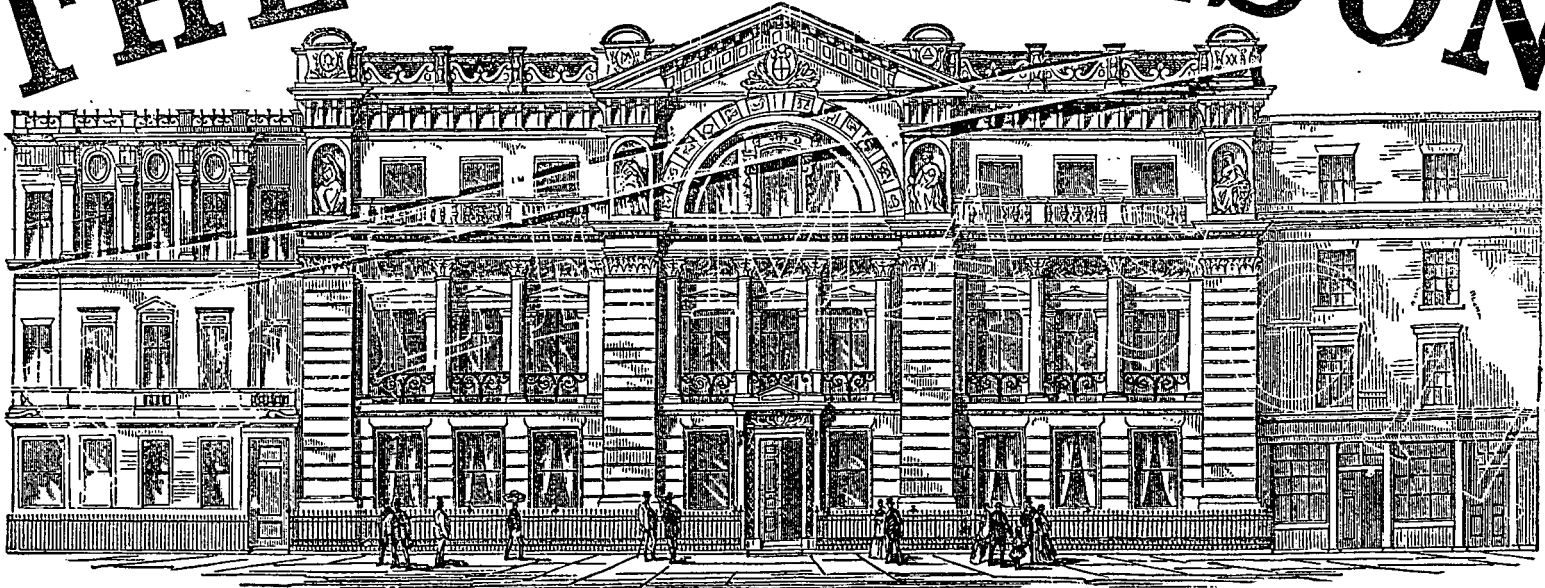


THE FREEMASON



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

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ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

BY THE SON OF SALATHIEL.

(Continued.)

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“Thus saith Cyrus the king, since God Almighty hath appointed me to be king of the habitable earth, I believe that He is that God which the nation of the Israelites worship; for indeed he foretold my name by the prophets, and that I should build him an house at Jerusalem in the country of Judea.’ This was known to Cyrus by his reading the book which Isaiah left behind him of his prophecies, for this prophet said that God had spoken thus to him in a secret vision:—‘My will is that Cyrus, whom I have appointed to be king over many and great

nations, send back my people to their own land, and build my temple.’ This was foretold by Isaiah one hundred and forty years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, when Cyrus read this and admired the divine power, an earnest desire and an ambition seized upon him to fulfil what was so written, so he called for the most eminent Jews that were in Babylon, and said unto them, that he gave them leave to go back to their own country, and to rebuild their city, Jerusalem, and the temple of God, for that he would be their assistant, and that he would write to the rulers and governors that were in the neighbourhood of their country, Judea, that they should contribute to them gold and silver for the building of the temple, and, besides that, beasts for their sacrifices. When Cyrus had said this to the Israelites, the rulers of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin, with the Levites and priests, went to Jerusalem—yet did many of them stay at Babylon, as not being willing to leave their possessions—and when they were come hither all the king’s friends assisted them, and brought in for the building of the temple—some, gold, and some, silver, and some a great many cattle and horses. So they performed their vows to God, and offered the sacrifices that had been accustomed of old time; I mean this, upon the rebuilding of their city, and the revival of the ancient practices relating to their worship. Cyrus also sent back to them the vessels of gold which King Nebuchadnezzar had pillaged out of the temple, and carried away to Babylon. So he committed these things to Mithridates, the treasurer, to be sent away, with an order to give them to Sanabassar, that he might keep them till the temple was built, and when it was finished he might deliver them to the priests and rulers of the multitude, in order to their being restored to the temple. Cyrus also sent an epistle to the governors that were in Syria, the contents whereof here follow:—

“King Cyrus to Sissinnes and Sathrabuzanes,

“Sendeth greeting,

“I have given leave to as many of the Jews that dwell in my country as please to return to their own country, and to rebuild their city, and to build the Temple of God at Jerusalem, on the same place where it was before. I have also sent my treasurer, Mithridates, and Zerobabel, the governor of the Jews, that they may lay the

foundations of the temple, and may build it sixty cubits high, and of the same latitude, making three edifices of polished stones, and one of wood of the country, and the same order extends to the altar whereon they offer sacrifices to God. I require also that the sacrifices for these things be given out of my revenues. Moreover I have also sent the vessels which King Nebuchadnezzar pillaged out of the temple, and have given them to Mithridates, the treasurer, and to Zerobabel, the governor of the Jews, that they may have them carried to Jerusalem, and may restore them to the temple of God. Now, their number is as follows:—Fifty chargers of gold, and five hundred of silver; forty Thericlean cups of gold, and five hundred of silver; fifty basins, of gold, and five hundred of silver; thirty vessels for pouring the drink offerings, and three hundred of silver; thirty vials of gold, and two thousand four hundred of silver; with a thousand other larger vessels. I permit them to have the same honour which they were used to have from their forefathers; as, also, for their small cattle, and for wine and oil, two hundred and five thousand and five hundred drachmæ; and for wheat flour, twenty thousand and five hundred artabæ. And I give order that these expenses shall be given them out of the tributes due from Samaria. The priests, also, shall offer the sacrifices, according to the laws of Moses, in Jerusalem; and when they offer them they shall pray to God for the preservation of the King and of his family, that the kingdom of Persia may continue. But my will is, that those who disobey these injunctions and make them void shall be hung upon a cross, and their substance brought into the King’s treasury.’ And such was the import of this epistle. Now the number of those who came out of captivity to Jerusalem were forty-two thousand four hundred and sixty-two.”

It may be interesting at this stage of our history to glance at certain obsolete degrees, in which the name and character of Cyrus were commemorated to a greater extent than in modern Royal Arch Masonry.

In one of these degrees the lodge-room represented the council chamber of Cyrus, king of Babylon, and was lighted by 70 lamps, to denote the 70 years of the Jewish captivity. The Master represented Cyrus; the senior warden, Nebuzaradan; the junior warden, Mithridates;

and the candidate, Zerubbabel, chained as a captive with fetters formed of triangular links. Zerubbabel presents himself before the king and prays him to grant freedom to the Israelites who desire to return to Jerusalem; this Cyrus promises to do if Zerubbabel will reveal to him the mysteries of Freemasonry. The captive, as a matter of course, rejects the condition, stating, "If my liberty can only be obtained at the price of dishonour, I prefer captivity and the sufferings of servitude." The noble Cyrus is greatly impressed by the courage and discretion with which Zerubbabel guards the secrets of the Order, and agrees to restore the Jews to liberty if Zerubbabel will submit to certain proofs, which the candidate submits to with cheerful fortitude. Zerubbabel is then permitted to set out for Jerusalem, where he announces his arrival to the princes and rulers of Israel, who recognise him as their appointed chief, and form a grand Sanhedrim under his authority.

In another of these degrees, the candidate prefers a complaint against the Samaritans for refusing to pay the tribute imposed on them for defraying the expense of the sacrifices offered to God in the temple. The Master refers him to Darius, to whom the candidate then repairs, and the king issues the following decree: "We Darius, king of kings, willing to favour and protect our people at Jerusalem, after the example of our illustrious predecessor, King Cyrus, do will and ordain, that the Samaritans, against whom complaints have been made, shall punctually pay the tribute money which they owe for the sacrifices of the temple; otherwise they shall receive the punishment due to their disobedience." The candidate returns to Jerusalem, where he is received with great joy as the bearer of so important a mandate, and the princes and rulers of the people reward his zeal and courage by admitting him as a member of their secret council, &c.

These degrees were doubtless based upon the historical fact, that after the death of Cyrus the work at Jerusalem was retarded and interrupted by the malice of the Samaritans, who not only used open violence to hinder the Jews in their arduous undertaking, but also represented them to Cambyses as a seditious and disloyal people. However, upon the accession of Darius Hystaspes to the throne, Zerubbabel took the earliest opportunity of reminding the king of a vow he had formerly made to rebuild the city and temple of Jerusalem, and restore the worship of the true God throughout Judea. Darius at once promulgated the following edict, in which he not only granted the Jews full permission to proceed with the work but also ordered that every assistance should be afforded them by his subjects for that purpose:—

"We have seen the decree of Cyrus, our predecessor, in which permission was granted to the Jews to rebuild their temple and city of Jerusalem. Now, therefore, let the work of the House of God alone; let the governor of the Jews, and the elders of the Jews, build this House of God in its place. Moreover, I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the King's goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expenses be given unto these men that they be not hindered. And the God that hath caused His name to dwell there, destroy all kings and people that shall put their hand to alter and to destroy this House of God which is at Jerusalem. I, Darius, have made a decree, let it be done with speed."

(To be continued.)

Reviews.

"A Letter to the R. W. Brother J. Rankin Stebbing, P. G. D., &c., on Brother Clabon's proposed scheme of Masonic Confiscation." By Brother MATTHEW COOKE, 30°, P. M., P. Z., &c.

In the first number of THE FREEMASON our readers will remember we sounded a note of warning as to the nature and character of Brother Clabon's scheme for the appropriation of the Fund of Benevolence to certain purposes not only foreign to its original design, but calculated to deprive the Craft of all control over moneys which it is our sacred duty to dispense for the relief of the poor and distressed. We then remarked that at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, Bro. Stebbing vigorously protested against the adoption of such a perilous course, and we appealed to the Freemasons of England to oppose this invasion of their rights and privileges. Upon the same subject Bro. Cooke has written a pamphlet in the form of a letter to Bro. Stebbing, in which he denounces the scheme in no measured terms. Speaking of the Fund of Benevolence, he says justly:—

"It is the sole property of Grand Lodge, raised from the accumulation of many, many years—fees of honour; fines; registrations; and a poll tax of the whole Craft. And it is charged with the relief of the poor and the expenses of the Order. The Schools have no interest in it, nor have they the most remote moral claim upon it, either in its regular or surplus amounts. It is a sacred and venerable trust and inheritance—fluctuating from time to time."

We also extract the following account of the origin of the Fund, which we hope the brethren will bear in mind:—

"The Committee of Charity—the forerunner of what was afterwards termed the Board, or Fund of Benevolence—first came into operation on the 21st of November, 1724, and was founded by twenty seven lodges, under the Grand Mastership of the Duke of Richmond. It commenced with 'a general fund for the support of faithful brethren who had met with reverses of fortune, or become poor.' If one argued for a month, I think no plainer definition of the Fund, its objects, and restrictions, could be arrived at. It was to 'support,'—not relieve,—'faithful brethren who had met with reverses of fortune or become poor.'

"That organization, modified from time to time by the admission of widows and children, as petitioners,—not children only claiming, because they are in schools founded by the private beneficence of individual brethren,—has come down to our own day, and so jealously is the right of petition still guarded, that, even now, a widow once relieved cannot petition again.

"That organization is the undoubted place of aid and assistance, from which every Craftsman has the right to demand relief."

We could have wished that Bro. Cooke's letter embodied fewer references to extraneous topics which serve only to confuse the main question, but we are bound to add that, when directed to the point, his arguments are exhaustive, and his denunciations amply warranted by the spoliating nature of the scheme. Bro. Cooke refutes the illogical dictum of the Committee, "That no reason exists for continuing this accumulation" (of the Fund of Benevolence), by quoting the 18th article of union between the two Grand Lodges in 1813 as follows:—

"The Fund appropriated to the objects of Masonic Benevolence, shall not be infringed on for any purpose, but shall be kept strictly and solely devoted to charity; and pains shall be taken to increase the same."

