at 4 o'clock; tickets (including dinner, dessert and a bottle of wine), 10s. 6d. each.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

Announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths relating to the Craft, or their families, will be inserted, free of charge, if properly authenticated.]

DEATH.

PALIN.—On March 3rd, at Barnes, in the 91st year of her age, beloved by all who knew her, Helen, relict of John Palin, LL.D., late of Cleveland House, Barnes, and mother of Dr. Palin, of "The Rose of Denmark" Lodge No. 975, Barnes.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1869.

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THE PARLIAMENT OF ENGLISH FREEMASONRY.

"Remove not the ancient landmark."

We deem it our duty to call the attention of the English Craft to a series of proposed alterations in the laws respecting the Fund of Benevolence, which, if carried out, will assuredly be the most gigantic innovation ever introduced into the Constitutions of the Order.

It is gravely proposed, not only to alienate a portion of the Fund of Benevolence from the purposes for which it was originally intended, and is still kept sacred—namely, the relief of our brethren in temporary distress—but to limit the future increase of the Fund, by handing over its surplus revenue to other institutions. Such are the main features of Bro. CLABON'S scheme, as mooted at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on the 3rd inst., but we are glad to inform our readers that they were not suffered to pass unchallenged.

Bro. J. R. STEBBING, P.G.D., in an earnest and vigorous speech, warned Grand Lodge against the adoption of such a perilous course, and ably protested against laying down a "hard and fast line" as the future sum total of the Fund of Benevolence. He enunciated an opinion, in which we heartily concur, that a capitalized amount of £26,000 would very inadequately represent the resources which a powerful body like the Grand Lodge of England should always have at its command, and intimated that even double that sum would hardly meet the views of those whose thoughts extend to the future, and its possible claims.

To the potential arguments of Bro. Stebbing we may add the following extract from the Book of Constitutions, Art. I, page 96:—"THE FUND APPROPRIATED TO THE OBJECT OF BENEVOLENCE SHALL BE SOLELY DEVOTED TO CHARITY;" and we shall be greatly disappointed if the Free-

masons of England will consent thus to limit the just heritage of their successors in the Craft, or permit the funds as they accumulate to be diverted to any other object under heaven, however noble or beneficent. The question will come before Grand Lodge in June, and if the brethren generally realise the importance of the occasion they will delegate a Brother from each Lodge to attend and strenuously oppose the restriction of their Masonic privileges.

With other portions of Bro. Clabon's scheme we are in perfect accord. Increased powers in the award of pecuniary grants ought to be given both to the Grand Master and to the Lodge of Benevolence, and we would therefore entreat our worthy and eminent Brother not to hazard the rejection of many excellent suggestions in his projected alterations by pressing the adoption of measures which, we confidently predict, will never obtain the sanction of the Craft.

ZETLAND COMMEMORATION FUND.

We earnestly commend to the warmest support of the Craft this testimonial to the merits of our noble and venerated GRAND MASTER. The long period during which Lord Zetland has presided over the Freemasons of England has been one fraught with great results to the Order in general, and will doubtless constitute an era in its history. The urbanity and dignity with which the Grand Master has administered the affairs of the fraternity deserve the hearty response of the brethren, and we are satisfied that the contributions eventually received will be worthy of the "Zetland Commemoration," as well as proportionate to the number and importance of the Masonic Order. We shall revert to this subject from time to time as occasion may require.

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The 71st anniversary festival of this institution was held on Wednesday evening at the Freemasons' Hall, when the chair was occupied by Earl De Grey and Ripon, the Deputy Grand Master of England and Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire. About 200 sat down to dinner, among whom were Brothers Lord Eliot, P.G.W.; Stephen Blair, G.M. of East Lancashire; Augustus Smith, G.M. of Cornwall; H. Murray, district G.M. of China; the Rev. G. Senior, P.G. Ch.; — Shaw, G.S.D.; L. Evans, Pres. of B.G.P.; J. Hervey, G. Sec.; Br. Farmer, W.M.; B. Head, P.G.D.; H. Browse, G.J.D.; W. Young, P.G.S.B.; Captain Cope, P.G.S.B.; R. G. Speirs, P.G.S.D.; and Secondary Potter, P.G.W.

The object of the institution is to provide maintenance and education for the sons of indigent Masons. Until the year 1857 grants were made for the purpose of clothing the boys and placing them at various schools near their parents' residences. Appeals having been made to the craft, however, for funds to enable a school of their own to be secured. In 1856 a convenient mansion and ten acres of freehold land at Wood-green were purchased at an expenditure of £3,500. The building, after some alteration, was inaugurated as a school in 1857, when 25 boys were admitted. In 1866 the number raised to 105, but in consequence of a very large expenditure rendered needful from a variety of causes, including the erection of new buildings, there exists a debt of 10,000l.

