



Grand Lodge Reports are published with the sanction of the Right Honorable the EARL of ZETLAND, K.T., Most Worshipful Grand Master of England.

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 10.]

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1869.

[PRICE 2D.

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ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

BY THE SON OF SALATHIEL.

(Continued.)

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Such were the wonderful manifestations of the Divine Presence with which it pleased the Almighty to favour the patriarchs of old, and as they were thus assured of the guardianship and protection of Jehovah, so are we taught by a due commemoration and observance of those ancient signs, that the servants of God in every age are canopied by celestial mercy and power. In endeavouring to trace the traditional outlines of the history of Royal Arch Masonry, we shall strictly keep in view its scriptural character, as whatever differences of opinion may exist as to its antiquity as a Masonic degree, few, we apprehend, will deny its claims as a splendid sequel to the historical and legendary associations of the Craft degrees.

Upon the model of King Solomon's Temple were constructed, we are informed, nearly all those wondrous palaces and temples of the ancient world of which such magnificent remains exist even to the present day, and it is well known that

in every subsequent attempt to rebuild the Temple itself, the architects and masons employed strove to emulate the glories of the former structure.

Scarcely had the wise son of David been gathered to his fathers, when the people of Israel forsook the altars of the true and living God to worship at the unhallowed shrines of the heathen nations—when, as God, by the prophet Isaiah, complains, "They forsook the fountain of living waters, and hewed out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that could hold no water;" and they were justly punished for their wicked apostasy and blind idolatry. It is very remarkable, and is a strong proof of the depravity of human nature, that the Hebrews, for whom when in Egypt God wrought by the hand of Moses a series of the most astonishing miracles—to whom He displayed from Mount Sinai "the divine majesty of His glory, and the excellence of His magnificence"; and who had heard the Almighty speaking with an audible voice out of the midst of the fire—a people who had the radiant Shechinah, the visible symbol of His presence, constantly before them, and whose prophets enjoyed direct communion with Jehovah—that favoured men like these should have debased themselves by idolatry, almost transcends the power of belief, but for the innumerable instances of their perverse and rebellious spirit which are related in the sacred scriptures.

After trying the patience and long-suffering of God for many ages, during which, however, they were visited at intervals with divine chastisement—by sword, famine and pestilence—the Most High declared, through the prophet Jeremiah, that He would give them up into the hands of their enemies; that their city and temple should be destroyed by fire, and the remnant of their nation carried into captivity by the King of Babylon for the space of seventy years; which prediction was verified in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, king of Judah, when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, conquered Jerusalem, and after having plundered the Temple of all its holy vessels and utensils, he committed the sacred edifice to the flames, and razed the city to the foundations, carrying away as captives nearly the whole population, except a few of the servile race who were left to till the ground. After the deaths of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, God raised up Daniel to be the prophet and instructor of His disobedient but now repentant people. Daniel and his

friends, whose faith had been so severely tested in that fiery trial from which they were so signally delivered by the Most High, eventually became the trusted servants of the King of Babylon, who raised them to the chief offices in his dominions, by which means they were enabled to alleviate the sorrows of their less fortunate countrymen.

Belshazzar, who succeeded to the throne after the death of his father, having profanely used the sacred vessels of the Temple at an impious feast given to his courtiers, had a supernatural vision which none of the Chaldean seers could interpret, and fear and awe sat upon the brow of the haughty king, who at length sent for the inspired Daniel to expound the mysterious characters on the wall. Daniel informed the king that the writing foreboded the loss of his kingdom and life, and it came to pass that in the very same night he was slain, and Darius, the Mede, accompanied by Cyrus, his nephew, obtained possession of the kingdom.

Daniel continued as high in favour with Darius as under the former dynasty, and when, after the death of Darius, Cyrus succeeded to the sole government of the empire, Daniel having a favourable opportunity showed to the king the prophecy of Isaiah, wherein Cyrus is described by name more than 200 years before his birth, and the circumstances of the taking of Babylon and the restoration of the Jews are foretold with marvellous minuteness and accuracy. The following is part of the prophecy: "Thus saith the Lord to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two-leaved gates; and THE GATES SHALL NOT BE SHUT. I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron; and I will give the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayst know that I, the Lord which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel, for Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me; I girded thee, though thou hast not known me; that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light and create darkness. I have raised him

up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the Lord of Hosts." It is recorded in ancient history that when Cyrus, after turning the the course of the Euphrates, entered the bed of the river and came to the city gates, he found them wide open, the Babylonians having neglected to close them during the riotous proceedings of their great festival.

We must now refer to Josephus, the Jewish historian, for a continuation of this history (see "Antiquities," book ii. chapter 1). "In the first year of the reign of Cyrus, which was the seventieth from the day that our people were removed out of their own land into Babylon, God commiserated the captivity and calamity of these poor people, according as He had foretold to them by Jeremiah the prophet, before the destruction of the city, that after they had served Nebuchadnezzar and his posterity, and after they had undergone that servitude seventy years, He would restore them again to the land of their fathers, and they should build their temple, and enjoy their ancient prosperity. And these things God did afford them, for He stirred up the mind of Cyrus, and made him write thus throughout all Asia."

(To be continued.)

NOTES BY A NOVICE.

THE EPHEMERAL AND THE ETERNAL.

The silence was broken by the monotonous sound of hammering nails, as if they were working away at a coffin, and the effect was most lugubrious. Presently a voice exclaimed,

"Let the Amalekite hear the fate of Sisera, Captain of the Host of Jabin, King of Canaan."

Whereupon one of the Nails began to read the fourth chapter of Judges, in which Sisera's tragical end is recorded.

When the reading was over, the voice (which was that of the Grand Master, Bro. Benjamin Cranford, a worthy shoemaker) again smote my ear with the lively words,

"Amalekite, prepare for death—the fate of Sisera, who died by a nail must be thine, for presuming to speak in our presence without permission."

I was then jerked off the bench and ordered to kneel, when one of the brethren said to the Grand Master,

"Great Grand Master, spare his life, and he will not offend again."

"On one condition," rejoined the G.M., "let him swear never to divulge the mysteries of the Holy Order of Nails, and consent to bear our mark on his forehead as a warning of his doom should he violate the laws of the Order."

Of course I willingly consented to this, and swore never to reveal the secrets of the Order under the penalty of being served out like Sisera, the Captain of the Host, &c. The G.M. then said,

"Let him be marked on the forehead;" when one of the brethren placed a nail to my temples, while the G.M. called out,

"Bring me a hammer!"

I expected to be severely hurt at least, but to my surprise he gave the nail a very gentle tap, just sufficient to knock me back, which, as I was kneeling, it was not difficult to do, while the brethren shouted,

"He has hit the nail on the head."

I was then raised from the floor and rapidly conducted into the ante-room, where my conductor removed the mask and asked me "How I liked the Holy Order of Nails?"

I was afterwards admitted into the lodge-room, and informed that the secret words were, "He has hit the nail on the head," and the sign was to bring the hand down in front as if about to strike with a hammer; and this is all I remember about the famous Order of Nails, of which you may rest assured I had seen and heard quite enough.

(To be continued.)

A series of afternoon costume recitals from Shakspeare's plays have lately been given at St. George's Hall, Langham-place. The various characters were very ably sustained by Miss Bouverie, late of the Theatre Royal Haymarket; Misses Lavine and Blanch Wilton, Mr. Ryder, the celebrated tragedian of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane; Messrs. Gaston, Murray, and Weaver. At the conclusion of each selection they received well-merited rounds of applause from crowded and fashionable audiences. Bro. A. Nimmo has the entire management of these excellent performances.

PAPERS ON MASONRY.

By A. LEWIS.

VII.—MASONRY & THE NUMBER SEVEN.

"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."—Apocalypse i. 12, 13.

The greatest materialists as well as the most profound theologians of all ages have joined in glorifying mathematics, founded as it is upon number and form, as the most exalted of all pursuits, either as science, art, or doctrine, into which the human mind can venture to inquire; while to us of later times it has proved alike a social advantage and an intellectual charm. In numbers and their correlations we can, if we choose to do so, lose ourselves as mystics; by numbers, as statesmen, we can regulate political economy and the well-being of mankind; and through numbers—which, in their essence, may be defined as proportionate relations—we can arrive at some faint idea of the solemnity existing, by permission of T.G.A.O.T.U., throughout nature in a perfect harmony—a spherulic music intelligible to those who choose to incline their ear.

All numbers, with their series and multiples, have an interest to thoughtful men, but none rings with more charming melody and inspiring hope than the number seven.

It is, to use technical language, "of the third parity, the crown;" it bows to one other series of numbers only, of which indeed, it is part. I allude to the number ten, with which all operations can be performed from the inherent nature and practical capacity of the signs.

As, however, I am not at the number ten, and desire to be practically useful in these papers rather than oracularly wise, I will proceed to the consideration of this perfect, because indivisible, number in another light. Nor do I intend to encumber the pages of THE FREEMASON with elaborate catalogues of the applications hitherto made of this number, only mentioning the most important. It would need many diagrams to carry out the universality of the number, and it must be reserved for another time and place.

It is enough to say that all Masons—by which I purpose to include men instructed in universal symbolism—bow, with unfeigned respect to the number seven. There is a Master Mason (1) to control, a Senior and Junior Warden (2, 3) to provide for labor and refreshment, a Senior and Junior Deacon (4, 5) to reply and conduct, and an Inner Guard and Tyler (6, 7) to introduce and warn. These offices are plain and indisputable. Other offices in a lodge, such as Secretary, Treasurer, Organist, and Orator (or Chaplain), are adventitious aids not contemplated in the original plan. Of course modern society, not recognising anything without a partition of duties, perceives the necessity of this hierarchy of government; but it has always been within the power and discretion of the Master for the time being to ordain who shall bear these select and honourable burthens. I doubt whether, in one sense, the office of Treasurer should not be within his function, but that is a matter of convenience, and also marks the late origin of Masonry as it now stands. I only argue that the first seven are inherent in the nature of things, and are irremovable landmarks. They date from "Operative" Masonry, while the other offices are produced by the effect of social changes, and date from a comparatively immediate period. Practically, the first seven are all the officers requisite, and they wonderfully and aptly illustrate the continuity of Freemasonry.

There are, however, (without recurring to the consideration of the High Degrees, a subject on which I am desirous of advancing some opinions), many interesting results to be derived from a contemplation of the number seven. In the motto of this paper I have endeavoured to make my readers turn to a very solemn question indeed, and I will endeavour, with all my strength, to convince others of the vitality existing in this said number seven, with its central point.

It will readily be conceded that Masonry, with its wonderful spirit of charity, would be a nonentity, and, forsooth, an impossibility, if it did not busy itself with the social, intellectual and moral advancement of man. It was instilled, we may say, so to speak, into all mankind at the beginning of his intellectual enlightenment, and has suffered only at the hands of the "men of Belial." Apollyon stands always in the path, and if we do not smite him, he will assuredly smite us.

But the placid planets continue to revolve and remind us of our path of duty; they, immutable as that Being who placed them in their orbs, tell us that we are as everlasting as they. They inspire us with hope, and the galaxy of stars rejoice in the perception of universal love and care. If we are frail, so we are bid to fight for our own redemption, by having confidence in T.G.A.O.T.U. If we err we have those ever-shining witnesses of His glory to inspire us with ideas far transcending those of poets.

Well, then, are we to cast aside as worthless those meditations of the Immortals who have preceded us? For one, I say never! Should we not rather try, with all our might, to understand as much as we can of the mysteries of numbers. Therefore, I may safely look at the scale of the number seven, and seek to deduce from it for the common benefit a common lesson.

It will not be doubted, after the eloquent vindication of his fame by Mr. Morley, that Henry Cornelius Agrippa Von Nettesheim was one of the foremost spirits of his time. A life of singular misfortune, enlivened only by constant and close application to study, was his portion on this earth; but if the duty of a reflective man be to mirror the inner spirit of his era, then Agrippa fearlessly and truly did his duty. He also accumulated much of the symbolic lore which had preceded him, and which, misunderstood and vilified by the mass of mankind, has come down to our times under the name of magic. In his celebrated "Three Books of Occult Philosophy," Agrippa furnishes the world with tables and illustrations of the meaning of numbers from unity onwards, and though some of the analogies are fanciful, and perhaps a little too recondite, to the symbolical student they afford much valuable information. I have therefore ventured to copy the following for the benefit of my readers, as the work is very scarce:—

THE SCALE OF THE NUMBER SEVEN.									
In the Original World....	Ararita	אֶרֶרִיטָא		Asser Echele	אֶשֶׁר־עֵחֶלֶה			The name of God with seven letters,	
In the Intelligible World	Zaphiel	זַאֲפִיֵּל	Camael	Raphael	הַאֲמֵיֵל	Michael	Gabriel	Seven Angels which stand in the presence of God.	
In the Celestial World ..	Saturn	יִפְטוֹר	Mars	The Sun	וֵנֶס	Mercury	The Moon	Seven Planets,	
In the Elementary World	The Lapwing	הַנֶּבֶל	The Vulture	The Swan	הַתְּרִיָּה	The Stork	The Owl	Seven Birds,	
	The Cuttlefish	הַדּוֹלְפִין	The Pike	The Scorpion	הַמַּלְחָה	The Mullet	The Seacat	Seven Fish,	
	The Mole	הַחֹרֵת	The Wolf	The Lion	הַתְּנִינִךְ	The Ape	The Cat	Seven Animals,	
	Lead	הַחֹרֵת	Iron	Gold	הַתְּנִינִךְ	Quicksilver	Silver	Seven Metals,	
	The Onyx	הַסַּפִּיר	The Diamond	The Carbuncle	הַיָּחֶלֶם	The Agate	Crystal	Seven Stones,	
In the Lesser World — Man	The right foot	הַיָּמִינִי	The right hand	The heart	הַיָּמִינִי	The left hand	The left foot	Seven members,	
	The right ear	הַיָּמִינִי	" right nostril	The right eye	הַיָּמִינִי	The mouth	The left eye	Seven offices,	
In the Infernal World ..	Hell	הַגֵּהֶם	The shadow of Death	The pit of destruction	הַגֵּהֶם	Perdition	The depth of the Earth	The 7 habitations of infernals described by Rabbi Joseph of Cas-tile, in "The Garden of Nuts."	

