



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

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

It is said that a simple Athenian of old, desiring to sell his mansion, took out a brick from the wall and produced it at the public place of auction as a specimen of the structure. In a somewhat similar manner we find Freemasonry estimated and judged by its enemies, and even by some of its friends, because they look at a part instead of the great harmonious whole. For instance, let us ask our Brother “Jovial” the question at the head of this article, and the chances are his reply will be—“Freemasonry? oh, an excellent institution—full of social fellows—meetings very pleasant,” and so on. Another will tell us of its benevolent deeds, while others descant upon its antiquity, its universality, its mysteries, or its privileges.

Antiquarians carry us back from the many-sided Freemasonry of the present day to the mythological *scenas* of Egypt or Greece, and exultingly exclaim, “Eureka, we have found the dawning rays of Masonic light.” Philosophers call to our aid Platonic theories and Pythagorean symbols; moralists pour upon us the wealth of

wisdom found in rarest tomes; and mystics overwhelm us with rhapsodies of the Unknown and the Impossible.

Amid all these diverse and perplexing speculations we halt amazed—forgetting for the moment that each interpreter, like the ancient Athenian, is looking only at a detached portion of the building. Freemasonry is unquestionably a system of natural theology and morality, but, viewed simply as such, its mission on earth would be necessarily superseded by the authoritative teachers of creeds. Its chief, and, we may say, its most comprehensive doctrine is religious tolerance; it proclaims the right of every creature to worship his Creator according to the dictates of his own conscience, at the same time, however, enjoining the practice of every virtue. Upon its universality depends, in a great measure, its power of effecting good, and this leads us naturally to its benevolent aspect, and the utility of its mystic signs and tokens. One of the most sublime utterances of learned men predicts the establishment of an universal language, when the confusion of Babel shall be forgotten in the triumph of a common tongue. At present Freemasonry is the only medium by which men of different nations, unacquainted with each other's speech, can communicate their mutual wants or exchange fraternal greetings. The shipwrecked mariner, the wounded warrior, nay, even the captive at an Indian stake, have alike experienced clemency and compassion through the influence of the mystic bond; and this alone should endear the Masonic Society to every rational thinker.

We may also refer to the symbolism of the Craft as a singularly beautiful study for intellectual men. The highest and noblest precepts are inculcated by most appropriate emblems, some of which have passed out of the peculiar traditions of Freemasonry into current literature. For instance, “To act upon the square” is universally recognized as a synonym to walking uprightly and dealing with our fellow men upon the broad principles of honor and justice. But in thus briefly advertent to the more scientific and useful aspects in which Freemasonry presents itself to a thoughtful mind, we must not ignore the fact that our Brother “Jovial” also has some truth on his side. It may be safely alleged that there is no society in the world where order and regularity so much prevail at festive meetings, as at the assemblies of the Craft. This is due

to the excellent laws and discipline handed down from our forefathers; and as long as those regulations are observed, we can see no objection to cementing the pleasing bonds of friendship by social intercourse and enjoyment.

ZETLAND COMMEMORATION FUND.

The following is the text of the circular issued by the sub-committee of the Zetland Commemoration Fund, the substance of which was given in our last issue:—

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
16th March, 1869.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

Many enquiries having been made as to the destination of this Fund, we have the pleasure to inform you that the M.W. the Grand Master (having consulted the General Committee) has been pleased to state that he is willing to accept the Fund for the following purpose, viz.:

“To invest it in the name of Trustees, and devote the interest to the relief of *distinguished brethren who may become distressed*, their widows, or relations depending on them. The disposal of it to rest with Lord Zetland for his life; and, after him, with the Grand Master for the time being. The Grand Master will fix hereafter such regulations as he may think proper for the administration of the Fund.”

We have good reason to hope that this will meet with general approbation. We request that you will communicate it to the members of your Lodge or Chapter; and if their subscriptions have not been already sent in, we shall be glad if you will remit them without delay.

We remain, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

W. J. SIMPSON } Hon. Secs.
JOHN M. CLABON }
JAS. TERRY, Secretary.

THE INAUGURATION FESTIVAL AT FREEMASONS' HALL.

The first meeting of the Board of Stewards was held at Freemasons' Hall, on the 12th, and was very numerously attended, about 70 brethren being present. The V.W., Brother Aeneas J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, occupied the chair, and was elected President of the Board. Bro. T. Fenn, A.G.D.C., was chosen as Treasurer; Bro. J. Hervey, G. Secretary, Hon. Secretary; and Bro. H. G. Buss, Hon. Assistant Secretary.

A sub-committee, composed of 23 brethren, was then nominated to carry out the details in connection with the Festival, and we learn that the price of the banquet tickets is to be a guinea.

There will doubtless be a very large muster of the Craft at this Festival, and we heartily congratulate the Building Committee, and especially their distinguished chairman, Bro. Havers, upon the approaching termination of those arduous and protracted labors, which the highest and most disinterested zeal for Freemasonry could alone have induced them to undertake.

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.

DEPTFORD.—*Lodge of Justice, No. 147.*—This old lodge met on Wednesday, March 10th, at the White Swan Tavern, 217, High-street, Deptford. Bro. R. G. Batt, M.M., presided. He raised Bros. Speight and Courteney, and initiated Mr. Henry Bunning. All the work was well done. Bro. G. Bolton, P.M., as arranged, was appointed the Steward to represent the lodge at the Inauguration Festival. Present besides those named, Bros. J. Percival, S.W.; J. Whiffen, J.W.; J. Lightfoot, P.M.; Trea.; H. Sadler, S.D.; C. G. Dille, D.C.; J. Patte, I.P.M.; G. Bolton, P.M.; J. Cavell, P.M.; G. Chapman, P.M.; J. L. Winn, P.M.; Tyler; N. Wingfield, P.M.; W. Ward, J. Ponder, W. Courteney, G. Gilbert, B. Belfour, S. R. Speight, G. T. Brown, G. Waterman, F. Golding, J. Roper, W. Scott, J. W. Taylor, S. Juppa, B. Coltar, S. Miles, H. Bunning, and others; visitors, Bros. J. W. T. Barrett, J.W., 871; R. E. Turner, 871; W. G. Hill, 1155, &c.

Domestic Lodge, No. 177.—A meeting of this numerous lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel on the 12th inst. The Brethren having assembled, the lodge was opened in due form by Bro. Tanner, the W.M., assisted by J. R. Foulger, S.W.; T. Walford, J.W., and the rest of his officers. The lodge was then opened to the 2nd degree, and Bro. Tompkins, Blount, and Warren having given proofs of their proficiency in this degree retired. These Brethren being admitted, were then raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was then resumed in the first degree, and the minutes of the last meeting were then read and confirmed. Bros. Wright, Lewis, and Upham answering the usual questions in this degree retired. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and these Brethren passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge having been resumed in first degree, and two gentlemen having been already approved of, were then regularly initiated into Ancient Freemasonry. In accordance with a notice of motion by Bro. Brett, P.M., altering the installation meeting from December to January, the same having been put to the lodge, was carried in due form. Bro. Brett informed the Brethren the M.W.G.M., Earl Zetland, had honoured this lodge, by selecting Bro. J. Smith, P.M., P.G.P., as one of the stewards for the inauguration festival. This announcement gave the greatest satisfaction to all the Brethren. A vote was then carried, that the expenses of Bro. J. Smith attending such stewardship, should be defrayed out of the funds of the lodge. A motion was then brought before the lodge that a summer banquet be held on the third Thursday in the month of July now next ensuing at the Crystal Palace, which motion was also carried. A Brother then moved that ladies should be permitted to attend such banquet, and the feelings of the lodge being strongly in favour of such a proposition, the same was agreed to unanimously. There being no other business, the lodge was then closed in due form with solemn prayer, and the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Bros. F. and W. Clemo. The Brethren of this lodge have cause to be proud of the number of distinguished P.M.'s and members of the lodge who were present, and on the breasts of each, with one exception, was that mark of merit and esteem, the P.M.'s jewel, so highly prized amongst the members of the fraternity at large. Conspicuous by the absence of the reward of merit was the breast of the I.P.M. clearly, shewing that all preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only. The members of this lodge may congratulate themselves upon being presided over by so able a representative of the K.S. chair, whose study is to promote the harmony of his lodge and support our noble charities. Some excellent harmony having been rendered by several of the Brethren, an evening well spent was brought to a happy and fraternal close.