During the evening the following prizes were presented by the chairman to three of the boys who had distinguished themselves—a silver medal to Adam Andrews James for general good conduct; a silver medal to Walter Rumbelow, for intellectual exertion and success, and a prize of five guineas in cash to Harry Wildman, who had obtained the first prize

at the Oxford Local Middle Class examination in June last, who had been in the first class examination in the Cambridge Local Middle Class examination in December last.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," said that, as a Minister of the Crown as well as in virtue of his office, a Deputy Grand Master of England, he was deeply interested in the success of institutions which were established for the purpose of promoting public education. When the funds would permit of the extension of the dormitory accommodation 200 boys could be received into the institution. The boys now in the institution received a sound English education, and those who exhibited talent had every advantage offered them to enable them to pursue their classical and mathematical studies.

The subscriptions announced during the evening amounted to 12,000l., of which Her Majesty had contributed ten guineas, the Chairman 500 guineas, and Brother S. Blair, the Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, 1,000 guineas; the Stewards and Provincial Grand Lodges and Lodges of West Yorkshire, 2,411l.; the Provincial Grand Lodge and Lodges of East Lancashire, 3,885l. The body of the hall and the galleries afforded accommodation for about two hundred ladies. The musical arrangements were under the management of Brother William Ganz, who was assisted by Miss Rose Hersec, Miss Agness Flower, Miss Abbott, Miss Eyles, Brother George Perren, Brother Frederick Penna, and Brother Ciabatta.

The Editor's Portfolio.

[Under this heading we purpose presenting our readers with choice extracts from works relating to Freemasonry, or other interesting subjects.]

A BEAUTIFUL MASONIC PRAYER.

O Thou, whose temple we are! On the mountain of Thy truth let our sublime edifice display its glory. Let the eye of the Master meet the Son of Light as he enters. Let the greater lights, by the help of the less, illuminate the whole scene of his duty and of his pleasure. Behold us with Thy brightness, at this hour, leading a young son into Thy temple. Like the temple, let him be beautiful without, and all glorious within. Let his soul be capacious as Thy truth, and his affections pure as the serene heavens when the silent moon gives her light. Let him obey as the sun, who labours until perfect day with increasing strength; and let all the purposes of his heart be as the stars, which tell of worlds unknown, and are notices of boundless benevolence. Let him move like the heavenly orbs, in harmony; and should he stretch across the universe, may he disturb no soul in his course. Within this temple may he be sacred as the altar, sweet as the incense, and pure as the most holy place. Among Thy ministering servants may he be ready as an agent of God, and faithful as a beloved son. And when his service is finished, may his memory be celebrated by love on the durable monuments of eternity; and his reward, in the silent, solemn joy of heaven, be sure from the hand of God, the Grand Master of us all.

A LEGEND.

They tell a story that one day Rabbi Judah and his brethren sat in the church on a fast day disputing about rest. One said it was to have sufficient wealth, yet without sin. The second said it was fame and to be praised of all men. The third said it was possession of power to rule the State. The fourth said it must be only in the old age of one who is rich, powerful, famous, and surrounded by children and children's children. The fifth said it were all in vain unless a man kept all the ritual of Moses. And Rabbi Judah, the venerable, the tallest of the brethren, said, "Ye have spoken wisely, but one thing more is necessary. He only can find rest who to all things addeth this—that he kept the traditions of the elders."

There sat a fair-haired boy playing with lilies in his lap, and hearing the talk, dropped them in astonishment from his hands and looked up—that boy of twelve—and said, "Nay, father, he only can find rest who loves his brother as himself—with his whole heart and soul. He is greater than fame, wealth and power; happier than a happy home without it; better than honoured age—he is a law to himself above all traditions."

We are glad to learn that Lord Leigh, P.G.M. for Warwickshire, has nearly recovered from his late severe accident.

Masonic Jurisprudence.

In England physical defects or deformities are no bar to the admission of candidates whose moral character is sound. All good men and true are justly regarded as fit material to be employed in the construction of a spiritual temple whose pillars are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. In the United States the strict letter of the ancient operative law is still enforced, to the exclusion of maimed candidates, however worthy. This is at variance with the principles of Freemasonry as a speculative institution, and ought to be modified or abolished.

"A Mason's Lodge is a Mason's Church," said the late Duke of Sussex, and all are free to enter therein who are known to be brethren, or upon whose reputation no serious stain of dishonour exists. The utmost caution should, however, be exercised in the examination of strangers, and the rules of the Grand Lodge as to production of certificate should be faithfully observed.

During the absence of a Master from the country, or during his illness or incapacity to attend, the S.W. rules the lodge, nor can meetings other than named in the bye-laws be called without his knowledge and consent. A P.M. must, however, occupy the chair and perform the work of the lodge, although it was formerly customary for Wardens to confer degrees, and the legality of their claim to do so is even now a moot point.