I can only beg my readers to ponder well the profound symbolism contained in the above table. Compare it with the mythology of the ancient world, and much will become clear which is at present a riddle. The hieroglyphics of Egypt and Assyria contain images founded upon tables such as these, and although there may not be, as perhaps might be argued by some, any immediate reference to modern Masonry, there is unquestionably an occult relation to the ancient mysteries of the world of antiquity in the series. The motto taken from the Apocalypse at the head of this paper is, I am disposed to think, connected with this antique symbolical series, and refers to the common centre point—God in the eternal and immutable world, man in his finite and fleeting state of existence. Thus, even from the dreams of occult philosophy we may obtain analogies well worth thinking carefully upon, even at this late period of human history. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it. The macrocosm and microcosm are indissolubly bound together, and the one is but the faint adumbration of the other and Eternal Essence.

CRYPTONYMUS.

CONSECRATION OF THE GOLDEN RULE LODGE, No. 1261.

The consecration of the "Golden Rule" Lodge took place on the 6th inst., at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington. There was a numerous and influential attendance of brethren, of whom the following is a list:—Brothers Henry Muggeridge, Frederick Bigg, P.M.; John Sunley, A. G. Sharpe, J. J. Harris, E. Addis, S. Cornish, D. Newsham, A. Williams, R. Cross, M.D., G. Beaman, M.D., William Smith, P.G.S.; E. H. Fennell, 969; J. H. Cox, 49; Newton Jennings, W.M. 452; S. Pidcock, 90; P. Matthews, 569; W. Birdseye, 715; C. Wycke, 715; C. Jenkins, 27; A. Partridge, 22; P. Gowland, 569; C. A. Long, 136; M. Wolfsky, 286; H. Birdseye, 715; C. Collard, 190; W. Jones, M.D., 704; E. Patten, P.G.S.B.; J. Emmens, P.G.Purst.; Fred. Adlard, P.M.; T. P. Griffin, W.M. 20; J. Hervey, G.S.; W. E. Storer, 715; J. Gale, 715; J. Miles, S.W. 49; C. Moutrie, P.M. 11; Chas. E. Thompson, 1, 158, 177.

The following is a copy of the programme supplied to the brethren for the occasion:—

The Brethren assemble at half-past three p.m., and form in procession, the juniors first, headed by the Director of the Ceremonies.

The Presiding Officer takes the Chair, and appoints the Wardens, *pro tem*.

The Lodge is duly opened in the Three Degrees.

The Chaplain offers up Prayer.

Solemn Music.

The Grand Secretary addresses the Presiding Officer, who desires him to read the Petition and Warrant.

The Presiding Officer inquires if the Brethren approve of the Officers named in the Warrant.

The Presiding Officer (Bro. Henry Muggeridge) will deliver an oration.

Anthem—"Behold! how pleasant and how good"—*St. Stephen*.

The Grand Secretary presents the New Master to the Presiding Officer, who places him on his left, the Brethren of the New Lodge arrange themselves on each side of the Lodge Board.

The first portion of the "Dedication Prayer."

All—Chant, "So mote it be."

Sanctus, "Glory be to Thee, O Lord."

All the Brethren turn to the East, when the Presiding Officer gives the Invocation.

All—Chant, "So mote it be."

The Lodge Board is uncovered, and three Past Masters carry Corn, Wine, and Oil three times round the Lodge, during Solemn Music, "Glory be to God on high."

All—Chant, "So mote it be."

The Chaplain takes the Censer three times round the Lodge during Solemn Music.

The second portion of the "Dedication Prayer."

All—Chant, "So mote it be."

The Presiding Officer "Dedicates" the Lodge.

All—Chant, "So mote it be."

The Presiding Officer "Constitutes" the Lodge.

All—Chant, "So mote it be."

Anthem, "The spacious firmament on high."—*Haydn*. Installation.

Shortly after the appointed time the business commenced, and the programme was gone through, Bro. Muggeridge impressively delivering an oration (we understand composed by himself), to which the brethren paid great attention. Bro. Jennings, assisted by professional brethren, ably conducted the musical arrangements, and everything passed off with *éclat*. When Bro. Eglesse had been installed in the chair of K.S., according to ancient custom, he was greeted with the customary salutations, and proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the year:—Dr. Beaman, Treasurer; Fred. Bigg, P.M., Secretary; John Sunley, S.W.; A. G. Sharpe, J.W.; J. Harris, S.D.; P. H. Cornish, J.D.; A. H. Williams, G.G.; the other offices were for the present left open.

Bro. BEAMAN, in returning thanks to the W.M. and brethren, for having that evening elected him their treasurer for the year, said he felt grateful to them for the honour conferred upon him, and it would be his constant endeavour to promote the harmony of the lodge, and do his duty faithfully and well. (Hear, hear.)

The W.M., who upon rising for the first time was applauded, proposed that a vote of thanks be given to Bro. H. Muggeridge, P.M., &c., for the very able and excellent manner in which he had performed the duties of consecration and installation that evening. They were all ready to expect what they should hear, for they knew him so well, and knew his capabilities, and had he not done it so well he would have fallen short of his usual excellence. (Hear, hear.) He (the W.M.) could assure them it was with great gratification to himself he had been put into the chair that evening to preside over them by his respected friend, Bro. Muggeridge, who had been his chief preceptor, and to whom he owed his knowledge of the Craft, and which knowledge had given him a desire to become a good Mason and a better man. (Hear, hear.) He had therefore, as he had already stated, very much pleasure in proposing "That a vote of thanks be given to Bro. Muggeridge for the excellent manner in which he had performed the duties of Consecrating and In-

stalling Master, and that the same be recorded on the minutes of the lodge."

The S.W. seconded the motion, which was put by the J.W., and carried unanimously.

Bro. MUGGERIDGE returned thanks for the compliment paid him, and said if he had given satisfaction he was very pleased, and fully repaid for any trouble he might have been put to.

Five propositions were received of gentlemen desirous of being initiated, and several joining members were proposed, and the lodge, after the usual enquiries of the W.M., was closed with solemn prayer. The meeting then adjourned.

[Subsequently several speeches were delivered, but as our representative was not honoured with an invitation we are unable to give a report of them.]

The fittings, jewels, books, &c., were made by Bro. George Kenning, of Little Britain, from the designs of Bro. Eglesse, the W.M.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. WM. COOKE, P.M. ST. JAMES'S LODGE, HALIFAX.

At the weekly Instruction Meeting of this Lodge, held on Tuesday evening, the 4th inst., an interesting feature of the evening's proceedings was the presentation of a testimonial to Bro. William Cooke, P.M., who for the last six years has filled the office of Secretary to the above Lodge, acted as Scribe E. to the Chapter of Regularity, and as Secretary to the Fearnley Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 58.

In the absence of the W.M., Bro. R. Lord, who was confined to bed through an accident, the chair was occupied by Bro. Ibberson, S.W.

After the usual loyal and masonic toasts had been given, that of the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, R.W.P.G.M., of W. York; Bro. Bentley Shaw, W.D.P.G.M.; and the P.G. Officers, being responded to by Bro. R. R. Nelson, P.D.P.G.M., and P.G. Sec.

The CHAIRMAN rose and said they now came to the toast of the evening, which was the health of their esteemed member, Bro. W. Cooke. After alluding to the satisfactory way in which Bro. Cooke had discharged the duties of his office, both as secretary and as a Past Master, he said the brethren were so well aware of Bro. Cooke's merits, that he could say little but what they already knew. He had, therefore, great pleasure, in addition to proposing his health, of presenting Bro. Cooke, on behalf of the members of St. James's Lodge, with a handsome English lever watch and gold Albert, and hoped he might long be spared to render further services to the Craft.

The following inscription was engraved on the watch:—

"Presented to Bro. WILLIAM COOKE, P.M., Lodge of St. James's, 448, in recognition of past services; April, 1869."

Comp. NORMANTON, Z., Chapter of Regularity, on behalf of the Companions of that chapter, then presented Comp. Cooke with an elegant gold P.Z. jewel, and, in doing so, expressed the delight it afforded him in being able that evening to take part in paying a tribute of respect to Comp. Cooke. He also mentioned the peculiar pleasure he experienced, when W.M. of 448, in signing the first voting paper as a vice-president of the Boys' School, as it was through Comp. Cooke's advocacy of the benefits of that noble institution, which caused the brethren to subscribe to place the W.M. in that proud position. Having read the inscription on the jewel—

"Presented to Comp. WILLIAM COOKE, P.Z. of No. 448, as a token of respect for past services; April, 1869," he then placed it on the breast, with the wish that he might have health to attend many future meetings of the chapter.

Bro. BATES, P.M., in the absence of the W.M., Bro. John Stott, then presented Bro. Cooke, on behalf of the members of the Fearnley Lodge of Mark Masters, with the collar jewel of a Past Grand Senior Overseer of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters for England and Wales. He stated that he had noticed Bro. Cooke from his initiation into Freemasonry, and found him always anxious to make progress in the knowledge of the Craft; and so convinced was he of this, that, when elected W.M. of No. 448, he at once promoted Bro. Cooke from J.D. to S.W., and had never had cause to regret the choice he made, and from that time Bro. Cooke's progress in Masonry had been steady but certain. The inscription on this jewel was as follows:—

"Presented to Bro. WILLIAM COOKE, P.M., Fearnley Lodge No. 58, and P.G.S.O., as a token of respect for past services; Halifax, April, 1869."

Previous to Bro. Cooke's reply, the train being nearly due, the health of "The Visitors" was given from the chair, which was responded to by Bro. T. ALEXANDER of the Masonic Life and Fire Association, and Bro. FREDERICK SCHOFIELD, of the Caledonian Lodge, No. 392, Edinburgh.

Bro. Cooke then rose to thank the brethren, and was received with considerable applause. Having stated his regret at being unable to express his gratitude in a manner which the occasion deserved, he went on to say that from his initiation Masonry had been his "hobby," and when men have a hobby, be it what it may, they generally devote plenty of time in

the practice of it. He had been privileged with a deal of spare time, and he did not consider he should have been doing his duty as a Mason had he neglected to avail himself of the opportunity thus presented to him, and endeavour to obtain a general knowledge of the Craft. He had received the utmost kindness from an old Freemason at Keighley, Bro. Thomas Brown, P.M. (now 56 years a Mason, and whom he should have liked, had he known earlier, to have seen present that evening to witness the reward of one of his pupils), and he should always be ready to give, with the same freedom it had been given to him, anything that he knew concerning the mysteries of our ancient Craft, not to the members of No. 448 alone, but to the members of any other lodge who were desirous of instruction. After again thanking the brethren for the great kindness shown to him on this as on former occasions, he said he could not sit down without proposing to them a toast, and that was the health of the "W.M. and Officers of No. 448." He regretted the absence of the W.M. that evening—a circumstance which they all regretted—as it was from a cause over which he had no control. He had observed, with the greatest pleasure, the W.M. reviving the former weekly instruction meetings, as it was from them so much benefit was derived by the younger members of the Lodge. If the W.M. continued during his term of office in the way he had begun, he (Bro. Cooke) believed the members of the Lodge would have no cause to regret the choice made at the last election.

Bro. IBBERSON, S.W., Bro. LUPTON, J. W., and Bro. DR. DOLAN, I.G., having replied, the remainder of the evening was spent in a social and convivial manner.

MACDONALD LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT, No. 1216.—The Fifteen Sections will be worked in the above Lodge, at the Head Quarters of the First Surrey Rifle Volunteers, Brunswick-road, Camberwell, on Wednesday, May 19th, 1869. Bro. J. Stevens, P.M., P.Z., 720, S.W. 1216, will preside. The Lodge will be opened at half-past six o'clock precisely.

THE SOCIAL BUCKS' PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.—This Society held a meeting at Bro. Swainston's, the Three Bucks' Tavern, corner of Old Jewry, Gresham-street, on Saturday last. Bro. Stroud, Vice-president of the Society, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Thos. Beard, President, occupied the chair, and was faced by Bro. Swainston, the Treasurer. There were also present Bro. John Emmens, Past Grand Pursuivant, Past Master of the Old and New Concord Lodges, and Secretary of the Society; Bro. James Hill; Bro. Maynard; Bro. Charles R. Sloman (author, &c.); Bro. Chaddock; Bro. John Hill; Bro. Nicholson, of the Concord Lodge; J. W. Duperé; Bro. Robinson; Bro. Arthur McNamara; Bro. Chas. E. Thompson, &c. This charitable Society was formed some few years ago for the purpose of supplying the poor in the winter time with bread and coals, and can now boast of the patronage of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Mr. Under-Sheriff Roche (member of the Metropolitan Board of Works), and several barristers, solicitors, &c., and since its establishment has done a great deal of good. Bro. John Emmens, the Secretary, read the minutes of the former meeting, which were confirmed; and after the transaction of some routine business, the brethren adjourned to a dinner served in excellent style by Bro. Swainston, and after the cloth was drawn several toasts were given and responded to. Bro. Hill, in proposing the health of the Chairman, spoke in felicitous terms of his urbanity and general kindness of disposition. It was a toast they would all do honour to, for he was sure they all respected him as much as he (Bro. Hill) did, and, indeed, he did not think he (Bro. Stroud) had an enemy in the world. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Stroud returned thanks and said he was very much obliged to Bro. Hill for his good opinion, and as long as he was connected with it he should do all he could to promote the interests of the Society. Some songs were sung by Bro. Sloman, and the brethren adjourned at an early hour. We were indebted on this, as on many former occasions, to the courtesy of Bro. John Emmens, the Secretary, who takes great interest in promoting the comfort of the brethren as well as the laudable objects of the Society.