St. Mark's Lodge, No. 857.—The meeting of the above lodge was held on Tuesday, 16th March, at the Horns, Kennington, there being present Bros. Howell, W.M., B.E.G.L.; Anderson, P.M., as S.W.; Geo. Thieck, J.N.C.L.R.; Harrison, C.M., Treas.; Hambly, J.D.; Bragg, J.D.; Doggoes, I.G.; H. F. Frances, Secy.; Gilbert, Morley, and other brethren. Visitors, Bro. Owen, P.P.G.D.; Sands and Lawson, of No. 4; and several others. The principal business of the evening was the installation of Bro. Frances as W.M. This ceremony was ably performed by the outgoing Master, Bro. Howell. Bro. Frances then appointed Bro. Thieck, S.W.; Hambly, J.W.; Goss, S.D.; Bragg, J.D.; Sands, I.G. The W.M. then presented in the name

of the lodge a P.M. jewel to the eminent P.M. remarking that it had been well deserved, and he was sure Bro. Howell, had the good wishes of every member of the lodge. The jewel, one of excellent character and elegant design, was made by Bro. Kenning and greatly admired by the brethren. The lodge was then closed.

Whittington Lodge No. 862.—The last meeting of this lodge for the season was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 15th inst. The W.M. Bro. D. J. Davis opened the lodge, assisted by Bros. Weaver, S.W.; S. S. Davis, J.W.; Thompson, P.M., Treas.; Little, P.M., Sec.; Brett, Hurlstone and Quilty, P.M.'s, Salsbury, S.D.; Jones, I.G., Bergmann, Payne, Walker, Kern, Stone, Stevens, Dix, Taylor, Voigt, Schnegelsberg, Haley, Tunks, W. F. Smith, &c., and several visitors. Bro. Voigt, was passed to the second degree, and Bro. Kern raised to that of M.M., a donation of Ten guineas was voted from the General Lodge Fund to the Lodge Benevolent Fund, after which the proceedings were brought to a close, and the brethren adjourned to a superb banquet personally supervised by Bro. G. Smith the active and urbane manager, and the "Whittingtonians" as usual, enjoyed a very pleasant evening in the interchange of fraternal sentiments and true sociality.

PROVINCIAL.

CARDIFF.—*Glenmorgan Lodge, No. 36.*—An ordinary monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the lodge room on Monday evening last week, under the presidency of Bro. W. M. Samuel Nash. A deputation attended from the Provincial Grand Lodge to urge the claims of the Boys' School, a special effort being made this year to clear off the outstanding liability of £10,000 upon the building. Upwards of £23 was realized, which consisted of a small donation from the funds of the lodge, supplemented by private subscriptions of the members. The deputation was invited by the lodge to a supper, but was unable to attend from want of time, and a glass of wine in a room adjoining the lodge was obliged to be substituted.

DURHAM.—*Ted's Lodge No. 509.*—A lodge of emergency was held at Mason's Court, Stockton-on-Tees, on Monday, the 15th inst., present, Bros. Ralph Graham, W.M.; Smith, P.M.; Geo. Watson, I.P.M.; Enra Holms, I.P.M., 531; M. Cadle, P.M., Acty., I.G.; Hart, Secty.; G. Janson, S.W.; Watson, J.W.; Wrightson, J.D.; E. Alexander, Secty., 531, &c. The lodge having been opened with solemn prayer, and raised to the second degree. Bro. Arthur Head was examined and entrusted, and having retired for preparation the lodge was opened in the third degree, and on his re-admission Bro. Head was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, Bro. Smith performing the ceremony admirably. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, when Bros. Joshua Byers and Wood, underwent the usual catechetical examination, which proving satisfactory, they were entrusted and retired for preparation, and on their return into the lodge which had been opened in the second degree they were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. There being no more business before the lodge, it was closed in ancient form and with solemn prayer. We were much pleased with the working of the lodge, which is composed of members with whom it is at once a pleasure and a privilege to meet, we wish as much could be said of every lodge in the province.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.—*Ferrers and Ironhoe Lodge, No. 779.*—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 8th inst., for the initiation of the Right Hon. Sewalles Edward Shirley, tenth Earl Ferrers, and other business. The event possessed additional interest from the fact that the noble candidate's father, the late Earl, took an active part ten years ago in establishing the lodge (named, in part, after him), and was nominated in the warrant as the first W.M., but he unfortunately died before the lodge was consecrated. The present youthful Earl (who only attained his majority last year), having decided, like his predecessors for several generations, to join the Craft, selected this lodge, from its associations with his father, in which to see the light of Masonry. The Dep. Pro. G. Master (who had been associated with the late Earl and other brethren in establishing the lodge), paid an official visit on the occasion, accompanied by several P.G. officers, and was received with the usual honours. The lodge having been opened by the W.M. (the Rev. S. Pyemont, D.D., P.G.S.W.), and some preliminary business transacted, Lord Ferrers, who had been balloted for at the last regular lodge, was introduced, and the ceremony of initiation was conducted by the W.M. up to investment of the candidate with the Masonic badge. The chair was then taken by the D.P.G.M., who delivered the charge to the novitiate, the explanation of the working tools, and, subsequently, the lecture on the tracing-board. He then requested the W.M. to resume his position, who completed the

ceremony by delivering the final charge. The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the Queen's Head Hotel, where an elegant banquet was served in Bro. Love's well-known excellent style. The W.M. was supported on the right by the Dep. Pro. G. Master, and on the left by the Earl Ferrers. After the cloth was drawn, the usual loyal and masonic toasts were duly honoured, including that of the youthful Earl, who, in reply, expressed the pleasure he felt in being initiated into Masonry in the lodge which his father had assisted in founding, and he hoped that he might prove himself a worthy Brother of the Order. Among the brethren present on the occasion were, Bros. W. Kelly, D.P.G.M.; Rev. S. Pyemont, D.D., W.M. and P.G.S.W.; Rev. Jno. Denton, M.A., P.M., Secy., and P.P.G.S.W.; H. E. Smith, J.P., P.M., and P.P.J.G.W. (as J.D.); S. Love, P.M. and Treas., and P.P.G.D.; G. F. Brown, P.M. and P.P.J.G.W.; E. F. Mammatt, S.W., and P.G., Reg.; E. Ison, J.W.; J. H. Garner, S.D.; H. Blood, J.G.; W. Camner, Taylor; and other members of the lodge. Visitors Bros. F. Goodyer, P.M., No. 523, and P.P.G., Secy., and P.P.G.S.W.; W. Weare, P.M., No. 279, and P.P.G.D.; A. M. Duff, W.M., No. 523, and P.G.J.D.; W. S. Bethrey, No. 523, and P.P.G., Org.; Rev. Francis Stewart, Apollo University Lodge, Oxford; Albert O. Worthington, J.W., Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 353; the W.M., (Bro. Major); W. J. Gothard, P.M., Bellamy, S.W.; and John Upton, of the Abbey Lodge, No. 624, Burton-on-Trent; F. J. Baldock, No. 731, Arboretum Lodge, Derby; and others. From the apparently amiable disposition, and the modest, pleasing manners of Lord Ferrers, he will probably ere long become very popular in the province.

WHITEHAVEN.—*Lewis Lodge, No. 872.*—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the lodge rooms, College-street, Whitehaven, on Monday the 15th inst., present the W.M., Bro. Spittal, in the chair. Bros. Barr, P.M.; Morten, P.P.M.; J. McKelvie, W.M., of lodge 119; Secty. Bro. Hughes; Bro. Fearson, S.W.; Bro. Foster, J.W.; Bro. Ellis, S.D.; Bro. Gill, I.G. The lodge being opened the minutes of the proceeding meeting were confirmed. Bros. Mills, Gooding, J. Standwin were raised to the degree of Master Masons. The lodge was then adjourned to the following Monday, March 22nd, to complete the work laid out, which was too great to be completed within a reasonable hour on the 15th. The lodge was closed according to ancient usage. The Brethren, who were numerous, retired to the refreshment room and concluded the evening in a truly masonic style. The entertainment was enlivened by numerous songs, which were well sung, and great credit is due to the performers.

ABINGDON.—*Abbey Lodge, No. 945.*—On Thursday, March 11th, the above lodge held its monthly meeting. Present: Bros. John T. Morland, W.M.; Edward Morland, J.W.; W. Hedges, S.W.; H. D'Almaine, P.M., Sec., and other brethren. Bro. Walter Ballard was passed to the second degree, and Bro. J. H. Clarke raised to sublime degree. The election for a W.M. for the ensuing year was declared for Bro. John Blandy Jenkins. P.P.G.J.W., Berks and Bucks; for Treasurer, Bro. Richard Badcock. The annual meeting was fixed to take place on April 30th. The W.M. informed the brethren that he had been present at the Festival of the Boys' School, and had great pleasure in stating that the amount on his subscription list was £46.

