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ANCIENT AND MODERN MYSTERIES.

BY BRO. ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE,

President of the London Literary Union, Editor of "The Rosicrucian," &c.

(Continued from page 26.)

"The architects, with their assistants and pupils, formed associations, called Hütten, or lodges. At an assembly held at Ratisbon, in 1459, it was agreed that a grand lodge should be formed at Strasburg, as the place of general assembly, and that the architect of that cathedral, for the time being, should be the Grand Master. The society was composed of Masters, Companions, and Apprentices, who had a secret word, with signs of recognition. In 1464 and 1469, there were general assemblies at Strasburg; but they were afterward neglected for some time, until the emperor Maximilian I., being at that city in 1498, granted them certain privileges, by charter or diploma, which were renewed and confirmed by subsequent emperors. These diplomas together with the regulations and statutes, were kept in the house of the architect of the cathedral, in a chest with triple locks, of which the two oldest Masons kept the keys, so that it required the presence of all before the chest could be opened. These documents were in existence until the French revolution, when they were destroyed, with many other papers, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Jacobin commissioners. Their rules inculcated the necessity of leading moral lives; submission to the masters, whom the companions served for five or seven years; attention to their religious duties; and charity to the poorer brethren, &c. Among the symbols were the square, the plumb-rule, and the compasses, which are distinguishing marks of the officers of a Freemasons' Lodge at this day.

"The great importance which architecture assumed in those times, is to be accounted for from the enthusiasm for splendid houses of worship, in which the religious spirit of those times displayed itself to an unparalleled degree. The history of these corporations, as here given, and their connexion with the present society of Freemasons, appears from what we know of antiquity, from the history of England, and from the agreement of the constitutions, symbols, and customs of the present Freemasons with those of the above corporations. Three documents have also been preserved which further prove that historical connexion, as well as the doctrines and customs of those corporations of the middle ages, in great perfection, and which must be considered as valuable portions of the history of that period.

"Many writers speak of the Culdees as having formed a Christian church in England for some centuries before the Saxon Conquest, in 449, and sent bishops to the most ancient councils. This church was, together with the various effects of Roman civilisation, suppressed by the Saxons. The Culdees were obliged to seek refuge in the wildernesses of Wales and Scotland, in Ireland,

and in the small islands between Great Britain and Ireland, chiefly in Anglesey and Mona, where they continued their apostolic institutions and usages, which related to those of the Oriental church. They tried in vain to convert the rude Saxon kings, but they had not the same means as Augustin, who was sent by the pope, with forty monks, in 597, to Britain. The Culdees were now again persecuted by the adherents of the pope; but in their persecution, they maintained the spirit of Christianity, and studied in solitude. At last they found access to Alfred and Athelstan, the latter of whom gave employment to many architects, in building convents, castles, &c., and the Culdees made use of their organisation, and the independence guaranteed by the king, to teach them their truly apostolic principles. Usher, Ledwich, and Grose, treat of this subject. The old writers on the papal side of the question, are said to have purposely avoided making mention of the Culdees. A further cause is thus assigned for the superior morals which distinguished the architectural societies in the middle ages. The oldest of the documents above mentioned, is the constitution confirmed, in 926, to all the corporations of architects, by king Athelstan, through his brother Edwin, at York, the original of which, in Anglo-Saxon, is still preserved in York.

"The beginning reminds the reader immediately of the most ancient Oriental church. Then follows a history of architecture, beginning with Adam, and comprising quotations from some rabbinical tales, respecting the building of Babel, the temple of Solomon, with mention of Hiram, limited, however, to the information contained in the Bible; then passing over to the Greeks and Romans, mentioning particularly Pythagoras, Euclid, and Vitruvius. Then the history of architecture, and the oldest corporations, in Britain, is told, agreeably to the accounts of the best historians, and, among other things, is mentioned, that St. Albanus, an honourable Roman knight, patronised the art about A.D. 300, settled the fundamental institutions of the Masons, procured them employment, wages, and a charter from the emperor Carausius, according to which they should form a society in Britain, under the government of architects. The devastation of the country, and the destruction of the edifices by the northern tribes and the Angles and Saxons, is related, and how the pious Athelstan had resolved to restore the ancient and venerable society. After this follow the sixteen most ancient laws, which agree exactly with everything that careful investigation can find in the *corpus juris* relating to the college of architects. This constitution was preserved in England and Scotland, in its essential features, until the fourteenth century, when the societies passed over into the stationary corporations in cities. It is proved by historical documents, that in Scotland and England, lodges, labouring according to these constitutions, existed in an uninterrupted series, and often admitted as members learned and influential men, who were not architects, including even kings."

(To be continued.)

LEAVES FROM MY LIBRARY.

BY MARMADUKE MAKEPEACE.

(Continued from page 26.)

Having thus minutely examined the form and import of the Tetractys, we come next to consider some of the principal geometrical diagrams by which we are surrounded.

Let us begin with the properties of the most simple geometrical principle, the *point*, and proceed gradually to the relations of lines, the generation of superficies, and the construction of regular solids; but confining our enquiry to those symbols which alone have any aptitude to mystical geometry, as being either perfect or proportional in their several relations.

Of all geometrical points, the centre, from which a circle is generated, is the most perfect, as bearing an equal relation to every part of the circumference. Of straight lines, the most perfect relation is that of the parallel extension; because it is by its nature immutable and interminable. Of curved lines, the circle is the most perfect, as being in itself complete, without visible beginning or end, bearing an equal relation throughout all its parts to the generating point, and containing the largest possible

superfices within the most simple boundary of any given extent.

From the combination of the circle and right line is derived the right-angled triangle, the most simple of all rectilinear superficies. For if a straight line be drawn through the centre of any circle, so extended as to touch the circumference at both extremities, and the extreme points thereof be both joined to another point of the circle, the angle formed by their division will invariably be a right-angled triangle, and will either be isosceles (i.e., having the sides which include the right angle equal), or scalene (i.e., having all its sides and angles unequal). The former of these possesses the capacity of infinite reduplication and may also be infinitely divided into similar triangles equal to each other, observing in both respects the geometrical progression founded on the Duad, or number two, and in every such operation the whole, as well as the parts, still retaining its original characters, form and relation. In its scalene conformation it is in like manner divisible, and its divisions retain their former proportions and relations; but if multiplied, it becomes the bases of the trilateral forms, which vary according to the proportions of its angles and the combinations of its lines.

When two scalene right-angled triangles of equal dimensions are united by the smallest of the lines which include the right angle, they form an obtuse-angled triangle of the isosceles order; when by the larger of these two lines, an acute-angled triangle of the same description. But in the latter case, their angles are to each other in the arithmetical proportion of one, two and three. They form an equilateral triangle, which may be justly considered as the most perfect of all trilateral forms, for the following reasons:—First, because it is equal in all its relations; secondly, because it is capable of being reduced into right-angled scalene and obtuse isosceles; thirdly, because it is infinitely divisible, or may be infinitely multiplied, into similar triangles, equal to each other, without alteration of its form or relations; fourthly, because in every such division or augmentation, it observes the geometrical progression founded on the Tetrad, or number four; and therefore it may be considered a symbolical representation of that species of proportion.

Of quadrilateral superficies, the most simple is the square, formed by uniting the hypotenuse, or side subtending to the right angle, of two right-angled isosceles triangles containing equal. It is also most perfect on account of the equality of its relations in the same manner.

The rectangular parallelogram is founded by the similar union of two scalene triangles of the same description.

A rhomb is the union of two equilateral triangles. A rhomboid, of two right-angled triangles, conjoined by the larger of those sides which contain the right angle, but in an inverted position.

Of trilateral and quadrilateral figures, it is to be observed that none are admissible into symbolic geometry but those which in their respective lines and angles bear the relation of equality, or such integral proportions as may be adequately expressed by some of the numerical terms of the Tetractys, i.e., the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4.

We next proceed to the construction of multilateral figures having their sides and angles equal. These are invariably formed by the combination of as many acute-angled triangles as the figure has sides. This class of forms may be sufficiently illustrated by the pentagon, which resolves itself into five isosceles acute-angled triangles. But there is one which requires particular notice—that is, the hexagon, which being composed of six equilateral triangles, is equal in all its relations, and retains the quality of being infinitely divisible into similar triangles, according to the geometrical projection observed in the divisions of that trilateral figure, and may therefore be considered as the most perfect of all multilateral forms.

From this enquiry it results that the three most perfect of all geometrical diagrams are the equilateral triangle, the square, and the equal hexagon.

To this may be added an observation—for which we are indebted to our Grand Master Pythagoras, that there exist no other regular equilateral forms whose multiples are competent to fill up and occupy the whole space about a given centre. This can only be effected by six equilateral triangles, four squares, and three equal hexagons.

There are but five regular solids contained under a certain number of equal and similar superficies, which, from the use made of them in the Platonic philosophy, are usually denominated the five Platonic bodies, namely—The Tetrahedron, or pyramid, contained under four equal and equilateral triangles, representing, according to the Platonists, the element of fire; the Octahedron, contained under eight such triangles, representing air; the Icosahedron, under twenty such triangles, representing water; the Hexahedron, or cube, contained under six squares, representing the earth; and the Dodecahedron, under twelve equal and equilateral pentagons, representing the whole system of the universe.

(To be continued.)

## Reports of Masonic Meetings.

## THE CRAFT.

## METROPOLITAN.

**Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.**—A regular meeting of this well-known and influential lodge was held at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Thursday, the 6th instant. Bro. E. King, the W.M., being absent during the early part of the business of the lodge, Bro. J. G. Marsh, I.P.M. and Sec., occupied the chair as W.M. The lodge was numerously attended by the members and many of the P.M.'s, and it being the meeting for the installation of the Master-elect for the year ensuing, the lodge was particularly honoured by many very distinguished visitors, who not only attended to celebrate the anniversary festival of the installation of the new Master, but also to witness the working of the ceremonies, for which this lodge in particular is held in high repute. The members present were—Bros. E. King, W.M.; W. Goodyer, P.M. and Treas.; E. Roberts, J.W.; J. J. Harris, S.D.; F. Trott, J.D.; George Abbott, I.G.; Henry Muggerridge, P.M.; E. Lacy, P.M.; H. Gates, P.M.; Chas. Hosgood, P.M.; J. Harvey, P.M.; George Kenning, P.J.W.; E. L. Roberts, G. T. Smith, S. Muggerridge, A. J. Dickenson, J. Elliott, W. Elliott, J. Hyde, T. J. Wheeler, R. C. Gurney, T. Cohn, J. Kent, E. Taylor, Geo. Newman, C. Arkell, W. Younger, S. Haynes, J. King, H. Davis, B. Marsland, T. Fisher, H. Griffin, George Parker, and T. Layborn. The lodge having been duly opened and the minutes of the last lodge read and confirmed, the W.M., *pro tem.*, proceeded (after the ballot had been taken) to initiate Mr. S. T. Lucas into ancient Freemasonry, and Mr. A. F. Iselton, who had been previously approved by ballot, was also subsequently initiated by Bro. Hosgood, P.M. Bro. Marsh, W.M., then put the usual questions to Bros. Fisher and Griffin, and the lodge having been opened in the second degree, they were duly passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge then proceeded to the installation of Bro. E. Roberts, Master-elect, as W.M. for the ensuing year, who having been duly presented, Bro. Henry Muggerridge, P.M., occupying the chair, performed the ceremony of the installation of the new Master in the most able manner, and we need scarcely add, was highly appreciated by every one present. After the usual impressive address had been given to the W.M., Bro. E. Roberts, W.M. (previously investing Bro. E. King as his I.P.M.), appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. George Kenning, S.W.; J. J. Harris, J.W.; W. Goodyer, P.M., Treas.; J. G. Marsh, P.M., Sec.; F. Trott, S.D.; George Abbott, J.D.; A. J. Dickenson, I.G.; George Newman, Steward; George Smith, Tyler. Upon the appointment and investment of the several officers the customary addresses were given upon the induction of them into their several chairs by the Installing Master, as well also as the address to the brethren, in the most impressive manner. The goodly number of distinguished visitors who honoured the lodge on this occasion were—Bros. Col. Francis Burdett, P.S. Grand Warden of England, Representative of G. Lodge of Ireland, and Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex; James Brett, A. Grand Pursuivant of England; T. Dickie, P.G. Pursuivant; P. Harvey, P.M. (299), and P.G.D.C., Kent; A. Bryant, (late P.M. 192, S.D. 12), R. Galland, (P.M. 66), Charles Jardine (140), D. Pierce (144), G. Minnis (172), H. Cunter (P.M. 228), J. Jackson (244), W. M. Wheeler (317), George Motion (P.M. 453), J. Cumberland (W.M. 475), W. Bray (511), Thos. Riley (P.M. 540), W. H. Thompson (P.M. 788), W. Hackwell (831), W. Coward (905), H. Smith (907), E. Garden (946). The remaining business of the lodge having been disposed of, the lodge was duly closed and adjourned. The brethren then retired to a sumptuous banquet served in the Pillar-room of the Hotel, in a style which reflects great credit on Bro. Sidney Spencer, the manager of the establishment, and which was presided over by Bro. E. Roberts, W.M. After the cloth had been cleared, Bro. Marsh, P.M. and Sec., at the special request of the Master, introduced the subject of the lodge Fund of Benevolence for the first time, in an appropriate speech, the box for the collection of the said fund having been presented by Bro. E. King, the late W.M. The W.M. then gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and referred particularly to the retirement of the M.W. Grand Master from the high and responsible position he has held in the Craft during the last 26 years, and the great satisfaction he has given to all its members, far and near, for which he so justly merits the great esteem in which he is held by the brethren.—Bro. Colonel Francis Burdett, P.G.S. Warden, and Prov. G. Master of Middlesex, responded in an able speech for the Deputy G. Master the Earl de Grey and Ripon and the Grand Officers. After eulogising on the well-known and distinguished qualities of the Deputy G. Master, for which he is so justly honoured by the whole of the Craft, and referring to the fact that the Earl de Grey and Ripon will shortly, in all probability, preside over the Craft on the Throne of Masonry as the M.W. the Grand Master of England, for which high office he is so eminently qualified, Bro. Colonel Burdett regretted that he should have been called upon in particular to respond to the toast, seeing there were two Grand Officers present besides himself. After responding for the Grand Officers, he said he could hardly express himself in terms of the great satisfaction and pleasure he felt in being present at the Lion and Lamb Lodge, to witness the admirable working of the presiding W.M., and the very able manner in which all its officers discharged their duties, and also the very able manner the ceremony of installation had been worked by Bro. Muggerridge. He most cordially thanked the W.M. and brethren for drinking his health and that of the Grand Officers.—Brs. J. Brett, A. G. P., and T. Dickie, P. G. P., also

returned thanks for the Grand Officers.—The I.P.M. then gave the health of the W.M., which was responded to by Bro. E. Roberts, W.M., in an appropriate speech.—The W.M. then gave the Initiates, Bros. Iselton and Lucas, who had that evening been received as members of an ancient and honourable institution, and gave them a hearty welcome into the Fraternity in which they had that day been admitted. The W.M. then gave the Past Masters of the Lion and Lamb Lodge, which was duly acknowledged by all the P.M.'s present. The next toast was the Visitors, which included many very distinguished brethren, to whom the lodge was indebted for their presence. The toast was acknowledged by Bro. J. Cumberland, W.M. (475), and by several other visitors in very appropriate terms. The Master then proposed the toast, "The Health of the Officers," which was ably replied to by the Wardens and other brethren appointed. During the evening, the enjoyment of the festive gathering was much enhanced by some excellent songs from Bros. Garden, Riley, and other brethren. The Tyler's toast brought a very pleasant and enjoyable evening to a close.