Past Masters of Scottish, Irish, or foreign lodges are ineligible as candidates for the chair of an English lodge until they have served as Warden for one year in the usual way. Regularly installed Masters under any jurisdiction are, however, permitted to assist at an English Board of I.M.'s. Scotch P.M.'s are inadmissible, as they know nothing of the secrets restricted to the chair.

Multum in Parvo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

The first Masonic periodical on record was published at Leipzig, on the 4th January, 1738. It was called "Der Freymaurer" (The Freemason), and existed about a year. Bro. Findel now edits "Die Bauhütte," at the same place.—L. W. R.

His Royal Highness Francis, Duke of Lorraine, afterwards Emperor of Germany, was initiated in the Grand Lodge of England, 14th May, 1731, and received the 2nd degree on the same night.—VIATOR.

The Mallet used by King Charles II. when he laid the foundation stone of St. Paul's Cathedral is now in the possession of the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, to which Sir Christopher Wren, the architect, then belonged. This curious relic was also used by the Earl of Zetland at a similar ceremony, in 1864, in connection with the New Buildings at Freemasons' Hall.—ANTICUARIUS.

Red Cross of Rome and Constantine.—As it is correct that this Degree possesses records dating as far back as the same decade of the eighteenth century as the Masonic Templars do, why should not it receive as much support as the latter degree of Masonic Knighthood?—RES NON VERBA.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.—What is the earliest record known that refers to the veritable Rose Croix of Freemasonry; or, in fact, to any degree under the jurisdiction of the "Ancient and Accepted Rite?" We hear that the late S.G. Commander Dr. Leeson possesses a warrant derived from the Pretender of A.D. 1721, conferring authority to give the Rose Croix degree! Would the learned Mason, Dr. Leeson, kindly make this warrant public, so that its nature may be known? He would confer another benefit on the Craft by so doing, and few are better qualified to speak on the matter than he is. My impression is that no such warrant is in existence, but of course I am open to conviction.—ROSE CROIX.

Antiquity Lodge No. 1.—Cannot some qualified Brother in London favour us with reliable information relative to this lodge before the revival of A.D. 1717? Such matter is sadly wanted by intelligent Masons everywhere, and yet neither in "Preston's Illustrations" nor in any other work can we find any quotation from its ancient records. I feel persuaded that it requires but a respectful application to the members to secure much that would prove valuable to the Masonic historian. We hear also that at this time the lodge owns an ancient manuscript? Of what date is it? and of what nature is it?—questions, I know, easily put, but much wanted by Masonic students to be answered.—W. J. HUGHAN.

Masonic Antiquities, Records, and Bibliography.

SPECIMENS FROM A MASONIC QUARRY.

By WM. JAMES HUGHAN, P.M., No. 131 TRURO, Author of "History of Freemasonry in Cornwall," "Sparks from a Mason's Anvil," &c.; Masonic Correspondent of "The Voice of Freemasonry," for Eng and; Corresponding Member of "German Masonic Union," &c.

SPECIMEN No. 1.—OPERATIVE MASONIC LODGES.

The importance of the records of Operative Lodges anterior to the formation of Grand Lodges cannot be overestimated, seeing that from such minutes we learn the nature and objects of the fraternity from which the present Free and Accepted Masonic Body is derived.

Foremost among the operative lodges is the ancient "Mother Kilwinning" of Ayrshire, Scotland, which until recently possessed records as far back as the sixteenth century; and although, now, an accident has deprived its members of so precious a volume, they have still one, of a century later, of great interest, and invaluable as evidence of what Masonry consisted some two hundred and fifty years ago. Its history has been immortalized by the Masonic historian, Bro. Lyon, of Ayr; and so eagerly has the Craft desired authentic details of this famous and ancient parent of Masonry in Scotland that already the work has been translated into other tongues, for the benefit of Masonry universal; and not only so, but we are glad to state that Bro. Lyon himself is now engaged in preparing a second edition, which will soon be published and no doubt rapidly "bought up." That being the case, we shall leave Mother Kilwinning in able hands, and take upon ourself the pleasing duty of looking after lodges that have not had the powerful aid of such an accomplished historian.