SANDWICH.—*Cinque Ports Lodge, No. 1206.*—The installation of the W.M. of this lodge took place at the King's Arms Hotel, Sandwich, on Tuesday week, at half-past four o'clock. The Brethren having assembled, the lodge was formally opened, and the ceremony of installation performed by Bro. Hayward, of Margate, P.P.G.D., with his usual ability. The W.M., Bro. Mate, then appointed for the ensuing year, as his officers, Bros. J. N. Mourilyan, S.W.; W. Gardner, J.W.—Osbaliston, S.D.; W. Woodruff, J.D.; Captain Gillow, Secy.; C. Leiberman, Treas.; S. Prentice; J. G. Grey, J. and R. Harrison, and W. Denne, Stewards. At the conclusion of the proceedings the lodge closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the Bell Inn, where a banquet was prepared by Mr. Sparks, in his usual superb style. There were present, besides those named above, Bros. H. Boys, P.P.D.G.M.; W. French, P.P.S.D.; and several other past and present P.G. officers, also Bros. T. E. Mason, W.M., 738; H. Boys, W.M., Margate; T. U. Usher, W.M., 1096; Past Masters Cavell, Harding, and Bird, 784. In the course of the evening, the Worshipful Master presented Bro. T. F. Hulke, P.S.G.W., Kent, with a handsome P.M. jewel, in the name of the brethren of the Cinque Ports Lodge, in recognition of his valuable services as Master during the past year. Three professional brethren from London enlivened the evening by their presence and singing some excellent songs, duets, and glees.

PATRICROFT.—*Bridgewater Lodge, No. 1213.*—The annual meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Thursday, March 11th, at the Bridgewater Hotel, at five o'clock. The W.M. Bro. James Parr, junr., was supported on the occasion by Bros. Stephen Bellott, W. Bowden, C. H. Preston, N. H.

Hacking, John Parr, junr., F. W. N. Johnson, W. Dibbs, Jno. Taylor, J. B. Cavanah, Jno. J. Walwell, C. Molley, P. G. Marmick, &c., visitors:—Bros. John Bowes, P.M., P.Z., P. Prov., G. Reg., C and W.; D. W. Finney, W.M., 148, Cooper, W.M., 484, Collard, W.M., 1134, Nathan, P.M., 204, Thompson, S.W. 1134, Beswick, Barratt, and Duneville. The lodge was opened in due form when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The chair of K.S. was now assumed, at the invitation of the W.M., by Bro. John Bowes, P.M., &c., as Installing Master, when the lodge was opened in the second degree and Bro. James Parr, who had been re-elected W.M. was presented by Bro. D. W. Finney for the benefit of installation. The first part of the ceremony being completed, the lodge was opened in the third degree and subsequently a board of Installed Masters was formed and Bro. Parr placed in the chair of K.S., according to ancient custom. The M.M.'s F.A.'s and E.A.P.'s having been admitted, the usual proclamations made, and a salutation offered, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the ensuing year viz:—Bros. S. Bellott, S.W.; W. Bowden, J.W.; Rev. T. S. Beddoes, Chaplain; Preston, Treas.; Hacking, Sec.; John Parr and Johnson, Deacons; W. Dibbs, J.G.; John Taylor and J. B. Cavanah, Stewards, the whole of the addresses to the officers were delivered by the W.M. The lodge was duly closed and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room. After the cloth was withdrawn the following toasts were duly proposed and responded to:—The Queen, by the W.M.; the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family, by the W.M.; the M.W., the G.M., the R.W., the D.G.M., and the Grand Lodge of England, by the W.M.; the R.W., the Prov. G.M.; and the G.L. of the Province, responded to by Bro. Finney; the Prov. G. Lodges of the neighbouring Provinces, responded to by Bro. Collard; the Installing Master, responded to by Bro. Bowes; the W.M., proposed by Bro. Cooper and duly responded to by the W.M.; the Warders and Officers of No. 1213, responded to by Bro. Bowden, junr.; the Visitors, responded to by Bro. Cooper; the Musical Brethren; the Ladies proposed by the W.M., responded to by Bro. Hacking; The Tyler's Toast. We must not close the report of this agreeable meeting without recording the obligations of the lodge to the musical brethren, who were under the direction of Bro. Beswick, organist of St. Ann's, Manchester.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Denison Lodge, No. 1248.*—This new and select lodge met at the lodge rooms, Grand Hotel, Scarborough, on the 11th March, when there were present:—Bros. J. O. Surtees, W.M.; H. A. Williamson, P.M., W.O., S.W.; J. Groves, J.W.; J. Donner, Secy.; J. E. Green, S.D.; H. W. Garnett, J.D.; H. C. Martin, P.M., I.G.; J. Verity, Tyler; Bros. Kitchen, Knight, Jarvis, Fricour, Delamere, Symonds, 200; R. H. Peacock, S.W., 200; B. B. Jackson, 643; Evans, 139, and Walshaw. The lodge was opened, at 7 p.m., and the minutes read and confirmed. Bro. the Hon. P. Stanhope was balloted for and elected a joining member; Mr. Thorpe was balloted for and elected, and, with Mr. Mason (elected last meeting), proposed, admitted, and initiated in a very able manner by the W.M. Bros. Knight, Jarvis, and Fricour passed an examination in the first degree, and retired. The lodge was opened in the second degree, when the above-named three brethren were re-admitted, and passed to the second degree by the W.M. The working of the lodge was all that could be desired, and no doubt it will in a very short time be one of the best in the province. The lodge was closed to the first degree, when one gentleman was proposed for initiation, two brethren for joining members; some other business in reference to by-laws, &c., was discussed, and the lodge was closed in harmony at 9 p.m.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN.—*Lodge No. 666.*—The members of this lodge dined together on Thursday evening last week, in the Antient Concert-room, Great Brunswick-street, on the occasion of the installation of officers. Covers were laid for sixty. There were a large number of visiting brethren present. The room was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and when brilliantly lit up presented a very animated appearance. The W. M. presided, and was ably supported by his officers. The dinner was of a most substantial character, and included every delicacy of the season, reflecting much credit on the caterer, Mr. Meighan, of Cecilia-street. The wines, which were of the choicest vintages, were supplied by Messrs. Fawcett and Co., of Henry-street. When the cloth had been removed, the W. M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts in most happy and felicitous language, which were responded to with enthusiasm. A brother gave several recitations, which called forth the plaudits of all present. Brother O'Donoghue sang during the evening, and accompanied many of the brethren in admirable style. Although this lodge is of comparatively

recent formation, the rapid strides it has made is highly creditable to its members and honorary secretary, and its numbers are fast increasing. Its working is such as would do honor to older and more pretentious lodges. The evening was spent in a most agreeable manner, and the brethren separated in "peace, love, and harmony."

THE ROYAL ARCH.

PROVINCIAL.

WARRINGTON.—*The Chapter of Elias Ashmole, No. 148.*—The annual convocation of this chapter was held at the Chapter Rooms, Sankey Street, on Monday March 9th, at three o'clock. The chapter was duly opened by Comps. John Bowes, M.E.Z.; Kerne, A. H.; Robt. Stevenson, J. When the rest of the Comps., about twenty, were admitted and the minutes read and confirmed. At the request of the M.E.Z., Comp. Kerne as Installing Principal, the following Comps. were duly installed and invested, viz:—Comps. John Bowes, as M.E.Z.; Robt. Stevenson, H.; D. W. Finney, J.; W. Mossop, E.; H. Syred, N.; W. Richardson, P.S.; Jas Johnstone, Janitor. There being no further business the chapter was closed with the usual solemnities and the Comps. adjourned to the Lion Hotel for tea.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS.

PROVINCIAL.

LIVERPOOL.—*Jacques de Molay Encampment.*—A Conclave was held on the 12th inst., when Sir Knight Captain Thomas Berry, was installed Eminent Commander, by the Very Eminent Deputy Provincial Grand Commander of Lancashire, Sir Knt. William Henry Wright.

RED CROSS OF ROME & CONSTANTINE.

METROPOLITAN.