This, we conceive, is unanswerable, and unless the Act of Union be repealed, we are unable to see how any presiding officer in Grand Lodge can allow Bro. Clabon's scheme to be submitted to the vote at the next quarterly communication. But admitting even that the sense of the brethren is taken, we are not in any dread of the result; the authorities have done their duty in circulating the Report of the Confiscation Committee, and as the Craft are now thoroughly alive to the specious character of the proposed innovations, the whole scheme will doubtless be summarily rejected.

Bro. Cooke has done good service by his well-timed letter, which we commend to all our readers who may desire to be thoroughly acquainted with so important a subject.

"Le Monde Maconique." Paris.

"Le Franc-Macon." Paris.

"L'Action Maconique." Paris.

The chronicle of our French contemporary, the *Masonic World*, for April, contains accounts of several Masonic fêtes in Paris. One of these festivals took place on Sunday, the 14th March, in connection with the Lodge *Mars et les Arts*. The lodge was opened at two o'clock in the afternoon, and four gentlemen were initiated according to ancient custom; at five o'clock the celebrated Frère Eugene Pelletan delivered a brilliant oration, in which he defined the objects and character of Freemasonry, and alluded to "Abraham Lincoln, who abolished slavery in America, and Joseph Garibaldi, who freed Italy," as "two of the most illustrious Masons of our era." We confess frankly that, until we read Bro. Pelletan's speech, we were not aware that either

of those eminent men had ever signalled himself in connection with Freemasonry, and we were not quite clear that the martyred American President was even a member of the Craft. To resume, we are glad to find that the oration of Frère Pelletan was greatly applauded; he is an able man, although perhaps too much of a theorist to suit the conservative principles of English Masons.

A banquet followed, at which 270 guests of both sexes sat down. Then the Frère Bancel delivered a discourse on the origin of the Revolution (fancy a scene like this in an English lodge), and a concert succeeded, after which Fr. Jules Simon spoke for an hour on education. The three lodges, "Les Coeurs Unis," "L'Etoile Polaire," and the "Vallées Egyptiennes," celebrated their "Feast of Spring" on the 20th March, at which the programme was similar to that described above, except that the proceedings were wound up with a ball. Among the foreign news in "Le Monde Maconique" we note that the Frère P. Van Humbeek, representative for Brussels, has been elected Grand Master of the G. O. of Belgium; but we regret to observe that both in Belgium and in Germany a movement appears to be gaining ground which has for its object the abolition of the prescribed profession of belief in T. G. A. O. F. U. required from every candidate before his initiation into Freemasonry. Our contemporary notices with just praise the labours of the "Masonic Archæological Institute of England," and refers with admiration to the fine inaugural address of Bro. Hyde Clarke, and to the papers subsequently read by Bros. Lambert and Besant. The "Monde Maconique," we may remark, strenuously supports the views of the advanced school of Masonic freethinkers, whose philosophy is evidently regarded with horror by the Ultramontane party on the Continent; and we may add that the dogmas of those pantheistic brethren are by no means in consonance with the ideas which obtain among English Masons.

"Le Franc-Macon" is the oldest French Masonic print, having been established in 1847. The editor analyzes a book written by M. de Saint Albin, who attacks Freemasonry, and especially the high grades, which he says are "consecrated to Satanic mysteries." There is also a voluminous account of the recent Masonic Congress at Havre, when various questions relating to the progress and utility of Freemasonry were debated by those who attended. There is also an interesting account of the late Bro. Berryer, the great French advocate, who was, it appears, initiated on the 23rd December, 1848, in the Lodge "Chevaliers-Croises," and the "Franc-Macon" closes with an account of the funeral honours paid to Voltaire in the Lodge of "Nine Sisters" on the 28th October, 1778.

"L'Action Maconique" alludes, in strong terms of reprobation, to the facility with which improper persons obtain admission into the Craft. This is an evil against which we have inveighed in THE FREEMASON. Our contemporary points out that in France men are induced to become Freemasons by appeals to their imagination or to their mercenary interests, instead of having their attention directed to the true objects of the institution. The "Action Maconique" is in favour of the suppression of the high grades; but its views are combated in a letter from Frère Alexandre Roy, to which insertion is given in the number under review.

MASONIC LITERATURE.

We understand that Bro. D. Murray Lyon (of Ayr), the accomplished Masonic author, has just received permission from the members of the St. Mary Chapel Lodge, No. 1, Edinburgh, to examine their ancient records with a view to publishing such extracts as may tend to throw any light on the history of that old lodge, which has existed for upwards of three centuries.

We expect great things from such valuable documents being placed in the hands of so worthy and distinguished a mason, and although the promised history of "Mother Kilwinning" is likely to be deferred until the spring of 1870, in consequence of this fresh investigation being opened up, we feel sure that the result of Bro. Lyon's researches will more than compensate for the delay, and prove to be worthy of him and of the Lodge that has granted an opportunity for the Masonic Historian of Scotland to do justice to Masonry in Edinburgh.

Bro. DRUMMOND, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, has compiled a table in which he sums up the statistics of Freemasons in North America for the year 1868, as follows:—

42 Grand Lodges.
387,402 members.
52,930 initiations.
14,192 affiliations.
16,771 resignations.
696 expulsions.
4,267 deaths.
9,312 candidates rejected.

Truly our Order has made vast strides of late in America.

PAPERS ON MASONRY.

BY A LEWISIAN

VIII.—MASONRY AND PRE-HISTORIC MASONRY.

"In those days there was no Melech (King) in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."—*Judges* xxi. 25.

If my memory serves me right, although I have not the book at hand, the philosophic Thomas Carlyle somewhere defines kings and the kingly office as denoting greater astuteness and capacity for reconciling differences and governing men than is evinced in those who are governed. This implies intelligence; intelligence argues physical comfort; physical comfort leads to civilization. To be *cunning*, or *cunning* (in the elder sense of our language), signified kingship; and such a position, derived from virtue and merit, any M.M. may be called upon to exercise. To assume, even symbolically, the chair of King Solomon—who, by a species of wonderful intuition, decided the question between the adverse mothers—requires great firmness, promptitude, and decision. Hence, in Universal Masonry, we hail as leader and king that man who most possesses discretion and discrimination. The divine right is thus given by T.G.A.O.T.U.

But when we come to consider what may be concisely called Pre-historic Masonry we are led to the conclusion that ages must have been passed through ere the human mind attained a sovereignty over itself, and knew rightly how to wield that sovereignty. It was necessary that there should be an infancy of the Royal art of reconstructing the building of the human mind; and here archæology comes in to assist us.

Modern research has led to much which in itself has a tendency to disenchant us respecting the wisdom of the ancients. Egyptian hieroglyphics, so long the theme of poet's song and of the mystic's rhapsodical interpretation, turn out very commonplace affairs. The astrolabe of Bro. Henry Melville is nothing more than the rule picture of the domestic arrangements of an Assyrian cooking-house, with the stable hard by where grooms are cleaning horses (carefully omitted by that learned (?) brother in his description). Dinner, we learn from ancient monuments, was a great institution of antiquity; but mysticism makes mountains of molehills, and discovers mares' nests innumerable amidst the relics of antiquity. It is very sad to be obliged to own that our forefathers were cannibals, and no better than they should be; but if we are to be loyal to facts we must admit the soft, but somewhat unpalatable, impeachment. We now certainly do not feast upon the aggregation of nastinesses which formed the staple of a Roman *cena*. The civilization of our present day is infinitely higher than that of Athens or Persia, and, humiliating as it may be, we must abandon much that seemed very dear to our imaginations. As Longfellow sings, "Things are not what they seem;" and all the learning possessed by Egypt and the Magi, the Brahmins, and the Gymnosophists, dwindles into meagre stature beside the colossal proportions of modern science. Yet, while we have a right to rejoice at our present surroundings, there is no occasion to undervalue antiquity. We do not build pyramids now-a-days; the gigantic walls of the Peruvian Andes point to a constructive power not surpassed in our era; Roman road-making has not been equalled since the epoch of the Cæsars; and the wall of China remains to prove what antiquity could accomplish.

All these great remains point to a skill and capacity in our predecessors on this planet to which we must give honour. What is the corollary to the proposition? There might be many answers to such a question, but to me the obvious one is—that an almost incomprehensible antiquity is to be assigned to the human race, during which, by the slowest and surest of processes, a gradual advancement has been made. From the rude lake dwellings of Switzerland, from the kitchen middens of the North, to our times there is a great leap; and every intelligent Freemason cannot but perceive that, *pari passu*, with symbolisms of a more or less mystical character there has been a steady battle fought with Nature and the elements to promote the personal comfort and security of mankind. But the arts come, from time to time, to definitive periods of settlement; they seem arrested at certain points, and so petrified. Thus it is that at given times in the world's history the text I have written at the head of this article seems to be reverified—that there is really no king in Israel, and that every man does that which is right in his own eyes.

If the Master be away, the work can, it is true, be continued by the Warden; but the eye and authority of the Master is best to give the work increase and fruition. If it be true of "operative" Masonry, how much more so of "speculative!"

To reconstruct the temple of the human mind, to revivify the dead bones in the valley of Ezekiel, so that they shall be clothed with Charity as a garment, supported by Strength, and illustrated by Beauty, is a task demanding the utmost vigilance of a powerful mind. Hence the necessity, in some shape, of authority as absolute as it should be accurate and merciful. Hence the excellence of the square as a symbolic instrument.

And here I am reminded that some exception has been taken to expressions used in one of my former papers. I said that, in the middle ages, the operative masons being at war with the superstitions of Papal Rome, commemorated in sarcastic caricatures the vices and abuses of their era in the sacred edifices they raised for public worship. It was alleged that such caricatures were not executed without the impersson of the ecclesiastical authorities. The only reply to such an assumption that I can give, in print, consists in the following extract, from perhaps the best History of Freemasonry yet in existence. I allude to that of Findel, who gives the following instances of such a tendency to satirize in stone. He says (*History of Freemasonry*, p. 65. Asher & Co., London):—

"Intimations of their secret brotherhood and of the symbols known to them are to be found on all their monumental buildings, as well as of their religious views, which were entirely opposed to the prevailing corruption of morals of the clergy everywhere, as well as to the strict orthodox doctrines of the Church. In the St. Sebaldus Church in Nürnberg is a carving in stone, representing a nun in the lewd embrace of a monk. In the large Church at Strasburg, in one of the transepts opposite the pulpit, a hog and a goat may be seen carrying a sleeping fox, as a sacred relic; a bitch is following the hog; in advance of this procession is a bear with a cross, and before the bear a wolf holding a burning wax taper. Then follows an ass, who is reading mass at the altar. In the Cathedral of Würzburg are to be found the significant columns J and B which were in the porch of Solomon's Temple. In the Church of Doberan, in Mecklenburg (consecrated 1368), there are many double triangles placed in a significant manner, three vine leaves in Masonic fashion, united by a cord, and symbolic ciphers on the columns; there is further a beautifully preserved altar-piece which apprizes us of the religious views of the architect. In the foreground there are priests turning a mill, grinding dogmatic doctrines therein. In the upper part of the picture is the Virgin Mary with the child Jesus, having a flaming star on the lower part of her body. At the bottom of the picture is a representation of the Lord's Supper, in which are the Apostles in the well-known Freemasons' attitude, &c. In another Gothic Church is a satirical delineation of the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost; a picture of Mary, from beneath whose dress issues a leathern pipe up to the picture of the Holy Ghost; in the Cathedral of Braudenburg a fox in priestly robes is preathing to a flock of geese; in the Minster at Berne, in a picture of the Last Judgment, the Pope is amongst the damned."

Now, I will appeal to the common sense of Freemasons in general, whether it is likely that the consent of the superiors of these churches could have been obtained to the setting up of emblems and symbols such as these? It is very certain that no man would consent to his own ridicule; and yet these are palpable proofs that the "operative" Masons of the middle ages, when "there was no king in Israel," set up, in defiance of priestly authority, such emblems. Anyone who goes into the Cathedral at Aix la Chapelle, or Aachen, will see two disembowelled wolves sitting outside the side door; and the number of instances in which this tendency to satirize is evinced might be multiplied *ad nauseam*. "Orthodoxy," said the wise and witty Sydney Smith, "may be my doxy; heterodoxy is another man's doxy." Or, as it has been put very well, there is exactly the same relation between Dryads and Hama-Dryads as there is between bishops and archbishops.

If the Freemasons of the present day desire to make use of the symbolisms of the past they are free to do so; but let them beware, in the presence of archæologists, to claim any exclusive title to the origination of symbolisms. Symbolism existed before Freemasonry; nor is that Order the only Order which uses it to instil lessons of good into the human mind—to educate the heart—to eradicate vice—to maintain right—to extend the hand of charity, and to put forth foot in the path of progress. Yet it must be admitted that the organization of the Masonic Fraternity is as perfect as, in the nature of things, it can be. There are two sides to the shield, and the misinterpretation of the outer world reduces the whole question to an equation. In fact, to use algebraic language, Freemasonry and institutions of a similar nature essentially seek the value of x , and desire to raise humanity, in the plenitude of its strength, to the n th power.

CRYPTONYMUS.

