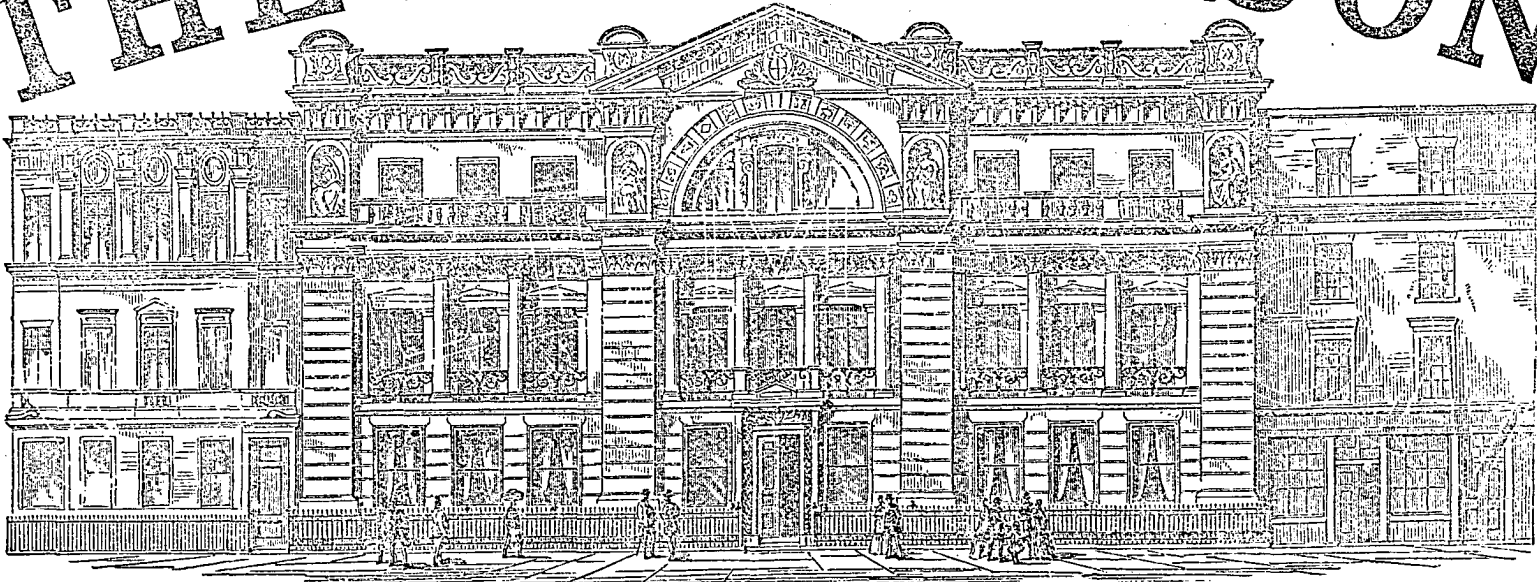


THE FREEMASON



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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HAVING traced the history of the temple erected under the auspices of Zerubbabel, Haggai, and Joshua, upon which record the ceremonies of Royal Arch Masonry, in what may be termed the York Rite, are substantially based, it may be well to retrace our steps and review those traditions which ascribe the origin of the Royal Arch degree to a much earlier period—the antediluvian era. The figure of the Patriarch Enoch stands forth prominently in the first act of this mythical drama, which is probably unknown to the vast majority of

Masons at the present day. The legend, however deserves preservation, were it only for the apposite moral attached to its quaint and mystic narrative.

Enoch, the son of Jared, was a man who walked encircled with the love of God, and the visible presence of the Deity shed splendour round his path. To him was the arcana of Divine Wisdom revealed; to him the secrets of nature were unveiled, and the profound obscurities of human thought became irradiated to the spiritual vision of the friend of God. In blissful communion with his Maker, the favoured Enoch rejoiced, and around him floated the atmosphere of Paradise. But the sacred name of the Most High was not communicated to the patriarch until he had acquired the knowledge of all things appertaining to the animal, mineral, and vegetable kingdoms, and had penetrated into mysteries super-mundane and celestial.

Then it was that the Almighty appeared unto him in a dream, and said, “As thou art desirous of knowing my name, follow me and it shall be revealed.” Upon this a mountain seemed to rise to the heavens, and Enoch was swiftly carried to the top thereof, where he was shown a triangular plate of gold upon which was engraved, in brilliant characters, the ever-blessed name of God, which he was admonished by a mystic voice never to pronounce. After this, Enoch was lowered into the bowels of the earth perpendicularly through nine arches, and in the ninth, or deepest, he saw the same brilliant golden plate with the same characters surrounded with a flaming light. Enoch being full of the spirit of the Most Puissant God, built a temple on the very spot under ground, and dedicated it to Jehovah. The entrance to this temple was through nine successive arches in the same form as those he had witnessed in his dream.

Methuselah, the eldest son of Enoch, was the architect of this sacred building, but he knew not the reason for its singular construction. This edifice was erected in the Land of Canaan, which afterwards became the Land of Promise, and, since then, the heritage of Israel. Enoch made a gold plate of a triangular form, a cubit long, and enriched it with the most precious stones. He encrusted this plate on a stone of agate, and engraved thereon the characters he

had observed in his dream. The plate was then transported to the vault of the ninth arch, and placed on a pedestal of white marble of a triangular form.

After Enoch had finished the subterranean temple, God appeared to him again, and desired him to make a trap-door of stone in the first arch, and told him it must be laid down with an iron ring to lift up the same occasionally, as, in consequence of the wickedness of mankind, God had determined to visit the world with fire or with the waters of destruction. The nine arches, being finished and closed up accordingly, no person could penetrate or enter therein, and to Enoch alone was known the precious treasure contained in those hidden arches, and he alone, of all men living, knew the true and wondrous name of God. The wickedness of man increased daily; and Enoch, foreseeing that the knowledge of the arts would be lost in the impending deluge or conflagration, and being desirous of preserving the principles of science to the posterity of those whom God was pleased to save, he built two great columns on the highest mountain near him—one of brass to withstand the water, and the other of marble to resist the fire. He engraved on the marble column certain hieroglyphics that there was a precious treasure concealed in arches underground which he had dedicated to God; and on the brazen column he engraved the principles of the liberal arts and sciences. Methuselah was the father of Lamech, and Lamech was the sire of Noah, whose virtues gained him the approval and love of the Most High, who thus spake to him, “I will punish all mankind in general with a deluge, and order you to construct an ark to contain yourself and family, with apartments for a pair of every living creature, as I will save those from the punishment I am about to inflict upon the world.” God then gave Noah the plan for constructing the Ark which the patriarch was 100 years in building, and when it was completed he was 600 years of age and his son Seth 99. About five years before this period, Lamech died aged 777 years. There was therefore not one of the ancient patriarchs since Adam living at the time of the flood except Methuselah, the grandfather of Noah, who was then 969 years old, and as there is no record of his existence in the past diluvian era, there can

be no doubt that the most venerable man, in the world, as well as the infant just born, alike perished in the general destruction. God having directed Noah, his sons, and his sons' wives to retire into the Ark, with the living creatures he had selected, the deluge commenced, in the year of the world 1656, and everything was swallowed up in the waters. The most superb cities and monuments were destroyed, and the marble column erected by Enoch did not escape the action of the powerful elements, but by divine permission the column of brass resisted the force of the water, and in this manner the sons of Noah were enabled to transmit to future ages the knowledge of those important sciences which have contributed so much to the welfare of the human race. It is also asserted that the Book of Enoch was given into the charge of Ham,

"With strict command,
Within that Ark securely to enshrine
For preservation. These the tables were;
Of which tradition tells, by Ham preserved
From deluge, and in Egypt since laid up
In temples, though concealed by hiring priests,
But not from Moses, skilled in Egypt's lore,
To whom on Sinai they were renewed."

Herald.

Japhet also carried into the ark images sculptured by his own hand, which are supposed to have prefigured the future races of man, but which eventually gave rise to idolatry when their origin was forgotten.

The sacred Scriptures subsequently record the bondage of the children of Israel to the Egyptians, and their exodus from the land of the Pharaohs under the conduct of their leader Moses. Another Masonic tradition states that in a certain battle the Ark of Alliance was lost in the forest and the same was found by the roaring of a lion, who ceased to roar and crouched on the ground meekly on the approach of the Israelites, although the said lion had just devoured a number of Egyptians who attempted to carry off the Ark. The lion had the key of the Ark secure in his mouth, but dropped it when he saw the High Priest advance, and then retired without offering any violence to the chosen people. Upon the key we again quote from Mackey:—

"In one of the highest degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite we find the following explanation of the symbolism of the key which is equally applicable to Royal Arch Masonry. 'The key demonstrates that having obtained the key to our sublime mysteries, the Mason, if he behaves with justice, fervency and zeal to his companions, will soon arrive at the true meaning of the Masonic society.' But the symbolism is here still further extended. It is within the sacred pages of the law that this invaluable key is found which teaches us that it is only in the revelations of the Supreme Architect of the Universe that Divine Truth is to be discovered."

ON Thursday week the remains of Bro. Owden, who for some years had kept the Golden Lion, in King-street, Smithfield, were interred in Abney-park Cemetery. Having passed through all the grades of Freemasonry, he was followed to the grave by the W.M. and several P.M.'s and members of the Wellington Lodge.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Royal Dramatic College, at the Adelphi Theatre, on the 31st inst., Bro. Benj. Webster in the chair, the secretary, Bro. J. W. Anson, read the report, and announced that the annual benefit in aid of the college would take place at Drury Lane Theatre, on June 12th. He also stated that the late respected Bro. Thos. Powrie had bequeathed a valuable property in Dundee to the college, and that the funds were in a prosperous state. A vote of thanks was then unanimously accorded to the worthy Master, Bro. Benj. Webster.

Reviews.

"The Freemason," St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.

We are much pleased with our namesake, notwithstanding the editorial dissent from our exposition of English Masonic law respecting the admission of maimed candidates into the Order. We shall always do battle for the real landmarks of the Craft; but the practice in England since the establishment of a speculative Grand Lodge must surely count for something with other Grand Bodies who have all derived their existence, as well as their code of jurisprudence, from the Grand Lodge of England. However, we have not at present leisure to argue the question at length, but our worthy contemporary may rest assured that upon this point we represent faithfully the dictum of English Masonic authorities. In this number we gladly insert an article from *The Freemason* of St. Louis, to which we wish every success.

"Monograms," by Bro. D. G. BERRI, Engraver to H.M. Post-office, 36, High Holborn.

In an age when the study of ancient symbolism has become almost universally diffused, the importance of many post-Christian hieroglyphics is not sufficiently estimated. We are ready to trace, with Layard, the sculptured enigmas on the walls of Nineveh, or the crypto-graphic emblems of the Egyptians, while we overlook the origin and significance of more modern symbols. Bro. Berri, in the splendid little volume now before us—which we may say, *en passant*, is a marvel of the printing art, very opportunely presents us with the results of his researches into the history of monograms.

The work is divided into four chapters—1, "Of Monograms in general;" 2, "Masons' Marks;" 3, "Merchants' Marks;" 4, "On the Construction of Monograms;"—and is profusely embellished with plates representing the principal monograms and marks used before and during the mediæval ages. Almost every page in this handsome volume contains allusions peculiarly interesting to the Masonic fraternity. Thus, in the first chapter, Bro. Berri elucidates the devices known as the triple tau, the cross of Constantine, and other symbols referred to in various Masonic Orders. The second chapter—on "Masons' Marks"—speaks for itself; and the origin of "Merchants' Marks" as a substitute for armorial bearings will be attentively perused by every lover of heraldry. The fourth chapter is eminently practical in its observations as to the construction of monograms, and the author, in referring to the different styles adopted, draws especial attention to the picturesque character of the Anglo-Hibernian school of calligraphy, which was based originally upon quaint Runic carvings and supplemented by pictorial representations of birds and animals. We shall give a brief extract from Bro. Berri's work at a future period, and in the meantime heartily recommend our readers to study "Monograms" themselves.

NEW CONCORD LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—Bro. Jas. Terry will work the ceremonies of Consecration and Installation of the above Lodge, (held at the Rosemary Branch, Hoxton,) on Wednesday, the 9th.

BRO. HERR FORMES, the celebrated basso, after a lengthened tour makes his first appearance at the Princess' Theatre, as an actor, in Shakespeare's play of "Shylock," on the 2nd of June.

AT THE MASONIC HALL, 14, Bedford Row, a club is held on the first Tuesday in every month, called the "Club of True Highlanders." It was established in 1815 for the relief of distressed Scotchmen; most of the members dress in highland costume. A numerous and convivial meeting was held on Tuesday last, the chief, Bro. W. G. Hepburn, occupying the chair. The hon. sec. read the minutes of last meeting and the half-yearly balance-sheet, and stated the amount of the funds in hand to be £397. After every toast, which are given with Highland honours, the piper walked round the room playing a tune on the bagpipes. A reel was danced by four members of the club in full Highland costume, and several members and visitors sang some very excellent songs, both English and Scotch. The hall, which was decorated in the Gothic style, looked very picturesque. It was announced that the annual *Shinnie* Match, and other sports, would take place on Monday, June 21st, opposite the Prince of Wales Tavern, Blackheath. To all lovers of Scottish games this will be an interesting occasion. A very pleasant evening was spent, at the conclusion of which the entire company, in true Scottish fashion, sang "Auld Lang Syne."

PROV. GRAND CHAPTER OF R. A. MASONS N. AND E. YORKSHIRE.

A Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, was holden by special appointment in the Old Globe Chapter, Scarborough, on Wednesday, 19th May, when there were present:—M.E. Comp. John Pearson Bell, Esq., *M.D.*, Grand Sup. of North and East Ridings, Yorkshire, Z.; E. Comp. John Kemp, jun. (294), Prov. Grand H.; Rev. J. E. Mayne Young, *M.A.* (236), Prov. J.; Michael Charles Peck (250), Prov. S.E.; John Walker (57), Prov. S.N.; Walter Reynolds (250), Prov. Asst. Soj.; Richard Welsh Hollon (236), Prov. Treas.; William Lawton (236), Prov. Registrar; John N. Scherling (250), Prov. S.B.; Dr. S. H. Armitage (200), Prov. D.C.; Comps. Henry Grove (200), as Prov. Organist; John Ward (236), Prov. I.J.; William Johnson (57), Prov. O.J.; Comps. Wm. Tesseymau (57), J. Groves (200), J. Balmford (236), J. Thompson (250) P.G.S.'s; together with the following Principals and Past Principals of the Chapters in the Province:—E. Comps. W. B. Hay, *M.D.*, P.Z.—Z., J. Walter, H., M. W. Clarke, P.Z., Humber Chapter, 57, Hull; W. F. Rooke, *M.D.*, Z., W. T. Farthing, H., H. A. Williamson, J., J. W. Woodall, P.Z., J. F. Spurr, P.Z., Old Globe Chapter, 200, Scarborough; Rev. J. E. M. Young, Z., Thos. Cooper, P.Z., Wm. Cowling, P.Z., Wm. Layton, P.Z., R. W. Hollon, P.Z., J. March, P.Z., Zetland Chapter, 236, York; Walter Reynolds, Z., Geo. Hardy, J., M. C. Peck, P.Z., Minerva Chapter, 250, Hull; J. Kemp, Z., Constitutional Chapter, 294, Beverley; J. N. Lawson, Z., and Wm. Wood, P.Z., Britannia Chapter, 312, Whitby; J. Storey, Marwood Chapter, 602, Middlesborough; also many visiting Companions.

The Provincial Grand Chapter having been opened in ancient and solemn form, the minutes of the last Prov. G. Chapter, held 25th March 1868, were read and confirmed. The various Chapters then communicated, all of which (with the exception of the King Edwin Chapter, Malton), were represented.

The bye-laws for the government of the Provincial Grand Chapter were then submitted for confirmation. When, on the proposition of Comp. Cowling, it was resolved "That bye-laws 3 be altered so that the fee of honour on re-appointment should be half that on first appointment." The bye-laws (with the above amendment) were then finally confirmed.

Comp. Spurr then moved "That the sum of five guineas be voted to the Palestine Exploration Fund," which was duly seconded.

Comp. Cowling moved, an amendment, "That ten guineas be voted for the above object," which was seconded by Comp. March, and supported by the Prov. Grand Registrar; whereupon Comp. Spurr withdrew his motion, and the amendment was carried unanimously.

The Prov. Grand Treasurer moved "That the sum of twenty-five pounds be voted to the Zetland Commemoration Fund," which was seconded by Comp. Dr. Rooke and carried unanimously.

The M.E. Grand Superintendent then appointed the following Provincial Grand Officers (with the exception of Provincial Grand Treasurer, who was re-elected by the Provincial Grand Chapter):—

E. Comp.	John N. Lawson	312	Prov. G. H.
"	W. T. Farthing	200	" J.
"	Michael Chas. Peck	250	" Scribe E.
"	George Hardy	250	" Scribe N.
"	H. A. Williamson	200	" P. Sojourner.
"	William Hood	312	" 1st Asst. Soj.
"	G. Storey	602	" 2nd Asst. Soj.
"	Richard W. Hollon	236	" Treasurer.
"	William Lawton	236	" Registrar.
"	John Thompson	250	" Sword bearer
"	William Tesseymau	57	" Stndr bearer.
"	D. R. Ramsay	512	" D. of C.
"	George Balmford	236	" Organist.
Comp.	John Ward	236	" Inner Janitor.
"	William Johnson	57	" Outer Janitor.

The M.E. Grand Superintendent then offered some remarks upon the proceedings of the last Provincial Grand Chapter with reference to the efforts of himself and others for securing correctness and uniformity of ritual, but stated that although the subject was now engaging the attention of the Craft generally, yet he feared some time would still elapse before anything could be determined upon. He thanked the Companions for their large attendance, which manifested an increased attention to Royal Arch Masonry, and he trusted that nothing would be found wanting on his part to promote the success of the Provincial Grand Chapter, and stated that he should be always at their service. The M.E. Grand Superintendent then delivered an interesting address on the Antiquity of the Order, and stated that having received an invitation from the Britannia Chapter, he should hold the next Provincial Grand Chapter at Whitby.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was then closed in ancient form and with solemn prayer.

A banquet was held at the George Hotel the same evening, at which the M.E. Grand Superintendent presided. During the evening the greatest harmony and friendship prevailed.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE.

INSTALLATION MEETING OF THE PREMIER CONCLAVE.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

A meeting of No. 1, or the Premier Conclave, of the Imperial, Ecclesiastical, and Military Order of Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, was held on Monday evening last, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. There were present: Sir Knts. T. Cubitt, G.H., M.P.S.; T. Wesscombe, G.B.S., V.E.; J. Trickett, Inspector Gen. for Kent, S.G.; R. W. Little, G.R. Recorder; E. P. Roper-Curzon, Prefect; H. Parker, G.O. Organist; Geo. Kenning, P.S. Herald; J. G. Marsh, G.A., P.S.; W. H. Hubbard, G.T., P.S.; G. Powell, G.S.B., P.S.; Dr. W. Holman, P.S.; Dr. J. Bringloe, P.S.; E. Applebee; A. J. Lewis; McMeaby; Major Gen. G. B. Munbee, Inspector General for Somerset. Visitors: Sir Knt. H. C. Levander, G.A.T., M.P.S., No. 6; H. Thompson, M.P.S. elect, No. 18; J. Weaver, Organist, No. 6; E. Clark, V.E. elect, No. 9; J. Mayo, J.G., No. 2; D. R. Still, S.G., No. 2; H. Smith, Herald, No. 2; Chas. E. Thompson, No. 6, Recorder elect, No. 18.

The Right Hon. the Lord Kenlis, Most Illustrious G. Sovereign, was expected to be present and preside, but other pressing business kept his lordship away. Letters of apology were received from Sir Knts. F. M. Williams, M.P., G.V.E.; Colonel F. Burdett, G.H.C.; W. E. Gumbleton, G.C.; and E. Busher, G.S.G.

Bros. John Hills, Bedford Lodge, No. 157; Arthur B. Cook, 30, of the Apollo University Lodge, No. 357; and Henry B. Dunn, of the Old King's Arms Lodge, No. 28, were installed as Knights of the Order.

Sir Knts. J. D. Moore, Inspector-General for North Lancashire; Major-General G. B. Munbee, J.P., Inspector-General for Somerset; and E. Palmer, of No. 3, were elected Joining Members.

The rank of Honorary Member was conferred upon M.E. Sir Knt. Colonel W. I. B. McLeod Moore, Chief Inspector-General for Canada; and R. Marshall, Inspector-General for New Brunswick.

Sir Knts. M. C. Meaby, H. Thompson, E. P. Roper-Curzon, E. Clark, A. B. Cook, and J. Hills, were admitted to the Priestly Order.

Sir Knts. M. C. Meaby, A. J. Lewis, H. Thompson, E. P. Roper-Curzon, and J. Mayo were admitted into the Princely Order.

Sir Knt. Wesscombe, the V.E., was then raised to the M.P. Sov. degree; Sir Knt. Little rendering that ceremony with his usual ability. The M.P.S. then appointed his officers as follows:—J. Trickett, V.E.; E. P. Roper-Curzon, S.G.; D. G. Berri, J.G.; A. G. Lewis, H.P.; T. Wesscombe, Treas.; R. W. Little, Recorder; George Kenning, Prefect; A. B. Cook, St. Bearer; G. H. Rainy, Orator; H. Parker, Organist; G. E. Baker, Herald; J. Gilbert, Sentinel. A P.S. jewel was unanimously voted to Sir Knt. Cubitt.

The Conclave was then closed with the usual impressive formula, and the Sir Knts. adjourned to refreshment, under the presidency of Sir Knt. Wesscombe, M.P.S. The customary loyal and knightly toasts were given.

Sir Knt. HUBBARD returned thanks for "The Grand Council," and said the Grand Council were much gratified to find their efforts had been so well appreciated.

Sir Knt. LITTLE proposed the health of the Grand Senate, and said without their assistance the efforts of the Grand Council would be in vain. He coupled with the toast the names of Sir Knts. Levander and Cubitt.

Sir Knt. LEVANDER begged to thank the Sir Knts. for the honour they had done him, and said his post of Assistant Grand Treasurer had at present been almost a sinecure, as all financial duties had been well performed by the Executive Committee.

The M.P.S. proposed the newly-installed Brethren, and said it was a very pleasing toast indeed. The Order had only been re-constituted a few years and was making fast progress. Several new Conclaves had been opened, and were going on well. He congratulated the Brethren upon entering into Christian Masonry.

Sir Knt. COOK, who responded, said it had been a most interesting ceremony indeed to him, more so

than many others he had attended.

Another Sir Knt. also returned thanks and expressed his high gratification at the honour conferred upon him.

Sir Knight LITTLE, Grand Recorder, said he had now to introduce a toast which he felt would give satisfaction to every member of the conclave, as it was the health of the M.P.S. Wesscombe, who, throughout the whole of his Masonic career, had shown the deep interest he felt in the prosperity of the Order and in every degree he had taken. In the Premier Conclave he had that evening arrived at the superlative degree, and had justly attained the highest honours. Their thanks were due to him not only in regard to his dignified position and for what he had done in the past, but for what all felt assured he could do in the future. In him they would not only have an excellent presiding officer, but he would most ably develop the resources of the Order. He gave them "The health of Sir Knight Wesscombe, M.P.S., of the Premier Conclave." The toast was enthusiastically received.

Sir Knight WESSCOMBE, M.P.S., in responding, said he felt somewhat embarrassed at the warmth of their reception of the toast, and he was almost in the position of a drowning man, who caught at a straw to save himself, in being unable to find words to acknowledge their kindness. Sir Knight Little, in his very kind speech had spoken of him in very flattering terms, but he hardly knew what he had done to deserve it. He felt highly gratified in being placed in his present position, and he felt assured that before his year of office was out he should bring ten or a dozen more of the right sort into the Order, and when his year of office expired he hoped to see double the number of members he now saw before him. He felt sure that the business of the Conclave was promoted in the highest degree by the ability of Sir Knight Little, for there were very few that were able to work it, and he (the M.P.S.) could not let this opportunity pass over without moving that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes of the Conclave to him, for whose teaching they were so much indebted, and who at all times made them so happy.

Sir Knight CUBITT, P.M.P.S., had great pleasure in seconding the motion, and he reiterated the sentiments of the M.P.S. as regarded Sir Knight Little, and endorsed all he said, and, indeed, he hardly knew how they should get on without him. He was the first to resuscitate this Christian Order, and the progress it had made was truly astonishing, and he doubted not that in a few years hence the Order would take a prominent position in Freemasonry. With those few remarks he begged to second the motion, believing, after what Sir Knt. Little had done for the Order, they could not say too much for him.

Sir Knight MARSH said it appeared that it devolved upon him to put the motion to the Sir Knights, and he was certain it would receive their assent and deserve the attention of all present. They had witnessed that day the admirable working of Sir Knt. Little, who had not only installed the Sir Knights who had come amongst them, but had admitted other members of the chivalric Order to the priesthood degree, and, in addition, he had admitted others to the sovereign's degree. He was sure that all who knew Sir Knt. Little would agree with him when he said that there was no one who could work the degrees so well. Indeed, he did not think some of the degrees could be done by any one but himself, and all belonging to the Plantagenet, the Roman Eagle, and the other Conclaves were greatly indebted to him for the carrying out of the arrangements of the Order. He cordially supported the motion, which he afterwards put, and it was carried unanimously.

Sir Knight LITTLE, G.R., returned his sincere thanks for the kind expression of their feelings towards him, and his gratification at the progress of their Order, which contained many beautiful illustrations of Freemasonry, and nothing that was detrimental to the teachings of the Craft. The Order which had been resuscitated received the support of Bro. William Henry White, the late Grand Secretary, who enjoyed the companionship of the late Duke of Sussex, who was the head of the Order. He (Sir Knt. Little) remembered it was only a short time since seven members only met under Sir Knt. Hubbard's roof, but since then that Christian Order had extended to 700 members, which was due to the intrinsic merit of the Order itself, for if it had not been sound in principle, it could not have met with such success. Having alluded to a claimant in lineage to the great founder of the Order, he said his pedigree had been placed in the hands of Bro. Lewis for examination, but at present they only recognised Lord Kenlis, as the head of their chivalric Order. In conclusion, he thanked them for the compliment they had paid him, assuring them that if he could be in any way useful they might always command his services.

Sir Knt. MARSH sang with good taste, "Good bye, sweetheart."

Sir Knt. LITTLE, in eloquent terms, proposed "The

health of the visitors," which Sir Knts. Munbee and Levander acknowledged. The next toast was the health of the Past Sovereigns, Sir Knts. Cubitt, Marsh and Powell.

Sir Knt. CUBITT in reply, said he could not boast of having done much work, during his year, as he was prostrated for a considerable portion of the time by illness, and had not the opportunity of obtaining the knowledge of the Order as they had at the present time. Since his time, a preceptory Conclave had been formed, where every one had an opportunity of learning the ritual, but at the same time; the Past Sovereigns were always anxious to impart the knowledge they themselves possessed. On his own part, he thanked them for the compliment they had paid him, trusting that for many years they should meet in the same spirit, and enjoy each other's society.

Sir Knt. MARSH said it gave him great satisfaction, to remain a member of the Premier Conclave, and he could assure them, that it was one of the proudest moments in his life when he filled the hair, and his year of office was most successful. He was one of the first Sovereigns, when the Premier Conclave was resuscitated, and he thought during the year he installed 36 Knts. into it, some of whom were present on this occasion, but many were absent, and he could sincerely say that no one had more the interest of the Premier Conclave at heart than he had. Anything he could do to assist the working of that or any other Conclave he should always be happy and willing to do, and he would mention that a Conclave of Instruction was held on the third Thursday in every month at the Lyceum Tavern, where all might correctly learn the ritual of the Order. [Sir Knights Hubbard and Powell also returned thanks].