**Maedonald Lodge, No. 1216.**—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at the head quarters of the 1st Surrey Rifles, Camberwell, when were present, Bros. A. L. Irvine, P.M., the W.M.; James Stevens, P.M., S.W.; J. H. Hastie, as J.W.; F. Dubois, S.D.; S. Wagstaffe, J.D.; G. Waterall, I.G.; J. J. Curtis, Sec.; Dr. Cronin, Treasurer; H. N. Bridges, D.C.; W. Worrell, Organist; and W. J. Messenger, Steward; also Bros. M. S. Larlham, W. H. Thomas, S. Rosenthal, T. Meggy, A. Wolton, G. Fountain, D. A. Ross, Shairp, Hammerton, Newton, Kethro, and Allen; and visitors, Bros. W. Gompertz (W.M. 869), Manglelet (W.M. 288), H. Tucker (869), and R. Johnson (1158). The lodge was opened in due form, with solemn prayer and musical service, and after confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, Bro. H. E. Patten, P.G.S.B., and Bro. John Thomas, P.M. 720, the Preceptor to the Lodge of Instruction, were unanimously elected by ballot honorary members of the lodge. Bro. Patten on entering the lodge was received by the brethren with the customary respect due to an officer of Grand Lodge, and in reply to the W.M.'s announcement of his election, expressed his high appreciation of the honour conferred, and the pleasure it gave him to be so associated with the members, amongst whom he had many personal friends. The lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees respectively. A candidate for raising not being in attendance, the lodge was closed down to the second degree, and, at the request of the W.M., Bro. Stevens, S.W., delivered the second section of that degree in the form of a lecture. The lodge resumed to the first degree, and Bro. D. A. Ross having proved his proficiency, the lodge resumed to the second degree, and Bro. Ross was duly passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, the W.M. giving a full explanation of the tracing-board. The lodge was then closed to the first degree, and Bro. Stevens delivered the fourth section in the form of a lecture. A notice of motion for the selection of a Steward to represent the lodge at the ensuing festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys was given by the Senior Warden, and the lodge was then closed with musical service, the brethren subsequently adjourning for refreshment, and separating shortly after nine o'clock, much pleased with the amount of Masonic work which had been completed in the course of a little more than two hours.

## PROVINCIAL.

**MARGATE.—Union Lodge, No. 127.**—The 107th anniversary of this lodge was held on Friday, January 7th. The lodge was opened by Bro. A. H. Boys, W.M., the minutes of the last regular lodge were read and confirmed; the lodge was opened in the second degree and afterwards in the third degree, the Installing Master, Bro. E. C. Hayward, P.M. 127, 784, P.P.S.G.D., then ascended the chair. Bro. George E. Hawkes was then duly presented as W.M.-elect for the benefit of installation, which ceremony was ably performed in Bro. Hayward's usual impressive manner. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. A. H. Boys, Imm. P.M.; W. F. Hunter, S.W.; W. K. Treves, J.W.; E. C. Hayward, Treas.; J. R. Feakins, P.P.S.G.D., Sec.; T. M. Compton, S.D.; A. Woolton, J.D.; W. P. Saunders, I.G.; C. D. Dixon, P.M., D.C.; S. Belchamber, S.S.; E. Harnett, J.S.; J. W. Wright, Org.; S. C. Marchant, T. W.M. Hawkes then presented a P.M.'s jewel to the Imm. P.M., Bro. A. H. Boys, expressing the honour he felt in so doing, which Bro. Boys suitably acknowledged, assuring the brethren they would ever find him heart and hand in the cause of Masonry. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Bro. Hayward for his able and efficient services as Installing Master; the lodge was then closed down, when the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet, served by Bro. Osborne in his usual excellent style. Bro. G. E. Hawkes, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. J. H. Boys, P.D.P.G.M.; Rev. G. W. Sicklemore, W.M. (1209); Chaplain (429), P.G.S.W.; W. M. Cavill, P.M. (784); W. C. Braiser, P.P.G.S.B.; Boys, P.G.R.; J. Fenwick, P.P.G.S.B.; Hayward, P.P.S.G.D.; J. Matthew, P.M.; J. Jarman (429); G. Staner, E. Stephens, &c. On the cloth being removed the W.M. proposed the health of "The Queen," introducing the toast in very appropriate terms. The toast of "P.G.M. Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and the Craft" was warmly responded to in thorough Masonic style, the toasts of the "R.W.G.M. and Deputy G.M.," "Lord Viscount Holmesdale, P.G.M. Kem," "Bro. Dobson, Deputy P.G.M.," followed, and were received with the usual demonstrations. Bro. J. H. Boys replied on the part of Bro. Dobson, than whom, he said, there was no better Mason in the Province of Kent. Bro. the Rev. G. W. Sicklemore proposed the health of the W.M., congratulating the lodge on their selection, he having known him many years. The W.M. replied, thanking the brethren for their good opinion, which he hoped would

continue, at least it would be his whole study to deserve it. The health of the visitors was replied to by Bro. P.M. Cavell and Bro. Sicklemore, the health of the T., P.M.'s, Officers of the Lodge (replied to by Bro. W. F. Hunter), &c., &c., followed, interspersed with some good songs by Bros. Compton, Saunders, Hawkes, Fenwick, Belchamber, Matthew, and others. Bro. Treasurer Hayward gave the Tyler's toast, after which the brethren separated highly pleased with the entertainment.

**TRURO, CORNWALL.—Lodge Fortitude, No. 131.**—The annual meeting of the Fortitude Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Quay-street, on Tuesday the 11th January, at 2 P.M. Bro. William Lake in the chair. There was a large muster of the brethren and visitors who assembled in honor of the occasion. After two initiations by Bro. Thomas Chirgwin, P.M., P. Prov. G.W., Cornwall, that well-known Brother formed a Board of Installed Masters, consisting of Bros. W. J. Johns, P.M., P. Prov. Reg.; Thomas Solomon, P.P., P. Prov. G.W., and some dozen Past Masters, when Bro. Richard John, Prov. G. Dir. of Cer. for Cornwall, was formally installed as the W.M. of the Lodge for the ensuing year amid the plaudits of the members. After which the W.M. appointed the following brethren, as his officers for the ensuing year:—William Lake, I.P.M.; T. L. Dorrington, S.W.; A. W. May, J.W.; Rev. H. B. Bullocke, M.A., Chaplain; T. Chirgwin, P.M., P.P.G.W., Treas.; J. C. R. Crèves, Sec.; H. A. Chipman, Asst. Sec.; William Middleton, S.D.; N. B. Bullen, J.D.; W. Treleven, D.C.; N. B. Bullen, Organist; J. T. Tillman, I.G.; A. T. Blamey, and W. Mitchell, Stewards; J. Langdon, Tyler. The annual Banquet was held at the Royal Hotel, and all the arrangements made were of the most satisfactory character. Bro. Richard John, the W.M., has a most successful year before him, as he knows the work, and can do it, and so can his officers.

**IPSWICH.—St. Luke's Lodge, No. 225.**—The monthly meeting of this old-established lodge was held at the Lodge-room of the Coach and Horses Hotel, and in addition the Anniversary of the Festival of St. John the Evangelist was commemorated, January 12th, 1870. Present, J. W. Robb, W.M.; G. S. Golding, S.W.; C. Byford, J.W.; J. Clarke, P.M., Treasurer; A. Barber, P.M., Secretary; T. Prentice, S.D.; W. Lewis, J.D.; W. D. Skinner, I.G.; B. W. Syer, Tyler; W. T. Westgate, P.M., M.C.; Bros. R. Dance, G. Dance, J. Talbot, W. Flory, C. W. Godball; P.M.'s C. Davy, J. Turner, Joseph Whitehead, S. B. King, T. Noble, Jas. Richmond, R. Cade. The visitors were conspicuous by their absence, although many were invited.—The lodge was opened in the 1st degree, the minutes of the previous lodge, Special Lodge and Audit Committee Meeting, were read and confirmed. Lodge opened in 2nd degree. Bro. G. Dance being present was examined, entrusted and retired to be prepared for raising. Lodge opened in 3rd degree, and Bro. G. Dance was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the ceremony being ably conducted by P.M. Joseph Whitehead, who also explained the working tools. Lodge closed in the 3rd degree. Lodge closed in the 2nd degree. The lodge was then called from labor to refreshment, when about twenty-five brethren adjourned to the Banquet, prepared in Bro. C. W. Godball's usual style of excellence, needing only the remark that viands and wines were of the very best description. The lodge was then called from refreshment to labour, and finally closed.—The W.M. proposed the health of the Queen, assuring the brethren that a body of more loyal men were not to be found than those ranging under the banners of Freemasonry.—"God save the Queen" by Bro. Talbot.—The W.M. then proposed the M.W.G.M. of England, "The Earl of Zetland," which was received with high honor. The next toast from the chair was "The M.W.P.G.M. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," and congratulated the Province of Suffolk, on the honor conferred by H.R.H. having become an Honorary Member of one of the Ipswich Lodges (drank with enthusiasm and high honors).—The D.G.M. the Earl de Grey and Ripon's health as M.W.G.M. elect was also received most cordially.—The W.M. next proposed the health of the P.G.M. of Suffolk, Col. Sir R. A. S. Adair, A.D.C. to Her Majesty, passing a high eulogium on his acts of beneficence, not only in this country but in the sister isle (drank with high honors).—The next toast was the D.P.G.M. for Suffolk, Bro. Rev. E. J. Lockwood, who always evinces his kindly disposition, and is ready with advice to the brethren whenever he meets them. Past and present P.G.O.'s were coupled with the toast.—Bro. S. B. King, P.M., P.G.D., responded as the Junior P.G. Officer.—Apologies were received from the W.M.'s of the Lodge Perfect Friendship (376), and Prince of Wales (959), regretting their absence.—"The Lodges of the Province," proposed by Bro. Richmond, and "Masonic Charities," by P.M. S. B. King, in a short but feeling address, were suitably given and received by the brethren.—The evening was much enlivened by songs, &c., by Bros. P. Whitehead, Talbot, R. and G. Dance, J. Whitehead, W. Hay, Richmond, Case, Lewis, and others. Bro. P.M. C. Davy proposed the W.M.'s good health and success during his year of office, and plenty of work (high honors)—The W.M. most feelingly and energetically responded to the toast, and impressed on his Officers the necessity of attending their respective duties.—Bro. P.M. Westgate proposed the S.W. and J.W.'s health, noticing the zeal of those brethren in the discharge of their duties; the toast was very heartily received by the brethren.—Bro. Golding, S.W., and Bro. Byford, J.W. responded, and assured the W.M. of their regular attendance at his summons.—The W.M. proposed the health of the I.P.M., Bro. P. Whitehead, not only from their connection in the lodge, but also from private friendship, he (the W.M.) held him in the highest esteem (drank with high honors).—Bro. P.M., P. Whitehead ably responded.—Bro. G. S. Golding, S.W., proposed the health of the P.M.'s of the Lodge, and said they were well known as coming to the rescue on all occasions in the absence o

any officer.—Bro. P.M. J. Clarke, the oldest P.M., returned thanks in very suitable terms, hoping often to meet the brethren, although at his advanced age he could scarcely expect to spend many more St. John's with them.—Bro. P.M. S. B. King, proposed the health of the S.D., J.D., and I.G., and trusted the working of their respective offices would be fully carried out.—Bro. P.M. Richmond proposed the healths of the Secretary and Treasurer, Bros. Barber and Clarke, and congratulated the lodge upon possessing two such indefatigable brethren, the one to take care of their cash, and the other their records.—Bros. Prentice, S.D., Lewis, J.D., and Skinner, I.G., returned thanks, and promised ready and willing assistance to the W.M.—Bro. Barber returned thanks, stating that he had been honoured with the office of Secretary ten years, and also on behalf of the worthy Treasurer, who had held the office he did not know how long.—Bro. P.M. Westgate proposed the only two brothers who were not now in office, and trusted that before seven years had elapsed to see both of them P.M.'s.—Bros. Talbot and Flory returned thanks, and hoped to fulfil the expectations held out by Bro. Westgate.—Bro. P.M. Turner proposed the health of P.M. Westgate as M.C., congratulating the lodge on having a brother who was at all times willing to undertake any office when requested. (Drank most heartily).—Bro. P.M. Westgate responded in a very neat and appropriate speech.—Bro. W. Flory proposed the health of the host, Bro. C. W. Godball and Mrs. Godball, in most happy and felicitous terms, and thanks for the handsome banquet as well as the kindly feeling always exhibited towards the brethren of St. Luke's.—Bro. C. W. Godball returned thanks on behalf of himself and Mrs. Godball, and would take no credit to himself, but give praise to whom it was due, Mrs. Godball. It being now nearly high twelve, P.M. Westgate gave the Tyler's toast, and the brethren after partaking of coffee, &c. shortly after broke up, highly satisfied with all the proceedings.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge, No. 279.*—The annual festival of this lodge was held on Wednesday, Jan. 5th, at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, when about 40 brethren, including many P.P.G. officers were present. The minutes of the last lodge and a lodge of emergency were read and confirmed, Bro. Pettifor then presented the W.M.-elect for installation, which ceremony was most ably performed by R.W. Bro. Kelly, and the W.M. was saluted by the brethren as usual. Bro. Weare, P.M., Treas., then read his report, which was adopted, and Bro. Weare received a vote of thanks for his services, and was re-elected. Bro. Stanley, W.M., then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—R.W. Bro. W. Kelly, P.G.M. (nominate), P.Z., &c., I.P.M.; Bros. C. Stretton, P.P.G.R., S.W.; Edwin J. Crow, P.P.G.O., J.W.; Dr. Pearce, Sec.; Palmer, S.D.; J. W. Smith, J.D.; Widdowson, I.G.; Chas. Bembridge was re-elected Tyler; and Weare, P.M., and L. A. Clarke, Stewards, with thanks for past services; McAllister and Widdowson were elected members of the Hall Committee. The lodge was resumed in the second degree, when the W.M. examined Bros. Donisthorpe and Matts, who were found worthy to be raised to the sublime degree, and were raised accordingly, the W.M. acquitting himself very satisfactorily. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, and on the motion of Bro. Kelly, seconded by Bro. Stretton, S.W., passed a resolution expressive of their regret at losing so zealous a Mason as Bro. Major Brewin, P.P.G.S.W., P.Z., who is leaving the province. Bro. Brewin responded in a suitable manner. Bro. Kelly then informed the brethren that he had been officially informed that the M.W.G.M. had done him the honour to appoint him to succeed the Right Hon. the Earl Howe, in the P.G. Mastership of the Province, which announcement the brethren received with enthusiasm. The W.M. then requested Bro. Kelly to withdraw from the lodge for a few minutes, and on his return, Bro. L. A. Clarke, P.M., addressed him, as follows:—"To the R.W. Bro. Wm. Kelly, P.G.M. nominate of Leicestershire and Rutland, and I.P.M. of St. John's Lodge, No. 279, Leicester. We, the undersigned, on behalf of the Master, Past Masters, Wardens, Officers, and Brethren, in open lodge assembled, approach you, R.W. Sir, to beg your acceptance of these articles (viz., a splendid timepiece, two beautiful bronzes, and an illuminated address), as a token of our gratitude for the valuable services rendered by you, in undertaking, and so ably discharging the important duties of W.M. of this lodge during the years 1868 and 1869. It is not intended by this testimonial to acknowledge how much Freemasonry generally, and in Leicestershire and Rutland particularly, is indebted to you for your unceasing love, and constant devotion to every duty connected with the Craft; neither is it intended to express the genuine good feeling which exists among the brethren of this province, happily governed, until now, by the great and good nobleman, Lord Howe, assisted by yourself; but it is desired simply to testify to you that the brethren of your own lodge appreciate the true kindness of heart and courtesy of manner which you have so naturally displayed both in and out of lodge; and to record the fact (which must be to yourself and us all most gratifying), that under your recent mastership our lodge has been resuscitated, and is now the most flourishing in the province. In offering to you, R.W. Sir, our hearty congratulations on the great honour just conferred upon you by the M.W.G.M., viz., the P.G. Mastership of Leicestershire and Rutland, in succession to Earl Howe, an honour rarely conferred upon any but the first nobles in the land, we sincerely trust you will continue to countenance, by your presence, precept, and example, the duties of our lodge, and that it may please the G. A. O. T. U. to prolong your life with every earthly blessing, to a generous old age, is our most earnest prayer." Bro. L. A. Clarke then read the illuminated address, as follows:—

"To Bro. William Kelly, P.M., 279.

"We, the undersigned, Past Masters, Officers, and

Brethren of St. John's Lodge, desire by the presentation, together with a time-piece and pair of bronzes, to show you our appreciation of your kindness and Masonic zeal in consenting to take the office of Worshipful Master for the past two years, thereby upholding the efficiency of the lodge at a time when through unavoidable circumstances, it was in much need of such support.