Macdonald Conclave, No. 14.—In pursuance of a circular issued by the principal officers and members of the Macdonald Lodge, No. 1216, expressing their intention to found, under the authority of the Grand Council of the Order of Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, a new Conclave of Knights Companions of that Order, an assembly was held at the lodgerooms, at the Head Quarters of the 1st Surrey Rifle Volunteers, Camberwell, on Friday, the 12th inst. Amongst those present were Sir Knts. Colonel Francis Burdett, G.H.C., P.S.G.W. of England, Representative from the Grand Lodge of Ireland; R. W. Little, G. Recorder; H. C. Levander, M.A., M.P.S., No. 6, G.A. Treas.; W. F. N. Quilty, P.S., No. 6; G. Kenning, P.S., No. 1; A. J. Lewis, P.S., No. 1; F. Walters, P.S., No. 3; J. Mayo, V.E., No. 2; H. Child, jun., V.E., No. 1; James Stevens, V.E., M.P.S., designate No. 14; J. J. Caney, No. 6; &c. Of others invited, letters of regret for non-attendance were received from Sir Knights E. P. Roper-Curzon, John Thomas, No. 6, J. S. Charlton, James Brett, John Read, H.P., No. 6, George Powell, G.S.B., &c. Sir Knight R. Wentworth Little, Grand Recorder, having taken the regal chair—Sir Knight H. C. Levander officiating as V.E.—the Conclave was duly opened, and Sir Knight James Stevens, V.E., the Senior Warden of the Macdonald Lodge, No. 1216, was installed by the Grand Recorder as M.P.S. of the new Conclave, and saluted according to ancient and solemn form. The following brethren of the Macdonald Lodge were then admitted into the Order, viz., Bros. Alexander Lodwick Irvine, Major of the 1st Surrey Rifle Volunteer Corps, P.M., and P.Z., W.M., No. 1216; Polydore De Keyser, J.W., No. 1216; Capt. Travers B. Wire, W.M., No. 171, Org. 1216; Capt. T. G. Irvine, No. 1216; Dr. Eugene Cronin, Treas. No. 1216; J. H. Hastie, Henry Hammond, M. S. Larham, and Arthur Kethro, all of No. 1216; and W. Grant as Sentinel. The Conclave was then called off for refreshment, during which period the thanks of the new Conclave were tendered to the Sir Knights who had rendered service by their attendance; the M.P.S., Sir Knight Stevens taking occasion to comment upon the extreme readiness with which the Inspector-General for Surrey, Col. Francis Burdett, G.H.C., and Grand Recorder R. W. Little, had replied to the calls made upon them for assistance. The toasts to these illustrious Companions having been duly honoured, were responded to in terms which were most gratifying to the members of the new Conclave, who could not fail to appreciate the compliments and recommendations enunciated. Major Irvine, in a brief but effective speech, expressed his sense of the obligation conferred by the presence of so many distinguished visitors, and on behalf of the new Conclave extended a pressing invite to a future lodge meeting at about the period of which they would be enabled to judge how far the Macdonald Conclave would have justi-

fied their exertions by the progress then made. An assurance was given by the M.P.S. that the new Conclave would avail itself of that knowledge of military drill and discipline, which would be so essential in securing perfect and effective working, and that care would be taken in the selection of Generals to provide for such efficiency. The toast of "Success to the Macdonald Conclave, No. 14," having been most enthusiastically responded to, the Sir Knights adjourned to the lodge-room for further labours. A College of Viceroy's having been duly formed, Sir Knight Major Irvine, was admitted to the rank of V.E., this most impressive ceremony being ably performed by the Grand Recorder, who subsequently raised the new Sir Knight to the rank of Sovereign of the Order. The Conclave was then resumed to the lesser degree, and the newly-made Sir Knights were re-admitted, Sir Knight Stevens occupying the chair of M.P.S., Sir Knight Major Irvine, that of V.E. It was then ordered that an early meeting of the Members of the Conclave should be held, at which the several officers should be appointed, and the further necessary measures for complete establishment to be decided upon. The Conclave was then closed in due form, and the Companions separated with gratification in the work of the evening, and great hope and desire that No. 14 in this chivalric institution would in time become an ornament to the Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine.

[Pressure of matter compels us, at the last moment, to postpone several reports of lodge meetings, and also to greatly curtail our resume of the Grand Festival below.]

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The 71st Annual Festival of this excellent Institution was held at the New Hall, Great Queen-street, on Wednesday, the 10th inst., under the presidency of our highly popular Deputy Grand Master, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, P.G.M. for West Yorkshire, and proved not merely a success, but a triumph. We may briefly state that the Institution was founded in 1798 by the "Ancient," or "Athol" Masons, at which period six children were admitted to its benefits—successive developments have resulted in its expansion as a great educational establishment worthy of the noble Craft, and providing not only clothing and maintenance for 105 boys, but those treasures of science and knowledge which will enable them in after-life to become fit members of a free and civilized community. To achieve this great object, heavy expenses have been necessarily incurred in the erection of suitable buildings to accommodate so large a number of children—and, we trust, eventually a still larger number—but English Masons have magnificently responded to the appeals made to their sympathy and support, as would be seen by our report of the proceedings last week. The noble Lord in the chair was supported by about 350 brethren, amongst whom were:—Bros. Augustus Smith, Pro. G.M. for Cornwall; Stephen Blair, Pro. G.M. for East Lancashire; Lord Eliot, P.G.W. and D. Pro. G.M. for Cornwall; Llewellyn Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; John Hervey, G. Sec.; William Farnfield, P. Assist. G. Secy.; E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; Udell, P.G.D.; Spiers, P.G.S.B., and D.P.G.M. for Oxfordshire; Head, P.G.D.; Browne, G.D.; Major Creaton, P.G.D.; H. Bridges, P.G.S.B.; Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B., and D. Pro. G.M., Isle of Wight; W. Young, P.G.S.B.; Rev. C. Woodward, Chap. to the Institution; Col. L. Cole, P.G.W.; L. B. P. Metham, D.P.G.M. for Devonshire; Dr. Jabez Hogg, P.G.D.; Murray, D.G.M. for China; Dr. Senior, P.G. Chap.; Bentley Shaw, G.S.D., D.P.G.M. for West Yorkshire; Peter Matthews, Sec. No. 11, and Treas. 507; Capt. Cope, P.G.S.B., and Prov. G.W. for Cheshire; W. R. Callender, D.P.G.M. for East Lancashire; E. Farthing, P.P.G. Supt. of Works for Herts; H. Thompson, P.M. 177 and 1,158; E. Farmer, W.M., 28; A. Avery, P.M. and Treas. 619; H. Massey, W.M., 619; Major A. Irvine, W.M., 1,216; and J. L. Fine, P.P.G.T., P.P.G.W. for East Lancashire; &c. After the usual loyal and masonic toasts had been duly honoured, the Chairman gave the toast of the evening—"Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," in an eloquent speech, which was received with great applause.

Bro. Binckes then read the list of subscriptions and amongst them were:—The noble Chairman, P.G.M. for West Yorkshire 500 guineas; the Provincial Grand Lodge, 500 guineas; 58 Stewards for West Yorkshire, 2,411 guineas, making the subscriptions for West Yorkshire £3,015; &c. The following were the contributions by London lodges:—Fidelity, £67 4s; Somerset House, £17 17s; Westminster and Corner Stone, £49 7s; York Lodge of Perseverance, £29 7s; Albion, £45 3s; Royal Alfred, £101; Neptune, £53 11s; Strong Man, £51 14s; Mount Lebanon, £133 7s; London, £105; Macdonald, £37 16s; Beeton, £56 4s, &c., &c. The total amount of the London lodges was £2,629, and the provinces, exclusive of the above-named, £2,409.

Masonic Miscellanea.

MASONIC ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—The third meeting of this Institute will be held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 7.30 p.m., when a paper will be read by W. Besant, Esq., M.A., upon "The recent discoveries in connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund." Chair to be taken at eight o'clock precisely.

BRO. JAMES TERRY, P.M., 228, will work the ceremonies of Consecration and Installation, at the Sincerity Lodge of Instruction, Cheshire Cheese Tavern, Crutched Friars, on Monday next, March 22nd, at 7 p.m. Musical arrangements by Bro. Seddon.

IN consequence of the lamented death of Bro. George Raymond, the Masonic Concert which was to have taken place at Benner's Ball-room, Tralee, on Friday evening last, is **POSTPONED** until further notice.

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.

On the 11th inst., at Dublin, Bro. George Raymond, proprietor and editor of the *Kerry Evening Post*, aged 50.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1869.