In Scotland, the St. Andrew's Lodge, Banff, No. 52—although it is dated A.D. 1736 in the "Universal Masonic Calendar"—has minutes from A.D. 1703, before a Grand Lodge was formed anywhere. These records refer to older documents, which are now, alas, unknown, but evidently the lodge itself has existed for a very long period. Banff holds a peculiarly prominent position in Scotland, from the fact that the resident members of the Masonic body have been connected with the working of the Masonic Knights Templars and other degrees, including the Royal Arch and the Mark Master, for upwards of a century. Before A.D. 1720 only two degrees are ever mentioned, the Fellow Craft (the second) being questionable as to its being a degree after all. Of course the office of Master Mason was recognised, but never as a degree, before the influence of the Revivalists of A.D. 1717 was felt in the North. In the other lodge held in the town, called "St John's Operative," No. 92, warranted A.D. 1764, the Royal Arch has flourished since A.D. 1765, and it is believed to have been one of the earliest working chapters in the world, and certainly few, if any, possess minute books of the degree before it. We intend referring to this lodge again, but on returning to "St. Andrews" we find that it remained true to pure and unadulterated Craft Masonry until A.D. 1787. Not like "Mother Kilwinning" though, which from the earliest period to the present year has never given more than three degrees, including the choice of the Mark. Under the old system, before modern Freemasonry arose as a phoenix from its ashes, the distinction was always carefully drawn between "operative" and "geometrical" Masons. The latter consisted of gentlemen who had to pay some fifty per cent. more in dues, in consequence of not being operatives, or craftsmen. It is nonsense to talk of the Craft being only operative before A.D. 1717, and that none but bona fide workmen were admitted into its ranks! There is no record before the Revival, but what will prove the fact of the Masonic Craft being then, as now, speculative as well as operative.

We have (through the kindness of Bro. Stenhouse Bairnsfather, P.M., whose accuracy may be relied on) been favoured with a number of excerpts from the minutes of this ancient lodge. One of the earliest of these commences December 27, 1708, in which it is stated that—

"In presence of Alexr. Mill, Mr. for the ensuing year, and Alexr. Forsyth, Warden for the said year, Patrie Leslye, John Anderson, Andrew Russall, James Bennet, Laelan Jemison, James Faith, and Alexr. Forsyth, younger, the fore-said number being Measons, have resolved to pay in four sh. Scots each of them and the rest of the traid, to a box which is to be paid for the use, commencing from [part torn out] at the end of every year, and the box delivered to Alexr. Forsyth, elder, with two pound fortin shil. Scots, and an bond for four pound forsd, and James Alexr. and John Murhid vests ther yearlie contribution; and the meeting ordaus al the members concerned to cess the meetings under the payment of four sh. Scots, and ordains the monie in the box ye bond to be lent out upon intrest from Candlines next headvice."

According to usage, the senior Warden of the lodge was permitted to act as Master in the absence of the regular officer. It was resolved that—

"No Master of the Lodge of Banff shall employ a Cowan, unless he make it appear it was a case of necessity; other-

wise he is liable to the cognizance of the next general meeting." (7th Jan. 1773.)

No Brother who was not raised to the degree of a Master Mason was allowed to "undertake or come on work" even so late as A.D. 1774, showing how curiously the operative was still blended with the modern system. But we must look up our notes again, and present a sketch of the "Operative Lodge," which has enjoyed the benefits of Masonry in a practical sense for more than one hundred years.

P o e t r y .

ODE TO THE SPIRIT OF FREEMASONRY.

By BRO. R. WENTWORTH LITTLE, P.M. & P.Z., 975.

I. STROPHE.

Like one who trembles in the breathless dark
Of midnight, overcome with solemn fears—
I gazed upon the wrecks of rolling years
With awe, till I beheld a wondrous Ark
Floating in peace o'er Life's tempestuous sea,
And guided by a Form whose glory shone
Through the surrounding gloom—"Come thou to me,"
The Spirit cried, "And stand before my throne,
And minister within my sanctuary—
Be thou a Priest of Light!" Then I arose
From bended knee, and sought the sacred shrine
Where truth abides in Strength, and Wisdom grows
In Beauty, like a flower in fields divine.

II. ANTISTROPHE.

O radiant Presence! fairer than the dawn—
To THEE I chant this feebly-uttered psalm,
Not vainly to thy courts have I withdrawn
Nor vainly sought to share thy holy calm.
If to thine altar I can only bring
One votive wreath, 'tis well—for hast thou not
Limitless empire over mighty Thought,
And mightier Action? Thou dost strongly sway
Thy secret world, like that immortal King
Who rules the ceaseless course of night and day.
And though around me rise those motes of time,
The ghosts of hours with duties unfulfilled—
And though I tremble at the task sublime,
Thy temple in my heart I fain would build.

III. EPODE.

It is no dream—it cannot be a dream,
For high above the surge of Life we see
A home for all who worship the Supreme—
A haven which is called "Freemasonry!"
And still that mystic Voice cries, "Brethren, come to me!"

MASONIC ODE.

By Bro. ROB MORRIS, P.G.M., Kentucky.

AIR—"Auld Lang Syne."