Sir Knight LITTLE next gave "The Officers of the Conclave," coupling with the toast the name of the V.E. Sir Knt. Trickett.

Sir Knight TRICKETT, V.E., on behalf of himself and the other Officers of the Conclave, thanked the M.P.S. for the way in which he had proposed their healths, and the Sir Knights for the cordial manner in which they had responded to it. He could only say they would do all they could to forward the interests of the Red Cross Order.

The health of Sir Knt. Dr. Holman having been drunk with great cordiality,

Sir Knight DR. HOLMAN said he had been a great traveller, and wherever he had been he had done his best to promote the great interests of Freemasonry, and he believed that his labours had been met with success. In India, Africa, the Cape of Good Hope, and elsewhere, Freemasonry existed, and there was a Grand Lodge in Africa, where it was carried out in a most careful and remarkable manner. In a few years hence he hoped to settle amongst them, and be able to carry out the great principles of the Order in a more useful and profitable manner than he was then able to do.

Some other toasts were given, and a very happy meeting was brought to a close, but we ought not to omit the mention of the services of Sir Knights Parker and Weaver, who throughout the evening delighted the company with their vocal and instrumental performances, and especially as regards the latter in their rendering of the Miserere from "Trovatore."

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The statement of accounts and the annual report of the Executive Committee for 1868-9, and list of officers and conclaves has just been published under the superintendence of Sir Knt Little. The report states:—

"It will be seen that the receipts are increasing, and that the ordinary disbursements are exceedingly small in amount, the heavy items being expenses attending the Triennial Festival) which will not be held again until 1871), a donation to one of the Masonic institutions, and payments for copies of the ritual and printing the statutes, which will eventually be recouped to the order. During the past year eight new conclaves have been added to the roll, making the number fourteen in all, and a large number of brethren have been received as members."

VISITORS to the Oxford Commemoration Festivities next week will have the opportunity of attending the Masonic Fête, which promises to be a most enjoyable affair, not only for the brethren of the province, but also for their lady friends, who will doubtless grace the meeting in considerable numbers.

WE are glad to learn that the Concert given by Bro. Fitzgerald at the Lecture Hall Greenwich, on Saturday, the 29th ult., was very successful, there being no less than 700 persons present. Bro. John Fitzgerald conducted, and Bro. James Weaver was leader.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Finsbury Lodge, No. 861.—This prosperous lodge met on Friday, the 28th ult., at the Jolly Anglers Tavern, Bath-street, St. Luke's, when (in consequence of the respected Master being unable to attend at the commencement of the proceedings) the W. Bro. R. Leach, in an able manner, conferred the third degree on Bros. Proskaur and Dagley, after which the W. Bro. Alfred Day, P.M. (Treasurer), installed Bro. E. M. Davey as W.M. for the year ensuing. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following officers, all of whom, judging from their antecedents, will do credit to the judgment of the new Master: W. Watson, P.M.; J. Nicholls, S.W.; R. Hart, J.W.; Alfred Day, P.M., Treas.; T. E. Purdy, P.M., Sec.; E. Benjamin, S.D.; W. Stokes, J.D.; W. Mackey, P.M., W.S.; J. Bilby, P.M., Organist; H. J. W. Thompson, P.M. 65, D.C.; and Vesper, P.M., 98, 180, 181, 554, Tyler. The banquet which followed was served in Bro. Bond's best style, and at its conclusion the W.M., in a neat and appropriate speech, presented, on behalf of the brethren, a large and valuable silver cup to the late highly-respected W. Master, Bro. Watson, who in a very pleasing manner returned thanks. The proceedings were enlivened by some capital music and songs. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Perrin (P.M. 101), Davies (P.M. 228), Shepperd (J.W. 27), Forbes (J.W. 65), Leplastrier (I.G. 65), Sims (65), Hamilton (704), Berry (659), Grayward (919), Roberts (740), Jaques (1108), &c.

PROVINCIAL.

Winchester.—Lodge of Economy, No. 76.—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday, May 26th, when the following brethren were present:—Sheppard, W.M.; Stopher, S.W.; Everitt, J.W.; Sherry, Treas.; Stopher, Sec.; Whale, S.D.; Penton, J.D.; Oakshot, P.M.; Priddis, I.G.; E. Snelling, Bishop, F. I. Warner, J. W. Snelling, Hubbersty, H. Newman, W. H. Woodridge, Sealy, Doswell, Beach, and Hutt; and Tanner (W.M. 177), Warren (177), and Bodley (Sec. 39), visitors.—The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Frederic I. Warner was raised. The brethren then proceeded to discuss the following notice of motion by Bro. Sherry:—"That the scheme proposed by Br. Clabon for appropriating a portion of the Fund of Benevolence to other than the purposes for which it was created, be taken into consideration and discussed." Bro. Sherry introduced the subject, and invited the remarks of the brethren present, saying that he would found a resolution on the opinions expressed by a majority of the members.—Bro. Sheppard explained the scheme for the information of those unacquainted with the subject.—The scheme was opposed by Bros. Oakshot, Warner, and Wale; and supported by Bro. Stopher.—Bro. J. W. Snelling spoke as follows: "The fact that the Fund of Benevolence was originally instituted and has continued so long without question dedicated to the relief of Masons in distress, and that such distress still exists, inclines me to the decided opinion that it cannot rightly be alienated from its original purpose. That part of the scheme which proposes an enlarged application of the funds to the relief of distressed Masons, meets with my most cordial support, but to nearly all the rest I am decidedly opposed. Upon a hasty analysis of the published figures, I find that the surplus of £11,000 which existed in 1840 should be at the end of 1867, at 3½ per cent., about £26,100, and the actual amount was only £26,779, showing that the surplus has in the main arisen from the accumulation of the original surplus of 1840, and that on an average of years the contributions, &c., have only sufficed for the relief of cases of distress, and that, too, on the present scale. Let us see what will be the effect of doubling the amount of relief, as proposed. The average annual amount of relief for six years ending 1867, irrespective of the grant to the charities, was £2,120, the amount for the last year of that period being £2,108. Now, if we double the average amount, we have £4,240, and the actual contributions, &c., for 1867 (irrespective of interest) only amounted to £4,226, showing that the existing contributions, &c., will only just suffice for the increased grants proposed, leaving the interest on investments, £1,053, to meet the annual grant to the charities. The total interest on invested funds for eight years ending 1867 amounted to £5,501, and the amount granted to the charities for the same period was £6,400; and although the present interest is slightly more than sufficient to pay the £800 to the charities, it may fairly be asked, why the aged and decayed Masons should not be as much thought of in the application of any such trifling surplus as the Masonic schools, which are so well supported with constantly increasing liberality? I contend that there will be scarcely any surplus, if the funds are liberally dealt with for their only legitimate

purpose. Let us examine how they have been dispensed of late years:—

Contributions, &c., in 1862, '63, and '64 ...	£9,302
Ditto, ditto, in 1865, '66, and '67 ...	11,769
Increase of contributions, &c. ...	£2,467
Expenditure for relief (497 cases), 1862-4 ...	£7,100
Ditto, ditto (420 cases) 1865-7 ...	5,621
Decrease in charity ...	£1,479

So that, in the face of such an increase, 77 less cases were relieved, and £1,479 less expended, in the last period of three years! I leave these figures to speak for themselves.—The following resolution was then proposed and seconded: "That in the opinion of this Lodge the scheme proposed by Bro. Clabon is approved, with the exception of that part which states that the widow of a deceased brother (no matter what her poverty be) cannot apply a second time for relief; and also that part which proposes to take from the surplus Fund of Benevolence two-thirds for the use of the Masonic schools, the latter proposition being alien to the 18th article of the Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of England in 1813, which records 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 taken to increase the same.' This Lodge is also of opinion the scheme ought to be referred back to the Committee for amendment, and more time allowed for its consideration, especially as very few lodges in the provinces are aware of the magnitude of the scheme."—Bro. Stopher moved an amendment, which was not seconded, and the resolution was carried with one dissentient.

Warrington.—Lodge of Lights, No. 148.—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday last, at the Masonic-rooms, at 6.30. The W.M., Bro. D. W. Finney, was supported by Bros. W. Mossop, S.W.; W. Richardson, J.W.; W. S. Hawkins, S.D.; Dr. Cooper, G.D.; H. P. Stedman, M.A., Chaplain; John Bowes, P.M., P.Z., &c., Hon. Sec.; Jos. Maxfield, P.M.; W. Fletcher-Wood, J. Mee, Pattison (Org.), W. Robinson, W. H. Spring, H. Syred, Rev. J. Nixon Porter, Rev. W. Whitelegge, Jos. Robinson, George Bailey, Robert Gibbons, Jas. Johnson, Tyler. Jas. Hannah, (Tyler, 1250.) Visitors:—Bros. Arthur Worrell, (W.M. 1225), and P. J. Edelsten, (1134.) The lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Rev. W. Whitelegge, being a candidate for preferment, and having proved his claim, was entrusted and retired, and in due time passed. Bro. George Bailey being desirous of advancement, and having given proof of proficiency, was entrusted and retired. The lodge was opened in the third degree, Bro. Bailey re-admitted and raised, the W.M. being assisted by Bros. Bowes. The lodge was duly lowered, when Grand Lodge certificates were signed and delivered to Bros. W. Fletcher-Wood and James Currey, of the United Lodge, No. 679, Colchester; and two gentlemen were proposed as fit and proper persons to be made Masons. Nothing further being proposed for the good of Masonry, the lodge was duly closed.

Oxford.—Alfred Lodge, No. 340.—The annual festival of this lodge, was held prior to the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge (of which a detailed report is given in another page) at the Masonic Hall (by permission of the Apollo Univ. Lodge.) Bro. A. Spiers, D.P.G.M., in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., took the chair, and installed in a most admirable manner, his son Bro. Samuel P. Spiers, as W.M. On the conclusion of the ceremony, the W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. J. Juggins, S.W.; W. G. Emberlin, J.W.; Rev. T. G. Mortimer, P.M., Chap.; H. Houghton, P.M., Treas.; W. R. Hobbs, Sec.; Walter Thompson, S. D.; G. T. Prior, J. D.; W. Barling, D.C.; J. Saunders, D.C.; D. Spencer, I.G.; I. Chapman, Orgst.; W. J. Thurland, S.W.; W. Stephens, T.; G. Norwood, T. The W.M. then initiated his brother Mr. F. E. Spiers, and Mr. R. Williams, into Freemasonry. The lodge was closed in due form.

Cockermouth.—Skiddaw Lodge, No. 1002.—The annual meeting of this lodge was held in their lodge-room, on the 1st inst., for the purpose of installing Bro. Robinson Draper, the late S.W. of the lodge in the chair of K.S. There were present on this occasion, Bros. Morton, P.M. and P.P.S.G.W.; Kenworthy, P.M.; Faithfull, P.M. and P.P.J.G.W.; Dodgson, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; Pearson, Past S.W.; T. F. Taylor, Past Sec.; E. Thwaites, Past J.W.; W. Taylor, S.D. The lodge being opened in form by the W.M., Bro. Shilton, P.P.G.S.B., Bro. Morton, assumed the chair, when Bro. Robinson was presented and having taken the O.B., all below the rank of Past Masters retired, and a board of Installed Masters duly formed, when Bro. Robinson was regularly installed in the chair of K.S. for the ensuing twelve months. The brethren having re-entered the lodge and saluted the W.M. according to ancient custom, he appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. T. F. Taylor, S.W.; Jos. Mayson, J.W.; the Rev.

W. Williams, Sec.; Evening, S.D.; Braithwaite, J.D.; Pearson (Lorton), I.G.; Pearson (Cockermouth), Past S.W., was elected Treas., and Potts Tyler. The lodge being closed with good harmony, the brethren retired to the Globe Hotel to partake of the good things provided for them by Bro. Rapley. On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. (Bro. Robinson) said the first toast he had to propose was one he was sure he had only to name to ensure a hearty reception, namely, "Her Majesty the Queen and the Craft," they had been accustomed to associate her name with the fact of being the daughter of a Mason, but now he might speak of a closer tie—the mother of a Mason, as he believed His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had enrolled his name amongst us. The National Anthem was sung by the brethren. The W.M. then proposed "Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales," alluding in eulogistic terms to the high esteem in which the royal family were held, as being unequalled in the history of this country. The healths of the M.W. Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, the Prov. G.M. and other Grand Officers, were given with full Masonic honours. Bro. Morton proposed the "Retiring Master," which was responded to by Bro. Shilton. Bro. Faithfull proposed in very flattering terms, "The newly-installed Master." "The Past Masters, Masters, and Brethren of other Lodges" was given by Bro. Pearson, (Cockermouth). Bro. Shilton proposed the "Retiring Officers," thanking them for their assistance during the year, and was responded to by Bros. T. F. and W. Taylor. Bro. Dodgson proposed the "Newly-invested Officers," which was responded to by Bro. Williams. After the toast list was disposed of, Brother Pearson (Cockermouth), rose and said he had great pleasure in informing the brethren that the application to the Fund of Benevolence in aid of Bro. John Adams, who was now incapacitated, had been successful, they had voted a sum of £30, for which success they were very greatly indebted to Bro. Busher, Past Grand Sword-bearer of England, and P.J.G.W., for his zeal and activity in the matter. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened with songs by Bros. Faithfull, Williams, and Evening, and the Tyler's toast brought the meeting to a close at an early hour, enabling the country members to reach their homes in good time.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