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The Editor will pay careful attention to all MSS. entrusted to him, but cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by postage stamps.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

IT is well known that the ceremony of the Royal Arch degree, as adopted by the Grand Chapter of England in 1834, differs very materially from that practised in Scotland, Ireland, or America. Here, it is recognized as the completion of the third degree, and Master Masons of 12 months' standing are eligible for exaltation. Other degrees are interposed, in the countries we have named, between the M.M. and the R.A. degrees; such as the Mark Master, the Past Master, and the Most Excellent Master. In some of the States of America they supplement the R.A. by two degrees called Royal and Select Masters, and the result is, practically, that a brother receives nine degrees in America, the essential secrets of most of which he can obtain in England by four steps.

This is certainly a strange anomaly, and we consider that some notice ought to be taken of the fact by the Grand Chapter of England. The Mark degree in this country is a separate jurisdiction, but the so-called P.M.'s and M.E. Masters' degrees have no footing amongst us. Cannot we arrive at some uniformity in this respect with our English-speaking brethren of other lands? We are strongly of opinion that the English ceremony is complete in itself, and—when rendered by companions who thoroughly appreciate its merits—its language is both impressive and sublime.

There is at present a disposition in many quarters to weed the Masonic Ritual of those literary solecisms and anachronisms, which have crept in from time to time through the carelessness of uneducated instructors; and, no doubt, so desirable a reform will eventually be carried out.

We especially invite the attention of Royal Arch Masons to this important subject, and shall be glad to hear the opinions of our brethren generally, both at home and abroad.

The Editor's Portfolio.

A MASONIC ODE.

God the Almighty Founder spake,
And worlds on worlds from chaos rolled;
The sun, o'er mountain, vale and lake,
In splendour spread like molten gold.
The moon, and countless stars were given,
Night's chasms of darkness to illumine;
Revealing o'er the face of Heaven
Their radiance 'midst the wondrous gloom.
Since the first sunbeam kissed the flowers
Of Eden with divinest light,
The sun with still unwearied powers
Clasps Earth in his embraces bright.
The moon's mysterious circle still
Floats calmly thro' the elysian air.—
Obeys her glorious Maker's will,
Whose eye beholds as everywhere.
Thus constant we, from olden time
Unchanged, pursue our mystic lore,
And gather knowledge, truth sublime,
From spheres of Light for evermore.
And may we ever firmly stand,
Brothers united heart and hand,
Till all the world shall wondering see,
Heaven's type in our Freemasonry.

R. WENTWORTH LITTLE.

Written 29th May, 1861.

A MASONIC TOAST.

If we have but little, how many there are who have less; so ne'er let the heart, nor the hand, nor the door be closed to the claims of a friend in distress.

MASONIC EXHORTATION.—FROM THE GERMAN.

O thou! whom we have initiated in the doctrines of wisdom, Son of Virtue and Friendship! listen to us, and open thy heart to the serious precepts of Truth. We will show thee the path to happiness of life, the way in which thou mayst please thy Creator; how thy mayst employ with bening success, for the benefit of mankind, all the means which Providence has entrusted thee with, and thus procure thyself the sacred pleasure of benevolence.

Masonic Jurisprudence.

It is generally known that in Ireland the chivalric and other degrees are recognized by the Craft authorities, but "no jewel, medal or device belonging to any Order or degree beyond that of Master Mason, in which however the Jewel of a Past Master is considered to be included" can be worn in the Grand Lodge. This is perfectly correct, as every degree in Masonry ought to be kept separate and distinct, and the strict observance of this law maintains the universal principles of Craft Masonry.

The first or third degree can only be conferred upon one brother at a time and one degree only at each meeting according to the Irish Book of Constitutions. In Scotland extraordinary laxity exists in these particulars, and even in England we have seen four or five brethren "hurried" through a degree at the same time. There ought to be a cosmopolitan law upon this subject.

The following curious article exists amongst the laws of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and, to say the least, is unusual:—"107. If a lodge shall initiate any person who shall be a sheriff's, coroner's or marshal's bailiff, or a livery servant, the officers and members of the lodge present on such occasion shall be suspended during the pleasure of the Grand Lodge. Any brother exercising any of these occupations after he has been admitted a member of the Order, shall forfeit all his rights as a Freemason, so long as he shall continue to exercise such occupation; and any lodge which shall receive or admit among them any brother exercising any of the aforesaid occupations shall be punished as the Grand Lodge shall direct."

DEAR SIR,—Under the heading of "Masonic Jurisprudence," you say *Regularly Installed Masters* under any jurisdiction are permitted to assist at an English Board of J.M.'s. "Scotch P.M.'s are inadmissible, as they know nothing of the secrets restricted to the chair." Would you kindly in your next, explain the reason why "Scotch Past Masters," are debarred from taking part at a Board of English J.M.'s.—Yours fraternally, P. M., Hartlepool, March 17th.

[In Scotland, a Brother elected to the chair of a lodge is inducted into office in the presence of the *Master Masons*, and does not receive the secrets of an Installed Master, a degree which is not recognised by the Grand Lodge of Scotland—he cannot therefore be admitted to a Board of J.M.'s.—*Ed. F.*]

Mulum in Parbo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.—The statement to which "Rose Croix" alludes as to a warrant of 1721, granted by The Pretender to certain London Knights, first appeared in the *Freemason's Magazine* on the authority of Bro. Matthew Cooke, who has the reputation of being well acquainted with ancient documents. So many unfounded attacks are made on the Chivalric Orders, that it requires some little consideration to enable us to see that there is nothing at all improbable in the existence of such a document, which is said to be unquestionably genuine. There are scores of certificates knocking about Lancashire, which date and connect the revised Templar ceremony with a degree, having several points in common the 17th A. and A. R. year of revival 1686. Were this date too early, how came Philip of Orleans in the year 1705 to anathematise the Stuart, or "Scottish Templars with their Brethren of St. John of Jerusalem," who had established High Grade Masonry at Arras. The Charter, which must have been forged between 1681 and 1705, admits they altered the secrets to distinguish them from the Scotch Order. See a copy in Brother Richard Woof's work on the Order of St. John and the Temple.—JOHN YARKER, Manchester.

Catenarian Arch.—If a rope be suspended loosely by its two ends, the curve into which it falls is called a catenarian curve, and thus inverted, forms the catenarian arch, which is said to be the strongest of all Arches.—ANTIQUARIUS.

The Eagle.—An eagle in heraldry, is the symbol of royalty as being the king of birds, and for that reason was dedicated by the ancients to Jupiter. The eagle has been borne as an ensign or standard by several nations, particularly by the Persians and Romans, and the double-headed eagle with the latter people, denoted the union of the Eastern and Western empires. An eagle on medals imports empire, divinity, or providence; with the word *consecratio* annexed, it expresses the apotheosis of an Emperor. R. W. L.

The Palmtree.—The Phœnicians gave the name of Phœnix to the palm-tree, because when burnt down to the very root, it naturally rises again, fairer than ever.—R. W. L.

The Dog.—The figure of a dog was introduced into the ceremonies of the Mopses a pseudo-Masonic Order in Germany, as an emblem of fidelity.—VIATOR.

Rosaic Rite.—An able paper on this system by Bro. G. Lambert, was read at the last meeting of the Masonic Archæological Institute. I was not present, but Bro. Lambert has since informed me that the "Red Cross of Constantine" formed part of Bro. Rosa's series of degrees. If the proofs are susceptible of publication, our well-read Brother would confer a boon upon the Anglican Order of Constantine, by stating all he knows respecting it. Hitherto my impression has been that the "Red Cross" was not a portion of Rosa's Rite, but was introduced into Germany, in 1754, by Baron Humde, the founder of the Rite of Strict Observance, a modification of which system embraced a degree called "Master of the Red Cross," since adopted as the summit of the Swedish Rite.—G. RECORDER.

The late Bro. Oliver, in his remarks concerning the Three Druidical Pillars which still remain in Penrith Churchyard, Cumberland, observes that our best Antiquaries have been puzzled to account for their being inscribed with a cross. But this doubtless, he states, arose from the anxiety of the first Christian Missionaries to transfer the devotional attachment of the natives from a lifeless image to the Eternal God, by assuming the great emblem of Christianity, which had indeed been previously used by the Druids, but with a different signification. Now with all due submission to such learned authorities, I should rather suppose that the figure which he imagined was made by the Missionaries was the sacred and mysterious character Tau, which the Druids were uniformly accustomed to inscribe on all their monuments, although in most cases the character from the lapse of ages, and the effect of time is now no longer legible. It is remarkable that there should be three, corresponding in number with the Thoths or symbolical divinities of the ancient Egyptians, and also to the three Masonic columns, Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. R. W. LITTLE.