One hour with you, one hour with you—
No doubt, nor care, nor strife—
Is worth a weary year of woe
In all that lightens life.
One hour with you, and you, and you,
Bright links in mystic chain—
Oh, may we oft these joys renew,
And often meet again.

Your eyes with love's own language free,
Your hand-grips strong and true,
Your voice, your heart do welcome me
To spend an hour with you.
One hour with you, &c.

I come when morning skies are bright
To work my Mason's due;
To labour is my chief delight,
And spend an hour with you.
One hour with you, &c.

I go when evening gilds the west,
I breathe the foud adieu,
And hope again, by fortune blest,
To spend an hour with you.
One hour with you, &c.

Western Freemason.

We understand that the Testimonial to the Grand Master will take a form which cannot fail to be acceptable to the Craft at large, his lordship having decided in favour of instituting "Zetland Annuities" for distinguished Masons, the power of nomination to be vested in the Grand Master for the time being. The details of the arrangement are as yet, however, not finally completed.

There are now 1255 Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, in addition to which there are 370 R. A. Chapters attached to lodges. Templars' Encampments number 108; Mark Lodges, 101; Rose Croix Chapters, 29; and Red Cross Conclaves, 14.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

(Continued from page 3.)

Terry was presented with a splendid P.Z.'s Jewel, and also a collar and silver gilt Jewel attached, as marks of the high approbation entertained of his efficient services as Z. Capital speeches were delivered by Comps. Brett, Buss and Little, P.Z.'s. Ough, Mann, Hosgood, Walters, visitors, as well as by Comps. Tanner, Price, and Dodd, for the officers. The work in this Chapter is rendered in a most superior manner, and the utmost harmony prevails between the members.

PROVINCIAL.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, No. 200.*—A meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, on the 3rd of March, when the following companions were present: Comp. J. W. Woodale, Z.; Comp. J. Fisher, P.Z.; Comp. E. H. Newton, P.Z.; Comp. J. F. Spurr, P.Z.; Comp. W. F. Rooke, H.; Comp. W. T. Farthing, J.; Comp. H. A. Williamson, E.; Comp. H. C. Martin, N.; Comp. W. Peacock, P.S.; Comp. R. H. Peacock, 1st A.S.; Comp. H. W. Garnett, 2nd A.S.; and Comps. Jackson, Walsham, Parker, Green, Fletcher, and Surtrees. The chapter was opened at 7 p.m.; the minutes were read and confirmed. Comp. E. H. Newton, P.Z., assisted by the other P.Z.'s named, then installed the following companions as principals of the chapter:—W. F. Rooke, Z.; W. T. Farthing, H.; and H. A. Williamson, J.; after which the following were invested as officers: Comp. R. H. Peacock, E.; Comp. H. C. Martin, N.; Comp. S. H. Armitage, P.S.; Comp. J. Chapman, Treasurer; Comp. J. Verity, Janitor; and Comp. Fisher, P.Z., was proposed as a Joining Member, and Bro. H. Grover, for Exaltation.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

PROVINCIAL.

MANCHESTER.—*Jerusalem Encampment.*—This Encampment, the oldest in Lancashire, (having been constituted by the Grand Lodge of York, Oct. 10th 1786,) held its usual quarterly meeting on Monday, the 8th March, when Sir Kt. Wm. Birch was installed Commander by the Deputy Provincial Grand Commander of Lancashire, Sir Kt. Wm. Henry Wright.

LEWISBURG.—*Royal Plantagenet Encampment.*—A Prior of Malta was held by the members of this Conclave on Monday March 8th, 1869, when two Sir Kts. were admitted members of the Order, and Sir Kt. Henry Thomas, Grand Herald was installed E. Prior. The whole of the ceremony was performed in his usual impressive manner by Sir Kt. Sanderson, Past first Grand Expert, and D.P.G. Commander for Suffolk.

RED CROSS OF ROME & CONSTANTINE.

METROPOLITAN.