Canonbury Chapter, No. 657.—The regular convocation of this chapter was held on the 27th ultimo, at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury, the M.E.Z., Comp. Ough, occupying the chair. This being the night for installation, that ceremony was performed by Comp. Watson, P.Z., in a very efficient manner. Comp. Wiscombe was duly installed, and on the re-admission of the companions he invested his officers as follows:—Comps. S. May, H.; J. Tanner, J.; F. Cox, N.; Jones, A.S.; Appleby, I.; H. Cary, S.E.; Decent, Treasurer; and W. Ough, G.P., P.Z. A jewel was then presented to that Companion, the chapter was closed until August next, and the companions adjourned to a very excellent banquet. After the usual toasts, Comp. Ough proposed the health of the M.E.Z., and in the course of a very excellent speech, eulogistic of the qualities of that worthy companion, said he had great pleasure in seeing him in that high position, and he had held every office required in the chapter to the satisfaction of all the companions. He (Comp. Ough) trusted that at the expiration of his year of office the approbation of the chapter would be given to him as on this occasion.—The M.E.Z. returned thanks in an able speech characteristic of him. He regretted that his avocations could not possibly allow him time to perfect himself in the duties required of him, but if any merit were due, he gave the credit entirely to Comp. Todd, whom he had to thank for his introduction to every position in the Craft, and even in this sublime degree. (At the conclusion of his excellent speech the M.E.Z. was greeted with loud applause.)—The visitors were Comps. Warr (179), Bourne (S.E. 749), and H. M. Levy (P.M. 188). Comp. Warr returned thanks for the visitors, and Comp. Webb for the P.Z.'s.—The M.E.Z. then said he had now a pleasing duty to perform—that of proposing the health of Comp. Ough, who held a high position in the Grand Lodge of England as G.P., and it afforded him gratification in mentioning his name in connection with this chapter. His excellent working in every office he undertook had always been to the satisfaction of every one who witnessed it.—Comp. Ough, in responding, said he felt great pleasure in receiving from the M.E.Z., in the name of the chapter, the elegant jewel placed on his breast; and it would be an episode in his life to remember this pleasing testimonial. He would do all in his power on every occasion to forward the welfare of the chapter.—Comps. S. May and J. Tanner returned thanks for the principal officers, Comp. May remarking that he hoped, from the feeling manifested, he should on a future occasion occupy the chair of the M.E.Z.—The M.E.Z. said it was out of the routine, but he would ask the com

panions present to drink a special toast, namely, the health of Comp. B. P. Todd, who had been laid on a bed of sickness; and he (the M.E.Z.), as well as every one present, was glad to see him among them again, particularly as one of the founders of this chapter.—Comp. Todd (who on rising to respond was greeted with great cordiality, and was visibly affected), in a very appropriate speech thanked them for their expressions of sympathy, and trusted that those expressions would be fully carried out. He was as glad to be amongst them as they were to see him.—Some very good harmony was contributed by several companions, particularly by Comps. D. H. Jacobs and E. W. Cannon, and after a very agreeable evening the companions separated at an early hour.

PROVINCIAL.

HALIFAX.—*Chapter of Regularity, No. 448.*—The annual meeting of this Chapter was held on Monday, the 31st ult., when there was a good attendance of the companions. The Chapter having been opened, and the minutes of the previous quarterly meeting confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. William Hemingway, and Bro. Thos. M. Dolan, which was unanimously in their favour, and they were subsequently exalted to the degree of R.A. by Comp. Normanton, Z., the historical portion of this beautiful degree being exceedingly well given by Comp. A. Supton. The Companions then retired, and a board of installed first Principals was opened, when the following Principals and officers were installed and invested for the ensuing year (Comp. Bates, P.Z., Comp. Greenwood, P.Z., and Comp. Normanton, P.Z., performing the ceremony (Comps. viz., William Cooke, P.Z., as Z.; C. J. Walshaw, as H.; R. Lord, as J.; G. Normanton, as J.P.Z.; H. N. Bates, P.Z. as Treas.; E. Walshaw, as E.; F. Whitaker, as N.; W. F. Wilkinson, as P.S.; W. H. D. Horsfall and A. Roberts, as A.S.; W. J. Laidler, as D. of C.; T. M. Dolan and W. Hemingway, as Stewards; J. Greenwood, P.Z., as Janitor. The Chapter was then duly closed, and the Companions adjourned to refreshment, and spent a very convivial evening together. In order to give the Companions an opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted with this imposing ceremony, it was resolved to hold an instruction meeting, on the last Monday in every month, the first meeting to be held on the 28th of June.

MARK MASONRY.

PROVINCIAL.

LEICESTER.—*Fouke Lodge, No. 19.*—A bi-monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, the 27th ultimo, the officers present being Bros. Kelly, P.G.M., W.M.; Captain Bankart, P.M.; Major Brewin, S.W. and W.M. elect; W. B. Smith, J.W.; Duff, M.O.; C. Johnson, S.O.; Stratton, Treasurer and Registrar, and others. The Lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bros. the Rev. Nathaniel Hayeroff, D.D., of the Universal Lodge, No. 181, London; Edwin J. Crow, of St. John's Lodge, No. 279; and Joseph Elgood, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523, who were duly elected. There were seven other candidates due for advancement, who had been previously elected, but, from various causes, the only candidate in attendance was Bro. Hayeroff, who was advanced to the degree of Mark Master, Bro. Charles Johnson presiding at the instrument during the ceremony, and introducing the several chants. Bro. Kelly then proceeded to instal, as his successor in the Chair, Bro. Brewin, who was presented for that purpose by Bro. Bankart, P.M., and on the Board of Installed Masters being closed, the brethren were called in and the newly-installed W.M. was proclaimed and saluted. Bro. Brewin then appointed the officers for the ensuing year, and invested those who were present, viz.—Bros. W. B. Smith, S.W.; Duff, J.W.; Rev. N. Hayeroff, D.D., Chaplain; Charles Johnson, M.O.; Herbert, S.O.; J. E. Hodges, S.D.; Toller, J.D.; G. H. Hodges, Registrar; Stretton, Treasurer (elected); Partridge, Secretary; Charles Johnson, Organist; Sculthorpe, I.G.; Bembridge, Tyler. Some financial business having been discussed, the Lodge was closed in ancient form, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, it having been previously resolved that the meeting in July should not be held.

WINCHESTER.—*Mark Masters' Lodge of Economy, No. 52.*—A preliminary meeting of this lodge took place on Tuesday, the 25th May, at the Masonic Hall, when there were present:—The Most Worshipful Grand Mark Master, Bro. W. W. B. Boach, W.M.; Bros. E. Sheppard, S.W.; Geo. Oakshot, J.W.; J. Naish, Treas.; C. Sherry, Sec.; J. W. Lamb, S.O., and Henry Pottle, Tyler. The minutes of the previous Lodge were read and confirmed. The following candidates were then admitted and advanced to the Hon. Degree of Mark Masters:—Bros. William Lumsden, Edward Snelling, John T. Doswell, Humphry Priddis, Henry Warren, Walter Whale, Atweek Penton, Edwin Carter, William H. Wooldridge, James W. Snelling,

Samuel R. Everitt, and Henry Pottle. Bro. Sherry proposed and Bro. Naish seconded, Bro. Edward Sheppard as W.M., for the ensuing year; the ballot was taken which passed unanimously. Bro. Sheppard proposed, and Bro. Oakshot seconded, Bro. Naish, which also passed unanimously.—The regular monthly meeting of the lodge took place on Thursday, May 27th. Present during the evening:—The R.W. Bro Binckes, G.S., as W.M.; Bros. Everitt, S.W.; Oakshot, J.W.; Harris, M.O.; Whale, S.O.; E. Snelling, J.O.; Stopher, Registrar of M.; Naish, Treas.; Sherry, Sec.; Warren S.D.; Lumsden, J.D.; Warner, D.C.; Priddis, I.G.; J. R. Stebbing, Grand Treas.; Donvell, W. H. Wooldridge, Sealey, Hewitt, Bishop, and Pottle, Tyler. The following dispensation was read:—"Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, Winchester, 25 May, 1869.—It having been represented that it will be for the advantage of the interests of the Economy Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 52, that Bro. Edward Sheppard should be installed as W. Master for the ensuing year, the members of the lodge are hereby authorised to elect and install Bro. Sheppard as W. Master, notwithstanding he has not filled the office of Warden in a Mark Masters' Lodge. This dispensation must be read in open lodge prior to the confirmation of the minutes of the election, and must be entered on the minutes of the lodge.—By command of the M.W.G.M., FRED BINCKES, G.S.—The minutes of the last lodge were read and confirmed, and the R.W. Brother then "advanced" the following candidates:—Bros. George Sealey, Thos Stopher, Fred J. Warner, C. Bishop, Jas. Harris, and E. Hewitt, the last-named, in conjunction with Bro. F. J. Barratt, having this evening been balloted for and elected. Brother J. R. Stebbing, Grand Treasurer, presented the W. Master elect, Bro. Edward Sheppard, in an eloquent address, and the ceremony of installation was proceeded with. Bro. Sheppard being placed in the chair, appointed his officers as above-named. The Right Worshipful Bro. Binckes then addressed the W. Master, Wardens, Overseers and brethren in an eloquent speech. Bro. J. R. Stebbing, Grand Treasurer, proposed that a vote of thanks be given, and recorded on the minutes of the lodge, to the R.W. Bro. Binckes, for his kindness in attending at great personal inconvenience, and for the very great Masonic treat afforded by his skill in working the ceremonies. Bro. Naish, Treas., seconded the proposition, which was carried with great acclamation. Bro. J. R. Stebbing, Grand Treasurer, invited the W. Master, and as many of the brethren of the lodge as could make it convenient, to attend at Southampton the next day at his installation as W. Master of the St. Andrew's Mark Masters' Lodge, No. 63. Nine other candidates were proposed for "advancement" at the next meeting, which will take place on Thursday, the 24th of June. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren partook of an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Priddis, and enjoyed a most pleasurable and intellectual evening.

IS THERE A GOD?

How eloquently does Chateaubriand reply to the inquiry "Is there a God?" Our French brethren in Masonic error should receive this lesson from their great countryman: "Is there a God?" The herbs of the valley, the cedars of the mountain bless Him; the insect sports in His beams; the elephant salutes Him with the rising day; the bird sings Him in the foliage, the thunder proclaims Him in the heavens; the ocean declares His immensity. Man alone has said "There is no God!" Unite in thought at the same instant the most beautiful objects of nature; suppose you see at once all the hours of the day and all the seasons of the year; a morning of spring and morning of autumn; a night bespangled with stars and a night covered with clouds; meadows enamelled with flowers, and forests hoary with snow; fields gilded with tints of autumn; then alone you will have a just conception of the universe. While you are gazing upon that sun which is plunging under that vault of the west, another observer admires him emerging from the gilded gates of the east. By what inconceivable magic does that aged star which is sinking fatigued and burning in the shades of the evening, reappear at the every instant fresh and humid with the rosy dews of morning? At every instant of the day the glorious orb is at once rising, resplendent at noon-day, and setting in the west; or rather our senses deceive us, and there is, properly speaking, no east or west or south in the world. Everything reduces itself to a single point, from whence the king of day sends forth at once a triple light in one single substance. The bright splendor is that which nature can present that is most beautiful, for while it gives us an idea of the perpetual magnificence and resistless power of God, it exhibits at the same time a shining image of the glorious Trinity.—*The Freemason, St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.*

CONSECRATION OF THE DE MOWBRAY CHAPTER, 1130, MELTON MOWBRAY.

The Grand Chapter having granted a warrant for a R.A. Chapter to be attached to the Rutland Lodge in the hunting metropolis of Leicestershire,—the officers nominate being the Rev. W. Langley, Z.; F. P. Newcome, H.; and W. Kelly (P.Z. and P.G.H.), J.—the chief officers of the Provincial Grand Chapter attended at Melton, on Friday se'nnight for the purpose of consecrating the Chapter and installing the principals.

Among those present were Companions W. Kelly, P.Z. and P.G.H. (who presided as the representative of the Right Hon. Earl Howe, G. Supt.); W. Weare, P.Z., as P.G.H.; the Rev. John Spittal, M. E.Z. 279, as P.G.J., (who gave most impressively the two portions of the consecration prayer); Major Brewin, P.Z. and P.G.S.E.; Rev. W. Langley; F. P. Newcome (principals designate); Adcock, Bright, Mann, Leadbeater, Foller (P.S. 279); Crow (who presided most effectively at the harmonium), and others.

The following is a programme of the evening. The first anthem was sung to an air expressly composed for the occasion by Comp. Crow; and the second to an air composed by Comp. Löllox, P.P.G.O., on the occasion of consecrating the Masonic Hall at Leicester:—

The Officers of the P.G. Chapter, and other Installed Principals, enter and open the Chapter at 2 p.m. The Principals nominated in the Warrant and the other Companions present enter to Solemn Music, and take their places.

The P.G. Scribe E. addresses the acting G.Z., who desires him to read the Petition and Warrant.

The G.Z. enquires if the Companions approve of the Officers named in the Warrant.

The G.S.E. presents the new Principals to the G.Z.—The Companions of the new Chapter arrange themselves behind them, on the N. and S. sides of the altar.

First portion of the Dedication Prayer, by Rev. Prov. Grand J.

All—Chant—"So mote it be."
Anthem—"Behold how good a thing it is."
A passage of Scripture is read—(1 Kings, viii, i—vi.)
The Altar is uncovered, and the three acting Principals, make the circuit of the Chapter three times with corn, wine, and oil—Solemn Music is played, except during the intervals of dedication. At the end of the first circuit and dedication:—

All—Chant—"Glory be to God on high."
After second circuit and dedication:—
All—Chant—"Glory be to God on high."
After third circuit and dedication:—
All—Chant—"Glory be to God on high."
The Rev. P.G.J. makes the circuit with the censor. Second portion of the Consecrated Prayer.
All—Chant—"So mote it be."
The G.Z. declares the Chapter Consecrated.
All—Chant—"So mote it be."
Hymn—"Blessed City, Heavenly Salem,"

INSTALLATION.