Where can I find a fair and candid statement of the charges which the Roman Catholic clergy bring against Freemasonry, and the grounds on which they base their denunciation of the Craft? Where can I find a good reply to those charges?—ASHLAR.

His Royal Highness Prince Arthur will, it is expected, be present at the Grand Masonic Ball which is to held at the Exhibition Palace, Dublin, on Friday evening, 9th proximo.

Original Correspondence.

[The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.]

TEMPLAR UNIFORMITY OF RITUAL.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Now that our Ancient and Noble Order of the Templars of St. John are about to amalgamate throughout Britain—the desirability of which I was the first to impress upon our brothers—There is an excellent opportunity such as will never again occur, of accomplishing uniformity of ritual by getting rid of the false and spurious grand office from the list, together with the still more absurd ritual of 1851.

I am persuaded that none but a grand master in his dotage would ever have allowed such an abortion to be brought before Grand Conclave, nor would such a ceremony and such a list of offices have been proposed, if the compiler had been possessed of the slightest knowledge of ancient chivalry and its ceremonies. Though I would by no means recommend the Scotch and Irish rituals on their entirety, yet the former have a very excellent ritual which they have accomplished by adhering to the ancient side of the English ritual of 1686 and 1791, and our own Grand Conclave, would do well to follow the example set them north. If they wish the educated portion of our Order to stand by them, uniformity must now come and for us to make the slightest attempt to cram our own folly down the throat of the Scotch and Irish would be suicidal. The mistakes we have made arise through our constant habit of pushing men into the highest offices, who beyond parrot-like repetition of masonic ceremonies—which is the very worst qualification in a chivalric order—are utterly incapable from want of knowledge, to fill the lowest offices in the order.

There are one or two able men amongst the present ritualistic commissioners, and it is to be hoped that they will not allow any ignorant clamour to stand in the way of their reforming it altogether.

Fraternally yours,
TRIANGLE.

THE CHIVALRIC ORDERS.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As a Hebrew brother, permit me to express the gratification with which I read Bro. Little's exposition of the Christian or Chivalric Orders. In common with many other brethren, and especially my co-religionists I had always considered those orders to be grossly sectarian if not intolerant, and contrary to the spirit of Freemasonry.

The mazes of multitudinous degrees rejoicing in extraordinary names such as "Knights of the Brazen Serpent," "Commanders of the Stars" *cum multis aliis* were supposed to have so bewildered the ideas of masons as to have obliterated the traces of craft teachings. These, however, it appears, are the tollies of foreign brethren, and I am truly glad to find that the representatives of Christian degrees in England are such true and genuine masons.

The claims set up on behalf of the Red Cross Order seem to be rational and I can assure its members that Jewish brethren have no wish to breathe a word against the honest convictions of any man whether mason or otherwise.

All we desire is to meet, our Christian brethren on terms of full equality in the ample halls of Freemasonry; and we shall be pleased to learn that amongst our masonic associates there are none who have entered into vows of intolerance or bigotry.

Can Bro. Little inform us whether the Rose Croix and other high degrees are free from this objection; as I know some Hebrew brethren on the Continent who allege they are not. Wishing your new paper every success.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
A LEVITE.

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. BRETT.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR BROTHER,—I am delighted to hear that justice is about to be done to the worth of Bro. Brett, the esteemed Preceptor of the "Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction," and shall be happy to contribute my mite (with many others) in appreciation of his valuable services to the Craft Universal.

It is impossible for me to express my opinion of his merits as a *Masonic Instructor*, and besides which, he is so generally known, that any such attempt would be superfluous. He has no superior in the Royal Arch Ritual as an instructor, and as it is more particularly in that department that his energies and patience have been directed, I trust Companions especially will support the movement with fervency and zeal. Let it be a numerous and hearty subscription-list, for Bro. Brett deserves our warmest thanks for so long a devoted life to the Craft.

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 England; Corresponding Member of "German Masonic Union," &c.*

SPECIMEN No. 1.—OPERATIVE MASONIC LODGES.

(Continued from last week.)

The St. John's Operative Lodge, Seatown, Banff, stands as No. 92 on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and was warranted A.D. 1764. The appended bye-laws of the lodge, dated A.D. 1765, are exceedingly curious, and afford an insight into the lax arrangements and discipline then prevalent among country lodges. As the Grand Chapter of Scotland was not formed until the second decade of the present century, Royal Arch Masonry may be said to have run wild in the north for some seventy years or more. Generally, however, the working of both this degree and the Knights' Templars contributed to improve the finances of the lodge; and it will be seen, as the records are still farther examined, that the Benefit Societies usually attached to the Operative Lodges of the eighteenth century offered additional advantages to the promoters of the higher degrees so called. It is impossible now to decide whether Scotland obtained the Royal Arch degree from England, or the latter from the former. One of the two must have occurred, as it was evidently a foreign production originally, and seems to have flourished about as early in England as in Scotland, and then subsequently in Ireland. The following references to the degree, though not the earliest known, are at least the oldest bye-laws ever published, or that have seen the light of late years. According to Dr. Dassigny, the degree was unknown in Ireland A.D. 1744; and before A.D. 1740 we can find no reference to Royal Arch Masonry anywhere. Stirling Chapter is said to possess the earliest minutes, dated 1743, but these have never been made public, and, on enquiry of some of the brethren there who would be likely to know, they actually seem as ignorant of their nature as we ourselves. In the absence then of other documents, these bye-laws may fairly be assumed to be the earliest extant. England cannot produce any records of the Royal Arch being worked in this country anterior to 1750, so we must be content to read the excerpts of minutes from elsewhere. The original form of the laws has been preserved, and the copy has been most carefully made and examined, to prevent the slightest inaccuracy, from the minute book itself. In the list of chapters under the Supreme G.R.A. Scotland, it is placed as No. 4, 1765. As No. 3 is only acknowledged to have been instituted 1818, and No. 1 no earlier than at 1779; while No. 2, though said to have been worked as far back as A.D. 1743, is after all but of uncertain date. We think the Operative Chapter of Banff should be honored with the first position on the roll.

LAWS OF ST. JOHN'S OPERATIVE LODGE, BANFF, SCOTLAND, A.D. 1765.

At a Meeting of the Operative Lodge of Banff St John's Day, one Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Four. The following Members being Present and Paid in their Quarterly pennie.

Here follows a list of 42 members.

The Members in Office for this year
JOHN RIND Master
ROBERT MAIR Senior Warden
WILLIAM MATHESON Junior Warden
JOHN ORD Treasurer
GEORGE FAITH Secretary

Banff, 7th January 1765. Regulations and by Laws for the Free and Accepted Masons of the Operative Lodge of Banff.

1st. The Right Worshipfull the Master can Congregate the Lodge when and where he Pleases within the Town of Banff.

2d. The Lodge shall meet the first Tuesday of every month at the usual place unless otherwise intimated by the Master, the Expence of these Meetings must be paid by the Members its optional to any one to Attend or not Unless they be Summoned by order of the Master.

3d. Our Great annual festival is St John the Evangelist's day the Twenty Seventh of December at which time Every Member of the Lodge must Attend and account for his Quarterly payments which is three pence Sterling Quarterly to each Operative mason and four pence half-pennie to each Geometrical mason. Such as do not pay up those at that day are Lyable to be Proscribed for the same. The place where the Lodge is to Conven upon St John's day shall be appointed by the Master at the Monthly meeting preceeding

4th. Upon St. John's day the Twenty Seventh of December Annually the Master and Wardens are to be Chosen this Viz the former Master names the Successor, who if aproven of by the Lodge is to be installed and Salliated by the Master and Brethrerine with the usual solemnity if not aproven of the Lodge proceed to the Election of a Master by Balating and the Brother that

has the majority of Vots is to be installed by the former Master and Congratulated by the Lodge as usual the new Master Chuses his Wardens who if not aproven of they are to be chosen by Balating.

5th. That in the Master's absence the Sr Warden opens the Lodge and the last Master or any other that has acted as Master formerly take the Chair and act as Master that night.

6th. The manner of Admitting any person into this Lodge must be by petitioning and no such petitioning can be received but by Balating and if one single one appears such Petition must be Rejected when any Objection happens the Master shall call every Member one by one untill he has gone through the whole to separte them in order to give that member who did Object an oportunity of giving his reasons therefore without being Distinguished and if the Master satisfies such a Brother so as to relieve such scruples the Master then Deliver the Petition Received.