THE QUEEN AND THE CRAFT.

BY J. E. CARPENTER, P.M., 284 and 1196.

Air—"Here's a health to the King, God bless him."

Fill high! for whatever the liquor may be,
The glass at the brim should run o'er,
Let every true brother now take it from me,
If he never drank bumper before.
Though politics ne'er in our meeting have shar'
We still to be loyal endeavour,
So I'll give you a toast that a Mason may boast,
Here's 'the Queen and the Craft for ever.'

The ancients to whom for our science we turn,
Were kings, if our records prove true,
And the Craftsman who first raised the temple, we learn
Gave homage where homage was due;
Then let us unite, ev'ry true son of light,
(Is there one who'd refuse it, oh never!)
In this the best toast, that a Mason can boast,
Here's the 'Queen and the Craft' for ever.

MASONIC ANTHEM.

BY J. E. CARPENTER, P.M., 284 and 1190.

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
May peace and plenty reign,
Through all her wide domain,
May we her laws sustain,
God save the Queen.

Oh! Lord above, who sees
Our hidden mysteries,
On Thee we call;
So rule our hearts that we
May in Freemasonry,
Faithful and loyal be,
Oh, save us all.

May Heaven's Great Architect,
Our gracious Queen protect,
Long may she reign;
O'er her 'Thine arm extend,
May she the Craft befriend,
And we her throne defend,
God save the Queen.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION, No. 975.

This Chapter of Instruction so celebrated throughout the Craft for its working, under the able instruction of Companion Brett, who by his able working has perfected more companions to enable them to fill the important chairs, met on Tuesday, May the 18th, at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury. The ceremony of exaltation was very ably worked by Companion S. Foxall, acting M.E.Z.; Nicholl, II.; Tanner, J.; Dr. Woodman, N.; Smith, P.S., who worked the ceremony in a very perfect manner. Companion Tippet acting Candidate. Present Companions Brett (Preceptor), H. M. Levy, Keyworth, C. Hosgood, Barrett, Visitor, Comp. Wm. Day Keyworth, of Hull. The 1st clause of the 1st section was very ably worked by Companion Brett, on the explanation of the jewels and solids. We should recommend all who wish to gain instruction in R. A. Masonry to pay a visit to this excellent Chapter.

BRO. HENRI DRAYTON has been engaged by Bro. Pennoyer, to appear in New York, as Primo Basso of the Riching's Grand Opera Troupe, in September next.

ROYAL ARK MARINERS' LODGE.—A Royal Ark Mariners' Lodge was opened on Monday, 17th inst., within the Lodge Rooms, 170, Buchanan Street. (Holding of the S. Grd. Chap., of Scotland.) The Lodge was opened by M.E.P.Z., Thomas M. Campbell, N.; William Rae, J.; and William McEwan, S., when the following Companions were admitted and instructed in the degree viz.:—Thomas Darwin Humphries, 69; Capt. John A. McDonald, 69; and William Murray, 79.

BABYLONIAN PASS OR RED CROSS DEGREES.—A Council of Knights of the Red Cross, consisting of the three points, viz.:—Knights of the Sword; Knights of the East, or Princes of Jerusalem; and Knights of the East and West, was held within the Council Rooms, 170, Buchanan-street. Sir Knight Thomas M. Campbell presiding, assisted by Sir Knights James Balfour, Thomas Gordon, William McEwan, Geo. W. Clarke, David Ramsay, and T. P. Mullins. Companions Neil McCallum, Wm. Rae, Thos. Niblo, Thos. D. Humphries, Capt. John A. McDonald, Edward Crosher, and William Murray, were duly installed as Knights of the above degrees. The ceremony was ably performed, and of a very imposing character.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Lodge of Friendship, No. 206.—This old and prosperous lodge met on Thursday, May 13th, at four p.m. precisely, at the Ship and Turtle Hotel, Leadenhall-street; Bro. Henry Mann Collier, W.M., in the chair. The lodge being opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. Charles Townsend Parsons, the well-known Government contractor, which proved unanimous for his admission, and the W.M. proceeded to initiate his first candidate, which ceremony he performed in the most masterly manner, being ably assisted by his officers, Bro. Alfred Harris, S.W., *pro tem.*; Geo. Collier, J.W.; and F. Henry Earles, J.D., who conducted his candidate admirably. Pursuant to notice, the brethren then proceeded to make arrangements for the "summer dinner," and it was finally resolved that it shall be held at the King's Head Hotel, Chigwell, Essex, on the last Thursday in June. After reading and discussing the Grand Lodge and other letters and communications, the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Bro. Geo. Painter's usual superb style; then the loyal and Masonic toasts enlivened by harmony, the National Anthem being executed by the Bros. W. and J. Rumsey, and Bro. A. Turner. Several other brethren also contributed, and after passing an evening in such delightful fellowship as is only known to the Craft in general, and this lodge in particular, the proceedings were brought to a close.

Merchant Navy Lodge, No. 781.—This lodge held its usual and last monthly meeting for this season, on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at the Silver Tavern, Burdett Road, Limehouse. The officers present were Bros. E. T. Read, W.M.; Helys, S.W.; Bradbury, J.W.; Armstrong, S.D.; Reeves, J.D.; Daniell, P.M., *pro tem.*; Wright, P.M. and Treasurer; Medland, Sec.; and Kellich, Davies, and Branbridge, P. Masters; and many brethren and visitors, amongst whom were Barlow, P.M., Sincerity; Stevens, P.M., Yarborough; Schofield, P.M., Zetland; and Toole, Neptune. The minutes of the last regular lodge were read and confirmed, and the lodge opened in the second degree, and Bros. Evans, Delalle, and Laslitt (of the Zetland Lodge) being candidates for the third degree were instructed and withdrew. Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and the three brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Lodge resumed to the second degree, and Bro. Newport passed to degree of F.C. Lodge resumed to the first degree, and the ballot having proved unanimous in favour of Mr. W. Hallett and Mr. Wakeham, they were duly initiated into Freemasonry. It was then proposed by Bro. Killick, P.M., and seconded by Bro. Daniell, P.M., that a P.M.'s jewel be presented to Bro. Bracebridge, I.P.M., which was carried unanimously. A recommendation was put to, and signed by the officer and members of the lodge, to a petition for relief for a widow of a deceased sea-faring brother. Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and the repast was served in a manner which our Bro. Holt is so deservedly proverbial for, and with which every brother expressed himself as well pleased. After the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly responded to. Bro. Bracebridge, I.P.M., then proposed the health of their W.M., and in doing so expressed the great pleasure he experienced in seeing him in his present position, and the admirable manner in which he had rendered the whole of the ceremonies this evening. He felt assured the lodge would prosper under his rule. This toast having been enthusiastically responded to by all the brethren present, the W.M., Bro. Read, then said he thanked Bro. Bracebridge, and the brethren generally, for this mark of their approval, and he trusted that when his year of office had expired, he should carry with him the same kind and fraternal feelings that he had at all times experienced from the brethren of Merchant Navy Lodge. "The Newly Initiated Brethren," was then given, and responded to by Bro. Hallett, who expressed his gratification in having been initiated into Masonry by Bro. Read, whom he had known for many years. "The Health of the P. Masters," was given and responded to by Bro. Bracebridge. The visitors' toast was then given, and briefly responded to by Bros. Barlow, Barry, Schofield, Toole, and Stevens; the latter took occasion to express the gratification he felt at seeing the W.M. restored to health, and augured a prosperous year to the Merchant Navy Lodge under his presidency. The "Treasurer and Secretary" was then given, and (the W.M.) took occasion to express the great respect he had for their Treasurer, Bro. Wright, which he was sure was shared in by every

brother of the lodge; he felt it was only due to him to say that whatever knowledge of the rituals of Freemasonry he (the W.M.) possessed, he was mainly indebted to Bro. Wright for. The W.M. concluded by passing a high eulogium upon his many excellent qualities as a Mason, a friend, and a father; to which Bro. Wright replied in very feeling and suitable terms. The officers' and Tylers' toasts brought this very pleasant evening to a close. Several brethren contributed much to the evening's enjoyment by some excellent songs, particularly by Bros. Stevens, Toole, Wright, Bradbury, &c.

Lily Lodge, No. 820.—On Wednesday se'night the installation of Bro. George Townsend as W.M. took place at the Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, the Installing Master being Bro. Wm. Cooper, assisted by Bro. Rogers. After the ceremony the brethren presented the immediate P.M., Bro. Thomas James Carless, with a jewel bearing the following inscription:—"Presented May 12th 1869, by the Lily Lodge, Richmond, No. 820, to Bro. Thomas Carless, I.P.M., as a slight acknowledgment of the valuable and efficient services rendered by him to the lodge, during his past year of office, 1868-1869." At seven o'clock an adjournment was made to the new Banqueting Hall, where a most *riche* dinner was served to the brethren by Bro. Noyce. The chair was ably occupied by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Townsend. During dessert, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. Amongst the visitors was Bro. Colonel F. Burdett, Representative of the Grand Lodge of Ireland at the Grand Lodge of England, and who, in responding to the toast of the Grand Officers, spoke in warm language of the good Freemasonry had wrought in Ireland. There (he said) may be seen men of every shade of political feeling mixing and fraternising as only that brotherly love which fills the heart of every true Mason can understand. In alluding to the manifesto of Cardinal Cullen interdicting the presence of those under his jurisdiction at the grand Masonic ball in Dublin, the gallant brother said he considered it should be called an "Irish bull," for it had done more good than harm to the Craft.—The evening was enlivened by some choice music and singing under the direction of Bro. John Tolley (musical director of the lodge) assisted by Bros. Marriott and Briggs, from the Chapel Royal, Windsor.

Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017.—This new but increasing lodge met on Wednesday, 12th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, the W.M., Bro. the Rev. M. B. Levy, in the chair. A ballot was taken for the admission of the following gentlemen, namely, L. H. Moore, Charles Wertheimer, M. De Groot, and J. Carlebach, and being unanimously in their favour, they were regularly initiated into the mysteries of the Order. Bro. George Moore was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., by the W.M., in a very solemn and impressive manner; indeed the lodge may congratulate themselves on having so efficient and excellent working officers. The brethren then sat down to a very splendid banquet provided by Bro. Gosden. After the usual formal toasts, the W.M. gave the health of the newly-initiated, to which Bro. Wertheimer responded. Bro. Eskell, P.M., proposed the W.M., expressing the great pleasure it gave him to propose the health of one for whom he had so great a respect, and who had filled that important office for two successive years to the great satisfaction of the brethren.—The W.M. responded in eloquent terms, and then gave "The health of the Visitors," who were Bros. Mann (P.M. 186), Henri Drayton, Le Casise (590), E. Kelley (22), A. S. Penoyer (U.S.), H. M. Levy (P.M. 188), Worrell (J.W. 795), Pierce (25), D. H. Jacobs (P.M. 27), C. Gammon (W.M. 795), Glisher (P.M. 382), Coote (P.M. 205), and Reiss (Batavia).—Bro. Mann returned thanks for the visiting brethren in a few but expressive sentences.—There was some excellent harmony by Bros. Henri Drayton, Kelley, H. De Solla, and H. M. Levy, a delightful evening being spent by all present.