Premier Conclave of England.—A quarterly assembly of this renowned Conclave was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on the 1st inst. Twenty-three Knights of the Order were present, including the Lord Kenlis, G.S.; Col. Fras. Burdett, G.H.C.; E. Busher, G.S.C.; R. W. Little, G.R.; J. G. Marsh, G.A.; T. Cubitt, G.H.; G. Powell, G.S.B.; T. Wescombe, G.S.; J. Trickett, V.E.; G. Kenning, A. J. Lewis, &c., and the Conclave was honoured by the presence of several distinguished visitors, viz.: Dr. J. D. Moore, Insp. Gen. N. Lane; E. W. Hutchinson, (of Guernsey), P.S., No. 7; F. Walters, P.S., No. 3; D. R. Still, S.B., No. 2; J. Read, H.P., No. 6; and I. Stevens, V.E. elect, No. 14. Bros. M. C. Menby, G. E. Baker, and T. Luty, were installed as Knights of the Order, and Sir Kt. H. Child, Stevens and Luby were admitted to the rank of V.E.; T. Wescombe, was elected as M.P.S.; J. Trickett, V.E.; and J. Gilbert, Sentinel, after which the Conclave was closed, when the Knights adjourned to the banquet, over which his Lordship the G.S. presided, supported by all the Knights present. The progress of the Order was strongly evidenced by the fact that the representatives of eight Conclaves were present, and the noble chairman intimated his intention of proposing for installation in the "Premier," the Most Noble Bro. the Marquis of Downshire, who is the brother-in-law of Lord Kenlis. The musical arrangements both during the ceremonies and the banquet reflected great credit on Sir Kt. Read, to whom they were entrusted. A most agreeable evening was spent, and the noble lord left the chair about ten o'clock.

Roman Eagle Conclave, No. 6.—The first anniversary assembly of this Conclave was held at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 27th ult., and was

attended by 26 members and 2 visitors. The proceedings of the evening were briefly as follows:—Bros. J. Thomas, P.M., P.Z., G.D.C. of G. Chapter; G. Adams, P.M.; Geo. Tyler; and J. J. Caney, were admitted into the Order. The undernamed are the new officers:—Sir Kt. H. C. Levander, M.A., M.P.S.; Dr. Woodman, V.E.; Dr. Harrison, S.G.; Rev. W. B. Church, J.G.; T. Read, H.P.; A. A. Pendlebury, R.; W. F. N. Quilty, P.S. Treas.; H. Allman, P.; H. Geddes, S.B.; S. Foxall, H.; W. Hurlstone, and H. Thompson, Stewards, J. Weaver, Org. Past S. Quilty was awarded a Jewel for his efficient services during the past year. A letter from Mrs. Bate, widow of Sir Kt. Dr. Bate, acknowledging a vote of condolence, was ordered to be entered on the minutes. A first-rate banquet succeeded the work in Conclave, and the evening was much enlivened by the talented musical performances of Sir Kts. Weaver and Read. The new song of the Order, "Let's rally round the Standard," written by Sir Kt. Little, G.R., was sung with great effect, and elicited much enthusiasm. This Conclave is believed to be the strongest in the Order, (except the "Premier," which has many country members), as it numbers some forty adherents.

Macdonald Conclave No. 14.—About the time our first number appears, Friday the 12th inst., this new Conclave will be formally opened at the Head Quarters of the 1st Surrey Rifle Volunteers, Brunswick-road, Camberwell; a large muster being expected. Major Irvine, of the corps is to be the first M.P.S. Bro. J. Stevens, P.M., P.Z., &c., the V.E. and Captains Wire and Irvine. Dr. Cronin, and about seven other members of the corps are also founders, and we learn that a grand inauguration will take place subsequently at which Lord Kenlis and other prominent members of the Order will be present. *Esto perpetua.*

Plantagenet Preceptory of Instruction.—This preceptory, which was formed on the 11th October, 1865, was re-constructed on the 25th ult., at the Savage Club Room, Lyceum Tavern, Strand. There was a large muster of Knights Companions, including representatives from the six conclaves in Middlesex and Surrey, amongst whom we noticed R. Wentworth Little, President; Col. F. Burdett, W. F. N. Quilty, A. J. Lewis, J. G. Marsh, J. Brett, J. Stevens, T. J. Murray, G. Kenning, D. R. Still, J. Mayo, A. Perrot, J. Read, F. Walters, T. Smale, J. Coutts, Dr. C. H. Rogers, Harrison, C. Haigh, S. G. Foxall, C. A. Cottebrune, J. McKiernan, &c. The ceremony of installation was ably rehearsed, after which the President delivered an Address respecting the order (which we hope to give in *extenso* in our next issue. Col. Burdett was elected president for the ensuing year; Quilty and Walters, V.P.'s; Little, Treasurer; and Marsh, Recorder. The preceptory was then closed.

FOREIGN.

McLeod Moore Conclave, No. 13.—This new Conclave was opened at St. John, N. B., by Sir Kt. R. Marshall, Inspector General for New Brunswick, on the 9th February, when the following brethren—all eminent Masons and Knights Templar—were admitted into the Red Cross Brotherhood, viz.: T. A. D. Foster, Rev. W. Donald, D.D.; R. W. Crookshank, J. C. Hathaway, D. R. Munro, C. Besant, G. F. Ring, C. U. Hanford, H. Duffell, H. A. Whitney, R. Shires, S. F. Matthews, E. Willis, W. J. Logan, W. C. Perley, T. A. Peters, and G. H. Whiting. Under Sir Kt. Marshall's careful rule, we anticipate a brilliant future for the Red Cross Order, in British North America, associated as it is now with the names of a revered Mason Col. McLeod Moore.