AN OLD MASON.—Mr. Wright, said to be one of the oldest Masons in Canada, died at Montreal on Wednesday last. He was born in Halifax, N.S., on the 2nd August, 1804, and died on the 4th instant. He was therefore in his 65th year. He became a member of the Masonic fraternity in 1834, at Quebec, and was Master of many different lodges both in the ancient capital and Montreal. He it was who started the benevolent system in Quebec in connection with Masonry. He was for over thirty-six years in the Adjutant-General's office, where for many years he held the position of Chief Clerk. For the last three years he has been placed upon the retired list with an allowance. There is an older Mason in our own town than was Mr. Wright at the time of his death.—W. F. McCulloch, Esq., of the Grange, having been initiated as an apprentice Mason on April 12th, 1832, at Caen, Normandy, France. We may add that our respected townsman is not only among the oldest, but the highest and most accomplished Masons in Canada.—Beacon, Canada West, March 26.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Egyptian Lodge, No. 27.—This excellent working lodge met on Thursday, the 6th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. The W.M. Bro. W. H. Libbis, having taken the chair, supported by P.M.'s B. Todd, Buss, Payne, Berri, D. H. Jacobs, and Tomlinson. The minutes of the former lodge having been read and confirmed, Bro. C. H. Walter having answered the usual questions retired, and was duly passed to the degree of a F.C., in a very impressive manner. There being no other business before the lodge, it was closed in due form until October next. The brethren then sat down to a very sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Clemow. After the usual toasts, Bro. Farnfield, P.A.G.S. and Sec. to the R.M. Benevolent Institutions, returned thanks for the Grand Officers and the Masonic Charities. The visitors were Bros. Long, W.M. 435; Hickey, W.M. 534; Stokes, J.D. 861; G. Dudley, 93; and Geo. Tedder. The W.M. in proposing the health of the P.M.'s, stated how delighted he, as well as the brethren present were, to see Bro. Todd, P.M. and Treasurer, on that occasion, being his first appearance since his severe indisposition. Bro. Todd rising met with an enthusiastic reception, said he felt equally pleased that the G.A. of T.U. had spared him, and hoped to have their wishes fulfilled in being spared, and trusted he would ever remember with gratitude, their good and kind wishes. The P.M.'s present severally returned thanks. There was some excellent harmony from Bro. Skidmore, Dawson, Stokes, D. H. Jacobs, P.M. (who was in excellent voice), G. Tedder and Cook. After spending a very delightful evening, the brethren separated in peace and harmony.

PROVINCIAL.

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 5th inst.; the W.M., Bro. Kelly, D.P.G.M., in the chair. All the officers, except the I.G., were in their places, and twenty-five brethren were present. Among the visitors were the Rev. Bro. N. Haycroft, D.D., of the Universal Lodge, No. 181; and the W.M., S. and J.W., and other brethren, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523. After the preliminary business had been transacted, Bros. J. Wright, Smith, Pegg, Widdowson, Astill, and Skevington passed a satisfactory examination as F.C.'s, after which they retired, and the lodge having been opened in the third degree, they were severally raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The impressive effect of the ceremony was greatly increased by the full musical service, as arranged by Bros. C. Johnson and Dr. Hopkins, being performed, Bro. Crow, the talented Organist and Secretary of the lodge, presiding at the instrument. The ceremony of passing six candidates to the second degree was postponed until a future day, a lodge of emergency being arranged to be held for the purpose. After being at work from 6.30 p.m., the lodge was finally closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment at 9.30, and spent a short time very pleasantly.

COLCHESTER.—United Lodge, No. 697.—An adjourned meeting of this lodge took place at the George Hotel, Colchester, on Monday, April 26th. Present: Bros. Newman, W.M.; Rix, S.W. *pro tem.*; Bigley, J.W. *pro tem.*; Ray, Sec.; Calthorpe, S.D.; Eustace, J.D.; Gill, J.G.; J. S. Smith, P.M., 325; Woodland; and O'Malley. Visitors: The Prov. Grand Master, Bro. R. J. Bagshaw; Bros. Mathews, P.M., P.G., I.G.; Carr, Prov. Grand Sec.; Rev. F. B. Sheppard, W.M. 276; W. Spalding, Sec. 114. The lodge was opened in due form in the first degree, and the summons convening the meeting read. The Prov. Grand Master was then introduced by Bro. P. Mathews, and received with the usual honours. The minutes of the last two regular meetings were then read and afterwards confirmed. The brethren having met for the installation of the W.M., all those below the degree of Master Mason were requested to withdraw, and Bro. J. G. Trenman was then duly installed, and received an excellent address from Bro. Mathews, highly complimenting him upon having been chosen a second year to fill the office of W.M. The W.M. was then saluted with the usual honours. The lodge was then closed to second degree, and again saluted; and afterwards to the first, when the E.A. were admitted and the brethren again saluted the W.M. The W.M. next appointed his officers, and they were severally invested by Bro. P. Mathews with an appropriate address. The officers appointed were: Bro. George H. Ray, as S.W.; J. S. Smith, P.M. 325 (J.C.), J.W.; W. Calthorpe, S.D.; T. Eustace, J.D.; W. Gill, I.G.; Witten, Tyler; Rix, Treasurer; Ray, Sec., *pro tem.* Proposed by Bro. Ray, seconded by Bro. Trenman, that a vote of thanks be given to Bro. P. Mathews, for attending the United Lodge

as Installing Master. Bro. Matthews briefly responded, and thanked the brethren for the kind reception given not only to him, but the Prov. Grand Master, Secretary, and the other visitors. The Prov. Grand Master and Secretary briefly addressed the brethren. Proposed by Bro. Ray, seconded by Bro. Captain J. S. Smith, P.M., 325, that Captain Sadler and Lieutenant Gray be permitted to enter their names as joining members of the United Lodge. Proposed by Bro. Gill, seconded by Bro. Ray, that Sergeant J. Fenn, 41st Regiment, be allowed to enter his name as a candidate for initiation. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren afterwards sat down to a superb banquet, provided by Bro. Guiver in his usual first-class style.

MONKWEARMOUTH, DURHAM.—Williamson Lodge, No. 949.—The ceremony of installing the W.M. and officers for the ensuing twelve months took place on the 3rd of May, Brother W. Adamson, P.M., officiating as Installing Master. Bro. John Tillman, P.P.G.S. of W., was installed W.M., and he appointed and invested the following brethren, viz.—John Trehwhitt, P.G.R., I.P.M.; Robert Hudson, S.W.; W. Liddell, P.G. St., J.W.; R. W. Halfnight, P.M. and P.P.G.P., Treasurer; Charles Bell, Secretary; William Bryans, P.P.G. St., S.D.; J. H. Smith, J.D.; Walter Scott, I.G.; W. M. Laws, P.M. and P.G., Tyler; J. H. Harrison, D.C.; J. H. Coates and J. H. Sanderson, Stewards; Thomas Atkinson and C. F. Austin, Auditors; and J. H. Sanderson, O. Amongst others present were Bros. Cook, P.M.; Maddison, P.M.; Wade, P.G.D.C., W.M. of St. John's, 80, and Sangster, P.M. and P.P.G.P.; John Potts, P.M., Phoenix, 94, P.G.J.D.; Lord, W.M. of the Palatine, 97; Levy, P.M. and P.P.G.J.W. Reed, W.M.; and R. Candlish, P.M.; of the Favett Lodge, Seaham. At the annual festival, which was held in the evening, about 60 sat down, and did ample justice to Bro. Richardson's excellent dinner, and the evening was spent in the usual harmonious manner.

IRELAND.

BELFAST.—Hiram's Lodge, No. 97.—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Friday evening, 7th inst., in the Masonic Hall, Donegall-place, the W.M., Bro. McKenna, presiding. The lodge being opened in the E.A. degree, Mr. William Elliott Roberts, who proved fully prepared, received the degree of E.A. from Bro. Mooney. The election of officers was then proceeded with, the following brethren being elected:—Thomas Simpson, W.M.; Wm. Kerry, S.W.; W. White, J.W.; W. Murphy, Secretary; F. Henderson, Treasurer; W. McGladery, I.G.; Jno. Hampton, S.D.; James Maxwell, J.D.; Hugh McCormick and W. Graham, Stewards. No other business being before the lodge, it was closed in due form. The brethren then adjourned to the refreshment board, where the usual toasts were duly honoured.

MARK MASONRY.

IPSWICH.—Albert Victor Lodge, No. 70 of M.M., which meets quarterly, held their usual lodge 26th April, when three brethren belonging to lodges in the province were advanced. We find it is in contemplation to apply for a warrant to hold a M.M. Lodge in a neighbouring town, the Albert Victor being the only lodge in the province of Suffolk.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

IPSWICH.—Royal Plantagenet Encampment.—This Conclave having been called to the field of Encampment at their usual place of meeting, on Ascension Day, for the installation of officers for the ensuing year, who were elected at the last regular meeting, on the 19th April. After the usual preliminary business, Sir Kt. Henry Thomas, P.E.C. and Grand Standard-bearer, in an appropriate speech, presented the newly-elected E.C., Sir Kt. Francis Bernard Jennings, to the Installing Commander, Sir Kt. Sanderson, D.P.G. Com. for Suffolk, who in his usual excellent manner performed the ceremony. The Knights having been marshalled, a procession was formed, and Sir Kt. Jennings saluted in due form. The E.C. then appointed and invested his officers, and having thanked the Knights and Companions for the confidence they had reposed in him, by unanimously placing him at head-quarters in the East, the D.P.G.C. for and on behalf of the Provincial Grand Commander, Sir Kt. N. G. Philips, presented to the Encampment a very handsome baton, for the use of the E.C. Sir Kt. Jennings upon receiving the baton expressed the great pleasure he felt in being the first E.C. to wield the same, and that he should be wanting in his duty if he did not at once propose that the thanks of the Royal Plantagenet Encampment be voted to the P.G.C., for his very beautiful present, and that such vote be recorded on the minutes. The same having been seconded by the 1st Captain, was carried unanimously. There being no further business before the Encampment, it was closed in ancient form.

INSTALLATION MEETING OF MACDONALD LODGE, No. 1216.

The first annual Meeting of this lodge was held at the lodge-rooms, Head-quarters of the 1st Surrey Rifle Volunteers, Camberwell, on Wednesday evening, the 5th inst., and was exceedingly well-attended. The representatives of several corps, both regular and volunteer, were present, and their varied uniforms with the Masonic regalia of their several ranks in the Craft, contributed, together with the handsome appointments of the lodge, to form a most perfect and imposing *ensemble*. The Brethren present were:—Bros. Major A. L. Irvine, W.M.; James Stevens, P.M. and S.W.; P. de Keyser, J.W.; Dr. Eugene Cronin, Treas.; J. J. Curtis, Sec.; Ensign F. T. Dubois, S.D.; S. H. Wagstaffe, J.D.; G. H. N. Bridges, D.C.; G. Waterall, Steward; also Bros. T. Meggy, P.M., Jas. Vickers, P.M., J. H. Hastie, J. A. Patton, M. S. Larham, H. Puckle, H. Francis, H. Rassam (late prisoner in Abyssinia), T. W. Carnell, A. Fletcher, W. J. Messinger, D. Fourdrinier, A. Kethro, C. Phare, G. England, jun., W. A. Willis, C. Fountain, W. H. Thomas, J. Allen, R. Plews, H. Hammond, &c.; also visiting brethren, Henry Bridges, P.G.S.B., D.P.G.M., Somerset; J. C. Fourdrinier, P.G.J.W. North Wales, and P.M. of 2, 755, 1113, &c.; Major E. D. Smith, H.M. 95th Foot; S. Rosenthal, P.M. 92, 435, &c.; S. Poynter, P.M. 902; C. Hammerton, 254; J. J. Wilkinson, 176; F. Sanderman, 478; W. F. Brandreth, 357; J. Weaver, S.W. 862; C. Harris, 167; C. P. Stevens, 870; R. Coghlan, 176; C. Hampton, 179; F. W. Bryant, &c., &c.

This being the Installation Meeting, and the highly-respected W.M. Bro. Major Major Irvine, having, at the earnest solicitation of his Wardens and the unanimous voice of the brethren, consented to serve the office for another year, the lodge was opened by Bro. Stevens P.M., the Senior Warden, in the several degrees, and prepared for the reception of the W.M. and Master elect; on whose arrival, for the due instruction of the newly-initiated brethren, and in accordance with the desire of all present, Bro. Stevens performed the Ceremony of Installation in full detail, and according to ancient custom, most impressively reciting the concluding addresses.

The W.M. reinvested his former officers, with the addition of Bros. Waterall, H. Puckle, and W. J. Messenger, to offices not previously filled up.

The report of the audit committee, which had been printed and sent to all members with a financial statement, was taken as read, and being of a most satisfactory character was unanimously received and adopted. We were favoured with a copy of this report, and its perusal gave us much pleasure, for through it we learnt that this fine lodge has been established on a firm basis, has had a first year of unparalleled prosperity, and has before it prospects of a most brilliant career. Commencing with eleven members as founders, it now numbers 49, of whom 23 are initiates and 16 joining members, and these are all members of the corps with which the lodge is connected. The lodge possesses furniture and appointments of a most *recherché* character and of great value, the principal portion of which have been donated by the individual members. Great ingenuity and taste have been displayed by the several donors to make the aggregate collection of gifts unique, and the result is perfect. With all our experience of lodges we know of none so thoroughly approaching perfection, whether in regard to appointments or, which is of more consequence, working, than the "Macdonald." We were also pleased to observe by the report that the Masonic charities had not been forgotten, stewards having either represented, or being about to represent, the lodge at each festival, and funds having been voted for life governorships.

After the adoption of the report, Bro. Rassam (late of Abyssinia) proposed his former comrade in captivity, Dr. Henri Blanc, for initiation at the ensuing meeting (June 2nd), when a strong muster of the lodge may be anticipated. Bros. Major E. D. Smith, H.M. 95th Foot; Henry Bridges, P.G.S.B. and D.P.G.M., Somerset; and F. W. Bryant, were proposed as joining members.

Bro. STEVENS, S.W., then presented, for Bro. Larham and himself, three very handsome gavels made from portions of the wreck of H.M.S. *Ferret*, and which those Brethren had secured during the storm at Dover on Easter Monday last. Each gavel, bearing its appropriate emblem, is engraved with a record of the event, and together these implements will form an heirloom in the lodge which we trust will interest future generations of Masons.

The gift was accepted with cordial thanks. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the large mess-room forming part of the head-quarters of the corps, where, under the arrangements of Bro. F. Gordon, of Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate, whose manager, Mr. Zoller, is butler to the corps, they partook of a banquet the only possible defect in which was the redundancy of service. The *menu* comprised every delicacy of the season, and the viands being served *a la Russe*,

their full enjoyment by all was ensured. The loving cups, of which there were several, the tables being decorated with many of the superb silver tankards won by the marksmen who are members of the lodge, having circulated, the W.M. proposed the various toasts according to the handsome programme set before each brother present, the proceedings being varied by appropriate songs and accompaniments, under the direction of Bro. Weaver. "The Sovereign of the Realm, and the Sovereign of the Craft," having been duly remembered, the W.M. proposed the toast of "The Deputy Grand Master and past and present Grand Officers," to which

Bro. HENRY BRIDGES, P.G.S.B., D.P.G.M., Somerset, responded, expressing his great gratification at all he had heard and witnessed that evening, the best evidence of the sincerity of his remarks being given by his desire, although resident far distant from the metropolis, to associate himself with the Macdonald Lodge as a joining member. This he would certainly not do but that, both in the progress made by his nephew, newly initiated into Masonry, and already by merit advanced to office, and in the efficient manner in which the whole proceedings of the lodge were carried out, he felt assured that the genuine tenets and principles of Freemasonry were well understood and thoroughly practised by those who had the conduct and the government of the lodge. He should probably have many opportunities for observing the progress of the lodge with which he hoped to be connected as a member, and in the best interests of which he could not fail to be much concerned. On behalf of other grand officers present, and himself, he begged to return thanks for the toast so heartily accorded.