7th. Each member at his admition shall pay halfe a Crown as dues to the Grand Lodge who ever he be and every one who shall have a title to a concern in the publick Fund of the Lodge who has served a Master of the said Lodge shall pay at his admition the sum of Fifteen Shillings Sterling for Entred Apprentice Five Shillings For Fellow Craft and Ten Shillings for Master and every one who has not served as above mentioned shall pay for the first part one Pound Ster for the second Ten Shillings and for the Third Ten Shillings and any Member who wants to attain to that parts of Royal Arch and Super Excellent shall pay two Shillings and Sixpence to the Publick Fund for each part. All Master's Eldest sons shall be Entred Apprentice Gratis upon Clearing the Expences of the Meeting.

8th. That no member but an Operative of the said Lodge shall be Master or offic bearer, that no mony shall be lent belonging to the publick fund without proper Security to the Satisfaction of the Members of the said Lodge.

9th. At any monthly meeting of the Members Convened consist of nine or upwards in number the Master being orpresent the same is Declared a Quorum to Judge and Determine in anything concerning the publick fund Except Disposing with money or Debts due to it which can not be Done but upon St John's day or when a full meeting is summoned.

10th. The Lodge fund is Designed for the releif of any member of the Lodge who is Initiat as said is who may by misfortune become in need.

11th. No member ordinary or Extraordinary shall affect the fund but the Charges of such shall be paid by the members as said is.

12th. Every member wheresoever he becomes so by being Made an Entred Apprentice shall from that date be Lyable to the Quarterly pennice only at the insuing St Johns day after his Admition the ods of the Quarter if any hapen to be shall be given in his favours.

13th. If any Brother shall come Drunk to the Lodge he shall be rebuked and directly Extruded for that time, and if any Member swear in the Lodge he shall pay two pence Sterling for each Oath.

14th. When a full Lodge is summoned by order of the Master all those who are not nessesarily absent are hereby declared Lyable for a proportion of what Expences thos present are put upon the account of the Meeting.

P o e t r y .

THE EAR OF CORN.

An Ode sung at a Masonic Sociable, being composed for the occasion by Bro. RON MONNIS, LL.D., Kentucky.

Att—"Rally round the Flag."

Of the waterfall 't is born,
In the nodding fields of corn,
Blest type of Masons' love and plenty;
And the hymn of our delight
Shall be this symbol bright,
Singing the type of love and plenty.

The emblem of plenty,
The rich golden ear,
Gift of a Father of Grace, ever dear
Oh, the hymn of our delight,
Shall be this emblem bright,
Singing the type of love and plenty.

Of the bliss of earth it tells,
Every blessing in it dwells,
Sunshine is on its treasure golden,
And the cooling drops of morn
Have bedewed the nodding corn—
Ripe in the field of treasure golden.

The emblem of plenty, &c.

In the nodding ear of corn,
Finds the spirit, weary-worn,
Hopes—hopes of better days in heaven,
When the harvest toil is done,
And the feasting is begun—
Joy, joy the Sabbath-day of Heaven!

The emblem of plenty, &c.

Let the golden symbol be
Where the toiling Crafts may see—
Toiling, yet never quite despairing.
Of the waterfall 't is born,
In the nodding fields of corn,
Ripe for the soul in its despairing.

The emblem of plenty, &c.

Obituary.

DEATH OF BRO. GEORGE RAYMOND, ESQ.,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR OF THE
KERRY EVENING POST.

With sincere sorrow we have to announce the death of George Raymond, Esq., proprietor and editor of the *Kerry Evening Post*, which melancholy event occurred at Charlemont-st., Dublin, on Thursday, March 11th. Mr. Raymond had been for the last six months suffering severely from aneurism of the femoral artery, and he went to Dublin some two months ago to have the benefit of the most eminent medical and surgical advice. A clever operation was successfully performed, and the most sanguine hopes were entertained of his complete recovery, when his friends were startled by the receipt of a telegram announcing his death, which resulted from extreme exhaustion. Mr. Raymond had reached the fiftieth year of his age. For the last 30 years he has been prominently known to the public as the conductor of the Conservative organ of Kerry. Throughout his career, he adhered firmly and faithfully to the principles of his party. In him they always found an earnest, zealous, consistent, and fearless advocate. But though thus prominently distinguished as a party politician, he enjoyed in a remarkable manner the esteem and regard of all classes, without distinction of creed or party, for his private life was marked to a high degree by the most amiable personal and social virtues. For our own part, now that he is no more, we can scarcely trust ourselves to discharge the painful duty that devolves on us. For the last three years it was our fate to have been opposed to Mr. Raymond in various public discussions. We found him ever a formidable opponent, but throughout all the encounters which passed between this journal and the *Kerry Evening Post* in our time, Mr. Raymond never allowed the heat of discussion or the calls of party to degenerate, as too often happens, into personal ill feeling or to interfere with personal friendship. From first to last, indeed, he always proved himself sterling as a friend; affectionate, as a relative; tolerant to those who differed from him, while unwaveringly devoted to the principles which he professed himself. Eminently beloved in the family circle, and universally respected as a citizen, the intelligence of his unexpected death has been received in all quarters with deep pain. In the grand jury room, it was the subject of generally expressed sympathy; and throughout the town and county the same feeling has been manifested by those tokens of sorrowing esteem that always speak for the good man gone.—*Tralee Chronicle*.

THE LATE BRO. CAPT. SPEIRS, M.P.

PROVINCIAL GRAND FUNERAL LODGE, SCOTLAND.

A Provincial Grand Funeral Lodge in memory of the late Captain Archibald A. Speirs of Elderslie, M.P., Provincial Grand Master Mason of Glasgow, was held in the City Hall, on the evening of March 10th. The attendance, which numbered from 1,400 to 1,500, including a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, consisting of Bro. Henry Inglis of Torsonce, S.G.M., and the following brethren—Wm. Mann, Alex. Hay, C. S. Law, J. Coghill, J. Lawrie, W. M. Bryce, Rev. Gavin Mason, Wm. Officer, and the following Grand Stewards:—J. Y. D. Copland, J. Wallace, W. Smith, W. Grant, Alex. Mitchell, D. T. Alexander, W. Robertson, P. T. Hendry, F. L. Law, F. A. Barrow, H. S. Harvey, D. Kinnear, J. W. McCulloch, W. A. Reilly, J. D. Porteous, and W. C. Laid. The Grand Lodge of England was represented by Bro. Edward Basher, Past Grand Sword-bearer. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow was represented by Bros. F. A. Barrow, Thomas Baker, James Wallace, James Steel, John Baird (Acting J.G.W.), Rev. G. S. Burns, William Smith, James Leith, R. Robb, R. Craig, W. Alexander, R. Donaldson, James Gillies, James Balfour, and James Pollock. Bro. W. M. Gilmour, with eleven others, represented the Middle Ward of Lanarkshire Provincial Grand Lodge; Bro. Colonel Campbell of Blythswood, with eighteen others, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East; and Bro. J. A. Ferguson, with thirteen others, the Lodge Mother Kilwinning. The following lodges were represented:—St. John's, Glasgow (65 of a deputation); Kilwinning, Glasgow (24); Kilwinning, Hamilton (12); Kilwinning, Torphichen (5); St. John's, Falkirk (13); Kilwinning, Dumbarton (23); St. Mungo, Glasgow (21); St. Mary's, Coltness, Wishaw (10); St. Luke, Edinburgh (3); Thistle, Glasgow (76); St. Mark, Glasgow (14); Union and Crown, Glasgow (26); Cambuslang Royal Arch (16); St. Mary, Partick (40); Thistle St. John, Stewarton (8); Royal Arch, Rutherglen (17); St. John, Shettleston (24); St. Mirren's Paisley (45); Royal Arch, Pollokshaws (12); St. John Leith (6); St. John, Greenock (16); St. John, Leven (6);

Scotia, Glasgow (21); St. John, Carlisle (4); St. Andrew, Cumbernauld (4); St. Andrew, Strathaven (3); Star, Glasgow (52); St. Johnstone, Houston (12); Shamrock and Thistle, Glasgow (40); St. John, Rothesay (4); St. John, Woodall (3); Union and Crown, Barrhead (24); St. James, Old Monkland (16); St. Andrew's, Alexandria (12); Union, Glasgow (25); St. George, Glasgow (21); St. John's Operative, Rutherglen (10); Caledonian Railway, Glasgow (54); Commercial, Glasgow (12); St. Clare, Glasgow (35); Kilwinning, Renfrew (14); Clyde, Glasgow (34); Athole, Glasgow (24); Neptune, Glasgow (15); Prince of Wales, Renfrew (25); Govandale, Govan (27); Glasgow, Glasgow (26); St. John, Busby (15); and St. Andrew, Glasgow (17).