Br. W. C. IRWIN, P.M.	Br. TAYLOR.
" W. PETTIFOR, P.M.	" CHECKLAND.
" J. BUCK, M.D., P.M.	" HART, I.G.
" W. WEARE, P.M.	" PALMER.
" W. H. MORRIS, P.M.	" J. W. SMITH,
" L. A. CLARKE, I.P.M.	" FINCH, M.D.
" R. W. WIDDOWSON.	" PORTER.
" STANLEY, S.W.	" TARRAT.
" C. STRETTON, J.W.	" MCALLISTER.
" CROW (P.G.O.,) Sec.	" B. ATWOOD.
" EMBERLIN.	" DONISTHORPE.
" RIDE.	" WATTS.
" GOSLING.	" W. H. PEGG.
" PEARCE, M.D.	" Rev. PARKER."

R.W. Bro. Kelly, who was entirely taken by surprise, received the presentation, and thanked the brethren, from his heart, for the very high value they put upon the service he had been able to render to Masonry. He could not find words to express his gratification nor was it necessary, as his evident emotion, showed his feelings more eloquently than words could have done. He, however, assured the brethren that his efforts in the cause of Masonry would be stimulated by their appreciation, and immediately gave a practical proof of it by proposing two gentlemen as candidates. Then the lodge was closed and the brethren proceeded to celebrate the festival of St. John.

LIVERPOOL.—*Lodge of Sincerity, No. 292.*—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 10th inst. The brethren met shortly after 4 p.m., for the installation of the W.M.-elect, Bro. R. S. Williams, who, we were sorry to observe was suffering under a severe attack of illness, and who properly speaking, should have remained at home, but his zeal for the prosperity of the craft would not allow him to disappoint the brethren who met to do him honour. The ceremony of installation was performed with his usual ability by the outgoing W.M., Bro. Thos. Wylie. When the brethren were recalled to the lodge, the W.M. in due course, proceeded with the installation of his officers as follows:—Bros. Thos. Wylie, I.P.M.; Pelham, S.W.; W. Wilson, J.W.; Hess, Treas.; R. Wylie, jun., Sec.; Hammond, S.D.; Hustwick, J.D.; Evans, I.G.; Elliott, M.C.; Naylor and Bates, Stewds.; W. H. Ball was re-elected Tyler. There being no further business before the lodge, the J.W.'s column was set up, and the brethren partook of an excellent banquet, after which the usual toasts, loyal and Masonic, were ably proposed, and as ably responded to, interspersed by a few well rendered songs. The Tyler's toast having been given, labour was resumed, the lodge duly closed, and the brethren departed at an early hour, well pleased with the evening's proceedings. Amongst the visitors who honoured the lodge with their presence we noticed, Bros. McKeene (216), Grimmer (P.M. 155 and 216); Laidlaw (P.M., 216); C. H. Hill (W.M., 1276); Heywood (594), and Hindle (823).

ROCHDALE.—*Lodge of Harmony, No. 298.*—The annual meeting and the St. John's Festival of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 5th January, at the Masonic Rooms, Ann-street, Rochdale, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. The lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., Bro. Holroyd, when the minutes were read and confirmed. Letters of apology from several brethren who had received the W.M.'s invitation, expressing their regret at not being able to attend, were read. Bro. Roberts, P.P.G.P., E.L., was then called upon to take the chair as the Worshipful Installing Master, when he called upon the following duly installed Masters to assist him in the installation, viz.:—Bros. Prince, P.S.G.D., E.L., as S.W.; Ashworth, P.M., E.L., as J.W.; John Barker, P.P.G.P., E.L., as S.D.; Jones, P.G.A.D.C., E.L., as J.D.; Wrigby, P.P.G.S.B., E.L., as I.G.; Gouldthorpe, P.G.O., E.L., as O. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, by the W.I.M. Bro. Roberts, when Bro. Prince presented Bro. John Waterson, W.M.-elect, for the benefit of installation. The W.I.M. having recited some of the necessary qualifications in every candidate for the chair, called upon Bro. Clement R. N. Beswick Royd, Worcester, to read the ancient charges and regulations, to all of which Bro. Waterson gave his unqualified assent. The ceremony being proceeded with, and the brethren below the degree of M.M. having retired, a board of Installed Masters was opened, and then a Convocation of I.P.M., when Bro. James Holroyd, the Immediate Past Master, was installed in the chair as the I.P.M. of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 298. The following brethren received the benefit of investment as I.P.M.'s, viz.:—Bros. J. W. Kersdon, P.M., 226, and Charles Davis, P.M., 54. The C. of I.P.M. having been closed, Bro. Waterson was duly installed in the chair as W.M. for the ensuing year. The W.M. then appointed his officers, who received the benefit of investment at the hands of the W.I.M., Bro. Roberts. Bros. Robert Howard, as S.W.; Jesse Firth, as J.W.; W. H. Prince, P.G.S.D., as Treasurer; W. Ashworth, P.M., as Hon. Sec.; Robert Butterworth, as S.D.; James Crow, as J.D.; Thomas Oakden, as I.G.; John Knight, as C.; John Ashworth, jun., as D.C.; John McNaught, as O.; W. T. Stott, as S.; John Ashworth, as Tyler. The charge to the W.M. was delivered by the I.P.M., Bro. Holroyd, that to the Wardens by Bro. Barker, P.P.G.T., and the one to the brethren by the P.G.S.D., Bro. Prince. The W.M. having been proclaimed and saluted in due form, the installation ceremony was declared at an end. The Secretary then read a statement of subscriptions, &c., as follows:—

To the Boys' School	£31 10 0
Towards the alterations	
&c.	30 16 0
Towards a Piano—	
Bro. Handley - -	£14 0 0
Bro. Wrigby - -	5 0 0
Mr. Smithurst - -	1 0 0
	20 0 0
	£82 6 0

This is in addition to heavy calls made upon them for other degrees in Masonry connected with the same rooms.—The Secretary also read the following list of presentations:—By Bro. Oakden: a pleasing portrait of religion, entitled: "The Bible," being a beautiful piece of penmanship by the donor, got up in magnificent style by Messrs. Wrigby and Sons, and handsomely framed by Mr. Rest, both of this town, with the following inscription, "Presented by Bro. Thos. Oakden, to the Lodge of Harmony, No. 298, Jan., 1870." By Bro. Jno. Ashworth, jun.: A charity box, octagon-shaped, beautifully inlaid, and mounted, and bearing an appropriate inscription; also a woollen pianoforte cover of their own manufacture. By Bro. Rutherford: A fender and £2, in addition to what he has before done. By Bro. J. W. King: A very handsome fender and fire-irons, bearing the five points in brass. By Bro. Prince: A Knight Templar's sword, for the use of the I.G., bearing the following inscription on the hilt: "Presented by Mrs. Slaughter, widow of the late Bro. Jno. Slaughter, to Bro. Prince, P.G.S.D., and by him presented to the Lodge, 298." Bro. Roberts, P.P.G.P., also presented two lodge banners, which were received with as much applause as anything on the list. By the lodge: a gold R.A. jewel, with the following inscription on a solid gold plate, "Presented to Bro. W. Ashworth, P.M., by the brethren of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 298, for his services as Hon. Sec. to the Rochdale Lodges, for the Prov. Grand Lodge Meeting, May 6th, 1869." Bro. Holroyd, the I.P.M., on making the presentation, said he had the greatest pleasure imaginable in being called upon by the lodge to present so worthy a brother with a solid gold Royal Arch jewel, with a proper inscription on a plate of solid gold. If ever a jewel had been worthily earned this had. He commented upon the excellence of Bro. Ashworth, and the many arduous duties he had undertaken and performed for the good of Masonry, and the Lodge of Harmony in particular.—Bro. Ashworth in responding, said he was at a loss how to express his thanks for the kind and brotherly feeling conveyed in this token of their appreciation just presented to him by Bro. Holroyd. He was not taken by surprise, having known for some time that it was the intention of the brethren to pay him that compliment in recognition of his past services. He had been an active member of the lodge for ten years, and it was gratifying to him to find that his endeavours on behalf of Masonry were not in vain or forgotten. He again thanked them, and hoped that he might be long spared to wear the jewel, and that they might all have pleasure in meeting one another in the very beautiful temple they had at last made.—A vote of thanks was then accorded to Bros. Prince and Ashworth, P.M.'s, for their services in connection with the alterations and decorations of the lodge rooms, the arduous duties imposed upon them, and the tact displayed by their having exceeded all that the brethren could have wished, every part of the decorations being in direct harmony.—Bro. Ashworth, in responding, thanked the brethren for the confidence reposed in him, and was glad to find that what had been done by Bro. Prince and himself met the approval of the whole of the brethren; they had done their best, and had so far succeeded as to merit the applause for which he again thanked them.—The labour of the evening being ended, the lodge was duly and solemnly closed by the W.M., Bro. Waterson, who had great pleasure in receiving the hearty good wishes of lodges 54, 226, 317, 363, 367, 815, 854, 941, 999, 1054, 1055, 1129, 1134, P.G.L., and P.G.L. of Worcester. The lodge having been closed, the brethren, to the number of 50, banquetted together, and a very pleasant and convivial evening was spent. The vocal talents of Bros. Wrigby, Gouldthorpe, Briggs, Ashworth, and others, with Bro. McNaught at the piano, added considerable to the evening's enjoyment. Bro. Roby, a P.M. of the lodge, sang a song of his own composition. The W.M. was supported by the following:—Bros. Clement R. N. Beswick Royd, from P.G.L., Worcester; John Barker, P.P.G. Treas.; W. H. Prince, P.G.S.D.; C. M. Jones, P.G.A.D.C.; E. Wrigby, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Gouldthorpe, P.G.O.; W. Roberts, P.P.G.P.; P. M. Davis, P.G.S.; J. Firth, P.G.S.; D. Battenworth (P.M. 363), A. Stott (P.M. 363), J. H. Schofield (W.M. 363), W. Walker (S.W. 363), S. Love (W.M. 54), E. G. Heape (W.M. 1129), Benjamin Toulson (P.M. 1134), and others from the lodges named.

HOLYHEAD.—*Hibernia Lodge, No. 597.*—The members of this lodge held their usual monthly meeting at the lodge-room, Smith's Marine Hotel, on Monday, the 3rd inst., when there were present Bros. E. Miller, W.M.; J. Peters, W.M.-elect.; W. Riva, S.W.; J. H. Griffith, S.D.; R. Parry, J.D.; S. Wilkes, P.M., and Sec.; and a large number of the other brethren of the lodge besides the following visitors, namely, Bros. Richard Williams, W.M., Llangefni Lodge, 1113; J. Goolk, 119, Whitehaven; and W. J. Williams, Scotland, 391. The lodge having been duly opened, the usual routine of business was gone through, and five new candidates were initiated, after which, the chief business of the lodge took place, namely, the installation of Bro. John Peters into the office of W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was conducted by the retiring W.M., Bro. E. Mellor, in a most impressive and able manner, the W.M.-elect being presented to him by Bro. S. Wilkes, P.M., and Sec. The working tools in each degree having been presented to Bro. Peters, the brethren duly saluted and proclaimed him as their head for the coming year. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Riva, S.W.; J. H. Griffith, J.W.; Wilkes, P.M., Sec.;

and S. Hughes, Tyler. The business of the lodge being ended and the lodge closed in due form, the brethren retired to the banquetting room, where there awaited them a most sumptuous repast got up with Bro. Smith's usual good style and taste. The chair was occupied by Bro. Peters, the newly-elected W.M., the vice-chairs being taken by Bros. Mellor, P.M., and W. Riva, S.W. At the conclusion of the repast the chairman gave in appropriate terms the usual loyal toasts, "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," each of which was received with acclamation and musical honours; then followed the usual Masonic toasts in their turn. The W.M. then proposed the health of the retiring W.M., complimenting him in high terms on the state of efficiency to which the lodge—mostly through his untiring energy and zeal during the period of two years he had reigned over it as W.M.—had arrived. The W.M. trusted Bro. Mellor would continue to stand by, and be always ready to render his able assistance when called upon. Bro. Mellor in returning thanks, said it had been a matter of considerable pleasure to him to fill the office of W.M. for the last two years; he was glad to be able to say that the lodge was in a most flourishing state, and trusted that with united efforts amongst the officers and brethren, it would continue to prosper; he then proposed the health of the W.M., and congratulated him on his elevation to the responsible post he had that evening been called to, and hoped he would find on vacating it that he had been successful and prosperous in the discharge of his onerous and responsible duties. The W.M. having returned thanks, gave the healths of the officers of the lodge, to which each in turn responded. Then followed the newly-initiated members. On the toast of the visitors being given Bro. Williams, W.M., Llangefni, returned thanks, and congratulated the W.M. on his elevation to the chair, and on the very efficient manner in which the different ceremonies of that evening's lodge had been gone through. Several other toasts were drunk and amongst them that of the health of Bro. Smith, the host, who in returning thanks assured the brethren that it always would be a pride with him to endeavour to his utmost to provide all things for the comfort and happiness of the brethren on such occasions. The proceedings, which were enlivened by many songs by Bros. Gould, Mellor, and others, were very interesting throughout and terminated about eleven o'clock.

**WARRINGTON.**—*Gilbert Greenall Lodge, No. 1250.*—The regular monthly meeting of the above flourishing lodge, was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Monday evening, the 10th inst. The W.M., Bro. Gilbert Greenall, P.M., Past Grand Senior Warden of England, was supported by Bros. W. Mossop, S.W.; W. Woods, J.W.; John Bowes, P.M., &c.; D. W. Finney, P.M., Hon. Sec., and about twenty other brethren. The lodge was opened in solemn form, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Bro. P. J. Edelsten, of No. 1134, as a joining member, and Messrs. Pennington, Thistlewaite and Aukland, as fit and proper persons to be made Masons. The ballot was unanimously in favour in each case, and the gentlemen being present, were initiated by Bro. Past Master Bowes. Bro. Simon was afterwards passed to the degree of F.C. by Bro. Bowes. This being all the business of the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

**ROCK FERRY.**—*Rock Lodge, No. 1289.*—This lodge which was consecrated on the 3rd December, held its first meeting on Friday, the 7th inst., at the Albert Rooms, Rock Ferry. After the ordinary business, such as electing joining members, passing by-laws, &c., Messrs. P. J. Pearson and Edw. Hankinson were duly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry by the W.M., Bro. Edw. Friend, P.M., 1013. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. Dr. Spratley, P.M., P.Z., 537; M. S. Machen, P.M., Member of Colonial Board; T. Johnson, P.M., 1013, &c. After the lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to a substantial supper at the Rock Station Hotel, where a very pleasant evening was spent.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN IN DUNFERMLINE.

The annual festival of St. John was celebrated on Monday night, the 27th ult., by the St. John's Lodge of Freemasons, in the Masons' Hall, Maygate; and by the Union Lodge, No. 250, in their Lodge Rooms, Chapel-street. Both lodges were appropriately decorated for the occasion, and the respective chairs were occupied by the Right Worshipful Masters, supported by the office-bearers of the respective lodges. On this occasion the usual torch-light procession was wisely dispensed with, and the brethren met quietly in their lodge rooms, in full Masonic costume. In both lodges a very happy evening was spent, and the celebration of the annual Masonic festival passed off very harmoniously.

*St. John's Lodge, 26.*—The brethren in accordance with ancient custom sat down to an excellent supper, purveyed by Bro. Milne, of the New Inn, Bridge-street. After the cloth was removed, the usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, in a truly Masonic style, and the brethren enjoyed themselves in a way that the members of the "mystic Craft" only can do. During the evening the usual friendly practice of visiting the sister lodge by deputation was observed, and Bro. Stewart headed the deputation from the Union Lodge, No. 250, and bore his message honourably and Masonically, from the R.W.M. of the Union. The festival was conducted in a proper manner, until the "wee short hour ayont tval," when the lodge was closed, all highly pleased with the happy way in which the evening had been spent.