The W.M. proposed the initiates and joining members for the past half year, which was responded to in a very able manner by the latest initiate, Bro. CHARLES FOUNTAIN.

The W.M. then called the attention of the members of the lodge to the next toast, "The Visiting Brethren," and in very forcible language expressed the great gratification which it at all times gave the lodge to have the opportunity to welcome those who felt interested in its progress, or desired to see its working. During the past year, he said, many Masons of high standing in the Craft, had supported him by their valued presence; and he trusted that during the ensuing year he might have the pleasure to welcome very many more. On this occasion, he found on his right and on his left, members of the Craft of exalted rank and held in high estimation, not only for their social position and courteous demeanour, but chiefly for their Masonic ability. He was pleased to say that several of these brethren had privately expressed their opinions to him in respect of the lodge, and, being themselves well-skilled Masons, he felt the value of such opinions; and the praise they bestowed became, therefore, a still stronger incentive to increased efforts. So highly was this lodge thought of by the visitors present, that three of their number had expressed their desire to become joining members—a circumstance which spoke for itself in favour of the lodge, and he hoped that at an early date he should have the pleasure to address the D.P.G.M. for Somerset, Bro. Bridges; Bro. Major E. D. Smith; and Bro. Bryant, not as visitors, as now, but as members of the lodge. Meanwhile, he hoped the lodge would render them, in conjunction with the other esteemed visitors present, that honour which was their due; and, expressing his personal gratitude to them for the support they had given, and bidding them one and all a most hearty welcome, he desired that the brethren of the Macdonald Lodge, should, by the heartiness of their manner in drinking to this toast, endorse all he had said. He proposed "The Health of the Visiting Brethren," coupled with the name of Bro. J. C. Foudrinier, P.G.J.W. for North Wales. (It is almost needless to say that the W.M.'s request was complied with in a most enthusiastic manner.)

Bro. C. J. Foudrinier, in responding, expressed on behalf of his brother visitors and himself his unbounded delight in observing the true Masonic spirit which appeared to be infused into every detail connected with the "Macdonald Lodge." He felt himself at a loss to give full expression to all he thought, for he feared that the praise he could not do otherwise than bestow would appear excess of flattery, and that should be avoided. He could not, however, resist saying that during six and thirty years of active Masonry, he had never seen anything so nearly approaching perfect order and perfect working as he had on this occasion. For this they might take an old man's word, given seriously and sincerely. The labour in the lodge, and the refreshment after, left nothing to be desired, and he could but hope, that the progress already made might continue. He asked his brother visitors to join with him in drinking "Prosperity to the Macdonald Lodge," a request with which they heartily complied.

Bro. THOS. MCGY, P.M. and Grand Steward,

said: Brethren, I have now, in my position as acting Past Master of this lodge, to call your attention to a toast which I am certain will be most cordially received by you. During the past year you have been presided over by a Brother, whose qualifications are such, both in respect of position and ability, as can leave nothing to be desired. Under his genial sway the success of the lodge during the first year of its establishment has been beyond our very utmost expectations, and there is considerable promise that this success may be further continued. Your Wardens, having the welfare of the lodge more at heart than their own personal ambition, have counselled us to continue the Mastership of the Past year for yet another, and our unanimous vote has been in accordance with that counsel. For my part I can but express my belief that the re-appointment of our W.M. has been well-deserved, and I have therefore considerable pleasure in proposing his health on this occasion, both as the first P.M., and the present W.M. of the lodge. Worshipful Master, I take this opportunity to discharge a pleasing duty entrusted to me by the members of your lodge, and to confer on you that distinction which you have so ably earned. This jewel will, I trust, be considered by you an evidence of the great esteem they entertain for you, and which I fear I have but feebly expressed. If a consciousness of its having been well-deserved will add to its worth, you may fairly entertain that emotion within the breast which we trust this emblem of merit may adorn for many years to come. Brethren, I propose to you "The health of Bro. Major A. L. Irvine, our Worshipful Master." (The toast was drunk with acclamation.)

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER, in returning thanks, expressed his deep sense of the honour conferred upon him by his re-appointment, and urged upon the members a continuance of those efforts which had resulted in the perfect establishment of the "Macdonald Lodge." Its repute was even now, when only one year of its existence had passed away, of no small moment, and he was certain that each succeeding year would increase it. He entertained a high regard for all the willing service which had been rendered by the members generally, and could not let this opportunity pass by without placing on record the self-denial of his brother wardens and officers in sacrificing their own advancement to higher positions under the conviction that the best interests of the lodge generally would thereby be best promoted. His senior warden, who had originated the lodge, waived that position to which the founders would have named him in the charter,—had solicited his acceptance of the Master's office during the first year, and had again repeated his desire, supported by the members, that he should continue the office for a further period. But that he felt convinced the brethren were of opinion that his continuance would strengthen the position of the lodge, he could not have consented to impede the advancement of officers according to usual rota. He thanked them sincerely for the confidence reposed in him, and also for the testimony of satisfaction with his endeavours hitherto which he now had the gratification to wear; and he assured his brethren that no efforts should be wanting on his part to uphold the dignity and promote the honour and reputation of his lodge.

The W.M. then proposed "The health of Bro. James Stevens, P.M. and S.W., the Installing Master." To the observations which had already fallen from him he desired, in proposing this toast, to add his personal testimony to the energy and zeal of that brother, to whose continued attention to the arrangements for both labour and refreshment much of the success attained must be attributed. Bro. Stevens was, fortunately for the lodge, able to devote a little more time than his (the W.M.'s) engagements would permit him to give, and at all times he had been enabled to rely upon the ready thoughtfulness and willing assistance of his S.W. in respect of all matters which required previous arrangement. He had now to speak of Bro. Stevens in another capacity, that of Installing Master, and he could but refer all present to the evidence given in the lodge of his extreme efficiency in the performance of that lengthy ceremony, an efficiency which, although the task had been then undertaken by that brother for the first time, had called forth the eulogium of many old Past Masters present as being perfect in all respects, and a complete testimony of Masonic ability. For his services on this occasion especially, as well as in regard to his assistance at all other times, he called upon the brethren to the health of Bro. Stevens with all Masonic honours.

Bro. STEVENS, in a brief speech, returned thanks for the honour conferred, expressing his sincere desire for the continued prosperity of the lodge, and his satisfaction that whatever abilities he might have, or assistance he had rendered, should meet with so much appreciation from those with whom he was associated.

The W.M. then proposed "The health of the Officers of the Lodge," making special mention of

each, and eulogising their several efforts to promote the harmony and good order of the lodge.

Bro. P. DE KEYSER, J.W., on behalf of the officers, replied, endorsing the best wishes of the previous speakers on behalf of the lodge.

The several toasts of "The Macdonald Lodge or Improvement," "The Masonic Charities," and "All poor and distressed Brethren," were given and responded to in speeches which, owing to the lateness of the hour, were necessarily brief; and after the interchange of mutual congratulations upon the success of the meeting, and the great interest which had been manifested in the proceedings throughout, the brethren separated fully carrying out the sentiments of our Masonic refrain, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again."

LONDON GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT COMPANY.

We observe with pleasure that a company has been formed specially for the transaction of "Guarantee" and "Accident" business, branches of insurance which are not only the safest but the most remunerative in their working and results. From the high character of the directors, and the energy of Mr. Laughton Anderson, the secretary, we anticipate a great success for the new company. The field of operations is most extensive, and requires only energy and perseverance to bear ample fruit. From the Prospectus we gather "that one office, transacting Accident business only, has, after having accumulated a very large reserve fund, just divided among its shareholders, in respect of the year 1868 alone, no less than 50 per cent. on its original capital, and its shares are sought after at a premium of eight hundred per cent." This is certainly a most encouraging prospect for the shareholders of the "London Guarantee and Accident Company," whose offices are at 8A, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, S.W.

PRESENTATION.—Mrs. D. Martin, wife of Past Master Martin, of Hibernia Lodge, Saint John's New Brunswick, F. & A.M., was lately made the recipient of a handsome silver tea service, the gift of members of the Lodge. The presentation ceremonies were very pleasing. A delegation of about twelve of the members waited upon Mr. and Mrs. Martin, and were formally introduced by Past Master Mullin, who said that the object of their gathering was to present Mrs. Martin with the service in testimony of their appreciation of her husband's worth as a man, and particularly because of his efficient discharge of the duties of the Chair in Hibernia Lodge in the year that is past. The presentation was formally made by Mr. Johnston, the Master of the Lodge, and an address on parchment was read to Mr. Martin by Mr. W. J. Logan, the Senior Warden of the Lodge. An inscription on the service setting forth the object of the presentation, is engraved in Mr. Venning's best style. After the formal portion of the ceremony was over, the company were hospitably and happily entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Martin, and a most delightful evening sped rapidly away.—*St. John's Globe*.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. SPRATT.—On Wednesday night last a supper was given at the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, by the members of the New Concord Lodge of Instruction, to present their worthy Secretary, Bro. Spratt, with a testimonial. Bro. J. Emmens, P.M., and Grand Officer, in the Chair, who was supported by the present W.M., J. Hart, P.M.; Boyce, P.M.; Main, P.M.; Podder Preceptor; Bro. Capt. Taylor, and Bro. E. A. Masterman, of the Old Concord Lodge, 172; and about 40 others, including members of the Lodge referred to. The Chairman gave the customary loyal toasts, with those of the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master, Earl de Grey and Ripon, D.G., Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers; and then introduced the toast of the evening, viz., their Secretary, Bro. Spratt, which speech our limits preclude us giving *in extenso*; but it was throughout received with every demonstration of approval by the company. The Chairman especially referred to the many years Bro. Spratt had so assiduously attended to their interests, not missing a night's attendance, and during his secretaryship no less than £15 had been collected and distributed amongst the Masonic Charities, which for a Lodge of Instruction was highly creditable. He could assure Bro. Spratt that he was held in the highest esteem and respect by all, and he was sure that his brethren had cheerfully subscribed the token he now presented—a handsome gold watch, which he (the Chairman) trusted his worthy and excellent brother might live many years to regard as a token of the esteem of his brethren. Bro. Spratt returned thanks in a very grateful and earnest speech, and after the toasts to the Chairman, the W.M. of the New Concord Lodge, and Visiting Brethren had been given, the meeting closed, all having spent a very rational and agreeable evening, great credit being due to Bro. Gabb for the excellent manner in which he contributed towards the comfort of the brethren on this and many former occasions.

Answers to Correspondents.

T. C. J.—Your object being a very praiseworthy one, you cannot do better than make an appeal to the Craft for aid. Judging from experience, however, we think your chief reliance must be placed in the support of energetic brethren in your own province and neighbourhood.

We are sorry that pressure of matter obliges us to defer the continuation of Bro. Emma Holme's tale, and other interesting communications.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1869.

THE FREEMASON is published on Saturday Mornings in time for the early trains.

The price of THE FREEMASON is Twopence per week; quarterly subscription (including postage) 3s. 3d.

Annual Subscription, 12s. Subscriptions payable in advance. All communications, letters, &c., to be addressed to the Editor, 3 & 4, Little Britain, E.C.

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

THE PATHS OF VIRTUE AND SCIENCE.

It is a trite saying that the familiar sinks into the unheeded; hence it is that words pregnant with meaning, and full of the grandest significance, become, through the force of mere repetition, a monotone, a formalism, and a sham. All of us are more or less impressed with this truth, which is the child of experience; we can each bear testimony to its pernicious effects in the history of the human heart, which ever yearns after something new and strange, forgetting the potentiality which resides in the accumulated wisdom of ages.

It is not our province to define the nature of that virtue which all true Freemasons should cultivate; it is not for us to describe the transcendent lustre of that moral light which is the good man's guardian and guide; but in the belief that the primitive work of Freemasonry is greatly overlooked by the brethren at the present day, we will briefly consider the paths of science in which all Freemasons are invited and expected to tread. We are told by a great poet that "the proper study of mankind is man," but in thus acquiring a generic knowledge of our kind, let us not sink the individual in the species, but analyze our own hearts and learn the mysteries of our own being. Now, this is precisely the science of which we take less heed than of any other—it being the tendency of men's minds in the present generation to ignore all self-knowledge, and to cast themselves blindly upon the stream of events, guided by the floating straws which indicate the current; or, in other words, by the fantasies of the passing moment. Was Burke right when he said, "The age of chivalry is over," and must we indeed resign ourselves to the gradual effacement of all that is pure and noble, because the song of the troubadour has ceased, and the knightly lance is for ever laid "in rest?" No! The records of departed greatness still remain, and the glories of those mediæval centuries still haunt the souls of the world's unacknowledged legislators.

It is, unquestionably, the mission of Freemasonry, to nourish those lofty conceptions which have given birth to the imperishable sentiments of honour, of virtue, and of true religion; it is her mission to reveal to her children the wonders of that psychological science, whose operations, though unseen, are as marvellous as the greatest triumphs of the natural sciences. It is for her to interpose the rock of eternal truth to the torrent of rationalism, of positivism, and of infidelity.

No greater barrier can be erected against the

inroads of materialistic philosophy than an institution like Freemasonry, which appeals to every human sympathy, brightens every human hope, and is identified with the cause of our common humanity; while, at the same time, it points with steady finger to the source of all light and power. It is true that the teachings of the Order are often misinterpreted, and oftener, through familiarity, lose their original importance; but it is time that Freemasons awoke to the necessity of studying the whole system of the Craft, not merely as an abstract symbolism, but as a tangible reality—not as a vulgar mystery, but as a mirror in which to read their own hearts, and as a volume in which to seek the solution of those doubts and difficulties which beset every earnest thinker.