As usual on such occasion the brethren were in full masonic costume, with crape jewels, and the vacant throne was covered with a pall, on which were laid the late Provincial Grand Master's insignia and rod of office, the latter being broken in two. Shortly after half-past six o'clock the Provincial Grand Lodge was constituted in due form, under the presidency of Bro. F. A. Barrow, S.P.G.M., acting P.G. Master, assisted by Bro. Thos. Baker as acting D.P.G. Master, Bro. Jas. Steel as P.G. Senior Warden, and Bro. John Baird as P.G. Junior Warden. The Lodge having having been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, the service was opened by the organ performing "The Dead March in Saul," during the playing of which the deputation from Grand Lodge entered the hall and took up position on the platform. Bro. Barrow then formally resigned the chair to Bro. Inglis, as the representative of Grand Lodge, and two hymns having been sung by the whole company, and prayer offered up by the Provincial Grand Chaplain (Bro. the Rev. G. S. Burns).

Bro. INGLIS pronounced the funeral oration, as follows:—Within the space of two short years, Death, the great reaper, has been busy amongst us. That distinguished Bro. Sir Archd. Alison—an honour to the Craft and an honour to his country—has passed away; and now, alas! we are gathered once more in this solemn funeral hall to sing a funeral dirge, and to speak a lamentation over Bro. Speirs, his successor. To the first there were vouchsafed by a mysterious Providence a ripened age and a European fame; to the second, a brief career and an untimely grave.

"Leaves have their time to fall.

And flowers to wither at the north's wind's breath,

And stars to set—but all,

Thou hast all seasons for thine own—O Death!"

To, me, brethren, it is unspeakably sad to stand in this place and to deliver this address; for it is little more than a twelvemonth since I attended here and installed our departed brother in the high masonic office to which he was promoted by the craft. It is little more than a twelvemonth since he himself, full of health and happiness and masonic enthusiasm, thanked you with heartfelt thanks beneath this roof, and eloquently described to you his conviction of the arduous duties which he had undertaken, and which he told you that he was honestly determined to perform. His words and his bearing established between us a mutual bond of belief. We believed in the promise of his youth for long life; we believed in the stern and sterling rectitude of his purpose; and we fondly hope that a new masonic star had risen in the horizon of the west, which might come in God's good time to rival the splendour of that which had set in glory. I have looked back upon the report of the proceedings at the installation of Bro. Speirs, and was struck by the mournful ring of certain words of my own—mournful not indeed then, but now. The words were these:—"His coat of arms is a ship in full sail, and I wish him a favourable wind, a gallant crew, and a prosperous voyage." Vain and delusive wish!

"He, the young and strong, who cherished

Noble longings for the strife,

By the road-side fell and perished,

Weary with the march of life."

Brethren, when a brother is called away mature in years and of accomplished fame, our regrets are softened by the considerations that he has run the appointed course of man—that he has played his allotted part for the benefit of his fellow-creatures—and that his portrait is hung, as it were, in the gallery of time. "After life's fitful fever he sleeps well." But, brethren, we have no such earthly consolation here. Here we had the bright morning which gave us promise of the glorious day. Here we had the youthful enthusiasm which betokened a wise maturity—we had the kindly heart which bespoke the lasting friend—we had the open hand which is born of charity—we had the clear and beaming eye which was lighted by the inward torch of honour. Others, no doubt, there are who are gifted with gifts as noble, but whose energies are too often chilled, and whose impulses are too often dented in the desperate conflict of life—who have had no time to regard, even for a moment, the struggles of their fellow-men, lest in that very moment of regard

some one of the thousand billows of the ocean of life may take them at unawares, and sweep them down into the depths of ruin. It was not so with departed friend. High it position, richly endowed with worldly gear, he had the power and the will to devote his time and talents to the service of his country. But it was not to be so; and we can only bow in humble submission to the Heavenly Hand that was stretched forth to remove him in all his early promise to the Grand Lodge on high. We bow in humble submission before the Omniscient God, who has seen fit, for a purpose unknown to us but known to Him, to remove our well-beloved brother and to leave us here for a little while to mourn. We are human, and mourn we must; but we are Christians, and we are Masons too, and the cloud of our mourning is fringed by the rays of the sun of our promise—

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust,"

The solemn priest has said;

So we lay the turf above the now,

And we seal thy narrow bed.

But thy spirit, brother, soars away

Among the faithful blest—

Where the wicked cease from troubling,

And the weary are at rest."

The oration was followed by a requiem, by the reading and chanting of passages from the Church of England Funeral Service, by the singing of the noble "Dies Irae" and several chorales, and by prayer—the whole being interspersed at intervals with the grand honours of masonry. When the solemn and impressive service terminated, Bro. Inglis resigned his chair, and the Grand Lodge deputation retired; and thereafter the lodge was closed with the customary formalities.

The musical part of the programme was effectively conducted by Bro. Donaldson, assisted by a choir of eleven voices, and Bro. Lambert as organist. The general arrangements, under the entire management of Bro. Robb, P.G. Marshal, were highly satisfactory.—*Glasgow Herald*.

MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending March 27, 1869.

Monday, March 22.

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|-----------|--|
| Lodge No. | 4, "R. Somerset House and Inverness," at the Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 26, "Castle Lodge of Harmony," Willis' Rooms. |
| " | 28, "Old King's Arms," Freemasons' Tavern. |
| " | 183, "Unity," London Tavern, Bishopsgate-st. |
| " | 902, "Burgeyne," Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-st. |
| Chapter | 25, "Robert Burns," Freemasons' Hall. |

Tuesday, March 23.

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| Lodge No. | 14, "Tuscan," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 92, "Moria," London Tavern, Bishopsgate-st. |
| " | 145, "Prudent Brethren," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 186, "Industry," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 205, "Israel," Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars. |
| " | 259, "Prince of Wales," Willis's Rooms. |
| " | 1158, "Southern Star," Montpelier Tav., Walworth. |
| " | 1196, "Urban," Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate. |
| Chapter | 21, "Cyrus," Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st. |

Wednesday, March 24.

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| Lodge of Benevolence, | Freemasons' Hall, at 7 precisely. |
| Lodge No. | 2, "Antiquity," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 34, "Mount Moriah," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 507, "United Pilgrims," Horns, Kennington Pk. |
| " | 753, "Prince Fredk. William," Knights of St. John Hotel, St. John's Wood. |
| " | 754, "High Cross," White Hart Hotel, Tottenham. |

Thursday, March 25.

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| General Committee Girls' Schools, | Freemasons' Hall, at 4. |
| Lodge No. | 22, "Radley's Hotel," Blackfriars. |
| " | 60, "Peace and Plenty," London Tavern. |
| " | 65, "Prosperity," Guildhall Coffee House. |
| " | 66, "Grenadiers," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 99, "Shakespeare," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate. |
| " | 1056, "Victoria," George Hotel, Aldermanbury. |
| Chapter | 177, "Domestic," Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street; Jubilee Meeting, installation of Comps. R. W. Little (P.Z. 975) as M.E.Z., J. Countts (H. 382) as H., W. Gilbert as J. |

Friday, March 26.

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| Lodge No. | 181, "Universal," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 197, "Jerusalem," Freemasons' Hall. |
| " | 569, "Fitz Roy," Head Quarters Hon. Artillery Company. |
| " | 780, "Royal Alfred," Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, Ealing. |
| " | 861, "Finsbury," Jolly Anglers, Bath-street, St. Luke's. |

(This being Good Friday, it is most probable that the lodges will not meet. No. 780 held its meeting on the 19th instead.)

Saturday, March 27.

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|-----------------|--|
| Conclave No. 3, | "Rose and Lily," Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, Surrey; enthronement of Sir Kt. Ord as M.P.S., and C. A. Cotterburne as V.E. |
|-----------------|--|

Eternity has its semblance in human intellect; for taken in succession there is no limit to the mind of man. The pupil elevated on the mound raised by the ashes of his preceptor, gets a more extended view in the great circle of creation.

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