*Union Lodge, No. 250.*—The brethren of this lodge assembled in their lodge-rooms, Chapel-street, about half-

past seven p.m., in full Masonic costume. The large hall was profusely decorated for the occasion with Masonic banners, Masonic emblems, and evergreens. Upwards of fifty sat down to a sumptuous banquet, purveyed by Bro. Pitcairn, Station Hotel, assisted by Bro. D. M'Gregor, Commercial Hotel—the joint Stewards of the lodge. Among the brethren from a distance were Bros. G. G. Russell, from Manchester; Stark, from Glasgow; and May, from Bradford. A blessing having been asked by the Chaplain, due justice was done to the plentiful supply of viands provided. The table having been cleared, a lodge was formed and the R.W. Master rose and said: Brethren, I consider it a great honour to be again placed in the position which I now occupy, by the unanimous voice of the Lodge; and it shall be my earnest endeavour, during my year of office, to set before you the ancient landmarks of the order, so as to raise, as far as my feeble efforts go, the status of the Craft, by working assiduously at the upbuilding of the superstructure of the ancient edifice, convinced that I shall have the earnest assistance of all the office-bearers. Much of the prosperity of a Lodge depends on their exertions; and I trust our meetings will be both pleasurable and profitable. I hope you will all enjoy yourselves to-night as brethren should, and that every one will act, both in the lodge and out of it, so as to merit the approbation of the Craft, and the respect of the outer world. (Applause.) Brethren, the first duty which devolves on me to-night, is somewhat out of the ordinary routine, but it is a pleasant one; and as I do not wish to inflict a long speech on you, for we have a very lengthy programme before us, I at once proceed to place round the neck of our immediate Past Master, Bro. Taylor, this P.M.'s Jewel, as a small token of our esteem and respect for him as a Mason, and an acknowledgment, however feeble, of our appreciation of the many invaluable services he has rendered to this, his mother lodge. Bro. Taylor, I, in name of Lodge Union, No. 250, present to you this Masonic Jewel, and hope you may be long spared in health and strength to wear it. (Great applause.)—Bro. Taylor, in returning thanks, said he was proud to think that his past services, while occupying the R.W.M.'s chair, had so far merited their approbation as to lead them to present him with this P.M.'s Jewel. He had always endeavoured to forward the interests of Masonry so far as in him lay. He had spent many pleasant evenings in the lodge-room, and he never considered any time devoted to the interests of the lodge had been wrongly expended. He rejoiced to see so many present to celebrate the festival of St. John. As Past Master he would say that the success that had attended the lodge during the past year—the numbers who had been initiated into the mysteries of the Craft—showed that the brother who now filled the chair was worthy of the office which he held. He thought they might yet expect great fruits from his management. He begged to thank them all again for the honour which they had done him, and he could assure them that the handsome jewel which they had now presented him with would be highly valued by him and his. In the history of the Union Lodge he only remembered of one Past Master on whom the same honour had been conferred; and that was their old and esteemed Bro. G. Birrell. And it was no small honour, he thought, to come after so worthy a Past Master. (Great applause.)—The Chairman then gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, after which Bro. Taylor, I.P.M., in complimentary terms proposed the health of "R.W.M., Bro. D. Lamond." Ever since Bro. Lamond first saw "light," he had done what in him lay to advance the cause of Freemasonry, and to promote the interests of the Union Lodge. They could all bear witness to the energetic way in which he had fulfilled the duties of the R.W.M.'s chair, and he thought he was the "right man in the right place."—The Chairman, in reply, said: Bro. Taylor, Wardens, and Brethren, the complimentary terms in which you have been pleased to speak of me I scarcely deserve, but allow me to say, in reply, I deeply feel your fraternal kindness, and will endeavour to discharge my various duties to the best of my ability. Masonry has taught me much, and brought me many pleasures. Many a happy hour have I spent in the "Union," and many more I hope to spend within its walls. With your kind assistance, we will go forward increasing not only in numbers, but in social harmony and moral standing; and before this Masonic year expires, I trust we shall let many well qualified and properly prepared candidates see "light;" and at its close may we all be able to look back, with no less pleasure than we do at this moment, on our last year of office. I am obliged to you all for your kindness. (Great applause.)—Bro. Wardlaw, Treas., then gave "The Past Masters of No. 250." In doing so, he said he was sorry there were not more representatives of the office present. They had only one here to-night, but in all the offices which he had held, he had proved himself both able and efficient.—Bro. Taylor, I.P.M., replied. He did not think there were very many of the Past Masters of the Union Lodge in existence now. But he was sure that one, at least, who was still alive and hearty (Past Master G. Birrell), would be glad to hear of their happy meeting that evening, and of the continued prosperity of the lodge with which he had been so long connected. There was much of the old spirit in him yet, and he might safely say that although he was not able to be with them in body, his heart was with them. Bro. Hutton, his immediate predecessor, was a good man and true, and had laboured earnestly to advance the cause of Freemasonry, and to promote the interests of No. 250. (Applause.)—At this stage of the proceedings, a deputation from St. John's Lodge was announced, headed by Depute-Master Lindsay, bearing a fraternal message from the R.W.M. of St. John's to the R.W.M. of the Union. The Depute-Master having delivered his message, the Chairman, in replying to the deputation said: Bro. Lindsay, be so good as to convey to Bro. Tuckett, your worthy R.W.M., my sincere thanks for his fraternal wishes, and I am sure I but feebly express the

feelings of the brethren of the "Union," when I say that we are both pleased and proud to receive you, Brother Lindsay, and such a deputation from the sister Lodge St. John. I cannot but think that such fraternal meetings will tend to stimulate each of us to employ our best energies to raise the standard, not only of our mother lodge, but of the whole craft, still higher than it has yet reached; and that we will all do everything in our power to promote friendship, morality, and brotherly love throughout the world. Be seated, brethren. (Applause.)—Bro. A. Watson, J.W., then gave in complimentary terms, "The Fathers of the Union Lodge," coupled with the name of Bro. Meiklejohn, sen.—Bro. Meiklejohn replied. He was sorry to say that the old members, the fathers of the Union Lodge, were fast dying out. When he looked round on the many new faces that he saw now in the lodge, it caused him to look back during the past 40 years, and to feel that time with some of them was getting short. Among the brethren of 40 years' standing alive at the present day, he only recollected one or two names. Bro. G. Birrell's name had been already mentioned; but there were also Bros. Saunders and Herdman, of Glasgow. He recollected also Bro. Erskine, who left for Australia, but had since died, and he thought these were all the old members, with the exception of Bro. Kely, sen., who was with them that night. He saw many new faces when he looked round the tables, but he was glad to witness the great prosperity which was attending the lodge. He had every confidence that the lodge would yet be among the best, if not the best, in Fife. He begged to thank the Junior Warden for the kind manner in which he had proposed the health of the "Fathers of the Union."—The Chairman then said: Brethren of "Lodge Union," I have the honour to call upon you to dedicate a bumper to "The Sister Lodge St. John"—our elder sister. Notwithstanding her great age, she seems to be still vigorous. It is my impression that she is blessed with a good constitution. Her present R.W.M. has been already tried, and we all know with what result; in fact, from the manner in which he has distinguished himself he is entitled to be called a "bright" Mason. I have no doubt but under his government social harmony, and everything that tends to promote brotherly love, will be cherished, and that all will be stimulated and enabled to refute the calumnies indiscriminately thrown on the Craft. I am glad to have it in my power to propose, from the chair, "Continued and increasing prosperity to St. John's Lodge, No. 26." (The toast was responded to with Masonic honours.)—Bro. R. Lindsay, D.M., St. John's Lodge, returned thanks in the name of the deputation, for the manner in which the toast of "St. John's Lodge" had been responded to. This was not the first time the same duty had devolved upon him. Were it not that he owed the strictest allegiance to the St. John's Lodge, he could almost wish he belonged to the Union. He considered the brethren of the Union an able and energetic body of men, and although the Union was a younger lodge than the St. John's, the manner in which they did their work was well worthy of imitation. He hoped the two lodges would always go hand in hand together to promote the interests of true Masonry. Freemasonry, he was glad to see, was on the increase in the county—indeed, it was on the increase all over the world. He had always been an ardent admirer of Masonry in all its phases, and he looked on it as a grand means to further a glorious end. The practice of holding Masons' lodges in taverns and public-houses had done much to bring discredit on their principles, and he entirely disapproved of such a practice. If there were any evils connected with the practice of Freemasonry, he for one, had never seen it in the lodge-room; he trusted that the time had now gone by when such objections would be brought against them, and that Freemasonry will soon reach the highest apex of popularity and standing. He would have great pleasure in taking down to the St. John's Lodge the kind and fraternal wishes of the Union. (Great applause.)—The Chairman then gave "The Deputation from the Sister Lodge," to which Depute-Master Lindsay replied.—Bro. G. Meiklejohn, jun., then sang, amid great applause, a Masonic song, composed for the occasion by the R.W.M.—The brethren forming the deputation from the Union to the St. John's Lodge having returned, the deputation from the sister lodge then departed in Masonic style.—Bro. J. Stewart, D.M., then rose to propose "Freemasonry over the world." He said, Masonry was spreading both at home and abroad, and he had great pleasure in proposing the sentiment.—The Chaplain of the Lodge then proposed "The Young Members of No. 250," and in doing so, as the oldest member of the Lodge present, he took the opportunity of administering a good deal of sound Christian advice to the young members. (The exhortation was well received, and highly applauded.)—Bro. Dodds, as the youngest member present, returned thanks.—Past Master Taylor, next gave "The Brethren from a distance," coupled with the name of Bro. Russell.—Bro. Russell returned thanks for himself and the brethren from a distance present.—Sub-Master Stewart next proposed the health of "The Senior and Junior Wardens," who both appropriately replied.—Bro. D. Cook, S.W., next proposed, in highly complimentary terms, the health of "The Treasurer and Secretary."—The Secretary and Treasurer respectively replied.—Bro. R. Steedman (post-master) then rose, and said that he had a toast to propose which, though not on the programme, he was sure they would all heartily respond to. It was, the health of "Bro. Ballantyne, Grand Bard of Scotland." Bro. Ballantyne had a good many friends in Dunfermline; but, independent of that, if he had never written anything better than the song "Ilka blade o' grass keps its ain drap o' dew," his name would have been, as it now is, a household word.—Bro. A. Romanes next proposed "The Provincial Grand Lodge," coupled with the name of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. J. Whyte Melville, of

Strathkinness. In proposing the toast, he said they would all have observed from the public prints that the county had lost one of its most active public men, and the Prov. Grand Lodge one of its most active members. As a public man Mr. Pagan, by his energy and integrity, had raised himself to a very high position in the county; and as the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge, he had earned for himself the respect and esteem of his brethren. While they all regretted his removal by death, however, and while he would ask them to respond to the toast which he had now proposed, he had a word or two to say regarding the position which the Provincial Grand Lodge occupied in the county. He had been reading up a good many works and magazines relating to Freemasonry of late, and he had noticed the fraternal feeling which seemed to exist between Provincial Grand Lodges in other places and the lodges under their charge. He had noticed how frequently visitations had been made, and enquiries entered into in regard to those lodges. But he had been unable to discover in the course of his reading what the Provincial Grand Lodge of Fife had been doing—in their part of the county at least—to the lodges under their charge (hear, hear). He understood that an annual fee had to be paid to the Provincial Grand Lodge by each of the lodges in the county; and he would like to know what they were doing for that fee? (Applause). He held it was the duty of every Provincial Grand Lodge to look after the interests and welfare of the lodges under their care. He did not know how this state of matters could be remedied, but he thought that the R.W.M. and the office-bearers of the Union Lodge should make some representation to the Provincial Grand Lodge to perform their duty, and institute a regular visitation of the lodges in Dunfermline, and elsewhere in the county. He was sure that the Union Lodge, at least, would give the deputation a hearty reception. From the honoured names connected with the Provincial Grand Lodge, he believed that they only required to be reminded of their duty to perform it. He had therefore great pleasure in asking them to respond to the toast which he had proposed. (The toast was responded to in true Masonic style.)—Bro. Taylor, I.P.M., while agreeing with what had been said by Bro. Romanes, mentioned that it was now some 18 or 20 years since it was proposed to have a regular visitation of all the lodges by the Provincial Grand Lodge. But neither the Union nor the St. John's were in a position to receive the deputation, and it was proposed to send it to Kirkealdy (laughter). They had since been often taxed with their negligence, and Bro. Pagan, the Secretary, had been several times written to; but beyond promising to pay them a visit in the event of any foundation stone being laid, or any statue being inaugurated, they had never done anything to recognise them. He (Bro. Taylor) held with Bro. Romanes that the Provincial Grand Lodge had not done their duty towards the lodges in the western district. (Hear, hear, and applause).—Among the other toasts were—"The other officers of the Union Lodge," by Bro. G. G. Russell; "Bro. Taylor, the I.P.M.," by Bro. M'Kelvie Robertson, replied to by Bro. Taylor; "Continued prosperity to No. 250," by Bro. Dodds; "Bro. Stark, of Brechin Lodge," by Past Master Taylor, replied to by Bro. Stark; "The Town and Trade of Dunfermline," by the Secretary, humorously replied to by Bro. M'Kelvie Robertson; "The Press," coupled with the name of Bro. A. Romanes, of the *Dunfermline Press*, replied to by Bro. Romanes; "The Depute Master," by Bro. Romanes, replied to by Depute Master, J. Stewart; "The memory of Burns," by Bro. Tullis; &c. Votes of thanks were also proposed by Bro. Taylor to the R.W.M., and after singing "Ank lang syne," the lodge was closed at "high twelve," all delighted with the evening's proceedings.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

*Mount Lebanon Chapter.*—An emergency meeting of this Chapter was held on Saturday, the 15th inst., at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Comp. A. D. Loewenstark, M.E.Z., supported by other principals opened the Chapter. Ballots were unanimous in favour of all the candidates. Bro. G. Ransom, C.E., was exalted. The Chapter was closed. Present, F. Walters, P.Z.; M. A. Loewenstark, S.N. and Treas.; A. P. Steadman, T. D. Barnard, J. McKiernan, and others. Visitors, Comps. J. Lacey, M.E.Z., 176; J. Rosenthal, 188; S. Noble, P.Z., 206; J. C. Peckham, P.Z., 206, and others.

*Cavaac Chapter, No. 176.*—The regular meeting of the Chapter was held at Ralley's Hotel, on Tuesday, the 11th inst. Comps. J. Lacey, M.E.Z.; P. A. Nairne, H.; F. Walters, P.Z. as J., presided. Bros. Wyman, Godsell, and Barnett, were exalted. About a dozen Companions sat down to banquet.

*Chapter of Hope, No. 205.*—The regular meeting of this Chapter was held on Thursday, the 13th inst., at the Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich. The Chapter was opened by Comps. H. A. Collington, M.E.Z.; J. Hasler, H.; W. Noak, J. The minutes were confirmed. Comp. H. A. Collington, M.E.Z., installed J. Hasler, M.E.Z., and F. Walters, P.Z. installed W. Noak, H.; A. H. Tattershall, J. There were present, W. R. Orchard, S.N.; S. Noble, P.Z.; J. C. Peckham, P.Z.; G. W. Edington, P.Z., and others. The Chapter was closed. Visitors, F. Walters, P.Z., 73; Wright, 72. Banquet followed.

PROVINCIAL.

NEW MALTON, YORKSHIRE.—*King Edwin Chapter, No. 660.*—The third meeting of this new Chapter since its consecration at New Malton, took place on Monday, January the 10th inst., for the installation of principals and election of officers. The Chapter was opened at seven o'clock in the evening, by the M.E. Comps. Tom

Turner, Z.; Major W. H. Smyth, P.Z., (D.P.G.M. for Lincolnshire,) as H.; James Frederick Spurr, P.Z., (200) Scarborough, as J. The minutes were read and confirmed. Comp. John Staniland was installed in the first chair, Samuel Walker, (by dispensation, H., and John Marshall, J. Comp. Jonathan Taylor, was elected P.S.; W. Wilson, Scribe E.; Jonathan Turner, N., and Robt. H. Bower, Treas., and there were present, Comps. Rose, Russell, K. Wardly, &c. The Chapter was duly closed at nine o'clock.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE.