Perfect Ashlar Lodge, 1178.—On the 6th inst., Bro. G. Drapper's (Gregorian Arms, Jamaica-street, Bermondsey), this young and prosperous lodge held its regular meeting. In consequence of the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. H. F. Ebsworth, the lodge was opened by Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M. 73, and Secretary of this lodge. There were present Bros. J. W. Avery, P.M., S.W.; J. Donkin, I.P.M.; G. J. Grace, I.G.; J. W. Dudley, D.C.; J. H. Harnsworth, W.S.; J. H. Fudge, G. Drapper, P. Fry, L. Ashton, J. Joseph, T. W. Cox, J. A. Axtell, and several others. Amongst the visitors were Bro. C. R. Sloman (25), M. A. Loewenstark (J.W. 73), G. J. Sayer (1050), and others. The minutes of the last lodge, as well as those of the two emergency meetings, were read and unanimously confirmed. Bro. Charles Deakin, after going through the usual formalities was raised to the degree of M.M., the entire ceremony being given, including a lecture on the tracing-board of the third degree. In consequence of his arduous duties as secretary, Bro. Walters solicited Bro. J. W. Avery, P.M. 619 and S.W. of this lodge, to occupy the Solomonian chair,

which he did by initiating Mr. Frederick Ware into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. As might be expected, all the ceremonies were well and ably rendered by the two P.M.'s who did the work. One gentleman was proposed for initiation at the next meeting of the lodge. An apology was received from the candidate for passing, and also from the candidate for initiation. Then came the all-important event of the evening, which was the presentation to Bro. John Donkin, the I.P.M., first with a twelve-guinea Past-Master's jewel, and secondly with a Past-Master's collar and jewel, which was done by the acting W.M. in an able and fluent manner. Bro. Donkin, in suitable terms, acknowledged these handsome presents. The first-named jewel is of elegant design and superior workmanship; made of 18-carat gold and hall-marked, it is about the size of a crown-piece, and bears in front the motto, "Merit alone commands esteem," in a border of raised letters on a frosted ground, and enclosed within a twisted cord. In the centre is the Euclid and square, surmounted by the five points of fellowship on an enamelled ground. The inscription, unlike those of the majority of presentation jewels, is brought, in this instance, in the front, so as to be seen and read easily, and is introduced on the two hangers, or suspenders, in raised letters, as follows:—"Presented by the Perfect Ashlar Lodge to Bro. John Donkin, the first W.M.; 1868," and, in order to make the jewel more effective and render it emblematical, the Perfect Ashlar, exquisitely mounted and finished, is attached to the ribbon between the suspenders, and is an exact representative in every respect; and, to make it complete, on the front of the Ashlar is the square and compasses enclosing the number of the lodge, 1178. It was manufactured by Bros. Loewenstark & Sons, Devereux-street, Strand, and is a splendid specimen of their workmanship. On the silver Past Masters' jewel is this inscription, viz.:—"Presented by the Brethren of the Perfect Ashlar Lodge, No. 1178, to their first W.M., Bro. John Donkin, as a token of their esteem and respect, together with a gold jewel." Bro. John William Dudley, D.C., having withdrawn and resigned as being the steward to represent this lodge at the anniversary festival of the Girls' School, which was to be held on Wednesday, May 12, Bro. F. Walters, P.M. and Sec., proposed, and it was duly seconded and carried unanimously in favour of its being confirmed, that Bro. John Donkin be elected and accepted as the steward to represent this lodge at the Girls' School Anniversary Festival. All the business being ended the lodge was closed, and it was ordered to be summoned to meet on July 1st, at six o'clock p.m. After labour followed refreshment, and the amusement of the evening was increased by the capital improvised verses of Bro. Charles R. Sloman. After a few hours of mutual enjoyment the brethren separated to enjoy "Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep."

PROVINCIAL.

HERTFORDSHIRE. Gresham Lodge, No. 869.—The first regular meeting of this lodge took place at the "Four Swans," Waltham Cross, on Saturday, the 8th instant, at which a large number of brethren attended, amongst whom were Bros. R. Mitchell, W.M.; W. E. Gomperby, S.W.; Dr. R. Bruce, J.W.; H. J. Thompson, P.M., and a founder of the lodge; also, Bros. O. F. Vallentin, Treasurer; C. Swan, Secretary; W. H. Warr, P.P.S. Wks., D.C.; &c. The lodge was opened, and the ballot being in favour of Mr. J. Lewis, he was initiated by the W.M. in a manner that reflected great credit upon the lodge for his assiduous attention to the duties of the chair; after which Bro. Etherington was duly passed to the degree of F.C. This being the period of election for the W.M., a ballot was taken, and passed unanimously in favour of Brother Gomperby, S.W., as W.M. elect, and Brother O. F. Vallentin was unanimously re-elected Treasurer for the eighth time. The brethren then retired to a very nicely prepared banquet, presided over by the W.M., who gave the usual toasts, &c., and every one returned to town evidently pleased by the day's enjoyment.

LANCASTER. Rowley Lodge, No. 1051.—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Friday last, the 14th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Athenaeum. The chair of K.S. was occupied (in the unavoidable absence from home of the W.M.) by W. Bro. Dr. Moore, P.M., Prov. G. Sup. of Works, who was supported by the following officers and brethren:—Bro. Bagnall, P.M., as I.P.M.; Bros. Hall, S.W.; Mercer, J.W.; J. Hatch, S.W. 281, as S.D.; Ley as J.D.; Taylor, I.G.; Armistead; W. J. Sly, E.A.P.; Watson, Tyler. The circular convening the meeting having been read, and other business transacted, Bro. W. J. Sly was passed to the degree of F.C. by the Acting W.M. Other business connected with the lodge was then transacted, and the lodge closed in due form.

BISHOP AUCKLAND, DURHAM. Wear Valley Lodge, No. 1,121.—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Savings' Bank on Friday

evening, May 14th. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. the Rev. G. P. Wilkison, Bro. G. Canney, M.D., P.M., presided, and was supported by Bros. G. Stillman, S.W.; J. Wyld, J.W.; T. B. Thwaites, Treas.; W. Pawson, Hon. Sec.; J. Robson, I.G., &c. Visitor: Bro. John Bowes, 129, 148, 1,051, 1,250, P.M., P.Z., P.P.G.D.C.; P.P.G. Reg. Cumberland and Westmorland. The lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. One brother was passed, and two raised by the acting W.M., in a correct and impressive manner, under the deaconate of Bro. John Bowes. The lodge was duly closed.

IRELAND.

BANDON.—*The Antient Boyne.*—A lodge of emergency assembled at the lodge rooms, Devonshire Arms Hotel, on Wednesday, May 12, at 7 p.m., to elect officers for the ensuing six months. The attendance was large, and included Steward R. Trevilian, W.M.; Williams French, S.W.; Robert Sutton, J.W.; R. Sargeant Topham, S.D.; Carroll Dawson, J.D.; Matthew Lee, I.G.; Joseph Morris, G. Hagarty, W. Belcher, E. Olliffe, W. Joyce, R. W. Doherty, T. Ruddock, R. Payne, R. Bright, Alexander Appleby, Wingfield Corley, Walter Bullen, W. Waugh Fuller, Thomas Peters, S. Cotterall, J. Strahan, Wilson, Bevin, Henry G. Bennett, &c. Brother Williams French was unanimously voted to the chair, and the other officers all got a step forward. Bro. Wm. Belcher was elected I.G. Mr. Benjamin Dawson was balloted for, admitted, and initiated to the degree of Entered Apprentice. Before the termination of the usual routine of lodge business, it was proposed, seconded, and carried with all the honours, "That our Right Worthy and Worshipful Master be presented with a silver tea service, in recognition of the many valuable services he has rendered 'Old 84' during the last thirty years;" and a committee was appointed to carry out this desirable object.

BELFAST.—*Lodge of Truth, No. 22.*—An emergency meeting of this old and flourishing lodge, was held in the Masonic Rooms, Donegall-place, on Tuesday evening last, 18th inst., in the absence of the W.M., Bro. J. Gelston, P.M. occupied the chair, the Lodge being opened on the E.A. degree, Mr. Robert Reid was initiated in the same by Bro. Gelston. The Lodge was then passed to the F.C. degree, when Bros. Thos. Craig, Henry Semmend, and James Brown, who had served a lawful time as E.A.'s, and having gained sufficient proficiency in the same were passed to the degree upon which the lodge was working by Bro. John Ireland, P.M., 59. The lodge was then raised, and Bro. Cherry was in a very solemn and impressive manner raised to the sublime degree of M.M. A number of visiting brethren were present during the evening. The proceedings terminated shortly after 11 o'clock, when the lodge was closed in due form.

(Continued on page 10.)

THE ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

British Chapter, No. 8.—This chapter held a convocation on Friday evening, May the 7th, under the presidency of Companions Jabez Tepper M.E.Z., Companion John Thomas Griffith, (M.D.) H., and Companion John Braddick Monekton, J., when the M.E.Z. ably worked the Pedestal and gave the charges to the Companions. The summer banquet was fixed for the last day of June at the Crystal Palace. The Companions afterwards had their usual sumptuous banquet at the tavern; but many of them were absent, in consequence of an entertainment given by one of the members of the Lodge, and which the M.E.Z. was prevented from attending owing to his duties at the Chapter.

Pannure Chapter, No. 720.—The quarterly Convocation of this Chapter was held at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, whither it had been removed from Balham, on Monday, the 10th inst., when a good attendance of Companions gave much interest to the proceedings. The Chapter was opened by the M.E.Z., Companion J. Thomas, supported by nearly all his Officers. Bros. Samuel Haddock, P.M., Charles Milner Haddock, P.M., Abel Perrot, B.A., Christopher R. Weguelin, and Joseph Nixon, were exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. Companion Samuel C. Davison, B.A., P.H.D., P.Z., No. 198, was elected a joining member. Companion John Read, P.Z., then most ably installed the principal officers for the ensuing year, viz:—Companion H. C. Levander, M.E.Z., Companion E. Worthington, H., Companion J. M. Gates, I. The remaining officers were appointed as follows, Companion James Stevens, P.Z., Scribe E., Companion Harvey, N., Companion J. Nunn, P.Z., Treasurer, Companion H. Smith, P.S. The Chapter being then closed, the Companions adjourned to a most excellent banquet at which the usual Royal Arch toasts were given

and heartily responded to, the evening's entertainment being interspersed with some capital singing. We congratulate this Chapter upon the great advantages they have secured by their removal from so distant a neighbourhood as Balham to a locality so much more easily reached by its members and visitors.

PROVINCIAL.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude, No. 279.*—A quarterly convocation of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 15th inst., among the Companions present were W. Kelly, P.Z. and P.G.H., as M.E.Z.; W. Weare, M.E.Z. as H.; H. Kinder, P.Z., as J.; Rev. John Spittal, H. and M.E.Z. elect; L. A. Clarke, J. and H. elect; and various other officers and companions. The minutes having been read and confirmed on the opening of the chapter, a board of installed principals was formed, when the Rev. Comp. Spittal, was presented, and was regularly installed into the Chair of M.E.Z., by Comp. Kelly, and had the various charges, &c., addressed to him. The installation of the other principals (Comps. L. A. Clarke and G. H. Hodges,) was unavoidably postponed; the former not arriving until after the board of installed principals was closed, and the latter being in Paris. The Comps. being admitted, a ballot was taken for Bro. Edwin J. Crow, of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, and for Bros. J. G. F. Richardson, and E. Parsons, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523, who were duly elected. The following Comps., who had been elected at the last convocation, were invested as the officers for the ensuing year:—W. Kelly, P.Z., and P.G.H.; Treas., C. Stretton, E.; S. S. Partridge, N.; G. Toller junr., P.S.; E. W. S. Stanley, A.S.; C. Tombridge, Janitor. Bro. Crow being in attendance was then admitted, and was regularly exalted; the ceremony being, for the first time, most efficiently performed by the Rev. Comp. Spittal, M.E.Z.; and Comp. Toller, P.S. On the conclusion of the ceremony, Comp. Kelly delivered the Historical, Symbolical and Mystical Lectures. The Chapter was closed in solemn form and with prayer, and the Comps. adjourned to refreshment, and spent an hour or two very pleasantly under the presidency of the newly-installed M.E.Z., the highly respected Vicar of St. Andrew's, Leicester, an active Mason, and a son of the late Sir James Spittal, formerly Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and Deputy Grand Master of Scotland.

LANCASTER.—*Rowley Chapter, 1051.*—The regular meeting of this Chapter was held at the Masonic Rooms, Athenaeum, on Monday, 17th May. There were present the following Companions: Dr. Moore, M.E.Z.; Bagnall, H. Mason, J. Hall, Scribe E.; Whimfray, as Scribe N.; Mercer, P.S.; Bell, Assist. Soj.; Taylor, and Watson, Janitor. The minutes of the last meetings were read, confirmed and signed by the principals. The following Candidates for exaltation were then balloted for, and unanimously elected:—Bros. C. S. Hope, Linderley Lodge, No. 3074; Bros. W. N. Kilburn; Edmund Simpson P.M.; and William Heald, all of the Lodge of Fortitude, Lancaster, No. 281; and Bro. Heald being in attendance, was duly exalted to the degree of Royal Arch. There being no other business before the Chapter, it was closed in due form.

MARK MASONRY.

METROPOLITAN.

Kent Lodge of Mark Master Masons.—A meeting of this lodge was held at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, on Tuesday evening, the 11th inst., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Thomas Meggy, and which was well attended, every officer being in his place, and there being several visitors and candidates for advancement. The lodge having been duly opened, and minutes read, ballots were taken for five out of seven candidates proposed, all of which proved unanimous. Bros. A. L. Irvine, P.M., the W.M.; James Stevens, P.M., the S.W.; and Eugene Cronin, the Treasurer of the Macdonald Lodge (Craft), No. 1216, were then introduced, and duly advanced to the degree of Mark Masters. We hear it is the intention of these brethren to form a new lodge of Mark Masters in connection with their most excellent Craft Lodge, the high repute of which is now attracting considerable attention amongst metropolitan Masons. Bros. Driver and Ewins were also subsequently introduced, and duly advanced. Bro. T. Meggy, the W.M., then, in a most able manner, installed his successor, Brother Warr, who appointed his officers according to rota, and the brethren, on the lodge being closed, adjourned to refreshment, the usual toasts being given and responded to; and a most satisfactory evening having been spent by all present, the company separated.