The ceremony of consecration being completed, a board of installed principals was formed, and the Rev. Comp. Langley was regularly installed in the chairs of J.H. and Z., and Comp. Newcome in those of J. and H., by Comp. Kelly, assisted by Comps. Spittal, Brewin, and Weare, P.Z.'s.

On the return of the Companions a ballot was taken for Bros. the Rev. W. Kay Robinson, P.M., Henry Douglas, S.W., J. J. Fash, Sec., and John Selby, of the Rutland Lodge (due notice of which had been given in the summons), who were unanimously elected, and having been respectively introduced were regularly exalted, the ceremony being efficiently performed by the newly-installed M.E.Z., and Comp. Toller, acting as P.S., Comp. Brewin, P.Z. 279, kindly officiating as N.

On the completion of the ceremony, the Historical Lecture was given by Comp. Brewin, and the Symbolical and Mystical Lectures by Comp. Kelly. The officers were then elected and invested, and the bye-laws having been adopted, votes of thanks were passed to Comp. Kelly, P.G.H., and the other consecrating officers, also to Comp. Crow for his musical services, which had added so greatly to the impressive effect of the ceremony. The Chapter was then closed, and the visiting Companions were hospitably entertained at a banquet by the members.

The furniture, jewels, &c., were supplied by Comp. Kenning, Little Britain, London, and gave great satisfaction, the banners especially being greatly admired. There is every prospect of the Chapter having a prosperous career.

OUR MELBOURNE BRETHREN will be pleased to learn that Bro. Montague S. Machen, P.M. 930, who was so well and favourably known to them as Honorary Secretary of their "Charitable Institutions," and as a Director of Freemasons' Hall, Melbourne, was elected a member of the Colonial Board, at the meeting of Grand Lodge on Wednesday last.

All communications for THE FREEMASON should be written *legibly*, on one side of the paper only, and, if intended for insertion in the current number must be received not later than 10 o'clock a.m. on Thursdays, unless in very special cases. The name and address of every writer must be sent to us in confidence.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 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 PRINCE OF WALES AND FREEMASONRY.

THE official announcement that the Prince of Wales had been received into the Ancient Order of Freemasonry, was made in Grand Lodge on Wednesday last, by the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England.

The doubts of some, and the hopes of many members of the fraternity are thus happily set at rest, and although a feeling approaching to disappointment may exist because the Prince was not initiated in an English lodge, we are sure that a welcome none the less hearty and genuine awaits our Royal Brother upon his affiliation as an English Mason.

It has been erroneously supposed that in seeking admission into the Masonic Order at the hands of a foreign jurisdiction, the Prince of Wales has to some extent ignored the existence of Freemasonry in the British Islands, but in so doing we may observe that His Royal Highness merely followed the example of the late Dukes of Kent and Sussex, who were initiated respectively in the Union Lodge at Geneva and the Royal York Lodge at Berlin. His Royal Highness is the third Prince of Wales who has openly identified himself with the Craft since the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717. The first was Frederick, father of King George III., who was initiated in 1737; and the second was, afterwards, King George IV., who entered the Order in 1787. The Dukes of York and Gloucester were both initiated in the Britannic Lodge, now No. 33.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, the Most Worshipful Grand Master further stated that in accordance with precedents, the rank of a Past Grand Master would be conferred upon the Prince of Wales. In every instance of a member of the Royal Family becoming allied to the Craft, the rank of a Past Grand Master of England has been at once awarded to him by vote of Grand Lodge. There was, however, a slight variation from this procedure with respect to George IV., then Prince of Wales, as in his case the resolution stated that he was to rank next to, and be placed on all Masonic occasions at the right hand of, the Most Worshipful Grand Master. We rejoice to know that another prince of the illustrious house of Brunswick is added to the honorable roll of our ancient fraternity. We rejoice, more especially, because the Prince of Wales, as the heir apparent to the throne, stands next to our beloved Sovereign in the hearts of all loyal Britons.

It is, no doubt, a source of peculiar gratification to Lord Zetland, to witness such an illustrious accession to the ranks of Freemasonry during his Grand Mastership, and it is a satisfaction to all liberal and free-minded men to find, notwithstanding ultramontane denunciations and papal

threats, our illustrious brother has not been deterred from entering into the Masonic Order, and publicly avowing his high appreciation of its objects, and his desire to promote its influence and prosperity.

THE FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE Craft have spoken, and the Fund of Benevolence is safe. By a majority as overwhelming as we anticipated some weeks ago Bro. Clabon's scheme has been relegated to the limbo of "rejected addresses." Grand Lodge has affirmed that the funds which have been handed down to us as a sacred trust for special purposes shall not be diverted into other channels.

Bro. Clabon, we conceive, started upon false premises, and we are glad to find that Bro. Havers did not allow the point to escape notice.

There cannot be a surplus income of the Fund of Benevolence—there would simply be no fund at all if the receipts of former years had been disbursed to claimants as they appeared, and as a considerable portion of the annual income is now derived from the interest of the fund itself, we are quite unable to see in what the reputed surplus consists.

It was also opportunely stated that we should then be making no provision whatever for periods of unusual depression, when, possibly, the petitioners for relief may require assistance beyond the amount of our yearly income, and the Craft would then find that the principal of the fund must be diminished, in order to afford substantial help to brethren in their poverty and distress. We cannot, however, help expressing our admiration of the extremely lucid and able manner in which Bro. Clabon submitted his scheme for the consideration of Grand Lodge, and although we rejoice at the result, we are bound to admit that Bro. Clabon stated his case so fairly and strongly that his defeat must be entirely attributed to the powerful conviction in the minds of the Craft, that all attempts to curtail or diminish the Fund of Benevolence must be sternly and unmistakably resisted.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday last, at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, and was brilliantly attended.

Amongst the brethren present were the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master, who presided; Bro. John Fawcett, Provincial Grand Master for Durham, who acted as Deputy Grand Master; the Earl Percy, G.S. Warden; Frederick Perkins, P.S.G.W., acting as J.G.W.; the Earl of Limerick, Provincial Grand Master for Bristol; Sir Daniel Gooch, Provincial Grand Master for Bucks and Berks; T. M. Talbot, Provincial Grand Master for South Wales; J. R. Stebbing, P.G.D., Cooper-Foster, G.S.D., L. Evans, President Board of General Purposes, Rev. J. R. Simpson, P.G. Chaplain, Rev. T. J. Ravenshaw, Grand Chaplain, Bridges, P.G.S.P., Potter, P.G.D., Clabon, P.G.D., Udall, P.G.D., E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B., Cockerell, Grand Superintendent of Works, McIntyre, Grand Reg., Rev. J. Sir Warren Hayes, P.G. Chaplain, H. Pullen, D.P.G.M. for the Isle of Wight, John Emmens, P.G. Pursuivant, P.M., T. A. Adams, P.G. Pursuivant, Jos. Smith, P.G. Pursuivant, R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B. and D.P.G.M. for

Oxfordshire, H. Wellington Vallance, P.M. 12, R. Spencer, P.G.S., C. T. Dorey, P.M. 176, T. Salter, W.M. 22, T. White, J.W. 22, Rouse, P.G.D., W. H. Gregory, P.G.D., Campion, P.M. 19, J. E. Saunders, Grand Master's Lodge, J. R. Sheen, R. W. Little, P.M., Buss, P.M., W. Farnfield, P.G. Assistant Secretary; Smith, C.E., Clarke, W.M., and Thompson, J.W. Southern Star Lodge, H. Thompson, ditto and 177; E. G. Holbrook, W.M. 309; C. S. Woollons, I.P.M., 364; V. W. Edmunds, P.M. 309; Massey, W.M., and Massey, S.W., Beadon Lodge; E. S. Main, I.P.M.; J. Wallingford; J. Wilson, P.M.; E. Groves, S.W.; W. H. Berring; J. Brett, Assist. G. Purs.; Walford, J.W., 177; J. Nunn, G.S.B.; Mortlock, W.M., 186; Mann, P.M., 186, &c.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer.

The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of March 3rd, the minutes of the Especial Grand Lodge of April 14th, and the minutes of the Grand Festival of April 28th were read by Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

In reference to the notice which stood on the agenda paper, with regard to the Prince of Wales and the Craft,

The Most Worshipful the GRAND MASTER said: I have the pleasing duty to make a communication to the brethren, which I am sure must be gratifying to the Grand Lodge and to every Mason in the Craft in England. The communication is, that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has joined our Fraternity, having been made a Mason by His Majesty the King of Sweden. (Applause.) I am quite sure that this must be a most gratifying circumstance to communicate to the Grand Lodge. I have had more than one interview with his royal highness lately, and he authorised me to express to the Grand Lodge that it was his anxious wish to be present at this Grand Lodge, and he was very much disappointed that the circumstance that it was held on the day set apart for the celebration of the Queen's birthday prevented him having that pleasure. (Applause.) I have also had communicated to me privately by his royal highness, but I am authorised by him to mention it publicly, that it is his wish to join one or more of the English lodges. (Applause.) I think I need not say more on this subject, except to express the high gratification which I feel myself in the fact of a prince of the blood royal, and more especially the heir to the throne, having joined Masonry, and having expressed so strong an interest as he has done in the good and welfare of the Craft. (Applause.) I now beg to give notice that, in conformity with ancient usage, it is my intention to propose, at the next Grand Lodge, that the rank of Past Grand Master be conferred on His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. (Cheers.) I believe that there are numerous precedents for this course; for every prince of the blood royal who has joined Masonry has, upon the fact being known and recognised, had the rank of Past Grand Master conferred on him. (Great applause.)

THE INAUGURATION FESTIVAL.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER moved that a vote of thanks be given to Bros Albert W. Woods and Thomas Fenn, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, and the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, for the very admirable manner in which they conducted the ceremony at the Inauguration Festival on the 14th April last.

The motion was seconded by Bro. FAWCETT, Pro. Grand Master for Durham, and unanimously agreed to.

Bro. UDALL moved that the vote of thanks be recorded on vellum, and signed by the M.W.G. Master, which was also agreed to.

Bros WOOD and FENN severally returned thanks for the high compliment which had been conferred upon them.

THE PAST GRAND PURSUIVANT.

The M.W.G.M. proposed that Bro. THOS. R. Lewis, late Grand Pursuivant, do take rank as,

and wear the clothing of, a Past Grand Pursuivant, which was agreed to.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

A ballot took place for members of the Board of General Purposes. From the Master's list the following are the successful candidates:—H. W. Hemsworth, 190; H. Lloyd, 143; S. May, 780; T. Price, 216; F. Richardson, 14; F. W. Shields, 33; R. W. Stewart, 12.

The Past Masters were:—W. M. Bywater, 19; E. Cox, 657; J. W. Halsey, 134; J. B. Monckton, 1,150; F. Robinson, 259; J. E. Saunders, 1.

THE COLONIAL BOARD.

A ballot took place for members of the Colonial Board, and the following were the successful candidates: F. Adlard, 7; B. Baker, 21; F. Bennoch, 1; C. A. Cottebrune, 733; E. Cox, 657; M. S. Machin, 930; J. G. Marsh, 28.

THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

Four vacancies in this committee were filled up as under:—C. Hosgood 192, H. M. Levy 188, J. G. Thompson 862, F. Walters 73.

THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter was presented, in which were recommendations for the following grants, viz:—

The Widow of the late Bro. F. D., of the Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality, No. 187, Bristol	£30	0	0
Bro. R. J. C., of the Humber Lodge, No. 57, Hull	£75	0	0
Bro. J. A., of the Skiddaw Lodge No. 1002, Cockermouth	£30	0	0
Bro. W. H., of the Howe Lodge, No. 587, Birmingham	£30	0	0
The Widow of the late Bro. C. H. J., of the Palladin Lodge, No. 120, Hereford	£30	0	0

These recommendations were put *seriatim* and agreed to.

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

A report was brought up from the Building Committee, the concluding portion of which was as follows:—

"The labours of the Committee being now ended it is their duty

"1st.—Gratefully to acknowledge the confidence which Grand Lodge has been pleased to place in them.

"2nd.—To assure Grand Lodge that (under, at times, very difficult circumstances) they have endeavoured faithfully to perform their duty.

"3rd.—To claim the indulgence of Grand Lodge for any short comings, to tender their resignations, and to offer, individually or collectively, any assistance which the Board of General Purposes may at any future time require in the explanation of any matters of doubt.

"The Committee respectfully place their resignations in the hands of Grand Lodge, and submit the following resolution for its adoption.

"That the work for which the Building Committee was appointed being now concluded their resignation of their office be accepted."

"JOHN HAVERS, Chairman. Freemasons' Hall, May, 17th, 1869.

"The Chairman having quitted the Chair, it was unanimously resolved that the Committee being now virtually dissolved, they cannot separate without offering to their respected Chairman, Bro. JOHN HAVERS, P.G.W., their deep sense of the ability and kindness with which he has presided over them during the last six years and a half. His energy and attention in carrying out the works entrusted to the Committee by the Craft has only been exceeded by the courtesy with which he has listened to the suggestions of each of its Members, and the unity with which they have worked has been mainly owing to the judicious manner in which he has presided over them. They, therefore, on this, the last time of their meeting, desire, with all respect and kind feeling, to offer him their best and most cordial thanks and good wishes for his future health and happiness.

J. LEWELLYN EVANS. J. RANKIN STEBBING.
JOHN SAVAGE. JOHN HERVEY.
GEORGE PLUCKNETT.

"The only other member of the Committee, Bro. HENRY GRISSELL, is abroad."

Bro. J. HAVERS moved that the report be taken as read, which was passed. He also

moved that it be entered on the minutes. At the completion of seven years' labour he thanked the brethren for the confidence they had placed in them, and asked their kind indulgence for any short-comings there may have been. [The motion was agreed to.] Br. Havers proposed the last resolution the Committee had to offer Grand Lodge, which was to the effect, "That the work for which the Building Committee was appointed being concluded, their resignation of their office be accepted." In doing this he said the Committee had no desire to screen themselves from any responsibility, but having concluded their work, they asked Grand Lodge to accept their resignation.