ADDRESS

Delivered by Sir Knight ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE, President, at the Plantagenet Preceptory of Instruction, on the 25th February, 1869.

WORTHY KNIGHTS AND COMPANIONS,

In compliance with the wishes of several members of the Order, this meeting has been convened for the purpose of revising the Plantagenet Preceptory of Instruction; and the objects contemplated being, as stated in the circular, not only to rehearse our ceremonial, but to cultivate friendly feelings between each and all of us, and to disseminate information respecting the Order in general, I am sure that you will bear with me for a few moments in this attempt to review our present and past history, and to explain, however imperfectly, the principles of the Red Cross system as a chivalric institution in connexion with the Masonic Order.

Indubitable evidence exists that, before the large infusion of the speculative element in the beginning of the 18th century, Craft Masonry was mainly based upon Christian ideas. The prayers used by ancient craftsmen, as well as numerous allusions in the ritual itself, were essentially of a Christian character, and

traces of this religious influence are even yet perceptible in its ceremonies.

From being an operative society, dealing chiefly with *matter*, the craft almost suddenly expanded into a gigantic organization appealing to the *intellect*; and a consequent revision of its rules, its rites, and its doctrines became an absolute necessity. Our forefathers, recognising the importance of the Order as a bond of brotherhood, and rising nobly above all sectarian ideas, accordingly threw open the portals of Freemasonry to men of every creed and every clime, to all, in a word, who worshipped the Great Architect of the Universe. Thenceforth was witnessed the sublime spectacle of Jew and Christian, Mahometan and Parsee, uniting together, irrespective of religious differences, laboring together for good and holy purposes, and each rivalling the other only in deeds of charity and fraternal affection. It is impossible to overrate the results which followed this great change in the theory and practice of the Craft, and the applause of mankind in general is due to those courageous men who, at a period when strife and bitterness prevailed between warring sects, were so far in advance of the spirit of their age, as to discard the intolerance which then separated man from his fellow-man. There can be no doubt that the grand symbolism couched in the working tools of operative Masonry contributed to establish the principles of the Order in the hearts of its votaries. A society which teaches that all men are born equal, which enjoins its members to meet upon the level and part upon the square, and which at the same time deprives no man of the respect due to his position, his talent, or his worth; such an association may justly be regarded as the nursery and home of free and generous opinions. For these reasons, Freemasonry is viewed with suspicion and hatred by the upholders of despotism and oppression, especially by the teachers of superstition, who would gladly destroy an institution founded upon brotherly love, relief and truth, and which boldly proclaims that all upright men are brethren. It is also to be observed that the universal character thus imparted to Freemasonry is a logical sequence to its traditions, in which we find the Jewish monarch and the Syrian king intimately allied in the endearing bonds of fraternity. But in awarding the highest meed of praise to the promoters of universality in the Craft, we must not overlook the fact, so interesting to every Masonic student, that a *Christian element* formerly existed in its precepts and ceremonies. The brethren who welcomed the Hebrew, and the follower of the Koran into the comprehensive fold of Freemasonry were themselves devoted adherents of the Christian faith. Hence, for the preservation of some beautiful legends and allegories formerly cherished as part of the Masonic system, they devised certain orders and degrees in which Masons holding a common faith might confer together upon the truths therein revealed.

This, I humbly conceive, was, if not the origin of our present associations of Christian Masons, at least the main cause of their amplification under the auspices of chivalric organizations; and if we can prove that such meetings have no tendency to engender antagonism to the great principles of the Craft, or to give offence to our brethren of whatever creed, I apprehend it will be conceded that we are justified in regarding these orders as developments of Freemasonry in a Christian sense, and as bearing a Christian interpretation. They are, in fact, the natural results of that universal expansion of Freemasonry; especially as we may fairly come to the conclusion that it was *Christian Masons* in the first instance who held out the right hand of fellowship to men of all religions, and made them "free" of their "homes" or "lodges," reserving only a corner of the building as their own peculiar "sanctum." Or to adopt a loftier similitude, let us compare Freemasonry to a vast upathric temple, canopied by the heavens, into which all good and true men may enter and look up to the throne of their Creator and God. The Chivalric or Christian Orders are the side chambers of this glorious edifice—the shrines to which we retire for special communion with our fellow worshippers. It is, however, wholly erroneous to infer that our veneration for the great temple itself is thereby weakened, or our belief in the Catholicity of Freemasonry impaired. On the contrary, it will be found that the earnest religionist is often the most zealous assistant in the work of beautifying and adorning the temple. I will not attempt to deny that designing men may have abused the privileges of Freemasonry by inventing pseudo Masonic degrees, which reflected disgrace upon Christianity by preaching a spirit of intolerance, and fulminating anathemas on all who were outside the narrow boundaries of their belief. But that such an objection can be sustained against degrees originating in England amongst the founders of modern Freemasonry, and now practised by *English Masons*, I cannot for a moment believe. We know that it is untrue in respect to the Order of the Red Cross, and I am equally convinced of its falsehood as regards the Knights Templar. Indeed, although both these orders are technically unrecognized by the Grand Lodge of England, and cannot be acknowledged as part of ancient Freemasonry, they may properly be considered as developments of similar phases of

thought, and as correlative to the Craft in their privileges, their organization, and their history.