*Plantagenet Conclave, No. 2.*—An assembly of this Conclave was held at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Monday, the 10th inst., Sir Knt. Thos. Wescombe, G.S.B., presiding as M.P.S. The Conclave was opened in Imperial form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. This being the assembly for the election of the M.P.S. for the ensuing year, as also the Viceroy E., Treasurer, and Sentinel, E. Sir Knt. D. R. Still, was unanimously elected to fill the chair of Constantine, as M.P.S. for the year ensuing, the enthronement taking place at the assembly in April next. Sir Knt. F. H. Gilbert, was also unanimously elected to fill the chair of Viceroy E.; E. Sir Knt. Thos. Cubitt, G. Herald, Treasurer; and J. Gilbert, Sentinel. The Recorder announced the death of Sir Knt. W. A. Wreford, which happened very recently; the deceased Knight Companion was a member of the "Fitzroy Lodge," and much respected. Others matters of business having been disposed of, the Conclave was closed in Imperial form with solemn prayer and adjourned. Amongst the Sir Knts. present—were, Sir Knts. T. Wescombe, G.S.B., as M.P.S.; D. R. Still, S.G.; Thos. Cubitt, G. Herald, Treas.; J. G. Marsh, G. Architect, and P.G.S.G. Recorder; G. S. States, Herald; Jas. Brett, P.S.G.—then retired to refreshment, presided over by the M.P.S., which concluded a happy meeting of this illustrious and chivalric Order.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

A Quarterly General Court of Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, was held on Monday last, in the Board Room, Freemasons' Hall. The chair was taken by Bro. JOHN HERVEY, G. Secretary, V.P., and the brethren who supported him were, Bros. John Udall, John Symonds, E. H. Patten, F. Binckes (Sec.), James Weaver, W. H. Warr, F. Walters, H. Young, Raynham, W. Stewart, Thos. J. Barnes, and H. Massey.

Bro. F. BINCKES read the minutes of the former Quarterly General Court, which were unanimously confirmed, with a slight alteration proposed by Bro. Symonds, and seconded by Bro. Udall.

The minutes of the General Committees of Nov., Dec., and January, and of the extra meeting on the 18th Nov., were also put and confirmed.

Nine vacancies in the institution in June were declared, and the list of fifty-nine candidates at the April election was approved and ordered to be printed and circulated, on the motion of Bro. Udall seconded by Bro. Raynham W. Stewart.

Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART proposed that Bro. Stephen Blair's terms, on which he presents 1,000 guineas to the Institution be accepted.

Bro. SYMONDS seconded the proposition, which was the put and carried unanimously.

Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART proposed the bringing forward of his motion that no boy should be eligible as a candidate for the institution "unless the father of such child shall be or have been, a Life Governor, or have been a subscribing member to the same to the extent of five guineas." It was not, he said, his intention to withdraw his motion, but to bring it on here, and in the Girls' School too, for he was sorry to see so long a list of candidates, election after election at each institution. Freemasonry was a luxury, and no man should partake of it who could not afford to pay for it. If afterwards the brother failed, then he should be assisted by such institutions as these, and every brother should do the best he could for him. But now, unfortunately, men entered Freemasonry for the sake of getting the most they could out of it. He sincerely trusted that he should have the support of his brethren when he brought his motion forward. He was shocked to see at so many of the late elections, not only that the candidates' fathers had not subscribed to the different charities, but the candidates' cases were actually recommended by brethren who had never subscribed a farthing to the Institution whose generosity they sought. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. SYMONDS suggested that Bro. Stewart should first bring the matter before the General Committee, and have his motion well ventilated. It was a course he adopted himself when he had a motion to bring forward, and unless the committee agreed with him he did not submit it to the Quarterly Court.

Bro. UDALL proposed, and Bro. SYMONDS seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, whose thanks for the compliment brought the proceedings to a close, and the Court adjourned.

PRESENTATION to V.W. Bro. The Rev. C. J. MARTYN, Grand Chaplain of England.

A large number of the brethren of the Province of Gloucestershire met at the Masonic Hall, Cheltenham, on Wednesday, the 5th inst., for the purpose of presenting an address and testimonial to the V.W. Brother the Rev. C. J. Martyn, Grand Chaplain of England, on his leaving the province—where he has done so much to promote the interests and spread the principles of Freemasonry—as a mark of the very high esteem and respect in which he is held by them.

The testimonial consisted of a gold repeater watch, and of a suitable address, the latter beautifully illuminated on vellum and enclosed in a handsome case.

Bro. E. WILLIAMS, P.M. 82, presided, and on his right sat the R.W.D.P. Grand Master of Gloucestershire (Bro. Newmarch), and on his left the V.W. Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn. Amongst the other brethren present were Bros. Swinburne (W.M. 82, M.E.Z. 82), Porcher (W.M. 246, P.P.G.D.), W. Waites (W.M. 493), Taynton (W.M. 839), Edgell (W.M. 900), Jeffs (W.M. Mark Lodge No. 10), Colonel Money (P.G.W. Bengal), A. Slud (P.P.G.S.W., Gloucestershire), Capt. Humphrey (P.G.S.W. Monmouth), the Rev. H. Layton (839), Brook Smith (P.P.G.W.) Alex (P.P.G.W.), Tovey (P.M. 246), J. Crook (P.M. 246), Bain (P.P.G.W.), Ricketts (P.M. 246), Humphreys (P.G. Purst.), Stocker (P.M. 493), Moore (P.M. 900), Gaul (P.M. 938); Fothergill, C. Homphrey, and Roper (P.G.S. Monmouth); Capt. Campbell, Salisbury, J. Winterbotham, L. Winterbotham, Dr. Smith, J. Smith, and J. Walker (82); W. O. Watts (839), J. T. Agg Gardner (246), Bernard (J.W. 900), Rice (900), William Forth (J.W. 246), Furber, Jull, Dixon, Alder, Lillywhite, Clench, Martin, Robertson, Stapley, Holman, Lake, &c., &c.

Bro. WILLIAMS, after a few remarks respecting Bro. Martyn's connection with Cheltenham and the happy result of his labours amongst the poor in the district over which he had charge, called upon the R.W.D.P.G.M., Bro. Newmarch, to present the testimonial in the name of the brethren of the province.

Bro. NEWMARCH made the presentation, and in an appropriate and eulogistic speech, while expressing the sincere regret felt at the loss the Gloucestershire brethren were about to sustain, congratulated Bro. Martyn on being removed to a wider sphere of usefulness, where he would have greater opportunities of exercising that charity and benevolence which had won for him here the respect and esteem of all classes.

Bro. WILLIAM FORTH, Hon. Sec., then read the following address:—

"To the V.W. Brother the Rev. C. J. MARTYN, M.A., Grand Chaplain of England, P.M. Nos. 82 and 478, P. Prov. G. Sec. Oxon., P. Prov. G. J. W. Gloucestershire, Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, Past Aide de Camp of England, and Past E. C. of the Cottswold Encamp. of St. Augustin.

"The Freemasons of the undermentioned lodges desire to avail themselves of the occasion of your removal from the Province of Gloucestershire to express their sincere personal regard, and their sense of the value of your exertions on behalf of Freemasonry, while you have been resident amongst them: and they accordingly beg your acceptance of the accompanying watch, as a trifling memento of the friends and brethren whom you are about to leave. While bidding you farewell, they also heartily wish you every happiness and prosperity in your future life.

"Signed on behalf of the brethren of—  
The Foundation Lodge, Cheltenham, No. 82, by EDWIN WILLIAMS, W.M.;  
The Royal Union Lodge, Cheltenham, 246, by W. R. PORCHER, W.M.;  
The Royal Lebanon Lodge, Gloucester, 493, by W. WAITES, W.M.;  
The Royal Gloucestershire Lodge, Gloucester, 839, by T. TAYNTON, W.M.;  
R.A. Chapter of Unanimity, 82, Cheltenham, by T. W. SWINBURNE, M.E.Z.;  
Cheltenham and Keystone Lodge of M.M.'s, by H. JEFFS, W.M.

W. FORTH, Hon. Sec."

Bro. MARTYN, in feeling and appropriate terms, acknowledged the kind and gratifying compliment the brethren had paid him. He said that ever since his first coming into Gloucestershire—six years ago—he had always met with the greatest kindness and truly brotherly friendship from every Mason in the province, and ever found that they, in common with his many other Cheltenham friends, seemed determined to magnify his few good qualities, while they ignored and forgot his many bad ones. Whenever he looked at their splendid present, he would be reminded of this proud and happy day, and most sincerely did he hope that they might, one and all, follow and endeavour to live as good men, good masons, and good christians, and then they might hope, though parted on earth, to meet hereafter in that Grand Lodge above, where the World's Great Architect lives and reigns supreme.

Immediately after the presentation the annual meeting of the Royal Union Lodge, No. 246, took place, to celebrate the Festival of St. John and instal the W.M.-elect, Bro. William Forth. After the ceremony, which was ably performed by the W.M., Bro. Porcher, P.P.G.D., assisted by Bros. Brook Smith, P.P.G.W., and Ricketts, P.M. 246, the brethren adjourned to the banquetting-hall, where, after an excellent dinner, the usual toasts were proposed and received in a hearty and Masonic spirit, and a very pleasant evening was spent by the brethren assembled.

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## Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

## BIRTHS.

COSBURN.—On the 16th instant, at the *Herald* office, Market-place, Newbury, the wife of Bro. George J. Cosburn, Secretary of 574, of a son.

WARNER.—On the 26th ult., at Jerusalem, the wife of Bro. Charles Warner, Capt. R.N., of a daughter.

## DEATH.

HAWKE.—On the 14th inst., Bro. Edward H. Hawke, jun., P.M. Tregullow Lodge, 1006, St. Day, Scorrier, P. Prov. G. Deacon, Cornwall, and member of most of the "higher degrees." A zealous Mason, a benevolent man, and a good husband and father, he has left many friends to regret his lamented decease.

Reports of the Rosicrucian Society of London and of Lodges 184, 185, 307, 543, 592, 715, 862, 1000, 1021, 1248, 1264, and 1273 will appear next week.

## The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1870.

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## THE MARK DEGREE.

OUR attention has been called by several brethren to a correspondence which has recently taken place between Brothers Frederick Binckes and L. Mackersey, the Grand Scribe E. of Scotland, on the subject of the Mark Degree, and we are solicited to at once explain the "situation," and to pronounce an opinion on the merits of the question in dispute. Knowing that many of our readers are Mark Masters, and above all, believing that every English brother desires the triumph of right and the overthrow of malevolence and injustice, we cheerfully comply with the request which has been made, premising, however, that we do so as a juris-consult, and not as an advocate. The facts are these:—

Towards the close of the eighteenth century a great many so-called Masonic Degrees were invented for divers reasons, not only in England but in several other countries. Some of these were not only harmless in their tendencies, but as a rule inculcated precepts more or less in accordance with those of the Craft. They accordingly became adjuncts to the ceremonies of the "Three Degrees," and obtained considerable support. It would be tedious to enumerate those subsidiary degrees, especially as their number has been roughly computed at about nine hundred, but it is necessary to state that the grades of Mark Man and Mark Master originated in Britain, and although the former is now merged in the latter, we may add that the degrees have preserved their exclusively British character, inasmuch as they are worked at the present day only by the Freemasons of these islands, and their blood-relations in the United States of America and the possessions of the British Crown. Mark Masonry confessedly supplies a hiatus in the traditions of the Craft, and its appropriate place, so far as those traditions are concerned, is as unquestionably between the second and third degrees.

Strange to say, however, that in no country where the Mark degree is practised, do we find it occupying its proper position as a part of our legends. It is invariably given *after* the Master Mason's degree, instead of *before*, and thus loses much of the interest which would otherwise be attached to the interesting myth which it narrates.

In America, it is under the government of the Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, and ranks as the first of the capitular degrees. In Ireland, it is also given as a pre-requisite to the Royal Arch; and in Scotland, the Grand Chapter likewise claims it as a part of the Chapteral system. But in the latter country the Grand Lodge also recognises the "Mark" to the extent of allowing its subordinate lodges to make Mark Master Masons if they think proper. How this singular arrangement works in practice is best known to our Scottish brethren, but we must add that no open conflict between the two jurisdictions has so far occurred. We now come to England, where the greatest anomaly will be found. In this country, Mark Masonry languished like a sickly plant from 1790 to 1850, its existence being almost unknown in the Metropolis, and its operations elsewhere being for the most part confined to brethren of inferior social position. Soon after the last-named year a revival was projected, and so enthusiastic were the friends of the cause that they succeeded in attracting to the "Mark Masters" standard many of the best and most respected Masons of the day. We need only mention such names as those of Lords Leigh, Carnarvon, and Holmesdale, and W. W. Bramston Beach, *M.P.*,—all of whom are now Provincial Grand Masters in the Craft,—to ensure a hearty confirmation of the terms in which we are bound to speak of the pro-

motors of Mark Masonry in England. What was the result of their exertions? The question of the recognition of the Mark degree was brought before the Grand Lodge of England, and, after affirming its legality, that supreme body declined to acknowledge the degree as an integral portion of Freemasonry. The Grand Lodge justly held in the first instance, as we now hold, that the degree is a graceful appendage to the grade of Fellow Craft; but the Grand Lodge committed a grave error when it refused to absorb the Mark as a constituent element of symbolic Masonry.

We are aware that we shall be met by the cry that Grand Lodge could not stultify itself by recognising a modern invention, but from those who know the origin of the "Royal Arch" itself, such an excuse will only provoke a smile. We are great sticklers for the antiquity of the Craft, as we have avowed on many previous occasions, but we are far from saying that the manner in which Freemasons initiate their candidates at the present day is identical with the system pursued by our predecessors in the Mediæval period. *We know it is not*, but we contend, nevertheless, that Craft Masonry is derived from a succession of sodalities whose history is hidden in the mists of ages, like the summits of the Alps, which are wrapped in perpetual snow. But for other degrees we have no such reverence, although we appreciate their utility, their beauty and their sublimity; and although, so far as the Royal Arch is concerned, we are willing to concede that its essence is to be found in the ancient Master Mason's degree. We are, therefore, free to avow our conviction that a great opportunity was lost by the Grand Lodge of England when it abandoned the proffered control of the Mark degree, and we appeal to facts to support our assertion. The immediate result of the blunder was the establishment of a Mark Grand Lodge of England! than which a greater anomaly cannot exist, and the only excuse for its existence is to be found in the not unreasonable determination of English Mark Masters to perpetuate their degree by every means in their power. Now we come to the grievance which has occasioned this article. Some English brethren finding that the Grand Lodge of England tabooed Mark Masonry, and being unwilling to join an experimental organization, obtained warrants from the Grand Chapter of Scotland to form Mark lodges in England.

Humiliating spectacle! deplorable resolve! For the first time in the history of mankind or Masonry, Englishmen were found base enough to crawl at the feet of a foreign power, and to denationalize themselves, for the attainment of an object trifling enough in its scope, but sufficiently important to serve as an example. The standards of a foreign Masonic jurisdiction—for such Masonically speaking is the Grand Chapter of Scotland—were hoisted in "the inviolate land of the sage and free," and English Masons bowed

down before a body which is considered irregular even by the Grand Lodge of Scotland itself. More than this, they paid over to the "canny gentlemen" whose mouthpiece, Bro. Mackersey, is now denouncing them as spurious, large sums of money, which were doubtless of great moment to Bro. Mackersey's treasury-chest.

Has it ever occurred to the Grand Scribe E. of Scotland, that he, and the parties whom he officially represents, are themselves acting a grossly illegal part by invading the Masonic territory of England? The intemperate letter which he has addressed to the Secretary of the Mark Masters of England is calculated to evoke feelings of resentment in a much wider circle than he appears to contemplate. Whatever errors may have been committed by English Mark Masters in the formation of their Mark Grand Lodge, will be readily condoned by English Masons when it is thoroughly understood by the Craft that a governing body for the degree in England was organized as an alternative to a greater evil, namely, the recognition of a foreign irregular body as the source of Masonic authority to any extent—however limited—in a land where Speculative Freemasonry first arose and attained its present magnitude. Greater issues are involved in this question than would at first sight appear, and it assumes a more serious aspect when we reflect that in retaliation for the invasion of England by the Scottish Grand Chapter, the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in London is foolish enough to threaten to charter Mark Lodges in Scotland.

Nothing of the kind must be done; and we appeal to all Freemasons who value the true principles of the Craft,—who respect the just claims of every nation to regulate its own affairs, whether they be of a social or Masonic character—we appeal to them to interpose and stamp out this internecine war, which is calculated to tarnish the fair escutcheon of our Order. The Grand Chapter of Scotland has no right to plant Mark Lodges in England, no more than it has a right to establish Royal Arch Chapters in this country; and, *pari passu*, the Mark Masters of England are just as wrong in invading the jurisdiction of Scotland. The law-abiding brethren of both countries will not allow the good understanding which happily prevails between the Freemasons of North and South Britain, to be disturbed by the vagaries of a few fanatical upholders of this or the other degree. This "Mark" warfare would indeed be a matter of supreme indifference to the vast majority amongst us, were there not a great principle involved; but in the defence of our national rights as men and Freemasons, the miserable attempts of such men to override the laws of the Craft will receive the denunciation to which they are justly entitled.