PROVINCIAL.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*Howe Lodge, No. 21.*—The annual festival of this lodge was held at the George Hotel, on Thursday, the 13th instant, when, among the members present, were Bros. Rev. W. Kay Robinson, W.M.; Rev. W. Langley, S.W. and W.M.,

elect; H. Douglas, J.W.; H. Sharman, Sec., Bright, Park, Markham, Mann, Seiby, Ferneley, Turville, and others. The Provincial Grand Master attended the meeting for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect. The lodge having been opened by the W.M., and the minutes read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. Rippin, of the Rutland Lodge, No. 1130, who was duly elected, but was prevented attending for advancement. Bro. Kelly, P.G.M., then took the Chair, and, having addressed the preliminary questions to the W.M. elect, the brethren below the rank of P.M., retired, and a board of installed masters having been opened, the Rev. Bro. Langley was installed in due form, after which, on the return of the brethren, he was proclaimed and saluted. The concluding address having been delivered, the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers. Votes of thanks having been passed to the P.G.M. and the I.P.M., the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

Temple Crossing Encampment.—The Knights of the above assembled on Thursday, the 13th, at their field of encampment, Horns Tavern, Kennington, under the banner of the E.C., Sir Knt. W. N. Rudge, Prov. Grand Captain, when the Em. Sir Knt. W. F. Mitchell, Prov. Grand Captain, in his usual impressive style inaugurated and enthroned Sir Knt. Major H. F. Smith, Past Prov. G. Capt., as E.C., who appointed and invested as his officers, Sir Knt. Biron 1st Capt. Sir Knt. George Harrison, Prov. Grd. Capt. of Lines, second Capt; Sir Knt. Dr. Lillie, Prov. Grd. Sub-Prior, Prelate; Sir Knt. R. Farran, Prov. Grd. Registrar, Registrar; Sir Knt. W. F. Mitchell, P.E.C. as Expert *pro. tem.*; and Sir Knt. Vesper, Prov. Grd. E., as Equerry. The Knts. then adjourned to one of Bro. Wittel's elegant banquets. The only visitors on this occasion were the Em. Sir Knt. Blankin, Dep. Prov. Grd. Commander, and Sir Knt. Chas. Swan, Past Grand D.C. We cannot omit noticing Bro. Whittel's constant attention to the requirements of his Masonic patrons, he is now building a new and convenient ante-room, with store room for Masonic furniture, &c.

RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE

IRELAND.

St. Patrick's Conclave.—On Thursday evening, May 10th, a meeting of this Conclave was held at the offices of Eminent Sir Knt. Woodward. Present the Illus. Sir Knt. Horner, Inspector General for Norfolk; Eminent Sir Knts. McGovern, Forsythe, Carleton, and Woodward; Sir Knts. Wattock, Styles, Scott, Edwards, and Bouchier. A College of Viceroys was opened, and Sir Knts. Bouchier and Edwards were duly consecrated Priests Masons. A Council of Sovereigns was then opened, and Sir Knts. Edwards and Bouchier were duly enthroned as Sovereigns and Prince Masons. The Conclave was then opened in due form, and the Illustrious Sir Knt. Inspector General for Norfolk placed Eminent Sir Knt. Thomas McGovern, on the throne of Constantine, stating that *pro. tem.* he commissioned Sir Knt. McGovern, to act as Deputy Inspector General for Norfolk. The following Officers were then appointed to act in the meetings of the Order in Dublin. V. Em. Sir Knt. Forsythe, Eusebius; Em. Sir Knt. Woodward, Senior General; Em. Sir Knt. Edwards, Junior General; Em. Sir Knt. Bouchier, High Prelate; Em. Sir Knt. Carleton, Treasurer and Recorder; Sir Knt. Scott, Prefect; Sir Knt. Wattock, Standard Bearer; Sir Knt. Molloy, Herald; Sir Knt. Styles, Sentinel. It was resolved: That as the Grand Imperial Council granted a special jewel, that a golden shamrock be embroidered in the Aprons, Sashes, and Ribbon of the Knts. of the Saint Patrick's Conclave. It was resolved: That the Most Illus. Grand Sovereign, Lord Kenlis and Ill. Sir Knt. Col. Burdett, be invited to dine with the Dublin Knts. It was resolved: That Illustrious Sir Knt. Horner, and Eminent Sir Knts. McGovern, Forsythe, and Woodward, form a committee to prepare bye-laws. It was resolved: That in future two guineas be charged on the Installation of each Knight. It was resolved: That the names of all Candidates for installation at the next meeting be sent to Em. Sir Knt. Carleton fourteen days from this date. It was also resolved, That immediately the charter is granted each Sir Knt. is expected to procure his proper regalia. The Conclave was then closed in due form. The Charter for this Conclave has since been granted, and we congratulate the Order upon its successful debut in the sister isle.

WHITTINGTON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION
No. 862.

We paid a flying visit on Thursday, the 13th inst., to this Lodge of Instruction, which is now held at the Crown Tavern, High Holborn. Bro. W. Long, W.M. 435, occupied the chair, and assisted by Bros. Littaur and Berger, worked several of the sections in an admirable manner. About 25 brethren were present during the evening.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTH.

GOOCH.—On the 11th instant, at Drummond-cottage, Bournemouth, the wife of Bro. George Gooch (Sec. 195) of a son.

DEATH.

MUNTZ.—Accidentally killed by a fall, at Guernsey, Bro. William Henry Muntz, son of the late G. F. Muntz, Esq., M.P. for Birmingham.—[Brother Muntz was initiated in the Doyle's Lodge of Fellowship, No. 84, Guernsey, on the 12th July, 1867, and installed as a Knight of the Order of Constantine at the formation of the Doyle Conclave, No. 7, on the 20th July, 1868. As a token of sorrow for his melancholy end both the Lodge and Conclave were draped in black at their meetings last week.—Ed. F.]

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"My Own Philology," by A. Tuder.
 "Masonic Monthly" for April, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.
 "Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada."
 "Annual Report of Grand Chapter of Scotland," per Comp. Hughan, an Hon. Member.
 "The Freemason," St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A., for 1 May.

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

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1869.

THE FREEMASON is published on Saturday Mornings in time for the early trains.
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 The Editor will pay careful attention to all MSS. entrusted to him, but cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by postage stamps.

THE NEGRO AND THE CRAFT.

FOR some time past our brethren in America, and especially in Massachusetts, have been debating and agitating the question, "Can a negro be a Freemason?" and "Are the members of coloured lodges in the United States entitled to recognition as brethren?"

These who take the negative side in the debate affirm that the negro lodges are clandestine and spurious, inasmuch as they are not chartered by any of the existing Grand Lodges in America. An unprejudiced statement of the facts of the case may therefore be deemed opportune, and, from the broad humanitarian point of view, we are satisfied that their disclosure will add another laurel to the chaplet which adorns the brow of our venerable Mother Grand Lodge, which has ever been the champion of toleration, of justice, and of freedom.

In the year 1784 the Grand Lodge of England, in the exercise of its undoubted powers, granted a charter to Bro. Prince Hall and other coloured men, residents in the City of Boston, and State of Massachusetts, empowering them to meet as a regular Lodge, under the distinctive title of "The African Lodge, No. 459."

The Lodge was established, and worked successfully for many years under Bro. Hall, who appears to have been a thorough Mason, and a man of great intelligence. It is well known that, after the conclusion of the War of Independence, and, in one instance, during its progress, the Provincial Grand Lodges in the United States disclaimed all allegiance to the foreign grand bodies from which they derived their existence; and, in taking this step, they were perfectly justified, not only by the exigencies of the political situation, but by every principle of international Masonic law. The

question, however, arises, and Canada furnishes recent illustrations of the doctrine, "Are lodges to be considered spurious or clandestine because the members prefer working under their original warrants from a foreign Grand Lodge to joining a newly erected Masonic jurisdiction in the state or dominion in which such lodges may be situated?" or, in other words, "Was the African Lodge bound to surrender its warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, and to apply to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for authority to work as a lodge?" We contend it was not, and hold that the Alma Lodge at Quebec, and other lodges in Canada, owing allegiance at the present day to the Grand Lodge of England, notwithstanding the existence of the Grand Lodge of Canada, might, with equal reason and equal justice, be denounced as illegitimate. We have now before us a charge delivered by Bro. Prince Hall, Right Worshipful Master, to the African Lodge, on the 25th June, 1792, from which we deduce the melancholy conviction that if our coloured brethren had, at that period, sought recognition or support from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts they would not have obtained it, so powerful was the demon of prejudice in those days, and so invincibly rooted was the senseless antipathy to the oppressed children of Africa. We must next consider a point of vital importance, and, if our negro brethren can offer a satisfactory solution, we apprehend that their position as Masons will be legally demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt.

In the first place, "Can they prove the continuous existence of the African Lodge from its formation in 1784 down to the union of the two Grand Lodges of England in 1813, at which latter period the lodge was undoubtedly borne upon the roll of regular lodges? and has the lodge been working independently ever since?"

As far as our own information extends we believe that the lodge has had an uninterrupted existence since 1784, and its non-affiliation to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts does not in anywise affect its Masonic status or legitimacy; indeed, its right to exist independently is illustrated by the fact that, in Boston itself, the St. Andrew's Lodge, originally chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, for many years remained aloof from the territorial jurisdiction of Massachusetts, until, at length, its members sought admission into the State fold, and were joyfully received, without any ugly question being raised as to the legality of their previous position.

The whole subject in dispute, we greatly fear, is the eligibility of negroes to the privileges of the Craft, and upon this view of the question we side at once with the men of colour. Caste has been beaten down by the influence of Freemasonry, liberty of conscience has been secured by the steady adoption of Masonic principles, and shall we now deny to men of different hue a participation in those rites which are symbolical of the thousand triumphs of right over wrong, or those glorious teachings which proclaim to all mankind brotherly love, relief, and truth? Happily, on this question, the whole moral power of English Freemasonry is in accord with the action taken by our forefathers in 1784, when they chartered the African Lodge, and the claims of our coloured brethren in the United States will never be ignored by English brethren, or, we may add, by any "true and worthy Freemason, of whatever country, colour, or clime, throughout the universe."

Mulum in Parbo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

Chapter Centenaries.—We hear a great deal now-a-days about lodges celebrating their centennial anniversaries, but as yet I have not heard of any chapters having claimed the privilege of wearing the centenary jewel. What are our friends of the Chapter of the Nativity, No. 126, Burnley, doing, for instance, or those of the Cana Chapter, No. 116, Colne, both of which, I have an impression, were founded in 1769?—ANTIQUARIUS.

The Rite of Misraim.—A brother lately enquired in THE FREEMASON respecting the rite of Misraim. Any "Tailleur" of the "Ecoissais" degrees will give him the signs, words, and "attonchements," and a work is, I believe, published in New York which fully explains the bizarre pretensions of the system. There are only two members of the rite existing in Ireland, and it may be said to have died a natural death in that country.—VIATOR.

EXCERPTS FROM A MASONIC SCRAP-BOOK.

By WM. JAMES HUGHAN, P.M., No. 131, TRURO.

NO. 1.—MASONIC KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

Although the degree of Masonic Knights Templars is virtually a Christian organization, and recognizes the "Prince of Peace" as its Chief Captain, the following letter from its first Grand Master to worthy knights, is confirmatory of the fact that the Order had, notwithstanding, a considerable amount of warlike enthusiasm about it, which, though contrary to the spirit of Jesus Christ, was after all but proving them to be genuine followers of the old Knights Templars, whose delight was in battle, and whose courage was only surpassed by their zealous attachment to Christianity.

Extract of a circular letter from the Grand Master of the Religious and Military Order of Knights Templars in England, to the Chapters of that Confraternity.

Dear Brother and Knight Companion,—As the nation is preparing to guard against an invasion of our enemies, if they should have the temerity to make an attempt, it is become my duty, at this important crisis, to request and require that such of you as can, without prejudice to your families, do hold yourselves in readiness (as Knights Templars) to unite with, and be under the command of the officers of the military corps stationed in your respective counties as may be most convenient, taking the name of "Prince Edward's Royal Volunteers." When the important moment arrives, I shall offer my services in the navy or army; and, whenever I have the honour to be received, shall inform you of my address and, although we are prevented by adverse circumstances from assembling together, where I might have had the honour and happiness of commanding in person, yet our hearts will be united in the glorious cause, in conformity to the sacred obligations we are under. Let our prayers be addressed to the Throne of Grace, that, as Christ's faithful soldiers and servants, we may be enabled to defend the Christian religion, our gracious sovereign, our laws, liberties, and properties, against a rapacious enemy. Let the word of the day be "The Will of God;" and let us remember that a day—an hour—of virtuous liberty, is worth a whole eternity of bondage.

The Knights Companions are required to wear the uniform of the corps in which they serve as volunteers, with the Cross of the Order of the Knights Templars, on a black riband between two button-holes, on the breast of the waist-coat.

Your faithful Brother and Knight Companion,
 THOMAS DUNCKERLEY (G.M.)

The following is the copy of a letter from Redruth, in Cornwall, in answer to the preceding.

Southampton, April 11th, A.D. 1794. A.O., 676.

Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,—Agreeable to your desires, signified to me by your esteemed favour of the 11th ultimo, I held a Conclave of the Order of Knights Templars in our Field of Encampment, at this place, on Monday the 28th ultimo, where I laid your letter before the Knights Companions. I have the happiness to inform you that I found them steadfast in their religious principles and unanimous in their loyalty and patriotism to their king and country. Two of the Knights Companions are officers in the Penryn Volunteer Corps, and will follow your directions in wearing the Cross of the Order, &c. The rest of the companions, residing at a distance from any established corps, will be ready on any emergent occasion to unite with them; and they have entered into a subscription (as Knights Templars) to be applied towards the defence of the country; and as there is a general subscription at Bodmin, for the county, and several volunteer corps on the coast for local defence, we beg your opinion and advice how to apply the money we have subscribed.

I am (M.E. and S.G.M.),
 Your faithful and affectionate Brother and K.C.,
 Redruth, 3rd May, 1794. J—K—
 Thos. Dunckerley, Esq., Hampton Court Palace.

MASONIC ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—The last meeting of the session will be held on Friday evening, 28th May, at eight o'clock, when a paper will be read by Brother Hyde Clarke, Hon. Treasurer, on "The History and Relations of Freemasonry in France." Masons not members may apply to Brother W. T. Marchant, Hon. Sec., 105, Great Russell-street, W.C.—*Adv.*

INSTALLATION FESTIVAL OF THE GREY FRIARS' LODGE, READING, No. 1101.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

The Installation Festival of this highly flourishing Lodge, established some four or five years ago, took place on Tuesday under most auspicious circumstances. The Lodge, held in the Masonic Hall, Geffries-road, was attended by nearly 70 of the brethren. The chief business was the initiation of Mr. Alfred Gooch (son of Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P. and Prov. Grand Master), and the installation of Bro. R. C. Hurley as W.M. Bro. W. Biggs, of Reading (whose labours and enthusiasm in the cause of Masonry are well known), performed both ceremonies most impressively. The musical arrangements for the day were under the direction of Bro. Tolley, P.P.G.O., assisted by Bros. Marriott, Briggs, and Barrett, of St. George's Chapel Royal, Windsor, and afforded much pleasure to the brethren.

After the W.M. had been duly installed, he proceeded to invest the following officers of the Lodge: Bro. J. Weightman, S.W.; Bro. G. Chancellor, J.W.; Bro. H.J. Simpson, Chaplain; Bro. J. Greenfield, Secretary; Bro. E. J. Tabor, S.D.; Bro. Godsmark, J.D.; Bro. J. T. Brown, I.G.; Bros. Stransou and Freeman, S. A Past Master's Jewel was presented to Bro. Alexander Beale, I.P.M., in recognition of the zeal, efficiency, and courtesy which he displayed during his year of office.

In the evening a banquet took place at the George Hotel, and the room was almost inconveniently full. The banquet was admirably served by Bro. George Pontin. The chair was taken by Bro. R. C. Hurley, W.M., of the Grey Friars' Lodge, and amongst those present were Bros. Sir D. Gooch, Bart., M.P., P.G.M., the Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, Bart., P.G.C., J. R. Stebbing (Southampton), P.M., P.G.D., of England; R. J. Spiers (Oxford), P.G.S.B., the Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C., E. G. Bruton (Oxford) P.M., S. Wittey, D.P.G.M. for Wilts, R. S. Hulbert (Basingstoke), P.P.G.S.W., Hants, F. A. Bulley, P.M., W. Biggs, P.M., G. Botly, P.M. (414), John Dew, Basingstoke, P.M., J. W. Blowers, W.M. (414), J. W. Wynne, P.M., John Ellis, P.M., A. Sellar, P.M., James Harris, W.M., W. W. Wynne, W.M. (101), Lovatt, (526), J. W. Hounslow, J. W. 414, C. W. Wyndham, P.M., P. Stokes, S. (414), R. Cave, Arthur Welch, Alfred W. Gooch, G. Anns, R. C. Shettle, H. P. Dowson, R. Bradley, S.D. (414), F. C. Warner, F. D. Awbery, W. C. Jameson, F. Warncott, W. Simpson, G. Parfitt, W. A. Danett, J. W. (1044), &c.

The W. M. first proposed "The Queen and Craft," remarking that as loyal citizens and as good Masons they would drink the toast with the greatest pleasure and the most hearty enthusiasm.

The W.M. next gave "The Right Hon. and the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and the Grand Officers of England, past and present." The Earl of Zetland had now held his high position as a Grand Master for a quarter of a century. It was thought that at the termination of the present year he would retire from that position, and should he do so he would carry with him the gratitude and the respect of the Craft.

Bro. SPIERS, D.P.G.M., (Oxford), responded on behalf of the Grand Officers. They had reason to feel proud of being connected with such a body, and they had especial reason to be proud of their Grand Master, whose service to the Craft had been so great, and so numerous for many years. (Cheers.) The position which the Earl de Grey and Ripon, their Deputy Grand Master now held, showed that they were able to attract to their order men eminent in the State. The President of the Council (Lord de Grey and Ripon) had worked as a Mason with that thoroughness, for which our countrymen were distinguished. Mr. Dodson, Chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons, had also taken office in Grand Lodge. The Prov. Grand Master (Sir Daniel Gooch) also though his duties were so multifarious, though he had charge of that wonderful undertaking, the Great Western Railway Company, though he was one of those who were engaged in casting a girdle round the Earth, and though he took part in the legislation of the country, had yet found time to devote to the interest of Masonry. (Cheers.) In conclusion Bro. Spiers expressed the gratification it had afforded him to be present, and observe how admirably the work was done in Greyfriars Lodge. He hoped the Lodge would continue to prosper. (Cheers.)

The W.M. rose and said the next toast might be truthfully designated the toast of the evening, it was "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch." Loud cheers.) He, (the W.M.) regarded it as a very great privilege to have the honour of occupying the chair on the occasion of the Provincial Grand Master's first visit in that capacity to the town of Reading (cheers), and in the name of the Grey Friars Lodge, he begged to give him a hearty welcome (cheers), and to thank him, not only for being present, but also for giving his name as a honorary member of the lodge. (Cheers.) For the last ten years, ever since the resignation of

the late Marquis of Devonshire, the provinces of Berks and Bucks, had been represented by the Grand Registrar. Br. McIntyre had discharged the duties of the office with great ability, but he had other counties to attend to as well as a great deal of other Masonic business. They hailed, therefore, with peculiar pleasure, the appointment of the office of so excellent a mason and so good a man as Sir Daniel Gooch. (Loud cheers.) He, (the W.M.), sincerely hoped that it might please the Great Architect of the Universe long to spare the life of their distinguished Brother, Sir Daniel, in health and strength. (Loud cheers.)

The P.G.M., SIR DANIEL GOOCH, who on rising was most warmly cheered, said that he was extremely obliged to the brethren for having received the last toast in a manner so cordial and so kind. It had been to him a great pleasure to be present that day. He could assure them that he had not taken upon himself the responsibilities of the office to which the Grand Master had appointed him without a thorough determination to perform his duties in a way which should, he hoped, meet with their approbation and respect. (Cheers.) In order to do his duties to the satisfaction of the province and himself, he felt that he must have extended to him that Masonic charity for his short comings, and that cordial support in his efforts, which he was confident he should not fail to receive. (Cheers.) Under such circumstances he believed that the province would continue to prosper, and would hold no mean position amongst the provinces of the land. (Cheers.) But the present had been to him a most gratifying occasion for a personal reason, because he had seen his own son initiated into Masonry. (Cheers.) It was many years since he (Sir Daniel) was initiated and he was pleased to say he had never regretted that step. (Cheers.) The ceremony had made a deep impression on his mind, and he did not doubt that it had also done so on the mind of his (Sir Daniel's) son, seeing that that ceremony had been performed by Bro. Biggs with the utmost accuracy of language, and the most perfect correctness of feeling. (Cheers.) Now that his son had been initiated, he (Sir D. Gooch) felt that as his father, and also as his brother (cheers and laughter), he should be able to teach him some of the mysteries of science. He (the P.G.M.) would conclude by thanking him for the kind invitation they had sent to him, and for the hearty welcome they had given him. He hoped to visit the other lodges in the province, and make himself, as far as he could, acquainted with the whole Craft.

P.M. ELLIS gave the next toast, "The Very Worshipful the Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, Bart., the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and Grand Officers of the Province, past and present." Sir John Hayes held a distinguished position in the province, and he was also a member of the Grand Lodge. He had shown himself fully equal to the requirements of his office, and his qualifications were so high that he had filled, in the absence of Lord Zetland, the office of Grand Master. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. SIR J. W. HAYES, P.G.C., in responding, said that it ought to be the laudable ambition of all the Brethren to aspire to hold office in the Provincial Grand Lodge. There were not many offices at the disposal of the Provincial Grand Master; but he was quite sure that Sir D. Gooch would take every means to ascertain who were the most fit to fill the offices. (Cheers.) He begged to propose "The Right Worshipful P.G.M., the Deputy P.G.M., and the Grand Officers of the Province of Wilts." They were very much obliged to the Province of Wilts for sending to this Province the P.G.M. elect (cheers and laughter); it was a very great kindness, and the Province of Berks and Bucks would endeavour to show itself grateful. (Cheers and laughter.)

Bro. S. WITTEY, D.P.G.M. for Wilts, in responding to the toasts, alluded to the loss which that province would sustain in consequence of the services of Sir D. Gooch being transferred to another province. Brother Wittey then referred, in very complimentary terms, to the working of the Greyfriars Lodge, and expressed the pleasure which it had afforded him to be present.

Bro. the Rev. R. J. SIMPSON, Grand Chaplain, said that as "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and therefore they would allow him, before he proposed the toast entrusted to him, to digress for a minute or two. He could not but express the deep satisfaction which he felt at seeing the admirable way in which the work of the lodge was done, and he could not but think that the manner in which the ceremony of installation had been performed by Bro. Biggs must have impressed them with a sense of the generous sentiments and the lofty principles of the brotherhood to which they belonged. He must thank them for having again elected him as Chaplain to the lodge. He felt this honour the more because he was not able to do more than to attend, as he always did with great pleasure, their annual gatherings. He begged now to propose "The Masonic Charities." He was pleased to see this toast take so good a position in the programme of the evening, coming as it

did even before the proposal of the toast of the W.M. of their own lodge. This evidenced that they thought of the Masonic Charities first and of themselves afterwards, which was only what was to be expected of a lodge which had sent a steward to the Girl's School and festival, and had sent that steward tenth on the list in respect of the amount of the donations entrusted to him. (cheers.) He had taken the opportunity on a former occasion, and he would now do so again, of recommending those who were interested in those Masonic Charities to go and see them themselves. He believed that the Girl's School was the first school of the kind in England. For the Boys' School a sum of £12,000 had been raised through the munificence of Masons, and the school was most admirably conducted. There was also provision made for the comfort and the support of aged Freemasons. He believed that if they could only read the history of some of these children and of their families; if they could trace the career of some of these poor aged Masons—(what struggles they had had, what reverses they had experienced, what distress they had endured)—they would learn to value even more highly than at present the work which these charities were doing. They had reason to believe that in no case had the children, educated in these schools, turned out otherwise than well. This was a most eloquent fact. It showed that the money was not misspent, and that the labour was not thrown away. And when Brethren were enjoying themselves in social harmony he trusted they would never forget the claims of the poorer brethren, for Masons should never cease to remember that charity was the sun, the centre around which all Masonic action should revolve. He hoped that they would not only hear of these charities, and read of them, and see them, but that they would value, admire, and support them. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. STEBBING responded on behalf of the Masonic Charities in an eloquent speech.

Bro. Sir D. Gooch next, in complimentary terms, proposed the health of the W.M., Bro. Hurley.

The W.M. suitably responded.

The health of the Installing Master, Brother W. Biggs, was next proposed, and responded to by that gentleman in suitable terms.

One or two other toasts having been drunk, the proceedings terminated. The banquet was acknowledged to be one of the most agreeable and successful gatherings of the kind ever held in Reading.

The whole arrangements were carefully and completely made, and admirably carried out.

LODGE OF BEVEVOLENCE.

The monthly meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence, was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 19th instant, under the presidency of Brother J. Newton Tomkins, P.G.D. Seventeen cases were relieved to the extent of £150, and 3 were recommended to Grand Lodge for grants of £30 each. Among other Grand Officers present, we noticed Bros. J. Nunn, J. Brett, J. M. Clabon, J. Hervey, J. Smith, W. Ough, E. Busher, Rev. C. J. Martyn, E. H. Patten, J. Savage, and J. Udall.

PLANTAGENET PRECEPTORY OF INSTRUCTION.