To do this, we must ponder well the language of Freemasonry, and thoroughly comprehend its signification. The wealth of wisdom couched in its every phrase will then become apparent, like the revelation of a new and radiant world; and unless we thus follow our celestial guide, we cannot be said to walk in the paths of virtue and science.

PAST MASTERS AS PRECEPTORS.

THE importance of the subject induces us again to urge upon all who value the well-being of the Craft how desirable it will be to strengthen the hands of those brethren who are labouring to effect an uniform system of working the Craft ceremonies. All old Masons, when appealed to, acknowledge the evils arising out of the present varying modes, but few seem inclined to help when a practicable remedy is suggested. If brethren who coincide with Bro. Stevens' views on the subject of "Past Masters as Preceptors," will signify their adhesion, by letter or otherwise, as speedily as possible, they will aid the good work and encourage those who may be able to attend the proposed Conference in the discussion of suitable remedial measures. Nothing will be accomplished without effort, earnestness, and perseverance.

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The eighty-first Anniversary Festival of this Institution was held on Wednesday evening at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-Inn-fields. The Right Hon. the Lord Leigh, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire, in the chair.

On the Friday previous it was arranged that his Lordship should visit the School at Battersea-rise, that day being appointed for the annual visit of the Stewards. His Lordship, however, was unable to be present, and his place was taken by Bro. Benjamin Head, P.G.D., and V.P. of the Institution. This yearly visit, which, although called "the Stewards' visit to the Institution," is really open to the whole Craft and the ladies of their families, is the most delightful of all the Masonic entertainments. Being held in that month of the year which is suggestive of youth and joyousness, and especially of feminine youth and joyousness, it does not compel the visitors to stay within doors, but gives them the opportunity of walking in the lovely grounds (which are part of the provision for the children's health) and enjoying a sight of herbage and foliage so agreeable at all times to the London slave. Therefore, whenever the year, in its rolling, brings about the time for the Stewards' visit to the Girls' School, the attendance of visitors is sure to be large; and although the programme admits of very little change, however numerous may be the people who attend for the first time, the old faces are found there year after year, entering with the same zest into the entertainments provided, as if to them it were a perfect novelty. The reason for this, no doubt, is that, having seen the building from the laying of its first stone, and contributed largely towards the attainment of its present proportions, they look on it with just pride as a child of their own, which grows nearer to perfection every day.

The company assembled on that day numbered nearly 300, amongst whom were Bros. Benjn. Head, John M. Clabon, John Udall, H. Empson, W. Paas, Raynham W. Stewart, W. Farnfield, Wm. Winn, Geo. Cox, Edw. Cox, J. G. Chancellor, Dr. Barringer, A. J. Pritchard, Charles Lacy, John Hart, W.M. (No. 813); James W. Avery, P.M. (No. 619); F. Binckes, E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; H. Muggeridge, W. H. Warr, A. H. Hewitt, H. J. Thompson, James Terry, P.M. (No. 228); S. C. Hadley, W.M. (No. 55); H. Dicketts, W.M. (No. 25); W. Young, P.G.S.B.; Joshua Nunn, G.S.B.; Frank Elmore, F. H. Ebsworth, Rev. C. Woodward, Chaplain; George King, W.M. (No. 172); F. Walters, P.M. (No. 73); J. H. Wynne, P.M. (No. 101); C. Marshall, P.M. (No. 22); Alfred Pratt, P.M. (No. 22); H. Thompson (No. 177); Chas. G. Thompson (No. 1158, 117); and Massey, W.M., Beadon Lodge.

The programme for the day was divided into five or six parts, and commenced with some pianoforte playing and part songs by thirty of the pupils. To these succeeded recitations by six of the little girls—E. Hutchinson, E. Henty, A. Winter, A. M. Dickens, F. Redgrave, and E. Redgrave,—and Lord Leigh afterwards distributed the following prizes to the fortunate winners:—Bro. William Paas's gold medal and Bro. W. Winn's Canonbury prize of three guineas, for general proficiency, to Edith G. Collis; the Institution silver medal and Bro. W. Winn's Canterbury prize of two guineas, for good conduct, to Ada Fanny Triggs; the Institution's prize, for passing in honours at the Cambridge Examination, and for passing at the same Examination, to E. G. Collis, A. F. Triggs, E. Redgrave, E. L. Winter, J. A. Rumbelow, and E. G. Baxter; for French, to Florence Redgrave and Eliza Hutchinson; for music, to M. A. J. Stevens and M. Burditt; for writing and map drawing, to E. H. Stopher; for general usefulness, to F. M. Feast and E. H. Banks; for order and neatness, to E. S. Woolnough; for needlework, to E. Henderson and A. A. Smith; and for general proficiency, to Kate Tappolet, Eliza Clarke, and Lucy Caparn. Brother John M. Clabon's prize was awarded to H. A. M. Jordan and C. L. Dickens. A prize, the gift of Henry F. Bowker, Esq., for religious knowledge distinguished at the Cambridge examination, was given to Emily Redgrave and E. G. Collis; and Bro. P. H. E. Brette's, for French, to Ada Fanny Triggs. Other prizes for dictation were given by Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, to M. S. Gillard, M. F. Wood, H. Thorpe, and C. B. Fletcher; by Mrs. Peckett, for music, to E. Redgrave; by Mrs. Brette, for music, to E. S. Saunders; by Mrs. Crick, for elocution, to A. M. Dickens and A. G. Winter; by Bro. Joseph Starkey, for drawing, to E. G. Collis; and by W. Maitland, Esq., for calisthenics, to Ellen B. Henty.

The company then sat down to a meat tea, provided by the committee. The girls afterwards went through their calisthenic exercises, and dancing terminated the proceedings.

The festival took place under favourable auspices on Wednesday last, when there were present, amongst others: Bros. John Hervey, Grand Sec.; John Emmens, Past Grand Purst.; Peter Matthews, Hon. Dentist to the Institution, and P.M. and Treas. of the Fitzroy Lodge; Robt. J. Chappell, J.D. No. 7; Major Gen. Gore Munbee, St. Kew Lodge, 1,222; Moore, 1,155; Bolton, 169; W. Holland; John Udall; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Past Grand Chaplain; Stephen Blair; F. Binckes, Secretary of Boys' School; Rev J. Huyshe; H. Empson; Samuel Tomkins; Rev. C. Woodward; Fenn; Geo. Cox, P.G. Deacon; Bradford; G. W. K. Potter; R. J. Spiers; D. Jacobs, P.M., 27; R. J. Chappell, J.D. 7; John Hart, W.M., 813; Benj. Head; W. H. Warr; W. Paas; R. M. Stewart, W.M., 12; Chas. Coote, P.M., 205; Hyde Pullen; Dr. Barringer, P.M., 154, Surgeon to the Institution; L. C. Hall, 10; Dr. F. E. Wilkinson, P.M., 181; F. H. Ebsworth, W.M., 1,178; James Ellis, L. Hirsch, 861; W. Billington, 871; C. Pawley, 33; J. Swain, 55; Driver; Thomas Meggy, Fitzroy Lodge; E. H. Patten, Sec. of the Institution; Crossley; R. W. Little, P.M., Rose of Denmark; Geo. Kenning, of THE FREEMASON; Buss, P.M., 27; C. Jacques, Southern Star, 1,158; Pendlebury, P.M., 1,056; Henry Muggeridge, P. M., &c.; Harper; Boyce, P.M., 813; Crabb, 813; Captain Field, P.M., 569; J. Stevens, Domestic Lodge, 177; Dr. O'Connor; Massey, W.M., Beadon; F. Walters, P.M. of several lodges; Farnfield, P.M. and Sec. of Constitutional Lodge; G. Bolton, 147, P.M.; N. Wingfield, 169; H. Thompson, 177; W. Massey, W.M. Beadon; and Chas. E. Thompson, 1,158 and 177.

The cloth having been drawn, grace, "For these and all the mercies given," was sung by the professional singers, who were led by Bro. Ganz.

The PRESIDENT proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen, he said: Brethren, the first toast I have to propose is always most enthusiastically received on all public occasions in this

country, I therefore give you with all sincerity "The Health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and long life to her." The Queen is loved by all her subjects, and I am quite sure by none more so than the Freemasons. She is a good Queen, and although she is not a supporter of the Girls' School, she is a liberal contributor to the Boys' Institution.

The National Anthem followed, the solo parts being sung by Madame Liebhart.

The next toast on the list was that of "Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family." The President said the Prince of Wales appeared to take great interest in the charitable Institutions, and he hoped he would follow in the footsteps of his illustrious parent. He believed no subject had seen so much of the world as His Royal Highness. He had lately visited the Sultan of Egypt, where he had been received in a most magnificent manner (hear, hear,) and which they as Masons were glad to hear, because it tended to promote that fraternity of feeling which should exist between nations. (Hear, hear.) It was well-known that his brother-in-law was a Mason, and it had been whispered—he did not know how true it was—that His Royal Highness was a Mason, but if he was he would come forward and support the charities as his royal predecessors had done. This, as well as the former toast, was received with applause.

Duet, Miss Fanny Holland and Miss Fairman—"I know a Bank."

The CHAIRMAN said he had pleasure, very great pleasure, in proposing the next toast. It was first in regard to the Masonic toasts in the list, and it was one he was sure would meet with hearty approval at their hands. It was no less a toast than that of the "Health of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W. Grand Master of Masons." Lord Zetland had now ruled over them for more than a quarter of a century, and during that time Freemasonry, and especially the charities, had flourished in a remarkable degree. He was glad to hear the subscriptions to the Zetland Commemoration were likely to amount to a large sum, and that his lordship had expressed a wish like a true Mason, that it should be devoted to some charitable object. The other day he visited the Girls' School, and while speaking to the matron he mentioned the name of Lord Zetland and she said she hoped he might live to be Grand Master over the Freemasons for many years; and that, he was sure, was the wish of every brother present. (Hear, hear.) He gave them with great pleasure "The Health of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Patron and President of the Institution. (Loud cheers.) The toast was enthusiastically responded to.

The PRESIDENT proposed "The Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand Officers, past and present."

The Rev. J. R. SIMPSON returned thanks on behalf of the Grand Officers past and present. He said he never had more pleasure in attending a Masonic gathering than he had on this occasion. He alluded to the Zetland Commemoration Fund, and said he hoped it would amount to a very large sum.

The Rev. J. HURSH proposed the health of the Chairman of the day, the Rt. Hon. Lord Leigh, with thanks for his attendance.

The NOBLE CHAIRMAN returned thanks for the too flattering manner in which his Right Worshipful Brother had spoken of him. He also thanked the brethren for the cordial manner in which they had received him. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than to promote Freemasonry—(hear, hear)—to its fullest extent; and therefore he had, in conjunction with the brethren of the Province of Warwickshire, undertaken to preside over the meeting that day. He then proceeded to the next toast, which was, "Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and the healths of the Treasurer, Bro. S. Tomkins, and Bro. Benj. Bond Campbell, the late Treasurer for thirty years." He said they were very properly proud of their charitable institutions, and the Girls' School, whose anniversary they were met that day to celebrate, was most deserving of the support of every member of the Craft. About nine years ago, at the request of their able, courteous, and energetic Secretary, Bro. E. H. Patten, he had presided at their anniversary festival, and therefore he felt some reluctance again to take the chair this year, as he was afraid that the brethren of his own province would consider he was coming before them too often in asking them to again support him. He had filled the chair successively at the festivals for the three Masonic Institutions, and he thought to come again would be taxing their pockets too much; but when he remembered they had several Warwickshire children in the school who cost the Charity not less than £200 per year, and the Province of Warwickshire did not contribute more than a fourth of that sum, he could not refuse to again come forward and take the chair, if by his doing so he could in any way promote the interests of that great institution. He was glad to see so large a body of Warwickshire brethren present, as it bore

testimony to him, as Provincial Grand Master, that he had not taken a false step. He would not then go into details as to the history of the school; but for the information of the brethren and the ladies who might not be aware of it, he would say that the school was established in 1788—81 years ago,—and that it was supported by voluntary subscriptions, with the exception of about £150 annually voted by the Grand Lodge, and during the time it had been established, children had been clothed and educated, and where they had no friends they were provided with situations suitable to their rank. Where they had friends they returned to them. The school was first established at St. George's Fields, but it had since been removed to a more airy and healthy situation, and yesterday he visited the school and when he saw the children's happy rosy faces there gathered together, it gave him peculiar satisfaction. In company with his esteemed friend Bro. Patten, the Secretary, he visited the school, and he could not help saying he never visited any public institution with more sincere pleasure. He heard the girls sing, play on the piano, and recite pieces, and beyond that, he saw them go through their drill under the direction of their skilled and esteemed mistress, Miss Davis (loud cheers), in a manner which would do credit even to the famed City of London Rifle Volunteers (looking at the members of the Hon. Artillery Company, who, besides the regalia of the Craft appeared in the uniform of the regiment). There were in the school 106 children, of whom 100 were placed there by election, and six by purchase. They were all clothed, educated, and trained in the performance of useful and domestic duties, and he could bear his testimony to the excellent manner in which the School was conducted by Miss Forward and the excellent mistress, Miss Davis, and he hoped they would long retain their services for the benefit of the Institution. He gave them with great sincerity, "Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls," coupled with the names of Bros. Cabbell and Tomkins. (The toast was admirably received.)

Bro. TOMKINS returned thanks, and expressed his deep interest in the Institution.

Bro. PATTEN, the Secretary of the Institution, and P.G.S.B., then proceeded to read the list of subscriptions, and at the mention of the larger sums there was much applause.