The motion was then put by the M.W.G.M.

Bro. J. E. SAUNDERS of the Grand Master's Lodge, moved a rider to this resolution. He said the Committee had framed the motion with great delicacy, and having done a great and good work in the completion of the building, they resigned their trust into the hands of the Grand Lodge. The foundation was laid in careful thought, and the last stone in rejoicing. He felt they owed a deep debt of gratitude to the Building Committee which had been so ably presided over by Bro. Havers, and to whom great honour was due. The resolution he proposed was, "That the work for which the Building Committee was appointed having been completed to the entire satisfaction of Grand Lodge, their resignation of office be accepted."

Bro. NUNN seconded the motion as amended, which was put and agreed to.

Bro. HAVERS expressed his gratitude to the Committee for the insertion of these words.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Committee on the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was deferred until the next Grand Lodge, on account of an informality in some notices not having been given at the Board of Masters.

THE PROPOSITION TO APPLY THE FUND OF THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE TO THE SCHOOLS.

The second report of the Committee on the Fund of Benevolence was circulated amongst the brethren, and a tabular statement of the Fund for some years past, showing the surplus each year, was exhibited. It stated, in reference to Bro. Clabon's proposition, that no reason existed for continuing this accumulation, and recommended that two-thirds of the surplus annually be appropriated to the Boys' and Girls' Schools. The committee proceeded in the first instance to consider the general question of the appropriation of the Fund of Benevolence, and the mode of dealing therewith; as to the amount of relief to which the Lodge of Benevolence, and the Grand Master, on the recommendation of that lodge are now limited as to the inquiry made into the cases of applicants; as to relief to the Scottish, Irish, and Foreign Masons, &c.

Bro. CLABON said as the report had been circulated amongst the members of the Craft, it would be unnecessary for him to go into details, but he would refer to a few of the principal points. The report proposed that two-thirds of the surplus funds of the Board of Benevolence should be applied towards assisting children on their leaving the schools, for many of them were in a very helpless state, and his proposition was to come forward and help them. He urged them to educate them so as to enable them to get their own living. He referred to one of the best boys in the Boys' School, who was discharged at 15½ years of age, and, as he had no friends, he got a situation in a stockbroker's office at 6s. per week, but as there was a balance of £10 from an old charity fund, the House Committee supplemented that sum by a subscription out of their own pockets to assist this boy in obtaining a proper position in life. At the same time they found a large surplus in the Board of Benevolence, but they had never heard one word as to helping these children on their leaving the schools, and the question was whether Grand Lodge should help them, or whether they should take the means for doing so from the Board of Benevolence. The surplus last year was £1400, in addition to the printed report; but he did

not ask to take one penny of the surplus until the claims of the Board of Benevolence were satisfied. If they were to go on accumulating it would be of no use to Freemasonry. If the accumulation was to go on, it would soon amount to £100,000, which would be holding out temptation to some persons to come into masonry for the sake of the benefits to be derived from it, who ought to begin masonry by helping others. He was of opinion, therefore, that the time was come when they should deal with that surplus, for in something like ten years a fund would accumulate sufficient for all the purposes of their schools. He was about to read some passages from a pamphlet written by Bro. M. Cooke, when

Bro. GREGORY rose to order.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER ruled Bro. Clabon could not read the passages.

Bro. CLABON continued: He said at the time of the union this fund was created as a trust. He believed it was a trust, and quoted the 18th Article of Union of the 1st December, 1813, which said "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. By adopting his plan—to help the children—was the best way of helping Masons themselves and which would be strictly applying the funds to the cause of charity. He said in answer to the question, as to why he proposed to give some of the surplus to the Boys' and Girls' School and not to the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, they were already assisted by grants from Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter.

The Benevolent Institution possessed a large fund and did not spend their annual income. After addressing the Grand Lodge for about half an hour, he as chairman of the committee moved the resolution that the report of the committee be adopted. He referred to an amendment, notice of which had been given by the Earl of Limerick, which would empower the Board of Benevolence to grant sums to the Boys' and Girls' School on the recommendation of the House Committee, but he thought that brethren who attended the Board of Benevolence would agree with him that the duties of that board were already sufficiently onerous, they having to sit from four to five hours to dispose of the business, and that there ought to be no addition to their labours.

Bro. JOHN HAVERS suggested that as there were many brethren from the country who had come up to vote upon the subject they should take it at once as the main question. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. CLABON adopted that course and moved—

"Until Grand Lodge shall otherwise direct, one-third of the annual surplus of the Fund of Benevolence shall be appropriated for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and another third for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, in forming funds for apprenticing the children of Freemasons who have been in those schools, or in otherwise assisting them to commence life.

"Such one-third part respectively shall be invested in the names of four trustees for each school, to be appointed by Grand Lodge, and the dividends paid to the treasurer of each school.

"The general committee, on the recommendation of the house committee of each school, may apply the dividends of the funds respectively appropriated to the school for the benefit of children who have been at the School during the preceding twelve months, in apprenticing them to any business or profession, or otherwise aiding them to obtain employment, or in applying any sum granted, by annual instalments, for a limited period, for the benefit of those proceeding to any school, college, or university.

"No sum exceeding £25 shall be appropriated for the benefit of any child, without the consent of the quarterly court of the school, and such court shall render to Grand Lodge an annual account of the receipts and expenditure on account of the said funds.

"That the scheme, as recommended by the committee, be, and the same is hereby adopted by Grand Lodge, and added to the Book of Constitutions under the head Fund of Benevolence, after No. 16, as Nos. 17, 18, 19, and 20."

Bro. UDALL seconded the motion.

The Earl of LIMERICK then moved an amendment:—

"The Lodge of Benevolence, on the recommendation of the house committees of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, respectively, may grant sums to aid children, who have been at such schools during the previous twelve months, in commencing life. Providing always that the total amount so granted, in any one year, shall not exceed one-half of the surplus of the Fund of Benevolence for the previous year. No sum exceeding twenty pounds shall be appropriated for the benefit of any child, without the consent of Grand Lodge; and such consent, given at a quarterly communication, shall suffice without any further confirmation."

He was exceedingly anxious the children, on leaving the school, should get on well in the world, but he had great doubts whether Bro. Clabon had got the best scheme to promote his object. When the scheme was originally proposed it was said, "Considering the large amount of the reserve fund of benevolence, and the annually increasing surplus of that fund, that no reason exists for continuing this accumulation, and that without diminishing the principal of the reserve fund, the annual surplus may be applied with advantage for the benefit of this generation." As far as that went he could not agree with it that no reason existed for continuing this accumulation, for, as they were an increasing body, their responsibilities also were increasing. His Bro. Clabon had expressed no doubt that the Grand Lodge was really competent to deal with the funds of the Board of Benevolence according to the articles of union; but he knew not whether he was right, for articles of union did not go for much just now. (Laughter.) He felt strongly that the funds of the Board of Benevolence should be devoted to charity, and if they were to be applied to the support of their children, that ought to be done under the control of the Grand Lodge. His objection to Bro. Clabon's scheme was that he wanted to take two-thirds of the surplus funds from the control of the Board of Benevolence, and give it to a body over whom they had no control whatever. That was one of his objections to that part of the report in which it was said that "the annual surplus might be applied with advantage for the benefit of this generation." He did not think that it would be the best way to take one-third of the surplus to be invested for the use of the schools, as for years it would be unappreciable to the few children leaving the schools, and it would be constantly varying in amount. He did not see either why there should be devoted one-third to each of the schools, unless it was to prevent jealousy between them; but he looked upon it as a one-sided measure, and saw no reason why a favour should be conceded to one side more than another. He concluded by moving the amendment he had proposed.

Bro. STEBBING disagreed with both propositions before the Lodge. His object was not to run a tilt with his learned Brother Clabon, who had, with great pains and assiduity, prepared the report which had been presented to the Grand Lodge. That report had been prepared with great ability and research. He (Bro. Stebbing) would not go into the law of the case, as to whether or not they could send their children to the Universities; but would contend that that was not the charity for which that fund was created, and which would not serve the best interests of Freemasonry. The Board of Benevolence only possessed the small sum of £27,000, which he looked upon as a reproach to Freemasonry. That was all the fund that was under the protection of Grand Lodge to relieve poor masons and their widows, and the latter class could only knock once at their door. It was only the other day he heard that one small lodge in London had a benevolent fund of between £11,000 and £12,000, whilst their poor children were looking forward at some future time for relief from a fund of £27,000, which was producing only £1,500 a year. In his own town, a small one, they had a fund of benevolence which was upwards of £1000, but they had passed a resolution it should never be touched until it amounted to £2000, and any calls in the meantime that had been made upon it they had paid out of their own pockets. He did not think that the sum of £27,000 was what the Lodge of Benevolence

ought to be, and he said at the last Grand Lodge that as large numbers were then joining their Order they brought larger claims upon them. The surplus of the Board of Benevolence in 1867 was £2,200, whilst in 1868 it was only £1,200, thereby dropping down £1000, although the receipts were greater than in the former year; the surplus being diminished by the extra claims of distressed masons and their widows. He would ask them to let the words of Bro. Clabon sink deep in their hearts when he said that a part of his proposition was to further educate girls of sixteen years of age. He would ask the brethren how many of their own children were removed from educational studies before they arrived at sixteen years of age. As it was, parents then knew that their children were in schools were they would receive a good education, and they generally took care to provide something for them, although they could not all send them to the Universities. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He did not think they would go to the Universities, but they would receive a good education. (Loud cheers.) Bro. Clabon had said that if they provided too much for old Masons they would induce men to come into Masonry, but on that point he joined issue with him, for men did not come into Masonry with such objects. They come into it with high hopes and feelings, seeking a position in the world, and did not come into it, as was suggested, for the purpose of asking the charity of the Grand Lodge. He trusted that they would not make their schools so rich as to dazzle the eyes of men, and induce them to join Masonry, so that in five or ten years they would be able to send their sons to the Universities. (Hear, hear.) Why, if they did that it would be a good thing for a young man with a family to join them, with a prospect in four or five years of having the whole of his family educated at the Universities, at the expense of the Craft. Let him expose another fallacy of Bro. Clabon's, when he said this surplus fund would be devoted to charity. It might be Bro. Clabon's reading of charity, but it was not his (Bro. Stebbing). To help the poor old Mason and the poor old woman in their hour of distress was to him (Bro. Stebbing) more like real charity (hear, hear) than in spending their money in further educating children after they had arrived at sixteen years of age. The clause of the Articles of Union referred to, said "that this fund should not be infringed on for any purpose, but should be kept strictly and solely devoted to charity; and pains shall be taken to increase the same." He (Bro. Stebbing) challenged him upon that proposition, as Bro. Clabon had set it forth it would never be increased. If they took one-third of the surplus for the Boys' School, and another third for the Girls' School, they would never be able to increase the fund of the Royal Benevolent Institution for the old men and women, who would go away from an election disappointed, and who would wait in deep anxiety often fatal, as to whether they would be elected in the next year, or continue in that hope which maketh the heart sick. They would be spending their funds in pampering youth, whilst the old might waste away through anxiety from year to year, and at last die in despair. That might be going on, as he said from year to year, whilst the young would be sent to the universities. He wished further to call the attention of the brethren to one or two things, for Bro. Clabon had said he would touch but the surplus of the Benevolent Fund, and he was anxious to use his exact words. He said that no necessity exists for continuing the accumulation without diminishing the principal of the reserved fund, the annual surplus may be applied with advantage for the benefit of this generation. Now, without referring to the law regarding that proposition, as it was always his desire to call things by their proper name—to call a spade a spade—and it was not in his nature to offer offence to any one, he would ask whether that proposition was an honest one. Who provided the Fund of Benevolence? Not the present generation, for it had come down to them from years past—from the time of the union, when a £4,000 or £5,000 was devoted to benevolence, and that sum had

been added to slowly, from year to year. During his Lordships reign in the Craft there had been a rapid increase in numbers, and there might be said to be a plethora of money, but it was their great charities that bound them together. Their origin was concert, and Freemasonry was a great institution, but it was their noble charities that bound them to each other. Still, they might not always be so prosperous, for those who had just come among them might become a legacy upon them, and therefore they ought to make a provision for some time to come after them. He was inclined to be liberal to the schools, but he trusted that while they were supported they would not rob the fund for those who would come after them. He hoped the fund would go on increasing, and in that spirit he should move an amendment he had placed on the paper, for the purpose of stopping that unworthy object. (Loud cheering.)

Bro. GREGORY spoke in favour of the original motion.

Bro. JOHN HAVERS opposed the motion and said that £27,000 was not too large a sum to meet a rainy day, for a time of adversity might come upon them. If they once gave a sum to any charity, however badly it might be used, they could not take it back again. It was said that men entered their society for the purpose of making themselves "more extensively serviceable to their fellow creatures;" but the principle would be reversed and they would make their fellow creatures more extensively serviceable to them, if they held out a bait to them that their children would not only be well taken care of whilst they were in the school, but would receive a handsome sum on quitting it. That would be a great inducement to many to come amongst them, for the purpose of receiving those benefits which would be open to them.

Col. L. COLE opposed the motion.

Bro. CLABON said a few words in reply, and the Earl of Limerick consented to withdraw his amendment.

Bro. STEBBING moved the following amendment:—

"That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is not desirable that any portion of the interest arising from the capital invested to the credit of the Fund of Benevolence should be treated as surplus income, but that it should be added from time to time to the capital, and be invested accordingly."

Bro. MASON had much pleasure in seconding the amendment.

The M. W. G. Master then put the amendment, which was carried almost unanimously. It was afterwards put to the brethren as an original motion and carried.

The other business, in consequence of the lateness of the evening, was put off for consideration to the next Grand Lodge.