We, for our own part, should entertain no feelings but those of pity and contempt for any Mason—whether English or Scottish—who would assist in rearing a rival Masonic standard in his own, his native land.

### Multum in Parvo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

BRO. "CIPES" AND THE SCOTTISH TEMPLARS (pp. 31, 7, &c.)

Stick to the real point—let "Cipes" prove that the present so-called Scottish Templars, or their system, existed in or before the first quarter of last century, and I shall believe it; until such is done, I look upon such pretended antiquity as false. LEO.

BRO. "LEO" AND THE MAIMED.

A brother may meet with a misfortune, but that is not his fault. Supposing "Cipes" should get his arms cut off, how would he do with a foreign brother? Then, again, an individual with his arms all right and a couple of cork legs might, after being made, be able to "uphold all the recognised modes of recognition," in a manner superior to thousands who enjoy legs of bone and flesh. LEO.

THE POWERS OF A GRAND MASTER.

In reply to "W.M. on the above subject," and without for a moment considering the policy of our M.W.G.M., in the removal of a Provincial Grand Lodge from the Isle of Wight, there is no doubt but that in so doing he has acted strictly in accordance with the powers vested in him by the Book of Constitutions, inasmuch as the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master is a prerogative of the M.W.G.M. (sec. I., Prov. G.M.), and he being appointed, is empowered to appoint Provincial Grand Officers (sec. II., Prov. G.M.), who constitute the Prov. G. Lodge, the very existence of which ceases with the death, resignation, suspension or removal of the Prov. G.M. (sec. VII., Prov. G. Lodges) until a brother is duly appointed or empowered to perform the functions of Provincial Grand Master, by whose authority the Provincial Grand Lodge may be again established.

+ J. D. M.

INSTALLATION IN THE ADAIR LODGE.

In your report of the proceedings of the Adair Lodge, No. 936, at Aldborough, it is stated that the lodge was opened in the third degree, when the W.M.-elect, Bro. Harper, was solemnly installed by the Installing Officer, &c. Is this an error of your reporter, or some new working, as I have always been led to believe that the W.M.-elect should be installed in a Board of Installed Masters? + J. D. M.

"MASTER MASON" AND "ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST."

Although asking a question, I was not personally unaware of what Freemasons calling themselves Christians generally acknowledge to be the truth:—

"From the reign of Vespasian, A.D. 69, to the present time, Freemasons have adopted St. John the Baptist as their Patron Saint. The primitive or Mother Lodge held at Jerusalem, of which all other lodges are only branches, was erected to God, and dedicated to St. John, who left the example of his virtues to his brethren. St. John's Day is held in every country where Freemasonry is practised; it is celebrated as a Festival, a day set apart by the brotherhood to feast of brotherly affection, to the worshipping of the Great Architect of heaven and earth, and to the imploring of His blessings on the great family of mankind. In every just, perfect, regular, and well-governed lodge, there is a symbol representing a point within a circle, the point indicating an individual brother, the circle representing the boundary line of his duty to God and man, beyond which he is never to suffer his passions, prejudices, or interest to betray him on any occasion. This circle is embroidered by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, who were perfect parallels in Christianity as well as Masonry; and upon the vertex rests the book of Holy Scriptures, the great light of Masonry, pointing out the whole duty of Freemasons. In going round the circle, we necessarily touch upon these two lines, as well as upon the Holy Scriptures; and while Masons keep themselves thus circumscribed, it is impossible that they should materially err. St. John's Day, the birth-day of the Baptist, is *par excellence* the Mason's day; it has been celebrated

annually, during upwards of eighteen hundred years; and, so long as large-hearted benevolence and great-hearted courage are respected and admired, it will continue to be lovingly regarded and reverentially observed."

CIPES.

DR. J. T. DESAGULIERS, LL.D. AND F.R.S., AND JAMES ANDERSON, A.M.

Allow me to give the following notice of these two distinguished brethren as contained in "The Imperial Dictionary of Universal Biography," published by W. Mackenzie, Glasgow:—

"Desaguliers, John Theophilus, was born in France, in 1683, but was educated and continued to reside in England, till his death in 1749. He contributed some valuable papers in optics, mechanics, &c., to various scientific societies. He published a 'Course of Experimental Philosophy,' which was much esteemed in its day. 'The Transactions of the Royal Society' contain interesting papers communicated by him."—W.L., M.

"Anderson James, a Scotch genealogist, lived in the earlier half of the eighteenth century, and was Pastor of a Presbyterian Church, in Swallow-street, Piccadilly, London, and also Chaplain to a lodge of Freemasons. It was, doubtless, his holding the latter office that led him to publish in 1723, a book called 'The Constitutions of Freemasons.' His genealogical works, which are the result of some labour, but display little judgment, are 'Royal Genealogies, or the Genealogical Tables of Emperors, Kings, and Princes, from Adam to these times;' and a 'Genealogical History of the House of Yvery,' prepared and published at the expense of the Earl of Egmont.—A.M."

At page 144 of his history, I observe Findel saying—"Desaguliers was the son of a French Protestant Clergyman, and was born at Rochelle in 1683. He died 1743." Which is right, 1743 or 1749?

At page 38 of the 1723 Constitutions, we have "XVII. James Anderson, A.M., the author of this book, Master," thereby showing he was then Master of the Lodge. LEO.

"CIPES" AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

In answer to this enquiry, I cannot conceive how any member of St. John's Masonry, far less a member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, could in the first place in virtue of his O.B. make the assertion "that we had nothing to do with the principles of St. John the Baptist, and his teachings to us were not worth a fig;" secondly, I cannot understand how the R.W.G.M. allowed such language to be used within the walls of his lodge, without moving *instantly* that the Stewards should "heave over" the brother who committed such a breach of the laws, and have it followed up by a motion that the offending brother be deprived of Masonic privileges of all kind until he has complied with whatever punishment the Grand Lodge might think proper to impose. Every true Mason knows, or at all events should know, for what St. John the Baptist lost his head; and I believe we have had members of Grand Lodge (not losing their head exactly), but persecuted and punished by expulsion for exposing similar practices to that for which St. John was decapitated. As moral teaching is one of the first principles of Freemasonry, I should like to hear, through your columns, why such a course was followed in Grand Lodge, seeing that Grand Lodge recognise nothing but the three degrees of St. John's Masonry, with the addition of the two side-steps of "Mark" and "Chair?"

RUSTICUS.

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF BRO. WILLIAM PRESTON.  
Lodge of Antiquity. No. One.

To all to whom it may concern.

We, the Master Wardens and Secretary of the Regular Constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, No. One, Do Certify that our Brother, William Preston, is a Free and Accepted Mason in the third degree of Masonry, and was admitted a Member of our Lodge, and during his stay with us behaved as a True and faithful Mason, as such we recommend him, desiring he may (after a due Tryal and examination) be duly receiv'd into all regular

Constituted lodges of this our Ancient and Honorable Society whenever he should apply for admittance. Given under our Hands and Seal of our Lodge in London this 18th day February, A.D. 1778, A.L. 1782.

Signed, { J. WILSON, Master.  
J. SIMPSON, S.W.  
THEO. HARTLEY, J.W.  
BENJN. BRADLEY, Secy.  
ANTIQUARIUS.

### THE BIBLE.

A nation would, indeed, be truly blessed, if it were governed by no other laws than those of this blessed book, it is so complete a system, that nothing can be added to it; it contains every thing needful to be known or done, it affords a copy for a king, and a rule for a subject; it gives instruction and counsel to a senate, authority and direction for a magistrate; it cautions a witness, requires an impartial verdict of a jury, and furnishes the judge with his sentence; it sets the husband as lord of the household, and the wife as mistress of the table—tells him how to rule, and her how to manage; it entails honour to parents, and enjoins obedience to children; it prescribes and limits the sway of the sovereign, the rule of the ruler, and the authority of the master; commands the subjects to honour, and the servants to obey; and promises the blessing and protection of the Almighty to all that walk by its rules. It gives directions for weddings, and for burials; it promises food and raiment, and limits the use of both; it points out a faithful and eternal guardian to the departing husband and father; tells him with whom to leave his fatherless children, and in whom his widow is to trust, and promises a father to the former, and a husband to the latter; it teaches a man how to set his house in order, and how to make his will; it appoints a dowry for his wife, and entails the right on the first-born, and shows how the younger branches shall be left; it defends the right of all, and reveals vengeance to every defaulter, over-reacher and oppressor. It is the first book, the best book, and the oldest book in the world; it contains the choicest matter, gives the best instruction, affords the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that ever was enjoyed; it contains the best laws and the most profound mysteries that ever were penned; it brings the best of tidings, and affords the best of comfort to the inquiring and disconsolate; it exhibits life and immortality from everlasting, and shows the way to glory. It is a brief recital of all that is to come; it settles all matter in debate, resolves all doubts, and eases the mind and conscience of all their scruples; it reveals the only living and true God, and shows the way to Him, and sets aside all other gods, and describes the vanity of them, and of all that trust in such. In short, it is a book of laws, to show right and wrong; a book of wisdom that condemns all folly, and makes the foolish wise; a book of truth, that detects all lies, and confutes all errors; and a book of life, that shows the way from everlasting death. It is the most compendious book in the world, the most authentic, and the most entertaining history that ever was published. It contains the most ancient antiquities, strange events, wonderful occurrences, heroic deeds, unparalleled wars; it describes the celestial, terrestrial, and infernal worlds, and the origin of the angelic myriads, human tribes, and devilish legions. It will instruct the accomplished mechanic, and the most profound artist; it teaches the best rhetoric, and exercises every power of the most skilful arithmetician, puzzles the wisest anatomist, and exercises the nicest critic; it corrects the vain philosopher, and confutes the wise astronomer; it exposes the subtle sophist, and makes diviners mad; it is a complete code of laws, a perfect body of divinity; an unequalled narrative, a book of lives, a book of travels, and a book of voyages. It is the best covenant that ever was agreed on, the best deed that ever was sealed, the best evidence that ever was produced, the best will that ever was made, and the best testament that ever was signed. To understand it, is to be wise indeed; to be ignorant of it, is to be destitute of wisdom; it is the king's best

copy, the magistrate's best rule, the housewife's best guide, the servant's best directory, and the young man's best companion; it is the school boy's spelling book, and the learned man's masterpiece. It contains a choice grammar for a novice, and a profound mystery for a sage; it is the ignorant man's dictionary, and the wise man's directory. It affords knowledge of witty inventions for the humorous, and dark sayings for the grave, and it is its own interpreter. It encourages the wise, the warrior, the swift and the overcomer, and promises an eternal reward to the excellent, the conqueror, the winner, and the prevalent; and that which crowns all is, that the Author is without partiality and without hypocrisy,

"In whom is no variableness or shadow of turning."

### Original Correspondence.

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

#### UNIFORMITY OF WORKING.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Referring to my letter in last week's impression, I have the pleasure to inform your readers interested in the above matter that the preliminary meeting for selection of Committee, &c., will, by the readily-accredited permission of the Board of General Purposes, be held at the Freemasons' Hall, at eight o'clock, on the evening of Wednesday, the 2nd February (immediately after Grand Chapter Meeting); and that I must now respectfully request that all brethren desiring to be present, and who have not already communicated with me, forward, before the 29th instant, their names and addresses, that formal notice may be sent to them.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,  
JAMES STEVENS,  
P.M. and P.Z., S.W. 1216.  
Clapham Common,  
January 20th, 1870.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR AND BROTHER,—I observe in your impression of the 8th of this month, a paper by Bro. Leo, who states:—

"Although gentlemen were admitted into the old operative Masonic societies, &c., before 1717, they did not thereby receive our doctrines, ceremonies, or secrets, for these were not in existence until after 1717."

As a refutation of this statement, I have now on my table a tobacco-box of evident antique manufacture and engraving, dated 1670; on the lid of which is engraved the Masonic working tools of the three degrees, the jewels of the lodge, and many other Masonic devices, being nearly a copy of the tracing boards of the three degrees, with other signs, I, as a Craft Master Mason, cannot read, but which a brother who is Mark Master and Royal Arch Mason easily understands. This design is certainly not that of a merely operative body, but involves the knowledge of much deep speculative thought in our Masonic mysteries.

I am, yours fraternally,  
HORACE SWETE, M.D.,  
Lodge No. 1222.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR,—A question was asked me the other day, "Whether a motion can be tabled either in Grand Lodge or any of its daughter lodges, for the expulsion or suspension of any one of its members, in his absence, and be disposed of at a subsequent meeting, without intimation to him?"

I answered, that in the outer world no such thing could be done, and I did not think (seeing that brotherly love is one of the main links in Free and Accepted Masonry) that such a course would even be attempted in any Masonic lodge. As I am not thoroughly versed in the forms of the Masonic procedure, can any of your correspondents throw any light upon the subject? This I know, that in the event of a law agent wishing to table a motion in any action in our courts, he must intimate the same to his opponent, and send him a copy.

Yours fraternally,  
RUSTICUS.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR,—When I joined the Craft I understood that Freemasonry, "as taught to me," was

universal, such to my chagrin and disappointment I find is not the case.

I was initiated in Ireland, took the R.A. there, became a Knight of Constantinople in England; so far so good, but now I return to my native country to settle down to finish my days, I am refused membership in any English lodge unless I procure an English certificate. I at once apply to the Grand Lodge of Ireland for a warrant to open a lodge, and although we are upwards of fifty in number, anxious to work a lodge on the principle of our dear mother, we can't obtain an Irish warrant in England, we are therefore virtually excluded from a society we venerate. We feel this much.

I have even asked members of the Craft, "English Craft" I mean, to send me an invitation; they have promised to do so, but have in no case fulfilled their promise.

I should be glad of your advice in this matter, for my own information and that of some fifty others, good and true.

Yours fraternally,  
A FREEMASON OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR AND BROTHER,—Will you have the goodness to inform me, in "answers to correspondents" next week, whether the *Oxford Ritual* is generally used in the London lodges? and if so, where a copy could be procured? or a copy of the best Ritual in use, whether Oxford or otherwise, for the three Craft degrees?

Yours fraternally,  
A READER OF "THE FREEMASON"  
FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT.

### MASONIC BALL AT LIVERPOOL.

One of the most enjoyable reunions of the season, the Masonic ball, was held on Tuesday, the 11th January, at the Town-hall, Liverpool, under the patronage of Lady Arabella Fermor-Hesketh, Lady Skelmersdale, the Countess De Grey and Ripon, Lady Alice Kenlis, and Mrs. Gilbert Greenall, and most of the principal officers of the province. The proceeds of the ball are to be given to the funds of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, for the education of the children of deceased brethren. During the past year the institution has been progressing favourably, and the number of children under training has been from 40 to 50.

The ball, which was the twenty-first held by the brethren in this town, judging from the attendance, would add materially to the funds of the institution. The company began to arrive about nine o'clock, and by midnight there would be about 700 ladies and gentlemen present. Among those present were Bro. C. J. Bannister, P.G.S.B. of England; H. S. Alpas, P.G. Sec.; S. White, P.G.S.B.; Robert Wylie, P.G.D.C.; Major Greig, C.B.; Thomas Marsh, P.G.A.D.C.; Laidlaw, P.G. Pursuivant; &c. The handsome ballroom presented a more than usually attractive appearance, as the brethren all appeared in their jewels and Masonic clothing. Dancing commenced at nine o'clock to the music of Bro. W. Phillip's band.

The following is a list of the dances:—Polka, quadrille, galop, lancers, waltz, quadrille, schottische, galop, lancers, polka, quadrille, waltz, polka, quadrille, galop, lancers, waltz, quadrille, schottische, galop, lancers, polka, quadrille, waltz.