The following are the principal items quoted:—Major-General Munbee, 7*l.* 10*s.*; John Donkin, 17*l.* 1*s.*; Major John Machen, D.P.G.M., Warwickshire, 117*l.* 12*s.*, including Lord Leigh; Cooke, 22*l.*; J. Collins (same province); 4*l.* 4*s.*; Oxford, 113*l.* 19*s.*; Old King's Arms, 16*l.* 16*s.*; Jacob's Egyptian, 7*l.*; Universal Lodge, 63*l.* 10*s.*; a P.M. of the Bedford Lodge, 47*l.* 5*s.*; Perseverance, 47*l.* 5*s.*; Leigh Lodge, 15*l.* 15*s.*; Gihon Lodge, 75*l.* 12*s.*; John Hart, New Concord, 812, 30*l.*; Robert Burns, 40*l.*; Globe Lodge, 37*l.* 16*s.*; Old Dundee Lodge, 33*l.* 12*s.*; St. John's Lodge, 26*l.* 5*s.*; Canonbury Lodge, 77*l.*; Regularity, 42*l.*; Albion Lodge, 22*l.* 1*s.*; Neptune Lodge, 53*l.* 6*s.*; F. Crowley, Saville Lodge, 10*l.* 10*s.*; Pamure, 74*l.*; Emulation, 30*l.* 9*s.*; Oak Lodge, 26*l.* 5*s.*; Old Union Lodge, 29*l.* 8*s.*; Gordon, 61*l.* 19*s.*; Victoria Rifles, 19*l.* 19*s.*; East Surrey of Concord, 40*l.* 15*s.*; Dorsetshire, 100*l.* 16*s.*; No. 6 Lodge, 30*l.* 9*s.*; C. D. Jackson, Fitzroy, 60*l.*; St. Albans, 29*l.* 13*s.*; Temple Lodge, 38*l.* 17*s.*; Province of Hants, 185*l.* 10*s.*; Finsbury Lodge, 52*l.* 10*s.*; Abbey Lodge, 10*l.* 10*s.*; British Lodge, 22*l.* 2*s.*; St. Andrew's Lodge, 60*l.* 8*s.*; Concord, 56*l.* 14*s.*; Shakespeare, 189*l.*; No. 43, 28*l.* 17*s.*; Union Lodge, 21*l.*; Cestrian Lodge, 10*l.* 10*s.*; No. 83, 51*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; Warden, 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; Eastern Star, 33*l.* 12*s.*; Godden, Macdonald, 12*l.* 12*s.*; No. 1, 72*l.*; Rectitude, 11*l.* 11*s.*; Dover, 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Cadogan, 26*l.* 5*s.*; Constitutional, 46*l.* 4*s.*; Caveac Chapter, 46*l.*; Excelsior, 49*l.*; Rev. J. Grace, 5*l.* 5*s.*; Lawson, 56*l.* 14*s.*; Driver, 38*l.* 17*s.*; No. 10, 79*l.* 16*s.*; Tranquillity Lodge, 18*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Rev. P. Smith, 169*l.* 18*s.*; Randall, St. Paul's, 68*l.*; T. J. Barnes, Doric, 105*l.*; Wise, 10*l.* 10*s.*; J. P. Platt, 26*l.* 5*s.*; W. G. Barnes, Grenadiers, 40*l.* 10*s.*; Stephen Wood, 13*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; Pershall, 11*l.* 6*s.*; H. Saunders, Royal York, Brighton, 66*l.* 3*s.*; Hassell, 20*l.*; Head (his 5th donation himself of 10*l.* 10*s.*), 77*l.*; Maybury Lodge, 52*l.* 10*s.*; Archer, 10*l.* 10*s.*; R. W. Stewart, 31*l.* 10*s.* The total amount is 4053*l.*, with 26 lists to come in.

Bro. Secretary PATTEN subsequently announced that he had had another ten guineas given to him. (Hear, hear.)

The NOBLE CHAIRMAN gave the next toast which was "The Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Officers, coupled with the name of Bro. Stephen Blair, Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire, and for which Bro. Blair returned thanks.

Br. UDALL, P.G.D., proposed "The other Masonic Charities, and success to them." They were, the Masonic Institution for Boys, and the Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and their Widows—coupled with the names of Bro. Binckes and Farnfield to which Bro. Binckes responded.

The "Stewards" acknowledged by Bro. Head, and "the Ladies," brought an interesting evening to a close.

Original Correspondence.

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

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Under this heading a series of questions are strung together by your correspondent, "Quidnunc," in THE FREEMASON of the 1st inst., which appear to me to be couched in an unfair spirit towards Bro. Binckes, the secretary of the Boys' School. As one of the so-called "Governors" or general committee who voted the sums stated by "Quidnunc," permit me to say that Bro. Binckes' salary is not really increased, as he will now relinquish all claim to commission upon receiving £400 per annum, £200 of which is granted as a special gratuity for his unparalleled exertions to ensure the success of the last festival, and therefore there is a valid reason "why the other secretaries should not be placed in a similar position."

If Bro. Binckes were not allowed travelling expenses, many brethren in distant parts of the country would remain ignorant of the Boys' Institution, and the school would lose more pounds in this way than it will shillings by defraying necessary expenses. Hoping some better qualified brethren may answer "Quidnunc,"

I am, &c.,

SENEX.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—"Quidnunc" has sounded a trumpet which will reverberate through the length and breadth of the land.

Is it to be credited that the office expenses of our charities, whose normal income from the subscriptions of brethren is about £12,000 per annum, are to be increased, as hinted by "Quidnunc" in his 7th query, to something like £2000 per annum, or one-sixth of the gross sum received? Surely this cannot be, or else a moral blindness must have overspread the Craft.

I for one at once avow that I do not grudge Bro. Binckes one farthing of any amount awarded him in recognition of great and special services; but there the committee ought to have stopped. They have no right to saddle an institution just shaking off a load of debt with another permanent incubus, and if persisted in, their resolution will have a sad effect upon the school itself. This is an age of enquiry; and if a system cannot bear the light of discussion, too surely will it crumble into dust.

I know that strong expressions of dissatisfaction have been vented in reference to the recent proceedings; but finding that remonstrance is in vain, brethren will shrug their shoulders and say, "It can't be helped;" but their guineas will not be so readily forthcoming in future, until they are better satisfied with the disposal of the funds.

I am, yours fraternally,

ONE WHOSE GUINEAS ARE SCARCE.

THISTLES LODGE, GLASGOW.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—My attention has been directed to an absurd notification of a supper in connection with the Glasgow Thistle Lodge, No. 87, as given at the bottom of the last column of the 4th page of your imprint of the 24th ult. The brethren who have so imposed upon your editorial vigilance and Masonic discernment are too well known in this province for their peculiar proclivities and love of discord, and doubtless their absence on the occasion referred to was conducive to that harmony for which, even in their capricious and gratuitous communication to you, they give the entertainment credit. Apparently they could not find an exponent of their malice in the local press, which courteously gave publicity to the event, so really they must be excused for skulking all the way to London for an innocent vehicle for their spleen. Let us in all charity forgive them, knowing they could not help it, for 'tis their nature; so

"Lightly tread, 'tis hallowed ground;

No farther seek their merits to disclose,

Or draw their frailties from their dread abode."

The fact is, Bro. Editor, that a complimentary supper was given by the S.W. of the Thistle Lodge to the office-bearers and others, the only stipulation being that sixpence per guest should be levied as an offering to the old and incapacitated Tyler; and it is pleasant to have to state that, after enjoying a most social evening, the brethren were enabled to send something home to gladden the heart of Bro. Robert Walker. Craving an insertion of this letter in your first issue, and hoping your journal may long flourish as a medium of promoting and maintaining concord and true Masonic sentiment, as well as practice, amongst brethren,

I am, yours fraternally,

WM. LAWSON, Sec., Thistle, No. 87.

CHAIR DEGREE.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read with much interest the letters in THE FREEMASON upon the above degree; but I question if the formality called "Chaining" in the Scotch three-step lodges is a distinct degree at all. I received it as part of the M.M. degree, and have bestowed it as such often since. The obligation proves that a M.M. is entitled to receive it, without relation of his election to the chair of the lodge, although election to the latter is now the only way that a M.M. is entitled to receive it, in shape of installation, according to Grand Lodge laws. I am of opinion that the Grand Lodge of Scotland has allowed itself to be cozened out of this by the R.A.C. in its scramble for degrees, and that chaining belongs as much to the M.M. degree as the Mark does to the F.C. The new mode of "Chaining" may be renovated Masonry, but is certainly not the Masonry practised by our forefathers, and if correct as I saw it performed lately in my lodge, is little better than a farce, and is diametrically opposed to the first principles of Masonry.

Yours fraternally,

R. CRAIG, P.M. of St. John's, 157.
Beith, May 8th, 1869.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In THE FREEMASON of April 3, p. 5, and again of April 24th, p. 9, I made some remarks upon the above subject which do not seem to please "Ammi." Neither does he seem to fully understand some of them; because, as I suppose, he has not read them carefully. However, I shall try to give him a little "more light" upon the subject. English Masons practise a ceremony connected with Blue Masonry, which is conducted in what is called a "Board of Installed Masters," said ceremony being over and above the three degrees. Therefore I hold that if English Masons do so, Scottish Masons may also practise something similar if they choose. However, we need not speculate at all upon the subject, for the case of a lodge working the ceremony of the chair was brought up before the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and turning to Laurie's History, pages 422 and 423, we read as follows:—"In modern times it has been the practice of many of the Royal Arch Chapters to give the Mark Master's and Chair Master's Ceremonial as separate Degrees, classing them after the Master's Degree; this is contrary to the practice of the Ancient Craft Lodges, who class the former with the Fellow-craft, and the latter with the Master Mason Degree. Dr. Oliver, in referring to the Mark Master, in his Landmarks, remarks, 'that this is usually classed after the Master's Degree, but in strict propriety it ought to precede it, for the Mark Master is but the Master of a Lodge of Fellow-crafts.'" (It will be understood I differ from Dr. Oliver on some points; my remarks show where). "This difference of opinion was decided by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in so far as it affected the lodges under her jurisdiction, at the Quarterly Communication held in November, 1858. On that occasion a representation was made by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow that the Lodge of Glasgow, St. John, was practising the Mark and Chair Master Degrees; which degrees, said the memorialists, were neither recognised nor practised by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. In defence it was alleged that the Lodge of Glasgow, St. John, did not recognise them as separate degrees, but as portions of the Fellow-craft and Master's degrees"—(I did not call it a separate degree, but "the chair," or "chaining," or "a sort of side degree." The reasoning of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and mine are somewhat different, but our conclusions are the same, viz., to keep up the chair),—"sanctioned by the laws and constitutions of the Grand Lodge. After mature deliberation, the Grand Lodge, without a division, found that the Lodge of Glasgow St. John was in perfect order, and dismissed the complaint."

I know that Royal Arch Masons are rather sore upon this point; but I cannot help that; they wish to keep the Mark and the Chair to themselves, but you see the Grand Lodge of Scotland says no! The Royal Arch may keep all its other points, lights, secrets, &c., to itself, but not the Mark and Chair, for the working of them on the Blue, the Grand Lodge of Scotland says, "was in perfect order!" Just think of that, Bro. "Ammi"—wasn't that too bad of the Grand Lodge—casting aside your suggestion too, as given at page 9 of THE FREEMASON for April 17th—"Let Grand Lodge make an example by suspending lodges working those degrees, then farewell to Chair on the Blue." Too bad! Of course if any lodges practise other Royal Arch degrees, or make Knights Templar, &c. (neither of which I ever saw done), I have no objection that they should be suspended, if you like, when they unwarrantably practise such tomfoolery. In THE FREEMASON for April 24th, page 9, I spoke of old Scottish lodges (many of which as operative Masonic Lodges existed long before A.D. 1700, and

which in process of time gradually were turned into the Free-masonic Lodges), whose "Fellow-crafts got their Marks recorded in their books long before the Royal Arch was born, and whose master, when elected, filled the chair long before the Royal Arch was ever heard of. Your Royal Arch ideas are a new creation, merely of last century, whereas we were in existence long before."

"Filled the chair," that is, sat in the chair, and discharged the duties belonging to the office of a Master. Thus the "chaining" of the Master or Deacon, and the office of Master was in existence long before the Master Mason degree. When the new Master was formerly elected he was placed in his chair, and had to "pay off" to the whole lodge assembled, while the members no doubt paid him due honour. The chaining not taking place as now in England, merely before those who had previously held the office of Master, but before the whole lodge, consequently the Scottish brethren seem to have in this respect kept nearer the "old landmarks." The practice of "chaining" may have existed in the old operative lodges for above four centuries back, although not exactly under the same circumstances, or with precisely the same ceremony, as now.

If I have committed any mistakes in the above or former remarks, I shall be most happy to acknowledge them when pointed out to me, or when proved to be such, my only object being to give or receive "more light."

I am, yours fraternally,

LEO.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—"Ammi" asks what I "think of the Masonry that existed at the building of Solomon's Temple?" in answer to which I can tell him, that I consider there was nothing extraordinary about it; and I believe it was "possibly excelled by other co-existent structures." And as for its size it was undoubtedly much smaller than many of the noble buildings which existed among the neighbouring nations. As a temple of architecture Solomon's Temple, *per se*, had, in comparison with other then extant productions, nothing to boast of. We have been too apt "to forget that the great glory of Solomon's Temple did not consist in its structure, but in its worship, and the ideas connected therewith."

One circumstance about the site of Solomon's Temple has been an altogether unnecessary matter of wonder, viz., the high wall or dyke which the nature of the ground rendered it necessary to build up, so as to enlarge the area as required for the foundations of the intended building. Now, what people can see extraordinary about a high plain wall I know not. Give any common sensible mason a sufficient foundation, and money to pay the expense, and he could easily put up a wall twice as high as Solomon's.

There is a hundred times more architectural skill, or knowledge, ability, or brain-work, required and displayed in the structure of one of our still extant old Gothic Cathedrals, with their beautiful high spires, &c., &c., than in ten Solomon's Temples. While saying so I trust I shall not be misunderstood, for, at the same time I assert that for many important reasons the excavations now going on at Jerusalem deserve to be viewed with great interest by all, especially Christians and Bible-readers, there being more in it than the mere shape or size of the stones; therefore all Christian churches and Masonic lodges ought to contribute to the exploration fund.

As a specimen of architecture, that *Petit Temple*, or pretty little Temple of Solomon's, might now, comparatively speaking, be almost called a "Nehushtan." Why, it might be set down in one of our large cathedrals, and take up no more room relatively than a common handbox (or hat-box) inside a large chest. Or to compare Solomon's Temple to some of the pre-Christian Grecian edifices would be to liken some of our modern classic church abortions (steeple! and all included) to the Parthenon.

I hope that Bro. "Ammi" will be satisfied with my opinion "of the Masonry that existed at the building of Solomon's Temple." It may be new to him; but he would do well to think over it before he says much about it. And as for any "Freemasonry" supposed to have existed then, that is a mere dream. Were Freemasons generally to study the literature of Freemasonry, in conjunction with the history of architecture and general history, rather more than has been yet done, we might by-and-bye soon get out of the eternal circle of Freemasonic nonsense which has until lately been so current. Then, as now, Masonry—i.e., operative Masonry—existed, but not Freemasonry; therefore, as I have already stated, the noblest laurels of "Freemasonry" do not lie in the past, but in the future—they have yet to be won.