A monthly meeting was held at the Lyceum Tavern on Thursday, the 20th inst. Sir Knights Major-Genl. G. B. Mumbee, Hon. E. Roper-Curzon, J. G. Marsh, R. W. Little, A. J. Lewis, T. Smale, J. Brett, J. Mayo, J. Boyd, G. S. Stutes, C. Haigh, F. Walters, Dr. Bringlee, W. Adams, D. R. Still, and T. Cubitt were amongst those present. The ceremony of installation was ably worked, Sir Knight Lewis being the presiding officer. Four new members were elected.

DOMATIC CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION, No. 177.

This Chapter of Instruction was formally reopened on Saturday, the 15th inst., at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, under the auspices of Comp: R. Wentworth Little, as Preceptor, who officiated as M.E.Z; assisted by Comps. C. Hoggood, as H. J. Nunn, as J.; W. Dodd, S.E.; H. Webb, S.N.; J. Mayo, P. S.; J. Brett, P.Z.; President of the Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, E. Clark, H. Allman, J. G. Marsh, W. West Smith, &c. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, after which Com. Brett, worked the first clause of the first section. Five new members were elected, and the officers chosen for the next meeting on the 29th inst., were Comps. Hoggood, Z.; Nunn, H.; Clark, J.; and Dodd, P.S. The Companions residing in the Southern districts of the metropolis, have now therefore an opportunity of obtaining instruction in the Royal Arch ceremonies, in their own locality, and we hope they will attend the Domatic Chapter of Instruction in large numbers.

Original Correspondence.

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

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am glad to observe that Bro. Hemsworth has led the way to an *exposé* of the shameful manner in which the stewards and their guests were treated at the recent Girls' School Festival by the incompetent persons who apparently had charge of the festival arrangements. I can bear testimony to the fact that I had to leave my seat to go in quest of wine for the brethren at my table, when upon handing my card to the waiter in charge of the wine, the fellow absolutely refused to attend to it, and told me in a most flippant and insolent manner that "he knew nobody and would know nobody," although at the same moment he supplied another steward whose name I am prepared to state, with all that he required. I am bound to add, and I do so with pleasure, that Bro. Gosden, the Manager, when appealed to in the course of the evening respecting the scanty supply of wine, very readily did all in his power to remedy matters, but it is too bad that the stewards should be placed at the mercy of his petty subordinates, and insulted when asking for what is fair and proper.

I take this opportunity of stating that the amount of my list was incorrectly announced at the Festival as £47 5s. 0d., when it was in reality £55 13s. 0d.

Yours fraternally,

THOMAS CUBITT,
P.M., and Steward, Bedford Lodge, No. 157.

CELESTIAL MYSTERIES.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

SIR,—Though not a brother, perhaps you would allow me the liberty of saying my say anent Mr. Henry Melville's discoveries, to which it appears you have commenced to call public attention. First, allow me to remark that I do not think your defence of the Grand Registrar legitimate, inasmuch as that he appears to have been commissioned by the D.G.M. to examine into the worth and value of the so-called mysteries, and that after a cursory review of the same he ignored their worth. Now, it appears to me that if any records ever kept by men are of value, these that Brother M'Intire ignores are of the highest. Mr. Melville appears to possess a key to the groundworks of all establishments and to all sublunary customs, and, I am told, can give chapter and verse for the foundations of every religion. I say that I am told so, as I have not had the opportunity of making Mr. Melville's acquaintance, and only know him through the representations of a mutual friend; but though I differ from some of his statements (for instance, his assertion that Sagittaries is a *white* horse, though he opens the year at *black midnight*), yet so high is my opinion of the value of the mysteries, that, if the Freemasons decline to receive them, I shall be only too happy to offer £20 towards a public subscription, which I trust will be raised, to purchase them from Mr. Melville; and I see no reason why the subscription should not run up to fifty, or even a hundred thousand pounds, when it becomes known that the different peoples of the earth are entitled to hold peacefully their several religions, and that this position can be proven by *Brother Melville's discoveries*.

Allow me, Sir, the honour of remaining,

Your obedient servant,

A TUDER.

MASONIC RITUAL.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your readers will find little of either pleasure or profit in a war of mere contradiction between "Leo" and myself, on a matter which any well-informed Mason is equally qualified to decide. I referred to the Ritual of Craft Masonry as being preserved "by tradition only," and I conceive, in spite of "Leo's" repeated contradictions, that I have amply justified my assertion. However, for "Leo's" satisfaction, and to close an unprofitable controversy, I beg respectfully to refer the question to you. The correspondence is before you, and I shall be greatly obliged by your expressing your opinion on the point at issue in the columns of your paper.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,

Very fraternally yours,

DELTA.

THE ROMISH ANTI-MASONIC BOGLE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

SIR AND BRO.,—I fear your correspondent "Anti-Humbag" as he appears in yours of the 8th, labours under the disadvantage of not being fully informed on the state of Masonry in Ireland, and (as I presume he is a Mason), will be glad to learn that although

Cardinal Cullen did publish a manifesto interdicting any one under his jurisdiction to attend our late Masonic Ball, that those of his flock who have the honour to be Freemasons, had from their experience good sense to know that his eminence, although he may control them in his own circle of rights, could not affect them as Freemasons, and that, therefore, there was not "an universal skedaddle," but that many good and worthy Roman Catholic brethren and their families did attend to enjoy the festive scene; 'tis true some outsiders may have invented imaginary sick aunts or may have suddenly been afflicted an old grandmother with imaginary rheumatics as an excuse to avoid making "one of the party;" but even those were very few, and many of our most anxious working stewards were from our Roman Catholic brethren, whose families were heard to express their admiration for Masonry, and to wonder how so respectable an old gentleman could express a sentiment antagonistic to such splendour, order, and regularity. I have thus far intruded on your space fearing our brethren elsewhere might think Masonry in Ireland, and especially in Dublin, was screwed together so loosely as that any one man not in authority could interfere with its wisdom, strength, and beauty. Our position will be readily understood when I state that, independent of Cardinal Cullen and "all his merrie men," we mustered 3,000 at our Ball, and by the reception given to our royal guest, proved that Masons have for a motto, "Fear God, honour the King," and that peace, love, and charity, are amongst our precepts.

Again, at the presentation of premiums to our orphan girls a week later, we numbered 5,000. These little facts will explain to "Anti-Humbag" that no matter how we may be classed amongst Fenians, Ribbon-men, &c., it has not impeded our progress, although I am free to admit that the sanction of His Eminence might make us even more numerous but less respectable. As to "A.H.'s" allusion to the "Latini crucis," I think that good taste ought to prevent the introduction of sectarian matters into Masonic writings. Such *we* strictly forbid—and we cannot forget that amongst us are many brethren Israelites, whom we respect; also I object to the emblems of Christianity being burlesqued by being made to represent the acknowledgment to the Cardinal for "success" he never attained.

Yours faithfully,

Dublin, May 12th, 1869. T. B., P.M., 171.

MASONRY AND THE NUMBER SEVEN.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—There seems at present to be a strong wind blowing towards our Masonic camp from the mystical world. We have been favoured with a current of "Masonic celestial mysteries," and now, as above, we have also had a taste of "Masonic numerical mysteries." These might have been of some use had whatever was intended to be deduced from them been brought to a definite point, or to some logical conclusion, or had they been laid down so as to properly illustrate some definite or particular Masonic idea; but no! the subjects were mysterious, consequently they, I would suppose, served their purpose if they mystified their readers; they might therefore perhaps pass as being interesting, not instructive. After perusing them, I can only exclaim, with Dominic Sampson, "Prodigious!"

In regard to "The scale of the Number Seven," Bro. "Cryptonymus" says: "I can only beg my readers to ponder well the profound symbolism contained in the above table." I can see nothing particularly "profound" in it—*e. g.*, "seven planets" are mentioned; but there are more than "seven planets" in our Solar system, and the "Moon" is not a Planet. "Seven animals" are named; but why give the "Lion" and the "Cat" when they are both of the same species? "Seven members" are given; but what about the omission of the tongue, the stomach, the liver, &c. ? and as to the "name of God with seven letters," I find a writer saying—"The Assyrians called him Adad; the Egyptians, Amun; the Persians, Syre; the Greeks, Theos (the th forming one letter); and the Latins, Deus." All *four* letters.

As to my remark about the "Moon" not being a planet, "Cryptonymus" may say that the ancients only knew of the above as "the seven planets;" but I answer, supposing that to be the case, what about the "seven members?"

Then, coming to more immediate Masonic matters, we are told "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." Now, that may be the case in England, but it is not so in Scotland, where all the officers are elective; only in some lodges the R.W.M. has the privilege of appointing either his S.W. or his Depute. I shall not say which system may be the best, as both may have particular advantages. Again, the Secretary and Treasurer are set aside, not being "contemplated in the original plan." That must surely be a mistake, as the Treasurer, *e. g.*, is one of the most important officers, seeing that in all well regulated societies the

labourer is worthy of his hire, which he of course cannot receive unless money for that purpose be collected and taken charge of by some one. However that is simply a suggestion; but I may observe that last century some lodges had no such officers as the "two deacons," having, *e. g.*, a Master; S.W.; J.W.; S. St.; J. St.; Secretary, Treasurer, and Tyler; in all eight. I might suggest the following arrangement as perhaps a giving-in to the number seven idea. Master (1), Wardens (2), Deacons (3), Secretary (4), Treasurer (5), I.G. (6), Tyler (7). However, in looking at it from a Scottish point of view, I would ask what authority there is for saying that "a Senior and a Junior Deacon" date from "Operative Masonry?" The old Operative Scottish Lodges, if I remember correctly, had only one Deacon, who was the Master. "Dekin" being the title of the principal office-bearer, therefore, it would seem that the selection given by "Cryptonymus," instead of being an old "landmark," is simply a new arrangement of last century; however, if Bro. "Cryptonymus" can give the name of any lodge which had that arrangement of officers, and set them to work, previous to A.D. 1700, I shall be glad to hear of it.

I am, yours fraternally,
LEO.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES TO SIR R. A. S. ADAIR, BART., R.W.P.G.M.

A large gathering of the Brethren of the Craft belonging to the Lodges in the province of Suffolk met at the Masonic Hall, Ipswich, on Saturday last, for the purpose of honouring their highly-esteemed P.G.M., Sir Robt. Alex. Shafio Adair, Bart., A.D.C. to the Queen, &c., &c. Several addresses of condolence on the death of the P.G. Master's father, and congratulation on the accession of the present Baronet to the family titles and estates, had been voted to him by the Lodges of the province, but it was thought that a meeting of the representatives of each Lodge should be held at Ipswich, when all the addresses should be presented to their worthy chief in person.

This arrangement was carried out as above, when between sixty and seventy Brethren assembled in the beautifully decorated Lodge-room, which was on this occasion greatly admired by those who saw it for the first time since its completion.

Amongst those present we observed many present and past Provincial Grand Officers, as well as many of the present Worshipful Masters of Suffolk Lodges.

The R.W.P.G.M. having been escorted from the reception room by his P.G. Officers, to the Hall was received by the Brethren with the usual Masonic salute, and having taken his seat on the dais, the presentation of the addresses, accompanied by suitable observations from each brother having charge of the same, were presented in the following order:—

From the Officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge, by the W.D.P.G.M.

Unity (Lowestoff), by Bro. Major Allez, P.P.S.G.W.

Doric (Woodbridge), by Bro. Grissing, P.P.J.G.W.

British Union (Ipswich), by Bro. Roby, W.M.

St. Luke's (Ipswich), by P. M. Davy.

Virtue and Silence (Hadleigh), by Bro. Pettit, P.P.G.S. of W.

Perfect Friendship (Ipswich), by Br. Staddon, W.M.

Prudence (Halesworth), by Br. Strathern, P.P.J.G.W.

Phoenix (Stowmarket), by Bro. Freeman, P.G. Treas.

Fidelity (Framlingham), by Bro. Jennings, W.M.

Waveney (Bungay), by Bro. Able, W.M.

Prince of Wales (Ipswich), by Bro. Rev. R. A.

Sanderson, P.P.G.C., W.M.

Royal St. Edmunds (Bury St. Edmunds), by Bro. Thompson, W.M.

Brother Norman, P.P.G.O. Norfolk, in the absence of the P.G. Organist, kindly presided at the organ.

At the conclusion of the presentation the R.W. P.G.M. briefly addressed the Brethren, thanking them for their sympathy in the loss he had sustained, and for their good wishes towards him, and he trusted that he should be able to faithfully discharge the duties of the responsible position he had been called upon to fill.

The P.G.M. was then escorted to the banquetting room, where an elegant collation had been set out, the tables being very nicely decorated with flowers. A massive silver fountain (which had been kindly lent for the occasion by Bro. Callaway), occupied the centre of the table, throwing out a jet of "Masonic Bouquet."

The D.P.G.M. occupied the chair, and was supported by about fifty Brethren.

The repast was considered by the Brethren to be the choicest seen for some time, and was supplied by the brother appointed by the "Prince of Wales" Lodge, whose members erected the Hall.