It is worthy of note that the right of Masons or Lodges to hold meetings in the Orders of Chivalry was inserted in the Act of Union between our two English Grand Lodges in 1813; this permission is, of course, confined to the orders then existing, and may be considered not only as a graceful compliment paid by the high contracting parties, but as an assurance that in the ceremonies of those chivalric institutions the "United Grand Lodge" was unable to perceive any grounds for censure or denunciation.

I may now glance at another objection which I have heard urged against knightly orders in general, and that has reference to the high-sounding titles appropriated to the officers and members. This objection is at first sight a plausible one, but is, nevertheless, susceptible of explanation. In the Red Cross Order we have three grades, in which the designations of "Knight," "Priest," and "Prince" are respectively applied to the several members. It is well known that the ceremony of installing a knight in the mediæval era was of a most solemn religious character, full of mystic symbolism, and highly calculated to impress the candidate with sentiments of honor and virtue. His sword represented at once—fortitude, justice, and mercy, and indicated the spiritual warfare with sin in which he was expected to engage. His lance was an emblem of truth—because truth, like the lance, knows no obliquity. The coat of mail was the symbol of a fortress erected against vice; and the shield reminded him that a true knight was considered as a shield interposed between the prince and the people to preserve the rights of both, and secure the blessings of peace. In the Priestly Order we are taught that the most acceptable incense to place upon the altar of the Deity is that true piety and love which should actuate our conduct through life; and when we arrive at the summit of our system, and have become both "Kings and Priests," in a spiritual sense, humility—that sacred virtue—is forcibly impressed upon our minds. I cannot, of course, enter into details upon this subject, but it is evident that these titles have a great significance and were not idly assumed for display and ostentation. A similar objection might indeed be levelled against the Royal Arch degree as, in Ireland, the chief officer is styled "King," and in other countries he, at least, represents the monarchical position.

But, however, interesting it may be to pursue these investigations, time will not warrant me in doing so to-night. I must trust to your kindness to excuse the desultory nature of these remarks, but if I have succeeded in throwing even a faint glimmer upon the relations which we bear, as members of this order to the great Masonic family, if I have been successful in removing, even one doubt as to the legality of our status, or the soundness of our principles, I shall esteem myself peculiarly fortunate. It is due to ourselves both as Masons, and Christians, to learn as much as possible of the views of those who preceded us in these chivalric degrees, in order that we may be able to defend our organization as a special body of Freemasons; and I am satisfied from what I know already, that we shall arise from the study, much instructed and edified. It will illumine many a dark page in the past history of Freemasonry itself, and will evince to the enquirer the real value of such a Christian Order, not only as a memorial of the early trials of our faith, or of its subsequent triumph and establishment, but as a constant stimulus to our drooping energies, to persevere in the practice of truth and virtue, and thus attain, in the mysterious Hereafter to the full perfection of wisdom in the mansions of everlasting light.

BRO. JAMES BRETT, P.M., P.Z., 177, 975, &c.

An influential committee of brethren has been formed for the purpose of presenting this esteemed and able craftsman with a testimonial in recognition of his services to Freemasonry generally. The Treasurer is Bro. H. G. Buss, P.M. and P.Z., 127, Osford Road, N.; and the Secretary, Bro. R. Wentworth Little, P.M. and P.Z., 7, Gilbert Road, Kennington, S.E., by whom subscriptions will be received. All sums received will be acknowledged in THE FREEMASON.

MURDEROUS ATTACK ON A COLONIAL UNDER-SECRETARY BY AN EX-POLICE MAGISTRATE.—At the Brisbane central police-court, on the 22nd of December, Mr. Frank Sidney Bowerman, an ex-police magistrate, was charged with having, on the 24th November, attempted to murder Mr. Arthur Wilcox Manning, Under-Colonial Secretary. It appears that the accused went into Mr. Manning's offices, and struck the unfortunate gentleman upon the head with a tomahawk. The medical testimony proved that prosecutor's life had been in very great danger. Prisoner, who reserved his defence, was committed to take his trial.—[Bro. Manning is the Deputy District Grand Master of Freemasonry in Queensland.—Ed. F.]

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