The M. W. G. Master then closed Grand Lodge in ample form, the Rev. Grand Chaplain offering up prayer to the G. A. O. T. U.

ROYAL PLANTAGENET ENCAMPMENT.—A special meeting of this Conclave was held on the evening of June 1st, for the purpose of admitting to the Order a Companion from the Sister Isle, who had crossed the Channel for the purpose. The ceremony was performed by the P. G. Commander of the Province, who was well supported by the officers of the Encampment. Sir Kt. Barber, P. G. O. presided at the organ, and the whole ceremony was performed in a most satisfactory manner, and much to the gratification of the newly-installed Knight.

MASONIC HALL, IPSWICH.—The Victoria Chapter of Rose + met on May 29th, when two brethren from Ireland were admitted to the Order. This Chapter although so young, being privileged by having real good working Masons for the various officers, the whole of the long ceremony was performed in a most sublime and beautiful manner, the arrangement of the hall affording every facility for working this degree such, we believe, as no other provincial chapter can boast of. The brethren admitted expressed the delight they had experienced in being received, and at once joined the chapter as subscribing members. We have never before seen the ceremony so well done as it was on this occasion, and the introduction of music in the various parts had a splendid effect. Bro. Barber, as usual, presided, first at the harmonium and afterwards at the organ.

PROV. GRAND LODGE OF OXFORDSHIRE, & ALFRED LODGE, 340.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

The installation of the W.M., "Alfred" Lodge, Oxford, took place on Monday, and was succeeded by the annual Provincial Grand Lodge, both meetings being held, by permission of the "Apollo" Lodge, in the university Masonic Hall, Cornmarket-street. We do not remember to have witnessed, in connection with Freemasonry, a more interesting spectacle, than that presented by the "Alfred" Lodge on this occasion; the much esteemed D.P.G.M. of Oxfordshire (Bro. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B., of the Grand Lodge of England,) having undertaken the pleasing duty of installing his son (Bro S. Patey Spiers, P.P. Supt. of Works,) as W.M., who, in his turn, initiated a younger brother (Mr. Frank E. Spiers,) into the ancient mysteries of the order.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened, between 5 and 6 o'clock, when the reports from the different lodges were read, and the P.G.M., congratulated the brethren upon the satisfactory position of the Province. He also expressed his deep obligations, to the D.P.G.M. (Bro. R. J. Spiers,) and the Prov. Grand Officers, for the valuable assistance they had rendered him. The lodge voted £10 10s. to the Masonic charities; the usual sum to the local charities; £10 10s. to the Zetland Testimonial Fund; and £5 5s. towards the expenses incurred by the recent visit to Oxford of the children of the Girls School. A letter from the children was read, in which they stated the pleasure they experienced, and thanked Bro. Thompson, Bro. Spiers, and other brethren who made special efforts in connection with this treat to their young "sisters."

In addition to the Prov. G.M. and the Dep. Prov. G.M. there were present:—Bros. Rev. C. J. Martyn, Grand Chaplain of England; T. M. Talbot, Prov. G. Master, South Wales; H. Murray, District G. Master, China; W. E. Gumbleton, P. Grand Deacon of England; Col. A. W. Adair, P. Prov. G.M., Somerset; Rev. Sir John Hayes, Bart., P.G. Chap., D.P.G.M., Berks and Bucks; J. Blandy-Jenkins, P. Prov. G.W., Berks and Bucks, W.M., 945; Capt. Lamest, P.G. St., Prov. S.G.W., Oxon., W.M. 357; S.P. Spiers, Prov. J.G.W., Oxon., W.M. 340; G. Gumbleton, P. Prov. G.D., W.M. 378; D. W. Horlock, Prov. G. Reg., W.M. 1036. Past Masters: J. T. Morland, P. Prov. G.D., Berks and Bucks, Rev. W. F. Short, T. F. Dillan, Dr. Owen, H. Houghton, E. G. Bruton, A. S. Hurford, W. S. Harrison, H. D'Almaine, J. B. Looker, R. Havers, Dr. Griffin, A. B. Rye, E. J. Hartley, H. Harley. Bros. Rev. S. E. Hodgson, Rev. G. C. Nottley, Rev. J. N. Palmer, W. C. Borlase, F. H. M'Calmont, F. B. Howell, Dr. Spencer, C. V. Lockwood, E. M. Wakeman, A. U. Moorsom, E. Conolly W. R. Hobbs, G. Moor, C. Churchill, A. S. Churchhill, J. Saunders, B. de M. Dawson, P. Irving, Cosburn, J. Juggins, W. Emberlin, C. L. Pemberton, D. Faulkner, R. Williams, P. Williams, J. Bue, V. de Tivoli, W. Gardiner, Walter Thompson, F. S. Spiers, W. Welshman, C. V. Trotter, J. W. Paine, &c., &c.

The Provincial G.M. invested Bro. Rev. W. F. Short, P. Prov. S.G.W., and Bro. F. H. M'Calmont, Grand Registrar, with the Charity Jewel, in acknowledgement of their services as stewards to the Masonic charities, and, in the name of the province, thanked them for their zeal and interest in behalf of those charities.

The Provincial G.M. then appointed his officers for the year, as follows:—

Bro. Capt. G. F. Laurent, W.M., 357	Prov. S.G. Warden.
" Samuel Patey Spiers, W.M., 340	" J. G. Warden.
" Rev. S. E. Hodgson	" G. Chaplain.
" Rev. C. H. Norwood	" G. Chaplain.
" T. Randall	" G. Treasurer.
" D. W. Horlock, W.M., 1036	" G. Registrar.
" W. C. Borlase	" G. Secretary.
" F. B. Howell	" S.G. Deacon.
" C. V. Lockwood	" J.G. Deacon.
" E. M. Wakeman	" G.Spt. of Wr ^{ts} .
" A. A. Moorsom	" G. Dirctr. of C.
" E. Conolly	" G. Dirctr. of C.
" W. R. Hobbs	" G. Swd. Bearer.
" W. H. Arkwright	" G. Organist.
" G. Moor	" G. Pursuivant.
" H. Dean	" Ast. G. Prsivnt.
" C. Churchhill	
" T. Saunders	
" B. de M. Dawson	
" A. S. Churchhill	" G. Stewards.
" J. Cooke	
" P. Irving	
" W. Stephens	" Tyler.

Immediately the lodge business had concluded the brethren, numbering nearly ninety, adjourned to a banquet, served in the assembly rooms of the Clarendon Hotel. The chair was occupied by the R.W. Bro. Colonel H. Atkins Bowyer, P.G.M., and the company included, Bros. Talbot, the P.G.M. of South Wales; Murray, District Grand Master of China; Colonel Adair, P.P.G.M., Somerset; Spiers, P.G.S.B., and D.P.G.M. of Oxford; the Rev. Sir J. Warren Hayes, P.G.C., and D.P.G.M. of Berks and Bucks; S. P. Spiers, P.J.G.W., W.M. "Alfred"

Lodge; the Rev. C. Martyn, G.C.; Capt. Lamert, W.M. "Apollo;" Short, P.M., 357; Blandy-Jenkins, W.M. "Abbey" Lodge, Abingdon; Horlock, W.M., "Bowyer" Lodge; Gumbleton, W.M., "Churchill" Lodge; Looker, P.M., "Cherwell" Lodge; the Rev. Hodgson, Prov. G. Chaplain; and Bros. Hobbs, Havers, Griffin, Hartley, Lockwood, Faulkner, J. T. Morland, E. Morland, H. D'Almaine, Juggins, Emberlin, Borlase, M'Calmont, Houghton, Marsh, Arkwright, Harrison, Bruton, Randell, Cosburn, Smith, F. Spiers, Williams, Hurford, Pye, &c. "Non vobis domine" was sung by several brethren, who subsequently favoured the company with some excellent glee, &c.

The banquet was all that could be desired, and at its conclusion,

The P.G.M., in proposing the first toast, that of "the Queen and the Craft," said he felt it required no words of his to ensure for it a loyal and cordial reception. He prayed that Her Most Gracious Majesty might long reign over them, and that this kingdom might continue as happy and prosperous as at the present time. (Cheers.)

The P.G.M. next proposed, "The health of the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." (Cheers.) The heir-apparent was so well-known to them when at Oxford, and so much beloved that he need say little respecting His Royal Highness, but he might mention that the Prince now belonged to their Order, and as a Brother deserved their best wishes. (Cheers.) His Royal Highness had lost no opportunity of qualifying himself for the high position which he would one day be called upon to fill. (Cheers.)

The P.G.M. next gave "The health of the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland." (Cheers.) Those who as Masons had for some years served under the reign of Lord Zetland, must know how faithfully he had discharged the duties of his high office, and how completely he had devoted himself and his wealth to the interests of Freemasonry. They knew, also, how he had assisted the charities, and how generously the Craft had responded to his appeals. (Cheers.) He called upon the brethren to drink most cordially to the health of their G.M., who he trusted, would be spared for many years, to serve the Order as he had done in the past. (Cheers.)

Bro. SPIERS, the D.P.G.M., rose and said he was fortunate in having the high privilege of proposing the next toast, because he need only mention the subject of it to arouse general enthusiasm—it was, "The health of the R.W. Prov. G. Master, Colonel Bowyer." (Loud and prolonged cheers.) It was quite impossible for him to say in the presence of their worthy P.G.M. all that he and they felt respecting him, but on no occasion had they had so much reason to drink to the good health of their P.G.M. as on the present. (Hear, hear.) Their P.G.M. had, as most of the brethren were aware, been suffering from serious indisposition, and having partially regained his strength, he had come among them to show how deeply he felt the pleasure of visiting them, and being, as he had for the last fifteen years, one of them themselves. His kindness was well-known to them all, and also the personal regard he entertained for every Brother in the Province. They knew, likewise, how liberally their P.G.M. supported the Masonic charities. (Cheers.) But if he (Bro. Spiers) were to continue speaking for half an hour he could not do justice to the qualities of the beloved Brother who presided over this Province. (Hear, hear.) They all hoped Col. Bowyer might long be spared to occupy the position he now so efficiently filled. (Cheers.)

The P.G.M., who was enthusiastically greeted on rising, remarked that he need not assure the brethren, he deeply felt the kind manner in which his health was proposed, and the most cordial way, in which it had been received. It reminded him of the many kindnesses he had received at their hands ever since he had had the pleasure of presiding over the Province—he might say, "reigned" over the Province, but the fact was, no reigning at all was required, as the brethren generally had most readily helped him, in guiding this Province in the true path of Freemasonry, and had given no pain or trouble. Therefore it had afforded him the greatest happiness to preside over them. (Cheers.) He was sorry that of late his health had rendered him inadequate to do what they required of him but what he considered was due to such a Province as this.—(Cries of No, no.) He would not say with poor Macbeth, "I have lived long enough,"—cries of No, no—but he was advancing in years, and it was for him, earnestly to seek for one who would preside over them. (Cries of No, no. He felt extremely sorry to enter upon this subject, as he always derived the greatest possible pleasure in observing the hearty way, in which the brethren of the Province had striven to promote the interest of Freemasonry. Their faithfulness and cordiality had, he would not say enabled him to perform his duty, but made up for his shortcomings, and when he retired from the position he now had the pleasure to occupy,—(cries of "No, no")—he should do so with a deep sense of grateful satisfaction and fraternal regard and affection for them. There had been an absence of everything like uncomfortable feeling, and the

Province had attained a position in the Craft most honourable to itself, and by no means unworthy of Masonry at large. He thanked the brethren most sincerely for their kindness, and for the honour they had done him, and hoped for them health and happiness. (Loud cheers.)

The P.G.M. again rose, and said he had next the pleasure of proposing a toast most interesting to the Craft in general, because they were extremely indebted to the subject of it. He called upon them to drink the health of the R.W.D.G.M. Earl de Grey and Ripon, and the Grand Officers past and present. (Cheers.) They knew the D.G.M. devoted himself to Freemasonry to the utmost limit of his leisure, and that notwithstanding all his duties connected with the State he was frequently at his post in Grand Lodge. (Cheers.) However, their interest in this toast principally rested on its connexion with this province, and they had had a most excellent Deputy Grand Master in the person of Brother Spiers, who was Past Grand Sword Bearer. (Cheers.) They had also among them this evening their excellent and worthy brother, the Rev. Sir John Hayes, Past Grand Chaplain, whom they all delighted to see; also Bro. Gumbleton, P.G.W.; Bro. the Rev Charles Martyn, G.C., and other brethren who had held office in Grand Lodge. (Cheers.)

Bro. the Rev. C. MARTYN expressed the great gratification he felt in re-visiting Oxford, every building in which brought back to his mind most vividly and forcibly the happy days he spent there. When he returned and attended a Masonic gathering, it seemed but yesterday when he took part in the business of one of the Oxford lodges. He well remembered all the kind things that the D.P.G.M. said of him eleven years ago, when he (Bro. Martyn) occupied the position now filled by Bro. S. P. Spiers; and now the P.G.M. prophesied for him a happy and brilliant career in Freemasonry. He considered that he should attain the height of his ambition if he filled the post of Grand Chaplain, to which he had been appointed, but he must say his position was quite insignificant when he compared it with what he had seen this day; he of course referred to the installation of Bro. Spiers as W.M. of the Alfred Lodge, by his worthy father, the D.P.G.M. (Cheers.) Eleven years ago, the P.G.M. spoke in flattering terms of Bro. Martyn and his bride, and now he stood before them as the happy father of two sons—(laughter)—and he would not say how many daughters. (Renewed laughter.) The eldest boy was constantly declaring that he would be a Freemason and a clergyman, and he (Bro. Martyn) hoped he might be spared to instal him as Bro. Spiers had his son, and that he in his turn might initiate his brother, who, however, was now but fourteen months old. (Laughter.) He heartily trusted their P.G.M. might be spared for many years to preside over this province. (Hear, hear.)

The P.G.M., in eulogistic terms, next called on the brethren to drink the health of Bro. Sir J. W. Hayes, Bro. Murray, Bro. Col. Adair, and Bro. Talbot, the latter of whom had taken his departure.