The following were the Stewards:—Bro. Laidlaw, Hill, Gawaith, Schaal, Berry, White, McKune, Chudleigh, W. Wilson, Bingham, Knight, Oakshott, Henley, J. T. Turner, Collinson, Winstanley, S. Peck, Bamford, Rowson, H. Newman, Drs. Smith, Mercer, Johnson, R. H. D. Johnson and Irvine. The officers of the committee were:—President Bro. Lieut-Col. Sir Thomas George Fermor-Hesketh, Bt., M.P., R.W. Prov. G.M., W.L. Vice-Presidents, - Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W.P.S.G.W.; R. Townley-Parker, W.P. Dep. Prov. G.M., W.L. Chairman of committee:—Bro. H. S. Alpass, W. Prov. G. Sec., W.L. Vice-chairman:—Bro. W. P. H. Grimmer, P.M., 155 and 216, P.Z. 216. The master of ceremonies was Bro. Molineux, and the arrangements for the ball were carried out in an admirable manner by Bro. R. Wilson, P.M., 241, Hon. Sec., assisted by Bro. J. C. Baker, Hon. Treas. The supper-rooms were thrown open about twelve o'clock, and the caterer, Mr. Vines, of the Canton Hotel, gave every satisfaction to the company. Dancing was resumed shortly afterwards and kept up until an early hour next morning.

The Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, held at the Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, will in future meet at half-past seven, instead of eight o'clock as heretofore.

The alms-box of the Samaritan Fund of St. George's Hospital, at Tattersall's, was recently opened, after an interim of twelve months, but not a single farthing was found in it.—*British Medical Journal.*

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

RESTORATION AND RE-OPENING OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RUFFORD.

On Tuesday, the 11th instant, the restoration of the ancient church of St. Mary, at Rufford, near Ormskirk, having been completed, was celebrated by a double occurrence—the first being the official recognition of the happy event by the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire, and the other the celebration of Divine service in an elegant and most impressive manner. The Hesketh family, being so intimately connected with Rufford and the neighbourhood, naturally have taken a leading share in the complete restoration of the old church, which was erected over 500 years ago on the spot now occupied by the new edifice. Sir Thomas Fermor-Hesketh, the present baronet, is also the revered Grand Master of the Province of West Lancashire; and desiring to associate his brethren with him in the good and pious work in which he and his family and neighbours have been engaged, he convened a meeting of his Provincial Grand Lodge at the Old Hall, close to the church, for the said morning at ten o'clock. Accordingly at that time the following, amongst other brethren, responded to the invitation:—Bros. S. P. Brabner, S.G.W.; the Rev. H. G. Vernon, M.A., P.G.C.; J. Hamer, P.G.S.; T. Wylie, P.G. Registrar; H. S. Alpass, P.G. Sec.; A. C. Mott, P.S.G.D.; R. Wylie, P.G.D.C.; T. Marsh, P.G.A.D.C.; J. Skeaf, P.G. Organist; William Laidlaw, P.G.P.; Peter Ball, P.G.T.; W. H. Ball, P.G.A.T.; James Pickering, P.G.S.; S. E. Ibbs, P.G.S.; T. Armstrong, P.G.P.J.D.; J. Molineux, P.P.G.O.; C. Sherlock, P.P.G.R.; William Todd, S.W., 613; Whitehead W. Naylor, S.D., 314; W. Barr, 673; T. Reed, 397; J. Thornton, P.M., 1182; T. Jackson, J.W., 580; J. J. Myres, jun., 314; J. Hocken, W.M., 673; J. Banting, P.M., 673; H. Wilson, J.W., 673; James Platt, P.M., 613; E. Iddon, 613; James Garratt, S.W., 594; James Dodson, 986; John Dodson, I.G., 1032; J. Price, 249; S. Whittaker, 823; J. A. Forrest, 823; G. Owen, P.M., 786; H. E. Cullingworth, J.D., 613; T. Sergeant, J.W., 594; E. Shaw, S.W., 680; John Topham, W.M., 1070; Edward Harbord, W.M., 477; J. D. Porter, 986; J. Rigby, S.W., 1070; J. F. Young, 580; W. Blackhurst, J.W., 1070; Thomas Mercer, 241; H. Catterall, S.D., 986; J. Sharpe, P.M., 292; James Pelham, jun., S.W., 292; William Ascroft, 986; William Doyle, P.M., 667; J. D. McLaren, 249; J. Glover, 845; J. D. Macbeth, 220; R. H. D. Johnson, P.M., 1094; E. Fane, 594; William Smith, 580; J. Goodman, 823; H. Burrows, 673; J. Robinson, 667; J. Bengott, J.W., 986; J. T. Ascroft, 986; F. Islam, J.G., 986; J. Wright P.M., 241; R. Heywood, 594; J. Campbell, W.M., 986; P. Hosbe, 249; E. Morgan, 495; J. G. Hartley, 594; J. Madras, J.D., 986; R. Reltarlin, 1094; D. W. Winstanley, S.D., 1094; E. C. Cooper, W.M., 484; William Gates, S.W., 484; J. Pemberton, S.W., 1264; D. Jones, W.M., 32; J. E. James, 1264; J. Lloyd, 249; Pascroft, S.D., 986; James Henson, 249; J. Wood, Treas., 1094; Lewis Nose, 594; S. Cookson, S.W., 1182; P. Thom, J.W., 1182; T. Hughes, 216; C. Haswell, 203; William Brown, 1182; T. Hobkirk, 986; M. Freans, P.M., 155; D. Jones; E. Budge, 986; W. Crawford, 594; and R. Danson, J.D., 1094.

A Craft Lodge in the three degrees having been opened, the P.G.M. and his Officers entered the lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form. Some formal business having been transacted, the brethren formed in procession as follows, and marched, preceded by the clergy and choristers in surplices, to the church:—

- Choristers.
- Clergymen.
- Two Tylers.
- Steward. Steward.
- Brethren not subscribing members of any Lodge—two and two.
- Brethren of the various Lodges; juniors going first—two and two.
- Prov. G. Pursuivant.
- Past Prov. G. Organists.
- Prov. G. Organist.
- Prov. G. Assistant Director of Ceremonies.
- Prov. G. Director of Ceremonies.
- Prov. G. Superintendent of Works.
- Past Prov. G. Sword-bearers.
- Past Prov. G. Deacons.
- Prov. G. Secretary.
- Past Prov. G. Registrars.
- Prov. G. Registrar.
- Prov. G. Treasurer.
- Past Prov. G. Wardens.
- Visiting Prov. G. Officers.
- Prov. G. Junior Warden.
- Prov. G. Senior Warden.
- Prov. G. Junior Deacon.
- Steward. Prov. G. Chaplain. Steward.
- Deputy Prov. G. Master.
- Standard Bearer.
- Prov. G. Sword Bearer.
- R.W. Prov. G. Master.
- Prov. G. Senior Deacon.
- Steward. Steward.
- Prov. G. Tyler.

On arriving at the church door the brethren halted and opened to the right and left, facing inwards, so as to leave room for the Prov. G. Master, preceded by his standard-bearer and sword-bearer, to pass up the centre into the church, the Prov. G. Officers and brethren following in succession from the rear; reversing the procession.

We may here give a description of the church, an edifice

which reflects the greatest credit on the taste and ability of Bro. Danson and his partner, Mr. Davis, of Liverpool, the architects:—The new church consists of an unusually spacious nave, 60 feet long and 23 feet broad, the desire of the architects being to group the congregation principally in the centre of the church, so that as few of them as possible might be inconvenienced by the pillars of the arcades, which divide the nave from the aisles. These arcades consist of moulded arches resting on columns of Mansfield stone, with carved caps and moulded bases. The caps are admirably carved, on them, intermixed with conventional foliage, being introduced various symbolical and scriptural subjects. One represents the sower sowing the seed and the birds of the air ready to pluck it up, another the emblems of the four evangelists, another the "Agnus Dei," and another angels with outspread wings. Above the nave arcade is the clerestory, pierced with deeply recessed trefoil-headed windows, and the whole surmounted by an open timber roof, gabled with principals resting on moulded stone corbels. The aisles, which are unusually narrow, have open beam to roofs on principals; the walls are pierced with deeply recessed lancet-headed windows, alternately single and coupled. The chancel opens into the nave through a loft arch, the inner of which is moulded and carried on corbels with carved caps. It is divided into two parts—choir and sanctuary; the former is raised two steps above the level of the nave, and is furnished with desks and seats for choristers and clergy; the latter is raised two additional steps, and has a railing supported on iron standards with scroll work, which will be decorated in gold and colours. The altar is raised on a footpace of stone richly tiled; behind it is a splendid reredos of alabaster and marble, and above it the east window of three lights filled with stained glass. The reredos (which was presented by Sir Thomas Fermor-Hesketh, M.P.) consists of a boldly moulded trefoil-headed arch of alabaster on red marble pilasters, with carved caps and moulded bases of alabaster, above which is a gable ornamented with dog-tooth moulding. The arch encircles or incloses a bold Calvary cross of white marble, resting on an alabaster base, supported on steps of red and green marble, the red one being inlaid with green and the green with red. The arms of the cross are marked by circular pieces of red marble inlaid, and the centre is similarly treated, but has also a circle of marble inlaid with pure white alabaster, inclosing inlay of red and green marble; under the arms of the cross are two medallions of white alabaster, representing respectively the "Agnus Dei" and the "Pelican, in her piety, feeding her young with her own blood." The altar table (designed by architects, and presented by Sir Lawrence Palk, M.P.), is principally composed of cedar; the top has the five crosses cut on it; the front is divided into five compartments by ebony columns with moulded bands and carved, and moulded caps and bases; the caps are ornamented with the instruments of our Lord's passion; each compartment has a moulded panel in the form of a vesica, filled in with a cross of inlaid woods. Above the altar is a canopy, decorated in gold and colours, from a sketch by the architects, and contains monograms of our Lord and the patron saint, and the emblem of the blessed Sacrament. The whole of the chancel is richly tiled with Minton's tiles, arranged in patterns so as to be richer in effect as they are nearer the altar. The lectern is of brass, and was presented by Mr. Wm. Naylor, of Preston. The pulpit (presented by Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Esq., patron) is placed at the north-east angle of the nave, is supported on three red marble columns with moulded bases and carved caps; it is in plan a half octagon, the angles having black moulded columns with carved caps and moulded bands and bases, resting on a moulded impost, and supporting a bold cornice on each side; the octagon has a moulded vesica-shaped panel with a red cross, inlaid at the centre and corners with white alabaster on a green ground. The main body of the pulpit is of Caen stone; it is approached by four steps, and provided with an open brass desk. The body of the church is fitted with pitch pine open benches, of plain but bold design, the floor under them being boarded, while the passages are tiled with red, blue, and buff tiles, arranged in patterns by the architects. Externally, the church, as seen from the village, presents to the view a gable enclosing a three-light window with traceried head, a two-light traceried one on either side, a projecting gabled porch in the centre, the sill of the three-light being kept above the ridge of the porch, which has a very novel and spirited effect; and the whole is surmounted by a stone cross. On the south side is the aisle, with a lean-to roof and a two-light traceried window; and on the north side the tower and spire, which is between 80 and 90 feet high. On the ground floor of the tower is an arched and moulded doorway, with Mansfield stone columns and carved caps and moulded bases. Some 10 or 12 feet above the top of this will be fixed a clock, in memory of the late Sir Thomas D. Hesketh, Bart., the gift of Lady Hesketh; and above this are very bold two-light belfry windows with columns, with cap and bases, the heads being pierced with quatrefoils and enclosed in labels. Each side of the tower is gabled above this, and is finished with ornamental terminals and light iron crosses. The springing of these four gables is also the springing of the spire—a novel treatment, and one we do not remember to have seen before, but one that gives a continental appearance to this part of the church. The general style is geometric Gothic, or middle pointed, and the materials used are red Rufford bricks, with black bricks introduced as bands and in arches, with Scarisbrick stone for dressings, window tracery, &c. It was built by Messrs. Sale and Hunt, of Southport, from the designs and under the superintendence of Messrs. Danson and Davies, architects, Dale-street, Liverpool, who also designed the pulpit, altar-table, and reredos. Both the external and internal effects of this church are very good, though it is easy to see the greater degree of study that has been bestowed on the interior. Considering its small cost, it may fairly be considered a marvel of economy.

The acoustic properties of the building are all that can be desired. The pulpit, reredos, and carving have been executed by Mr. Rogerson, Renshaw-street, Liverpool, from designs by the architects.

The stained glass windows which are six in number, were supplied by Bro. Jas. A. Forrest, of Liverpool, and have been much admired. The subjects represented in the great east window are, The Annunciation, The Last Supper, The Entombment, and The Ascension. The memorial windows contain representations respectively of The Worship of the Magi, The Good Samaritan, Clothing the Naked, Feeding the Poor, The Call of Nathaniel, and The Good Shepherd.

Between thirty and forty clergymen attended at the opening service, and amongst those present were, Bro. the Rev. H. G. Vernon, M.A., P.P.G.C.; the Ven. Archdeacon Durnford, of Manchester; Revs. J. F. Goggin, rector of Rufford; M. Fletcher, J. Sparling, W. Wannop, P. S. O'Brien, R. Wilde, R. O'Brien, R. Martin, J. Astbury, O. F. Clinton, — Williams, H. Postance, C. Newbold, J. Taylor, J. L. Burke, W. L. Seymour, — Crawshaw, — Scholfield, — Griffiths, — Simmonds, and — Jellicoe.

There was full choral service, the principal voices being Bros. Haswell, D. Jones, P.M.; T. J. Hughes, Lodge 216; T. Armstrong, P.P.J.D., assisted by the boys of the choir of St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool. The "Te Deum" was Young's in G, the "Benedictus" was sung to a Gregorian chant, the anthem was "Behold how good and joyful" (C. Whitfield), and the "Kyrie" was of Mendelssohn's setting. Bro. Joseph Skeaf, P.G. Org., presided with his usual ability at the organ, which is a temporary instrument in pine case, containing seven stops, erected by Messrs. Rushworth and Sons, Islington, Liverpool. As a whole, the choral service was rendered with true devotional spirit, the anthem especially being given with impressive effect. The congregation which was a crowded one—in fact, many persons were unable to gain admittance—listened with great earnestness to a sermon preached by the Ven. Archdeacon Durnford, of Manchester, from 1st Chronicles, xxi. chap., 23rd and following verses. The Ven. Archdeacon, who preached in his surplice and hood, strongly advocated the free and open church system, choral music, and ample, but not inappropriate or excessive, church decoration. He also congratulated the congregation that, thanks to the spirit and liberality of the owners and tillers of the soil in the township, it was unnecessary to ask them on that occasion to contribute towards the expenses of the undertaking; and, finally, he warmly eulogised the architects for their skill in designing, and the workmen for erecting, a house worthy to be called a temple and abode of the Living God.

At the conclusion of the service the Masonic brethren returned to the Old Hall, where the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed; and at two o'clock they sat down to a liberal and substantial luncheon, provided for them by Sir Thomas Hesketh, Bart., at the Hesketh Arms, and presided over by Bro. H. S. Alpass, P.G. Secretary. "The Queen and the Craft," having been honoured, as Freemasons well know how to honour the head of the nation, the Chairman gave, "Bro. the Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," and then the "Health of the Earl of Zetland, M.W. G.M. of England," remarking that great thanks were due to his lordship, for the twenty-five years of unremitting zeal that he had displayed in the cause of Masonry. (The toast was cordially received.)

The CHAIRMAN in giving "The health of the R.W. the P.G.M. of West Lancashire, Bro. Sir T. G. Fermor-Hesketh, Bart., M.P., and thanks to him for his liberal entertainment," said that was Bro. Hesketh's birthday, and he was sure they would all wish him "Many happy returns of the day." (Applause.) Everyone who had had the pleasure of being in the society of Sir Thomas, well knew his kindness and affability. (Hear, hear.) He was at all times anxious to do everything he could for the welfare and advancement of the Craft, to which he had been from time to time of great service. (Hear, hear.) Sir Thomas ruled his province with a firm but a kind hand, the way in which the brethren should be ruled; but he (Bro. Alpass) was glad to say that of late years the Craft in the province had called for very little exercise of his powers.

The toast was received with enthusiasm, and after the health of Bro. Alpass had been duly honoured, the brethren rose to return to their respective homes.

DR. LEE, the late Bishop of Manchester, has bequeathed his extensive library to the trustees of Owen's College. The library is unusually rich in valuable editions of the Holy Scriptures.

BREAKFAST. — EPPS'S COCOA. — Grateful and Comforting.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. The *Civil Service Gazette* remarks: "By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctor's bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in tin-lined packets, labelled JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London.—[Advt.]