And as for "Masonic Marks," why, if a mason then lifted a soft brick he would very likely leave the marks of his fingers on it, which would be

nothing mysterious, although made by a mason; and suppose a mason was cutting stones, and the overseer desired to measure off his work, and give each man his particular portion to execute, what more commonplace or sensible than that the workman would have to put some distinguishing mark—simply "his mark"—upon the stones he wrought? This "mason's mark" on the stone, therefore, simply showed who did the work, and would also enable the overseer, or master of the work, to understand where it was to go, and who to blame if it was not correctly wrought. But "Ammi" may say—these marks must have a mysterious meaning, because, see, there are "circles, triangles, &c.," to which I answer, suppose they are "circles, triangles, &c.," what about it? what else could they be? If a mark is to be made at all it must be of some shape, and their variety shows that a needful circumstance was that the mark of one party should be different from that of another. And the mark which a mason would be likely to adopt would be some figure, letter, sign or symbol which, having seen somewhere, had caught his fancy. Again, although some of these "mason's marks" on stones should happen to be similar to some religious or civil symbol, it does not therefore follow that said figure, when used as a "mason's mark" on the stone, has either the same meaning or intention as the symbol which is used under other circumstances. Many of these supposed symbols on the stones are, I consider, simply the mark of the workman, or perhaps sometimes of the overseer, or the initial of, or sign, or symbol for, his name.

I am, yours fraternally,

LEO.

MASONIC RITUALS.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am sorry to have again to differ from "Delta." In the *Freemason* for April 24th, p. 9, I was not "writing on a wholly different subject," for although my letter then was headed "Chair Degree," it is only the first paragraph, of 28 lines, that refers thereto; all the rest of the letter, as any one could easily perceive from the prefatory remark, line 29th, refers to what "Delta," &c., had been treating on. But be that as it may—to the point. "Delta" said, "In a ritual preserved, as that of Masonry is, by tradition only." I denied that, and I do so still. "Delta" now adds, "I need hardly premise that my observation applied only to Blue or Craft Masonry, which alone formed the subject of my letter; and subject to this limitation, I think it will appear that my words were strictly correct." "Delta" now jumps out of the frying-pan into the fire; because, even "subject to this limitation," I still have to inform him, that, allowing it was "Blue or Craft Masonry which alone formed the subject of his letter," his words were—as he knows, or ought to know, and as his letter of May 8th, p. 9, to any with half an eye distinctly proves—anything but "strictly correct."

Speaking generally, I consider there has been far too many "white lies," or too much "writing ingeniously," anent Freemasonry; it is high time this was stopped. Our Order teaches us to act upon the square, which of course includes that we are also to write upon the square, neither attempting to deceive our brethren, ourselves, or the public at large. So shall we be respected by all. Further, as regards our rituals, except perhaps part of the first degree, they are new creations since the beginning of last century, and any "traditions" regarding the connection of said rituals with our "Freemasonry" could only have existed since then; but I can go further, and say that there was no such thing in existence as our present *Freemasonry* previous to about A.D. 1700. I may have more to say upon this point again; meantime I can refer to THE FREEMASON of April 10th, page 6, for some of my ideas there afloat. Before closing, I would not wish to leave our esteemed brother, "Delta," in the well; but, holding out the right hand of fellowship by which *terra firma* is reached, I would merely add—We can surely understand each other.

I am, yours fraternally,

LEO.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I shall feel obliged if you will permit me, through the medium of your journal, to make it known to the brethren who attended the festival yesterday, that it is my intention to bring before the next Board of Stewards the style in which we were treated by the contractor for the banquet, and that I shall be happy to receive any written communication from brethren on this subject.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

H. W. HEMSWORTH, W.M.,
And Steward for the Oak Lodge, 190.
17, Stratford Place, W, May 13.

GRANDMASONIC FESTIVAL AT ROCHDALE.

On Thursday last week, a Provincial Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of East Lancashire was held in the Lyceum, Baillie-street, Rochdale. The lodge was opened by the Provincial Grand Master (Bro. S. Blair), who was attended by Bro. A. H. Royds, P.D.P.G.M. for East Lancashire, and P.G.M. for Worcester; and several past and present officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge. Representatives of 70 out of the 75 lodges in the province were present. The accounts for the past year, which were presented by the P.G. Treas. (Bro. Barker), showed that a balance of £70 was in hand, after making all grants and investing £300 in stock. Bro. J. D. Kennedy, of the Blair Lodge, was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year; and the following appointments were made:—Bros. J. M. Wike, P.S.G.W.; T. Radley, P.G. Chaplain; C. Heywood, P.G. Registrar; T. Tunnah, P.G. Secretary; W. H. Prince (Rochdale), P.S.G.D.; J. Duffield, P.G. Superintendent of Works; J. Titmarsh, P.G. Director of Ceremonies; C. M. Jones, P.G.A.D.C.; W. Gouldthorpe, P.G. Organist.

Mr. J. L. HINE, President of the Charity Committee, read the proceedings of the several meetings which the committee had held since the last Provincial Grand Lodge, and referred to the election of two girls from East Lancashire to the Institute in London. He stated that the appeal made to the province on behalf of the Boys' Institute had resulted in answers from 40 of the 70 lodges, and individual donations had been subscribed amounting in the aggregate to nearly £2,000. A further sum of £900 was required to redeem the promise made on behalf of the province. Amongst the donations to the Boys' School was one of 1,000 guineas given by the Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, which gave them a right in perpetuity of nominating one boy to the school.

At the conclusion of the lodge, the brethren, to the number of upwards of 300, marched in procession to the Prince of Wales Theatre, where dinner awaited them. The weather, unfortunately, was very unpropitious for the display of the regalia, but, notwithstanding this drawback, it did not affect the after proceedings. During dinner the band of the 24th L. R. V. was stationed in the gallery, and played selections of music at intervals. When the post-prandial proceedings commenced the boxes were filled with ladies, who seemed to take much interest in the proceedings. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Wrigley, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. The vocalists were: Miss Winward, Mrs. Howarth; Bros. Edmundson, Dumville, Bailey, and Wroe; pianist, Bro. John McNaught.

The CHAIRMAN (Stephen Blair, Esq., P.G.M.) proposed the first toast: "The Queen." He congratulated Rochdale upon having had the most successful gathering since he became the P.G.M. of East Lancashire, twenty-three years ago. (Applause.) He said the first toast he had to propose was the Queen. The purity and goodness of her rule was only equalled by her desire to see her people happy and prosperous. He was sure they would drink it with much heartiness. (Applause.)

"God save the Queen," Masonic version.

The CHAIRMAN next gave the toast of "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and rest of the Royal Family." The members of the royal family, he said, had been doing their best to make themselves known, both in this country and abroad, and he had no doubt when the Prince was called to his high destiny, that he would be found worthy of his noble progenitors.

Glee, "God bless the noble pair."

The CHAIRMAN next gave "The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England. (Applause.) He said he was in London the other day at the inauguration of the Grand Lodge of England. The Earl of Zetland was present, and he was happy to tell the brethren, though he was getting up in years that he was in good health. He had been W.G.W. of England for twenty-five years, and a number of gentlemen had subscribed a testimonial of £5,000 for his services to the Order, but he said he would not receive a farthing, but asked that it might be so disposed as to be a benefit to the poor Freemasons of England. (Applause.) He was much pleased with the inauguration of the lodge in London, and the manner in which it was conducted; but he was far better pleased at the manner in which things had been conducted this day. (Applause.) He concluded by expressing a hope that the Earl of Zetland would long be G.M. over them. The toast was received with "twenty and one."

Glee, "Honour to Masonry."

P.G.C. Bro. RADLEY proposed the next toast, "Brother the Right Hon. Earl Grey, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of England, and the rest of the Grand Officers." He said in the history of Freemasonry in Lancashire, and perhaps in no part of the country, was there such a company to greet them. (Applause.) He rose with great pleasure to propose the toast, which was not a formal toast, as they knew that on organisation depended the success of every institution, whether good or bad. (Applause.) And when they had such men at their head, they could not be surprised that Masonry had advanced so much during the past twenty years. The

Earl de Grey and Ripon was also the P.G.M. of West Yorkshire. In Lancashire he hoped they would only cultivate that spirit of brotherly rivalry which produced good works. He had, therefore, great pleasure in proposing the health of Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the rest of the Grand officers.

Glee, "Blow, gentle Gales."

Bro. WIKE, P.G.S.W., proposed the next toast, "Bro. Stephen Blair, Esq., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire." Bro. Blair, he said, first came to Lancashire under the presidency of the Earl of Mlesmere, whom he succeeded as Grand Master. After twenty-three years of rule they had him there amongst them in health and strength. (Applause.) He had the pleasure of having the acquaintance of many Provincial Grand Masters, but he knew no one so worthy of his position. He alluded to the many men of high birth who might be called ornamental Grand Masters; but if they wanted a Grand Master in his Craft, they had him in Stephen Blair, even when he was a poor Mason in Bolton. If they wanted a leader in their charities, in him they had such as no province could show. As an example of his generosity he mentioned that the Master had presented 1,000 guineas to the Boys' School. (Loud applause.)

Glee, "When the Temple's first stone."

The CHAIRMAN, when he rose to respond, was received with loud and prolonged cheers. He said he was greatly obliged to them for the manner in which they had received the last toast. From his youth he had always had a love for Freemasonry, and very early in life he came into the Grand Lodge, and, as Bro. Wike had said, by industry he had worked himself up to his present position. When he first came into office there were 30 lodges in the province. Now they had 70 lodges in East Lancashire, and 4,000 subscribers. (Applause.) By their help, and by his steering the way, they had become what they were. He referred to the principles of Masonry, and said there was nothing by which their Order would be more advanced than by opening the benevolent hand. "The poor they had always with them," and he had always done what he could to assist his poorer brethren. He thanked them from his heart for the kind compliment they had paid him, and he hoped often to be able to meet them; and when they happened to bring anything forward for a charitable object, he would always lend a helping hand. (Applause.)

Bro. A. H. ROYDS, P.G.M. of Worcestershire, proposed the next toast, "Bro. W. R. Callender, jun., Esq., Deputy Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers." He said he proposed that toast with no little feeling of respect, because it had never previously been his privilege to propose the health of their Deputy, whom he regretted was not present with them. He envied him his situation, a situation which he had himself long held.

Glee, "Now tramp."

Bro. PARKER responded to the toast. He and they must all regret that Bro. Callender was prevented through sickness from being present with them.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "The Provincial Grand Masters and the officers of other Provinces." Freemasons, he said, were always willing to extend the kind hand of fellowship towards those friends who came to see them.

Glee, "The Dawn of Day"

Bro. ROYDS returned thanks as an officer of a distant province. In Worcestershire they could not compete with Lancashire in masonry, but he was happy to say that since he was last with them he had opened a new lodge.

Bro. HIND, P.P.G.T., proposed the next toast, "The Masonic Charities." He alluded to the charities connected with the Order, and hoped they would do all they could to extend their usefulness.

Glee, "Burns' Farewell to his lodge."

The remaining toasts were, "The Rochdale, Whitworth, Smallbridge, and Wardle Lodges," proposed by Dr. LEES, P.P.G.S.W., and responded to by Bro. HOLROYD, W.M., of 298; "The Visiting Brethren," proposed by Bro. PRINCE, P.G.S.D., and responded to by Bro. Rev. HENRY JONES, of West Yorkshire; "The Ladies," proposed by Brother CROXTON, P.P.G.S.D., East Lancashire, and responded to by Bro. CHADWICK, P.M., 816; and "To all Poor and Distressed Masons—a Speedy Relief." The glees after each of the latter toasts were, "Stay! Pry'thee, Stay," "Sleep, Gentle Lady," and "All hail! thou Queen of Night."

After the departure of the provincial officers votes of thanks were accorded to Bros. P.M. Wm. Roberts, P.P.S.P.; and P.M. William Ashworth, hon. sec., to whose energy and perseverance the success of the banquet is to be attributed.

Bro. Barry Sullivan, who has lately opened the Holborn Theatre with every prospect of success, had a very high compliment paid him by his friends and admirers in Liverpool, on the 1st inst. They engaged a special train to convey them to and fro, and at the conclusion, Bro. Sullivan received a perfect ovation.

CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION OF ACACIA LODGE (No. 24), LURGAN.

To-day, the ceremony of opening and dedicating the new Masonic Room, Town Hall, Lurgan, in connection with the Acacia Masonic Lodge (No. 24), took place at four o'clock.

The room which has been selected by the lodge is a wing of the new Town Hall, and is 26 feet by 22, the height being 24 feet. At the head of the room a beautiful canopy, the work of Br. M'Connell, has been erected, underneath which is the Master's chair, and on each side of it are Past Masters' seats. All the chairs have been beautifully carved by Bro. Wm. Lonsdale, of Lurgan, and upholstered in blue velvet. The canopy, which is painted in white, blue, and gold, presents a beautiful appearance; and on the panels are inscribed, in gold letters, the words, "Acacia Lodge, No. 24," the whole ornaments forming the neatest of the kind we have ever seen. The centre of the room was occupied by a beautiful altar, erected on three steps of tessellated pavement; and on the altar were the three greater lights of Masonry, the Holy Bible, square and compass, and the gold and silver vessels connected with the lodge. Amongst the mottoes on the wall was a massive chart, which was executed by Bro. Wm. Lonsdale, of Lurgan, who kindly presented it to the lodge, of which he is a member. The painting of the canopy was executed by Mr. James Robinson and Mr. James Young.

The warrant of this lodge was first moved to Hillsborough in 1817, but in consequence of its becoming inoperative in that neighbourhood it was transferred to Lurgan in 1865, and has been working successfully, the lodge at present consisting of upwards of forty members.