The toast was cordially received, and Bro. the Rev. Sir J. W. HAYES, Bart., returned thanks, acknowledging the great assistance the Province of Berks and Bucks always derived from the Masons of Oxfordshire, and he rejoiced that the province of which he had the honour of being D.P.G.M. was to such close affinity to them. Most sincerely did he wish prosperity to the Province of Oxford. (Cheers.)

The G.M. of China said he hoped that within 12 months from the present date he should be presiding over a Prov. Grand Lodge in Hong Kong—(Cheers.)—when nothing he could say, would evoke their enthusiasm more than the knowledge that Masons assembled at this ancient seat of learning remembered their brethren in the Chinese Empire. (Cheers.) He had always regarded Oxford as a most important nursery for Freemasonry, as many of the brethren who were initiated there, spread the good principles of the Order throughout all parts of the world. (Hear, hear.) His immediate predecessor was one of themselves, and it was owing to the good Masonic principles, which he took so much trouble to disseminate and the organization he introduced, that he (Bro. Murray) had been able to carry on the work of the lodge, and hold the position which entitled him to return thanks, as the representative of the Grand Lodge of China. (Cheers.) He trusted the Great Architect of the Universe would continue to vouchsafe to them peace and happiness. (Cheers.)

P.P.G.M. Colonel ADAIR (Somerset), also responded, and assured his Oxfordshire brethren that whenever they came so far westward as Somerset they would always receive a hearty welcome. (Cheers.) He was succeeded in the office of P.G.M. by a member of the Apollo Lodge—Lord Carnarvon, who took much interest in everything connected with Freemasonry. (Cheers.) He felt much pleased to see his worthy brother, Colonel Bowyer, in the chair, and it afforded him gratification to meet his mother lodge and the other lodges of the province. He congratulated the Alfred Lodge on their new W.M., who

had that day been installed in the chair of K.S.; and he might truly say that a worthy father had been succeeded by a worthy son. (Cheers.) He saw another son of their excellent D.P.G.M. receive the secrets of Freemasonry, and what he had that day witnessed was altogether sufficient to move the hearts of them all. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he thanked his Oxford brethren very heartily for their kindness and hospitality. (Cheers.)

The P.G.M. said he now rose to propose a toast most interesting to the province and Provincial Grand Lodge—it was the health of the V.W.D. Prov. Grand Master, and the Prov. G. Officers, past and present. (Cheers.) They could do very little in the province, without the zealous assistance of the Prov. Grand Officers. (Hear, hear.) He assured the brethren it was quite impossible for him to express in adequate terms, what he felt with regard to the D. Prov. Grand Master, and he would not attempt to say much in his presence. Indeed, no remarks of his were necessary, as Bro. Spiers had for some quarter of a century lost no opportunity in advancing the interests of Freemasonry, but had devoted himself to the Craft in a manner which one could scarcely conceive possible, seeing that he had many other duties to perform. (Hear, hear.) Having referred to the great good Bro. Spiers had done as a Mason, the P.G.M., complimented other officers in the province for the efficient way in which they had promoted the welfare of the Order.

Bro. SPIERS, the D.P.G.M., ably returned thanks, and spoke of the pleasure he felt in installing his son as W.M. of the "Alfred Lodge," and in seeing his third son initiated. Whenever the Masons of this province thought he could do anything to promote the interest of the Craft, they might rely on his services, as that object was one of the greatest he had in view. (Cheers.)

Bro. Captain LAMERT, W.M. of the "Apollo" Lodge, also responded, and was followed by

Bro. S. P. SPIERS, W.M., of the "Alfred" Lodge, who expressed the feelings of pride realised by the brethren of that Lodge in entertaining the Provincial Grand Lodge, and assured the brethren in different parts of the province that they would always meet a hearty welcome in the Lodge over which he had now the honour to preside. (Cheers.) Speaking on behalf of himself, Bro. Spiers said he had received so much kindness and good feeling from everyone present that he scarcely knew how to express his thanks. Suffice it to say, he had always endeavoured to do his duty, both as a man and a Mason—(hear, hear)—and for anything he had done he had been amply repaid by the honour conferred upon him that day. (Cheers.) They could well understand how much his pleasure had been enhanced by the fact that he had been installed by his father. (Hear, hear.) It had also been a source of much gratification to him to initiate his younger brother into Freemasonry. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he again thanked the P.G.M. and brethren for the honour they had done him. (Cheers.)

Bro. GUMBLETON, W.M. "Churchill" Lodge, Bro. Looker, F.M. "Cherwell" Lodge, and Bro. Horcock, W.M. "Bowyer" Lodge, severally responded.

The P.G.M. then proposed the health of the Visitors, associating with it the name of Bro. G. J. COSBURN (Sec. Lodge of Hope, Newbury), who returned thanks.

Bro. S. P. SPIERS, gave the health of the Entered Apprentices, and the D.P.G.M. admirably rendered the Entered Apprentice's Song, after which Bro. Frank Spiers, and Bro. Richard Williams (Paymaster in the Royal Navy), duly returned thanks.

"The Masonic Charities" and other toasts were honoured and this most agreeable gathering of Masons broke up about midnight.

The P.G.M. entrusted the banquet to the charge of the "Alfred" Lodge, and the whole of the arrangements were excellent.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASONS OF ENGLAND.

The Half-Yearly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters was held at Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday, the 1st inst., when about fifty brethren were present. Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, D.G.M., was installed as Grand Master for the ensuing year, and then appointed the following brethren as officers:—

Sir E. Lechmere, Dep. G.M.; T. Mansel Talbot, S.G.W.; J. Conroy, J.G.W.; Major Woodall, G.O.; Kay Robinson, S.G.O.; John Walker, J.G.O.; Rev. W. R. Bedford, G. Chaplain; Rev. R. N. Sanderson, G.C.; J. R. Stebbing, G. Treasurer; Mann, G. Registrar; F. Binckes, G. Secretary; Bathe, G.S.D.; Hillman, G.J.D.; H. N. Goulty, G. Supt. of Works; W. H. Warr, G. Dir. of Ceremonies; T. J. Sabine, Asst. G. D. Cer.; Thos. Wescombe, G. Sword-bearer; Blacklock, G. Standard-bearer; Reid, G. Org.; Weeks, G. Time-keeper. Stewards: Roenthal, Lake, Bigg, May, H. Massey, Jas. Stevens, McCallum. General Board: M. Talbot, J. Conroy, Udall (President), Gumbleton, Meggy, Stebbing, J. H. Wynne, W. H. Warr, T. J. Sabine, Davidson, Baxtor, and Levander.

After the transaction of the usual business, the Grand Lodge was closed.

Agents.

CANADA: Messrs. DRYIE & SON, Ottawa.
CEYLON: Messrs. W. L. SKEENE & Co., Colombo.
CONSTANTINOPLE: Bro. J. L. HANLY, *Levant Times* Office.
GALATA: IPSICK KAHN, Perchemb6-Bajar.

LONDON:

W. H. SMITH & SONS, 156, Strand, and all Railway Stations.
Bro. C. L. PHILPOTT, 65, King William-street, E.C.
Bro. F. FARRA, 282, Strand.
Bro. BORN, 115, London Wall.
Bro. POTTE & SON, 14 and 15, Royal Exchange.
Bro. GILBERT, 18, Gracchurh-street.
J. B. BROWNING, 58, Murray-street, Hoxton.
C. W. LITTLE, 14, Broadway, E.C.
CHUSE, 73, Little Britain.
T. DRISCOLL, Black Horse Alley, Fleet-street.
LAYTON, 1a, Liverpool-street, Bishopsgate.
LOYD, 21, Great Queen-street, W.C.
Bro. J. LAMBERT, 4, Royal Oak Terrace, Bayswater.
Bro. A. MORRAU, 93, Queen's-road, Bayswater.
Bro. JAS. WILLIS, 173, Church-street, Chelsea.
Bro. EDMONDS, Brommel-road, Clapham.
Bro. EDW. P. POSTER, 31 & 33, High-st., Peckham.
SPALDING'S LIBRARY, High-street, Notting Hill.
Bro. SAMUEL CHIVERS, 269, High-street, Poplar.
Bro. HENDERSON, Woolwich.
Bro. J. L. WINN, 8, Greenwich-road, Greenwich.
2, London-street, opposite Orchard's Dining-rooms, Greenwich.

ARDROSSAN: Bro. HUGH BOYD.
BANGOR: Bro. NIXON.
BELFAST: Bros. McCORMICK & HUDSON, Masonic Rooms, Donegall-place.
Bro. ALEXANDER WYNNE, Donegall-street.
BIRMINGHAM: Bro. J. WILLEY, Union-passage and Union-street.

BRECHIN: Bros. BLACK & JOHNSTON, 40, High-street.
BRISTOL: Bro. E. B. PENNY, 16, Clare-street.
CANTERBURY: Bro. DAVEY, St. Margaret's-street.
CARDIFF: Bro. T. HAYNES, 6, James-street.
CHATHAM: Bro. JAMES GALE.
CHELMSFORD: Bro. J. L. BRICKELL.
COCKERMOUTH: Bro. E. THWAITES, 29 & 30, Market-place.

COLCHESTER: Bro. GEORGE H. RAY.
CORK: Bro. S. WOOD, 46, Patrick-street, Agent for the South of Ireland.

DEAL: Bro. B. R. ESTES, 140, Lower-street.
DEVONPORT: Bro. J. R. H. SPRY, 100, Fore-street.
DUBLIN: Bro. A. MAXWELL HARTE, Freemasons' Hall.
DUDLEY: Bro. JAMES FOSTER, 102, Hall-street.
DUNDEE: Bro. C. D. CHALMERS, 10, Castle-street.
DURHAM: Bro. R. COOKE, 1, Silver-street.
EDINBURGH: Bro. JAS. N. SCOBIE, 177, High-street.
Bro. GEO. DARLING, 39, Clerk-street.

GLASGOW: Bro. JOHN DAVIDSON & Co., 170, Buchanan-street.
GJERNSEY: Bro. J. MILLINGTON, Bookseller.
HALIFAX: Bro. WM. COOKE, *Courier* Office.
HARTLEPOOL, WEST: Bro. J. PROCTOR, Bookseller.
HULL: Bro. B. S. OATES, 6, Market-place.
IPSWICH: Bro. C. T. TOWNSEND, Masonic Hall.
Bro. C. DAVY, 8, Upper Brook-street.

ISLE OF MAN: Bro. W. KNEALE, 33, Duke-st., Douglas.
KILMARNOCK: Bro. JAMES McKIE.
LANARKSHIRE: Bro. J. W. CRAIG, Coatbridge.
LEICESTER: Bro. A. H. H. ROSS, 6, Market-place.
LEOMINSTER: Bro. S. PARTRIDGE.

LIVERPOOL: Bro. JOSEPH WOOD, 18, Norton-street.
Bro. EDWARD HOWELL, 26, Church-street.
Bro. G. G. WAINSWLEY, 50, Lord-street.

LUDLOW: Bro. E. J. PARTRIDGE, 53, Broad-street.
MANCHESTER: Bros. J. & E. W. JACKSON, 62, Corporation-street.

MARGATE: Bro. W. C. BRASIER, 37, High-street.
NEWCASTLE ON-TYNE, SHIELDS, & ALNWICK: Bro. W. E. FRANKLIN, Bookseller.

NORWICH: Bro. R. JEARV, 70, St. Stephen's-street.
OLD BROMPTON, KENT: Sprackling's Library.

OXFORD: Bro. SPIERS & SON, 102 & 103, High-street.
PAISLEY: Bro. REID, High-street.

PEMBROKE DOCK: Bro. W. G. PHILLIPS, *Gazette* Office.
PENZANCE: W. CORNISH, 2, Market-place.
PLYMOUTH: Bro. J. THOMAS, Cornwall-street.

READING: F. GOLDING, 11, Minster-street.
Geo. LOVJOY, Southern Counties Library.
HENRY PACE

REDRUTH: Bro. WM. TREGASKIS.
RICHMOND, SURREY: Bro. RICHARD GURNEY, Royal Assembly Rooms.

RICHMOND: Bro. JAMES SALE.
SCARBOROUGH: Bro. H. MARTIN, 9, Oxford-street.
SHEFFNESS: Bro. J. R. McDONALD.

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METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending June 12, 1869.

Monday, June 7.

Lodge No. 16, "Royal Alpha," St. James's Htl. Piccadilly.
R.A. Chap, 1056, "Victoria," George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

Tuesday, June 8.

Lodge No. 548, "Wellington," White Swan Tav., Deptford.
" 834, "Ranelagh," Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith

" 933, "Doric," Anderton's Hotel Fleet-street.
Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.
Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Palmerston Tavern, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, at 7.30.

Wednesday, June 9.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 3.
Lodge No. 1017, "Montefiore," Freemasons' Hall.
" 1228, "Beacontree," private rooms, Leytonstone.

Thursday, June 10.

Lodge No. 263, "Bank of England," Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars.
" 1076, "Capper," Marine Htl., Victoria Dock, West Ham.

" 7127, "Upton" Spotted Dog Tav., Upton, Essex.
R.A. Chap., 72, "Royal Jubilee," Horns Tav., Kennington.

Friday, June 11.

" 33, "Britannic," Freemasons' Hall.
Lodge No. 134, "Caledonian," Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.

R.A. Chap., 6, "Friendship," Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons Hall, at 7.

Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury, at 7.

United Pilgrim's Lodge of Instruction, 507, Horns Tavern, Kennington, 7 till 9.

Saturday, June 12.

Lodge No. 108, "London," Freemasons' Hall.
" 176, "Caveau," Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

Domestic Chapter of Instruction, Horns Tavern, Kennington at 8; Comp. Little, P.Z., Preceptor.
Annual Assembly of Grand Senate of the Rnd + Order of Constantine, Freemasons' Tavern, at 3.

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