The Brethren having done justice to the good things, and grace said by the P.P.G. Chaplain Bro. Sanderson, the Chairman gave the usual loyal and masonic toasts, followed by the health of their honored guest, which was suitably responded to by the P.G.M. Several other toasts followed, and it was a general remark that the assembly had been a most successful one.

THE CRAFT.

(Continued from page 5.)

METROPOLITAN.

Pannure Lodge, 723.—The annual meeting and Installation Festival of this Lodge, took place on Monday last at the Balham Hotel. After the passing of two E. A.'s by the retiring W.M., Br. Gates, the chair was taken by Bro. Thomas, P.M., the father of the Lodge, to whom was presented for Installation Bro. J. B. A. Wolpert, S.W., the W.M. elect. The ceremony was admirably performed, the orations and proclamations given with great effect, and producing an excellent impression upon the minds of all present and especially many young masons who had never before witnessed the interesting and solemn rite. By special request Bro. Hodges, P.M., officiated as acting Secretary, and Director of Ceremonies, and Bro. Gates, P.M., and Bro. Frances also rendered valuable services. A vote of thanks to Bro. Thomas, for the able discharge of the duties of Installing Master, was entered on the minutes, and the newly installed W.M. closed the lodge in the various degrees in a manner which corroborated the statement current that he was a most accomplished and correct worker. At the banquet which followed due justice was given to his merits, as well as to those of his immediate predecessor Bro. Gates, and the Past Masters represented by Bro. Thomas and Hodges. Bro. Frances P.M. responded for the Visitors, and Bro. Young S.W. for the newly appointed officers.

PROVINCIAL.

OVER-DARWEN.—*Lodge of Harmony and Industry, No. 331.*—On Thursday last a lodge of emergency was held for the purpose of affording the brethren an opportunity of attending the funeral of the late Bro. Ralph Ellison, who had been a member of the lodge for nearly forty years. The lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., Bro. Benson Wood, when the dispensation was read granting the privilege to the brethren of joining the *cortege* in the regalia of their respective ranks, after which a procession was formed of about fifty brethren, amongst whom were the officers of the lodge, viz.: Bros. Benson Wood, W.M.; Geo. Hargreaves, S.W.; Dr. Stephens, J.W.; Dr. Wraith, S.D.; D. Ainsworth, J.D.; Geo. Smalley, P.M., Treas.; Bentley, P.M., Sec.; L. Roberts, P.M., Director of Ceremonies; G. Wood, P.M.; and Statter, I.G. Bros. Eastwood, P.M.; Thornher, P.M., and others, Perseverance Lodge, Blackburn. Bro. Townley, P.M., and others, Fidelity Lodge, Blackburn. Bro. S. P. Bidder, P.M., Manchester. Bro. Rev. Mr. Hughes, Vicar of Tockholes, &c. On arriving at the residence the procession filed off in the usual manner, to allow the W.M. to visit the bereaved relatives, when the line was reformed and proceeded to St. Thomas's Church, where the burial service was most impressively read by Rev. Bro. Hughes. The thirty-ninth Psalm and "Vital Spark" were effectively rendered by Mrs. Howarth, Towers, Birkett, and Hindley, assisted by Mrs. Howarth, who, at the grave, also sang "Rest in Peace," amid the almost breathless attention of a large concourse of the inhabitants who had assembled to witness the ceremony. Oration by Bro. Hughes, and the invocations by the W.M., were the subject of deep admiration and comment. Returning, the brethren on reaching the lodge room again filed off on each side of the street and uncovered, allowed the carriages containing the relatives to pass through on their way home. The

WHITHAVEN.—*Lewis Lodge, 872.*—The brethren of this lodge met on Monday evening, May 17th, at 7 o'clock, in the Freemasons' Hall, College-street, W.M., John Spittal taking the chair of King Solomon. Brother J. Spittal was supported by his officers Brother Walker Whittle, S.W.; Brother Robert Foster, J.W.; Lancelot Hugh Ellis, S.D.; Brother E. G. Hughes, Prov. G.T., Secretary; Brother William Gill, I.G.; Brother George Fitzgerald, T. Present, Brother C. Morton, P.P.S.G.W.; Brother J. Slade, P.P.G.S.; G. W. Kenworthy, P.P.G.J.D.; Brother Cooper, P.P.G.O. The Lodge was duly opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Honorary Secretary, Brother E. G. Hughes, and confirmed. Brother George Hurker was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. Brother C. Morton proposed that Brother J. Slade be appointed Treasurer, which was seconded by Brother Foster, and carried by the Brethren unanimously, he was duly invested. W.M. J. Spittal read a letter from Brother Little, resigning the office of Almoner, which place will be filled up by the Committee there being no other proposal. Brother C. Morton read a petition in favour of establishing a lodge at Egremont, to be called the "Kenlis Lodge," he to be W.M. for the first twelve months. Brother Spittal proposed that the petition read by Brother C. Morton be entertained, which was seconded by Brother Foster, signed by the Wardens, and carried unanimously. Brother Spittal proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of our late esteemed Brother Fisher, Treasurer of 872, which was seconded by Brother Kenworthy, and carried unanimously. The Lodge was closed with the usual solemnities.

ROYAL ATHELSTAN LODGE, No. 19.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

The last meeting of the season of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, was held on Thursday, the 13th of May, at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, City. Bro. T. H. Potter, W.M., presided; J. Pollard, S.W.; W. Williams, J.W., Starling, Treasurer; Bywater, P.M. and Secretary; Stevens, S.D.; Gale, P.M. and Father of the Lodge, Director of the Ceremonies; Daley, Tyler; and the following other members of the lodge:—Bros. Campion, P.M.; Nicholson, J.P.M.; John Savage, P.G.D.; George Rice Loveday, P.M.; Fox, P.M.; Palmer, P.M.; Pound Cox, P.M.; Stone, P.M.; Dix, P.M.; Harker, Henry Black, Watkins, Medley, J. Harker, Levenson, P.M., Horner, Maughan, Phillips, Dr. Whitmore, Simpson, and a number of visitors, amongst whom were Bros. Murray, D. Grand Master for China; Clabon, P.G.D.; Caulcher, P.M.; Whitley, D.P.G.M. for Wilts; Williams, 753; Ward, Apollo, 305; H. Thompson, P.M., 177 and 1158; C. E. Thompson, S.D., 1158; &c.

The lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A Brother was brought forward for raising, and having answered the usual questions, the lodge was opened in the Third Degree, Bro. Savage, P.G.D., taking the chair, and the brother was in a most impressive manner raised to the degree of M.M.; and in the course of a long experience we never saw that important ceremony performed in a more correct, impressive, or careful manner, and it truly afforded to aspiring Masons, candidates for the Master's chair, a pattern how that ceremony ought to be performed. The whole of the ritual was given without abridgement, and several veteran Masons expressed the high gratification they had experienced in seeing Freemasonry carried out in all its original purity by so worthy a member of the Royal Athelstan Lodge. After some other business the lodge was closed in due form, and with solemn prayer.

An excellent dinner followed, and at its termination, on the withdrawal of the cloth, the W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. In reference to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, he said he hoped the success which had attended his reign over the Craft would be continued for many years to come.

The W.M. proposed "The health of the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers." He coupled with the toast the name of Brother Clabon, P.G.D.

Bro. CLABON, P.G.D., returned thanks on behalf of the Deputy Grand Master, and said he deserved all that was said of him. He thanked the brethren for the welcome he had received; and as he had not for some time past been in the habit of visiting lodges, if he was treated in the same way he had been received that evening he hoped to be a frequent visitor.

The W.M., in a complimentary manner, proposed "The health of Bro. Murray, the District Grand Master for China," and congratulated the lodge in having for the second time been honoured by his presence.

Bro. MURRAY, in a very eloquent speech, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, and assured them on his return to a distant land he should cherish with the deepest feelings of affection the welcome he had received from the brethren of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, believing the seed they had sown would produce abundant fruit, and if any heart could beat in unison with theirs that heart was his own.

Bro. GALE, P.M., proposed "The health of the W.M.," and alluded to the time when he saw him initiated in the lodge, and how he had marked his after career.

The W.M. returned thanks, and expressed his determination to do all in his power to merit their approbation.

Bro. SAVAGE, P.G.D., having been utmost with the W.M.'s gavel called upon the brethren to fill bumpers to the toast he was about to propose, which having been done, he turned to Brother Bywater, P.M. and Secretary, and thus addressed him:—Bro. Bywater, I have been requested by the W. Master and my brethren of the Royal Athelstan Lodge to acknowledge publicly, on their behalf, the many kind services you have rendered the lodge, and to present to you a memento of their esteem and regard. Though not eloquently, yet sincerely, shall I discharge this pleasing duty. It might, indeed, have fallen into abler hands, but at least I have this advantage, that I am able to speak of you from the time of your admission into the lodge; nor will I deny that, having been on terms of intimacy with you for many years, without any differences to mar our friendship, this occasion is to me a very pleasurable one. You were initiated into our lodge, No. 19, in the year 1846, by my esteemed but now departed brother, Charles Robb, the then W.M., and having subsequently filled several of the offices,

it fell to my lot, in 1853, to install you into the chair. With great ability, and with much courtesy, you discharged the duties of W. Master, as several of us present to-day can well remember, and from that time you continued to win your way in the lodge, and to increase the esteem in which you were justly held. Having done us good suit and service, after the lapse of another ten years you kindly undertook the duties of honorary secretary. How well and how ably you have discharged those duties I will not enlarge upon, because the fact is patent to us all. But our recent centenary meeting has put the crowning stone upon your services, and its great success, without a breakdown of any kind—gratifying to us all, and spontaneously acknowledged by our numerous and distinguished guests on that joyous occasion—was largely due to your judicious counsels and valuable assistance. No marvel, then, that your brethren should desire to record their feelings in something more substantial than words; and none will say nay when I assert that we are about to do the right thing to-day. (Brother Pound, P.M., here read the vote of thanks engrossed on vellum, and the inscription on the clock, which was as follows:—"This timepiece was presented by the Royal Athelstan Lodge of Freemasons, No. 19, to Brother William Matthew Bywater, P.M. and Hon. Sec., in token of the high esteem in which he is held by his brethren, and of their best wishes for his happiness and prosperity. 13th of May, 1869.") Brother Savage then proceeded: The foundation of this testimonial was a vote of the lodge by acclamation; it has been supplemented by the subscriptions of 50 members of the lodge, and as a matter of fact none have refused to co-operate. The vote of thanks is expressive of the feelings of your brethren towards you. The timepiece will bring with it many pleasing reminiscences, for memory loves to dwell on the sunny spots of the past. But to your thoughtful mind it will not only be suggestive of by-gone days, but also of the present and the future. While it will call to remembrance happy years of the past, it will mark the stirring present, and point to a hopeful future. Though not with your bodily eye, yet with your mental vision you will readily read, as if engraven on that timepiece, the trite, yet expressive words, "*Tempus fugit*," conveying to your mind a moral beautiful couched in the language of one whose wisdom is immortal in our Craft, "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." And now, my good Brother, it only remains for me to present you, in the name of my brethren of Lodge No. 19, this vote of thanks. (Handing it to Brother Bywater, and to beg your acceptance of this timepiece in acknowledgment of your many—very many—kind services, and to mark the esteem and respect in which your brethren hold you. I have also to express their fervent hopes that there yet remains for you a lengthened career of usefulness and prosperity. Long may your life be spared, as a blessing to your family and as an ornament to your lodge; and when at a distant day the hands of that timepiece shall no longer move visibly before your eyes—its bell shall cease to strike its dulcet tones upon your ear—when, in the overruling Providence of the Great Architect of the Universe, you shall be summoned to doff this mortal coil, and to quit the Royal Athelstan Lodge, may you leave behind a name fragrant with praise—an example worthy of imitation—and receive for yourself a better and more enduring reward. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Bro. Bywater returned thanks in a short but expressive speech.

A Past Master's jewel was presented to Brother Nicholson, I.P.M., which he gratefully acknowledged.

The health of the officers was proposed, for which Bro. Pollard, S.W. returned thanks, remarking that when he came to the chair, he should have great difficulty in following the talented brethren, who had preceded him. On the part of the officers he thanked them for that kind acknowledgment of their services. Other toasts were given, and the very harmonious meeting was brought to a close at an early hour.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 12th instant, Mrs. Stirling gave another of her readings, from Shakespeare's play of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly. Mrs. Stirling's acting is well known on the stage, but her really beautiful reading took the audience by surprise, and she received from an enthusiastic and fashionable audience several well-merited rounds of applause. In addition, the whole of Mendelssohn's music was performed by the members of the Orchestral Union, by artists from the Royal Italian Opera House, the solo parts being sung by Miss Fanny Holland and Miss Marie Stocken, with a very excellent choir of ladies. The whole was under the direction of Bro. E. Kingsbury, the well-known talented conductor, who has the entire management of these charming readings. Another reading is announced for June 11th, in the evening, from Shakespeare's Play of "The Tempest."