The brethren assembled in the large-room adjoining the new lodge-room shortly before four o'clock, wearing the clothing, jewels, and insignia of their respective orders and the offices which they represented. The directors of ceremonies (Bros. W. R. Kelly and A. A. Lutton) having formed the brethren into procession, they proceeded to the lodge-room, which was, in a most impressive and solemn manner, duly consecrated and dedicated to the purposes of Freemasonry.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER then delivered from the chair an address delivered by the late Bro. the Venerable Archdeacon W. B. Mant, Past Prov. Grand Master of Belfast and North Down, at the dedication of the Masonic Hall, Donegall-place, Belfast, on the 24th of June, 1850. In conclusion, he said: I would congratulate you, brethren of Lodge 24, on the dedication to the purposes of Freemasonry of this room, which, although not of very large dimensions, is sufficiently spacious for the celebration of the ceremonies, both of your lodge and of the higher orders of Masonry with which some of us are connected, and appears to be commodiously situated and well arranged. I am happy to have been able to take part in so interesting a ceremonial; and I heartily wish that this lodge may long continue to flourish and increase in numbers and respectability; may long enjoy the use of this room, in peace, love, and harmony; and may set an example and model to the Masonic fraternities of the North, by the correctness of their working, the regularity of their discipline, and their adherence to the true grand principles of brotherly love, mutual relief, and pursuit of truth!

A Masonic version of the National Anthem was then sung, and the lodge was closed in ancient form.

The following visiting brethren were in attendance at the ceremony:—William Redfern Kelly, P.G.J.D., County Antrim; John Ireland, P.P.J.W., County Antrim; John Gilbert, 134; G. W. M'Cutcheon, 334; W. Bailey, 219, Portadown; Isaiah Kilpatrick, 219; Wm. Hall, P.M., R.A.C., 82, Portadown; Wm. Paris, P.M., 134; Frederick W. Magahan, P.M., 134; Samuel Rodgers, M.D., 134; William Anderson, W.M., 367, Downpatrick; John Archer, 335; James Archer, 134; Samuel Parkes, 82; Joseph Totten, 272; Wm. Sands, 66; S. W. Lutton, W.M., 66; John P. Harris, 66; William Baird, P.M., 134; George Haslett, P.M. and K., 134; Wm. Macoun, P.M. and P.K., 134, H.K.T.; Wm. Herron, R.A.C. and S.W., 134; John H. Farrell, P.M., 82, Portadown; James Donn, 39; A. C. Innes, 246; and H. Greer, P.M., 134.

After the ceremonies, two new members were initiated, and subsequently the brethren sat down to dinner, which was supplied in excellent style by Mr. Thompson, of Lurgan, the dining-room being decorated with appropriate symbols, put up under the superintendence of Mr. Lonsdale.—*Belfast News Letter*, 11th May.

Worldly good, to deserving persons requiring aid, does not come by any seeming supernatural power. It comes by means that are perfectly natural. Favourable circumstances occur. It comes from a friendly disposition, a desire to serve, an inclining of the heart—when an angel whispers no word is spoken, but a thought comes most heavenly.—*Ellis*.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWO GRAND LODGES OF ENGLAND IN RATIFICATION OF THE UNION, 1813.

Grand Assembly of Freemasons, for the Union of the two Grand Lodges of England, on St. John's Day, 27th December, 1813.

(Concluded.)

His Royal Highness was placed on the Throne by the Duke of Kent and the Count Lagardje, and solemnly obligated. The Grand Installation was fixed for St. George's Day.

Proclamation was then made that the Most Worshipful Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness, Baron Arklow, Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, was elected and enthroned Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England. And His Royal Highness received the homage of the Fraternity.

His Royal Highness the Grand Master, previous to nominating his Grand Officers, took occasion to observe that he had written to an exalted and distinguished nobleman to be his Deputy Grand Master, who being absent from London, and not able to return an answer in time for this meeting, His Royal Highness did not feel himself at liberty to name him, but would take the earliest opportunity of communicating the appointment. He then nominated the following Brothers to be the Grand Officers for the year ensuing:—The Rev. Samuel Hemming, D.D., Senior Grand Warden; Isaac Lindo, Esq., Junior Grand Warden; John Dent, Esq., Grand Treasurer; William Meyrick, Esq., Grand Register; William Henry White and Edwards Harper, Grand Secretaries; Rev. Edward Barry, D.D., and Rev. Lucius Coghlan, D.D., Grand Chaplains; Rev. Henry Isaac Knapp, Deputy Grand Chaplain; John Soane, Esq., Grand Superintendent of the Works; Sir George Nayler, Grand Director of the Ceremonies; Captain Jonathan Parker, Grand Sword bearer; Samuel Wesley, Esq., Grand Organist; Benjamin Aldhouse, Grand Usher; William V. Salmon, Grand Tyler.

It was then solemnly proclaimed that the two Grand Lodges were incorporated and consolidated into one, and the Grand Master declared it to be open in due form according to ancient usage.

The Grand Lodge was then called to refreshment, and the cup of Brotherly love was delivered by the Junior Grand Warden to the Past Deputy Grand Master, who presented the same to the Grand Master; he drank to the Brethren—"Peace, good will, and Brotherly love, all over the world;"—and he passed it. During its going round, the vocal band performed a song and glee.

The Grand Lodge was re-called to labour, when as the first act of the United Fraternity, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, after an elegant introduction, moved—

"1. That an humble Address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, respectfully to acquaint him with the happy event of the Re-union of two Grand Lodges of Ancient Freemasons of England—an event which cannot fail to afford a lively satisfaction to their Illustrious Patron, who presided for so many years over one of the Fraternities; and under whose auspices Freemasonry has risen to its present flourishing condition. That the unchangeable principles of the Institution are well known to his Royal Highness, and the great benefits and end of this Re-union are to promote the influence and operation of these principles, by more extensively inculcating loyalty and affection to their Sovereign—obedience to the laws and magistrates of their country—and the practice of all the religious and moral duties of life—objects which must ever be dear to his Royal Highness in the government of his Majesty's United Kingdom. That they humbly hope and pray for the continuance of the sanction of his Royal Highness's fraternal patronage; and that they beg leave to express their fervent gratitude for the many blessings which, in common with all their fellow subjects, they derive from his benignant sway.

"That the great Architect of the Universe may long secure these blessings to them and to their country, by the preservation of his Royal Highness, their Illustrious Patron!"

This motion was seconded by the Honourable Washington Shirley, and passed unanimously, and with Masonic honours. This was followed by a motion—

"2. That this Address, signed by the Grand Master, be presented to his Royal Highness, accompanied by the Past Grand Masters, his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and his Grace the Duke of Athol."

The R.W. Bro. Williams, Provincial Grand Master for Dorsetshire, moved

"3. That the grateful Thanks of this United Grand Lodge be given to the Most Worshipful their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Kent and Duke of Sussex for the gracious condescension with which they yielded to the prayer of the United Fraternities to take upon themselves the personal conduct of the negotiation for a Re-union, which is this day, through their zeal, conciliation, and fraternal example, so happily completed. To state to them that the removal of all the

slight differences which have so long kept the Brotherhood asunder, will be the means of establishing in the Metropolis of the British Empire one splendid edifice of Ancient Freemasonry, to which the whole Masonic World may confidently look for the maintenance and preservation of the pure principles of the Craft, as handed down to them from time immemorial under the protection of the illustrious branches of the Royal House of Brunswick; and may their Royal Highnesses have the heartfelt satisfaction of long beholding the beneficent effects of their work, in the extension and practice of the virtues of loyalty, morality, brotherly love, and benevolence, which it has been ever the great object of Masonry to inculcate and of its laws to enforce."

This was also unanimously approved; and was followed by a motion, made by John Dent, Esq., Grand Treasurer—

"4. That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be given to the Right Worshipful James Perry, James Agar, and Thomas Harper, Past Deputy Grand Masters; the Right Worshipful Waller Rodwell Wright, Provincial Grand Master; the Right Worshipful Arthur Tegar and James Deans, Past Grand Wardens; Commissioners appointed by the two Fraternities to assist the illustrious Princes in the said negotiation—for the zeal, conciliation, and ability with which they discharged their important trust therein."

The following Resolutions were also severally put, and carried in the affirmative unanimously:—

"5. That Books be opened by the Grand Secretaries for the regular entry and record of the proceedings of this United Grand Lodge; and that there be inserted therein, in the first instance, an account of all the Resolutions and Proceedings of both Grand Lodges with respect to the Negotiation for the Union, and of the conferences of the Commissioners thereon; together with a copy of the Articles of Union, and the confirmation thereof; also copies of Letters written by their Royal Highnesses the two Grand Masters, and Grand Secretaries, addressed to the Most Worshipful the Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of Scotland and Ireland, announcing the same, together with the Resolutions of those Grand Lodges in reply.

"6. That the proceedings of this day be communicated to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, and to express to them that this United Grand Lodge feels with the most sensible satisfaction the Fraternal interest which they take in the important event of this day. To assure them that it is the anxious desire of this Grand Lodge to maintain the most constant, cordial and intimate communion with the Sister Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom, to which end they are persuaded that nothing is so essential as the preservation of one pure and unadulterated system founded on the simple and ancient traditions of the Craft.

"7. That all the Rules, Orders, Regulations, and Acts of the two Grand Lodges, previous to their consolidation and union, be upheld, maintained, and enforced, by the United Grand Lodge, subject to reconsideration on the establishment of a new code

"8. That a New Code of Laws, By-laws, Rules and Regulations for the Grand Lodge, for private Lodges, and generally for the whole government of the Craft, together with a Book of Constitutions for the same, be made out with all convenient speed, and submitted to the Grand Lodge for their consideration and approval. And that the Commissioners for the Union be empowered to take the necessary steps for the preparation of the same, by engaging such assistance as they may deem expedient thereto."

"9. That there be established Committees, or Boards of Grand Officers, for the administration of Finances, of the Works, of the Schools, and of General Purposes, who shall meet on days to be fixed and announced. And that the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Deputy and Past Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Treasurer, Grand Register, Grand Secretaries, and the Grand Wardens for the time being, together with the other three Commissioners of the Union, be Members of all the Boards; the Senior Grand Officer present to take the chair. That one of the two Grand Secretaries shall attend these Boards, to keep regular minutes of the proceedings, and that the same shall be reported to the Grand Lodge ensuing, for their consideration and approval."

Several other Resolutions were also passed relative to the internal management of the Grand Lodge; and the Most Worshipful Grand Master announced, that in order not to interrupt the course of Masonic benevolence, he should direct summonses to be issued to twelve Masters of Lodges, to assemble on the third Wednesday of every month as a Committee of Benevolence agreeably to Article XIX. of the Act of Union, to take into consideration such petitions as might be presented to them for Masonic aid. And that it would be expected, in case either of the said twelve Masters so summoned could not attend, he should delegate a Past Master of his own Lodge to represent him, properly clothed in the insignia of Master.

And further the Grand Master announced, that he should permit and authorise his own private Seal of Arms to be used on the issuing of Certificates and other documents, until the new great seal should be prepared.

The United Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form, and with solemn prayer.

The Grand Officers and the Brotherhood then repaired to the Crown and Anchor Tavern, where a grand banquet was provided. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex in the chair; supported on the right by his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and on the left by his Excellency Count De Lagardje, and other distinguished foreigners. The auspicious day was concluded with the most festive harmony and brotherly love.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending May 22, 1869.

Monday, May 17.

- Lodge No. 1, "Grand Masters," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 8, "British," ditto.
 " 21, "Emulation," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
 " 58, "Felicity," London Tavern, Bishopsgate-st.
 " 720, "Panmure," Balham Hotel, Balham.
 " 1201, "Eclectic," Freemasons' Hall.
 R.A.Chap., 12, "Prudence," Ship and Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-street.

Tuesday, May 18.

- Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
 Lodge No. 73, "Mount Lebanon," Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
 " 95, "Eastern Star," Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
 " 165, "Honor and Generosity," London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
 " 194, "St. Paul's," City Terminus hotel, Cannon-st.
 " 435, "Salisbury," 71, Dean-street, Soho.
 " 704, "Camden," Lamb Hotel, Metropolitan Cattle Market.
 " 857, "St. Mark's," Horns Tavern, Kennington.
 Chap. No. 19, "Mount Sinai," Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-st.
 " 186, "Industry," Freemasons' Hall.
 Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury at 7; Com. Brett, Preceptor.
 Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Palmerston Tavern, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, at 7.30.

Wednesday, May 19.

- General Committee of Grand Lodge and Lodge of Benevolence, Freemasons' Hall at 7.
 Lodge No. 174, "Sincerity," Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars.
 " 619, "Beadon," Greyhound Tavern, Dulwich.
 " 700, "Nelson," Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich.
 " 969, "Maybury," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 1150, "Buckingham & Chandos, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 1159, "Marquis of Dalhousie," Freemasons' Hall.

Thursday, May 20.

- House Committee, Girls' School, at 4.
 Lodge No. 55, "Constitutional," City Terminus Hotel, Cannon street.
 " 63, "St. Mary's," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 169, "Temperance," High-street, Deptford.
 K.T. Encampment, "Observance," 14, Bedford-row.
 Red x Plantagenet Preceptory of Instruction, Lyceum Tavern, Strand, at 7.

Friday, May 21.

- Annual General Meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at Freemasons' Hall, at 12.
 House Committee, Boys' School, at 4.
 Lodge No. 6, "Friendship," Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.
 " 143, "Middlessex," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
 " 813, "New Concord," Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
 R.A.Chap., 5, "St. George's," Freemasons' Hall.
 Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury, at 7.

Saturday, May 22.

- Red Cross Conclave, "Rose and Lily," No. 3, Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, Surrey.

Bro. Geo. Tedder, who has for so many years been an old favourite of the public, announces a benefit in the New Assembly Room, Bath-place, Upper Holloway, lately opened by him, on May the 10th and 17th. The programme is of a very attractive nature, embracing the names of some very excellent singers, namely, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Mlme. Florence and Miss Susan Pyne, Miss Blanche Reeves, Bros. W. J. Fielding, G. Buckland, and G. Tedder; Miss F. Crellin, Messrs. Ferguson, Massey, Fairburn, Charles Braid, &c.

We have been informed that Captain Warren, R.E., and Sergeant Bertie, who are now exploring the subterranean chambers of Jerusalem, and the ancient water supply of the Holy City, have been invited to become hon. members of St. Kew Lodge, No. 1222, at Weston-super-Mare. A resolution to that effect was proposed by Capt. Irwin, and seconded by Gen. Gore Munbie, R.E., and the Secretary has communicated with those gentlemen (and brothers) through H.M. Consul. An answer is expected daily, the result of which shall be communicated to THE FREEMASON. Bros. Warren and Bertie have made most interesting and important Masonic discoveries, which cannot be fully disclosed at the present time.