The New Vade Mecum (invented and manufactured by Charles H. Vincent, optician, of 23, Windsor-street, Liverpool) consists of a telescope well adapted for tourists, &c., to which is added an excellent microscope of great power and first-class definition, quite equal to others sold at ten times the price. Wonderful as it may seem, the price of this ingenious combination is only 3s. 6d., and Mr. Vincent sends it (carriage free) anywhere, with printed directions, upon receipt of post-office order or stamps to the amount of 3s. 10d.—[Advt.]

## Foreign Masonic Intelligence.

## CONSTANTINOPLE.

INSTALLATION AND BANQUET OF LODGE  
"CALEDONIAN," NO. 489.

The Installation of the Office-Bearers of the Lodge "Caledonian," No. 489, took place on the 4th inst., within their Lodge-room, Mechanics' Institute, Harkein, Constantinople.

The following brethren having been duly elected were installed into their respective offices, viz.:—Bros. William S. Henderson, R.W.M.; William Walker, D.M.; James Melrose, S.M.; William Henderson, S.W.; James Anderson, J.W.; Daniel Fraser, Secretary; Henry Benwell, Treasurer; John Beven, S.D.; James Spence, J.D.; Alexander Scott, Inner Guard.

The Master having added another stone to the building, called the lodge from labour to refreshment, when the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Ferguson, the viands being of the most choice description, to which the brethren did ample justice.

On the cloth being removed, the R.W.M. proposed the first toast, viz., "Queen and the Craft," remarking that although in a strange country and far from their native land, they did not forget the respect due as loyal subjects to their sovereign lady. (Received with applause). The next toasts were "His Majesty the Sultan," "Grand Lodge of Scotland," and "Earl of Dalhousie, M.W.G.M.," replied to by Bros. Fraser, Lodge "Oriental;" Hopper, W.M., Lodge "Deustcher Bund;" Rippon, P.M., Lodge "Leinster;" Niven, R.W.M., Lodge "Caledonian;" and W. S. Henderson, R.W.M., who thanked the brethren in a neat speech, for the honour they had conferred on him; and also the visiting brethren, for their attendance in gracing this the second banquet of the Lodge. Then followed "The Past Master, Bro. W. Stocks," and "Bro. John Moffatt," a much-respected Past Master in Constantinople. The R.W.M. in proposing the last toast, reminded the lodge of the many valuable services that had been rendered to the "Caledonian," and he was certain that all would join heartily in responding to the health of "Bro. Thomas M. Campbell, of Glasgow," their respected Prov. Master, and Honorary Member of this Lodge.

The evening's amusements were enlivened by Bro. Centard, the Great Chinese Magician, who is at present on a visit to Constantinople, and after spending a happy evening, the toast of "Happy to meet and sorry to part," was given, when the gavel was resumed in the West, and the lodge was closed in ancient form.

## HOLLAND.

The chapters in connection with the lodges Goede Hoop and Goede Trouw, working under the constitution of Holland, held their annual festival (the Feast of St. Andrew) on Tuesday, 30th November. The lodges were opened and closed in the degree of Elu, after which the chapter was closed, and the Sir Knights adjourned to the banquet, and a most agreeable evening was spent.

The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—

*Goede Hoop*.—President, F. Waldek; Vice-President, P. G. Van der Byl; S.W., R. le Scur; J.W., S. B. Wentzel; Treasurer, J. H. Redilinghuys; Orator, A. Van der Byl; M. of Cers., P. G. Van Breda; Preparator, J. C. Wessels; Chancellor, J. H. Hofmeyr; Organist, Geo. Brittain.

*Goede Trouw*.—President, Van der Somdt de Villiers; Vice-President, J. Yallop; S.W., F. Berghuis; J.W., O. Hickfang; Treasurer, L. de Roos; Orator, N. McIntyre; M. of Cers., J. Shipper; Preparator, L. Lopes; Chancellor, C. H. Marting; Organist, W. Brandt.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.—William W. B. Beach, Esq., M.P., Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, has consented to preside at the anniversary festival of this institution on the 11th May next.

BRO. P. L. SIMMONDS, P.M. 141, 554, who is as well known in Masonry as for his numerous scientific works, has brought out with the new year, a monthly newspaper, under the title of "The Journal of Applied Science," which promises to be exceedingly useful to commercial men.

It is stated that the Papal authorities, doubting their ability to suppress obnoxious operas, have now resolved to try if they can alter them so as to make them harmonize with Romish ideas. Raoul, in the "Huguenots," is to be made of the correct Ultramontane pattern, and will be killed off by wicked Protestant heretics. Faust is to be a chemist, and Mephistopheles a doctor.—*Musical Standard*.

## Poetry.

## LINES ON THE DEAD YEAR.

BY BRO. WILLIAM SAWYER.

The ivy over-shines the wall,  
Her purple poison berries shed;  
Ash-clusters blacken to their fall:  
The year is dead.

A fleck of amber in the cloud  
That swathes the east is dawn and light,  
And day, that gloom and mist enshroud,  
Makes welcome night.

As one who, seeing life depart,  
Ponders the wonder of our lives,  
So, at the dead year's feet, my heart  
Strange thought revives.

I think of one, a blossom set  
Shining amid the snows of years;  
Sweet in remembrance, in regret,  
Even in tears.

I see the bright rose of her face  
Flushed with the tender flush of youth,  
And murmur, amorous of its grace,  
"Blue eyes for truth."

Blue eyes—the summer sky less blue—  
They were my rapture, my despair;  
I knew them bright, and felt them true,  
Blue eyes that were.

Again I watch the cloud that lends  
The future all its rainbow dyes;  
Again its veil the Phantom rends  
And rapture flies.

The anguish of each winter day  
Comes back into my heart anew;  
The charms death could not steal away  
Once more I view.

And in the wailing of the winds,  
The moan of branches swaying bare,  
Again my soul re-echoed finds  
Its own despair.

The ivy over-shines the wall,  
The berries of the ash are shed;  
Under the holly's coronal  
The year lies dead.

—*Darlington Gazette*.

## BRIGHTER DAYS IN STORE.

BY BRO. A. C. SWAIN.

Faith and Hope are ever strong  
Within the Mason's breast,  
In all life's trials he seldom fails  
On Providence to rest.  
His sufferings may be severe,  
He may be very poor,  
Yet cheering thoughts sustain him still  
Of brighter days in store.

He feels that one above sees all,  
Each trial he undergoes  
A pitying Father witnesses,  
And all his anguish knows.  
That Father's kind though unseen hand,  
Hath guided him before,  
And thus he rests upon the hope  
Of brighter days in store.

A pleasure that he would not lose,  
Is trusting faith in God,  
Which renders him resign'd to bear  
Afflictions chast'ning rod.  
Patient and calm in every grief,  
He hopes yet more and more,  
Still solaced by the blessed thought  
Of brighter days in store.

A SOMEWHAT acrimonious correspondence between Bro. Mackersey, G.S.E. of Scotland, and Bro. Binckes, G. Secretary of the Mark G. L. of England, with reference to the position of the Mark degree in England, has been published in the columns of a contemporary. The stupid expression of "spurious" is applied to English Mark Masonry, which is older, and quite as respectable as the degree practised in Scotland. Our views on the subject will be found in our article in this impression.

MR. PALMER, the celebrated Arabic scholar, travelling Fellow of the University of Cambridge, has arrived in Arabia, where he and a friend will spend some months among the Arabs of the unknown district bordering upon Sinai. The object of Mr. Palmer is to learn and record the legends believed to be still existing there, as to the passage of the Israelites and their sojourning in the neighbourhood. Mr. Palmer has undertaken this difficult task for the Palestine Exploration Society.

EARL DE GREY AND RIPON AT  
ROTHERHAM.

The foundation stone of a new hospital and infirmary, at Rotherham, was laid with Masonic honours, on Wednesday, by the Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, K.G., Lord President of the Council, Deputy Grand Master of England, and Provincial Grand Master of the West Riding.

The noble Earl referred to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales having consented to take the chair at the approaching Festival of the Masonic Institution for Boys, and expressed the pleasure he felt in announcing this first public Masonic act on the part of His Royal Highness, who would, doubtless, receive the hearty support of the Craft upon the occasion.

## LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 19th instant. Bro. T. Fenn, P.A.G.D.C., presided, and there were also present: Bros. J. Hervey, G.S.; J. Savage, J. Udall, P.G.D.'s; H. Empson, P.G.S.B.; J. Nunn, G.S.B.; J. Smith, P.G.P.; J. Brett, A.G.P.; and a number of W.M.'s and P.M.'s.

Eighteen cases were relieved, including recommendations for grants, to the extent of £315.

SHEERNESS.—It will be in the recollection of our readers that two of the trial crew of H.M. gunvessel Thistle at the time of the explosion, which occasioned such melancholy results, viz.:—Joseph Lawrence, stoker; and John Dacr, fitter; were Freemasons. The brethren of the two lodges in Sheerness, "Adam's" and "De Shurland," in the exercise of that Christian charity and brotherly affection, for which Freemasonry is so eminently distinguished, attended their remains to their final resting-place. Not content with this public token of regard for the deceased brethren, it is now intended to place at the head of the graves in which they lie side by side, a memorial stone, suitably inscribed. To do this, a subscription is being made among the brethren of the lodges above-named, Bro. J. T. Nixon, of "Adam's" being Treasurer. We mention the fact now in order that those brethren who might be disposed, but who have not hitherto contributed, may have the opportunity of doing so on or before the first Tuesday in February next.

THE MANUFACTURE OF NOVELS.—Novel writing is becoming a regular branch of manufacture. You catch a literary man who has failed in making either a reputation or a fortune in writing stories. He must, however, have some literary skill, and the sort of invention which in one chapter blows up all the characters in a steamboat, and in the next brings them down miraculously escaped. He must be facile in French, and have a good acquaintance with novels in that language. To these novels, guided by his own fancy, if he happen to have any, he goes for ideas, situations, plots complete; and then, at hack-pay, sketches out his work, and fills it in to the best of his ability. The work is now ready for an "eminent hand." A touch here by the eminent hand, a touch there, a chapter re-written, an incident subordinated, a scene heightened—behold your new novel, turned out with the rapidity of machine work, and with about as much pretension to be "English literature." "Favourable notices" can always be got from journals of the starved apothecary stamp, and the trade pays. Of course we know what the observation upon that will be: Michael Angelo painted pictures upon a similar plan, and Alexandre Dumas is said to have fabricated his romances in like manner. But there is a distinction between a combination of various kinds and degrees of skill, and a conspiracy to blend into a new shape selected plunder from the produce of other people's skill; and this distinction is one which cannot be bridged by the most good-natured criticism in the world.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—DERANGED STOMACH, SICK HEADACHE.—Our comfort, happiness, and security depend on the knowledge that most diseases originate by apparently a trifling beginning, and the large proportion of them spring from inattention to the stomach. Professor Holloway has turned this knowledge to useful account by discovering medicine which rectify the error as soon as it is seen, and save the system from loss of appetite, strength, and energy, which are without exception the attendants on disordered digestion. They ward off, likewise, the torturing sick headache. The Ointment should be well rubbed twice daily over the stomach, liver, and bowels; to them it penetrates, and upon them it immediately exerts its renovating influence.

**METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS**  
For the Week ending January 29, 1870.

**MONDAY, JAN. 24.**  
Lodge 4, "R. Somerset House and Inverness," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 26, "Castle of Harmony," Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.  
" 28, "Old King's Arms," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 183, "Unity," London Tav., Bishopsgate-street.  
" 902, "Burgoyne," Anderton's, Fleet-street.  
Chap. 25, "Robert Burns," Freemasons' Hall.  
Kent Mark Masters' Lodge of Instruction, Lyceum Tav., 354, Strand, at 7.30; Bro. C. Swan, Preceptor.  
Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (174), Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Station, at 7.  
Wellington Lodge of Instruction, White Swan Tavern, Deptford, at 8.  
Camden Lodge of Instruction (704), Adelaide Tavern, Haverstock-hill, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.  
Eastern Star Lodge of Instruction (95), Royal Hotel, Mile-end-road, at 7.30; Bro. E. Gottheil, Preceptor.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 25.**  
Lodge 14, "Tuscan," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 92, "Moira," London Tavern, Bishopsgate-st.  
" 141, "Faith," Anderton's, Fleet-street.  
" 145, "Prudent Brethren," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 186, "Industry," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 205, "Israel," Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars.  
" 259, "Prince of Wales," Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.  
" 1158, "Southern Star," Montpelier Tav., Walworth.  
" 1196, "Urban," Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.  
Chap. 21, "Cyprus," Ship & Turtle, Leadenhall-st.  
Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.  
Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Palmerston Tav., Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, at 7.30.  
Royal Union Lodge of Instruction (382), Hotel de Cologne, 60 and 61, Haymarket, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.  
Faith Lodge of Instruction, Metropolitan Railway, Victoria Station, at 8; Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, Preceptor, 382  
Yarborough Lodge of Instruction, Green Dragon, Stepney, at 8; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.  
Prince Fredk. William Lodge of Instruction (753) Knights of St. John's Tavern, St. John's-wood; Bro. F. G. Baker, Preceptor.  
Prestonian Club of Instruction (for M.M.'s only), Lyceum Tavern, Strand.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26.**  
Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons.  
Lodge 2, "Antiquity," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 507, "United Pilgrims," Horns Tav., Kennington.  
Lodge 754, "High Cross," White Hart, Tottenham.  
" 871, "Royal Oak," Royal Oak, Deptford.  
" 898, "Temperance in the East," private Assembly Rooms, 6, Newby-place, Poplar.  
Chap. 753, "Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John's Hotel, St. John's Wood.  
Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8.  
United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), Bull & Gate, Kentish Town-road, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.  
Israel Lodge of Instruction, Rising Sun Tavern, Globe-road, at 7.30; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.  
Confidence Lodge of Instruction (193), Railway Tavern, Railway-place, Fenchurch-street, at 7.  
Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, The Grapes Tavern, Duke-street, Manchester-square, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, P.G.P., Preceptor.  
New Concord Lodge of Instruction, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, at 8; Bro. C. H. Pedler, Preceptor.  
Sydney Lodge of Instruction (829), Cambridge Hotel, Upper Norwood, at 7.30.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 27.**  
General Committee of the Girls' School, at Freemasons' Hall, at 4.  
Lodge 22, "Neptune," Radley's, Blackfriars.  
" 34, "Mount Moriah," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 60, "Peace and Harmony," London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.  
" 65, "Prosperity," the Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham-street.  
" 66, "Grenadiers," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 99, "Shakespeare," Albion, Aldersgate-street.  
" 766, "Wm. Preston," Clarendon Hotel, Anerley.  
" 1056, "Victoria," George Hotel, Aldermanbury.  
Chap. 5, "St. George's," Freemasons' Hall.  
" 177, "Domestic," Anderton's, Fleet-street.  
" 534, "Polish National," Freemasons' Hall.  
Fidelity Lodge of Instruction (3), Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-square, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.  
Finsbury Club of Instruction, Jolly Anglers' Tavern, 42, Bath-street, City-road.  
United Mariners' Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes, Mile-end-road, at 8; Bro. T. J. Barnes, Preceptor.  
St. George's Lodge of Instruction (140), Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, at 8.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 28.**  
Lodge 569, "Fitzroy," Head Quarters, Hon. Artillery Company, Finsbury.  
St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Pier Htl., Chelsea.  
Stability Lodge of Instruction, Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham-street, at 6.  
Unions Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.  
Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, George Hotel, Aldermanbury, at 7; Bro. Brett, Preceptor.  
United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, Horns Tavern, Kennington, at 7.

Belgrave Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Wellington Htl., Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; Br. Pulsford, Preceptor.  
Doric Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes Tavern, Mile-end-road, at 8; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.  
Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar, at 7; Br. D. S. Potts, Preceptor.  
Temperance Lodge of Instruction, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford, at 8.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 29.**  
Star Lodge of Instruction (1278), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7.  
South Eastern Masonic Charitable Association New Cross Branch.

**TO CONSUMPTIVES.**—A grateful father is desirous of sending by mail, free of charge to all who wish it, a copy of the prescription by which his daughter was restored to perfect health from confirmed Consumption, after having been given up by her physicians and despaired of by her father, a well-known physician, who has now discontinued practice. Sent to any person free.—Address O. P. Brown, Secretary, 2, King-street, Covent-garden, London.—[Advt.]

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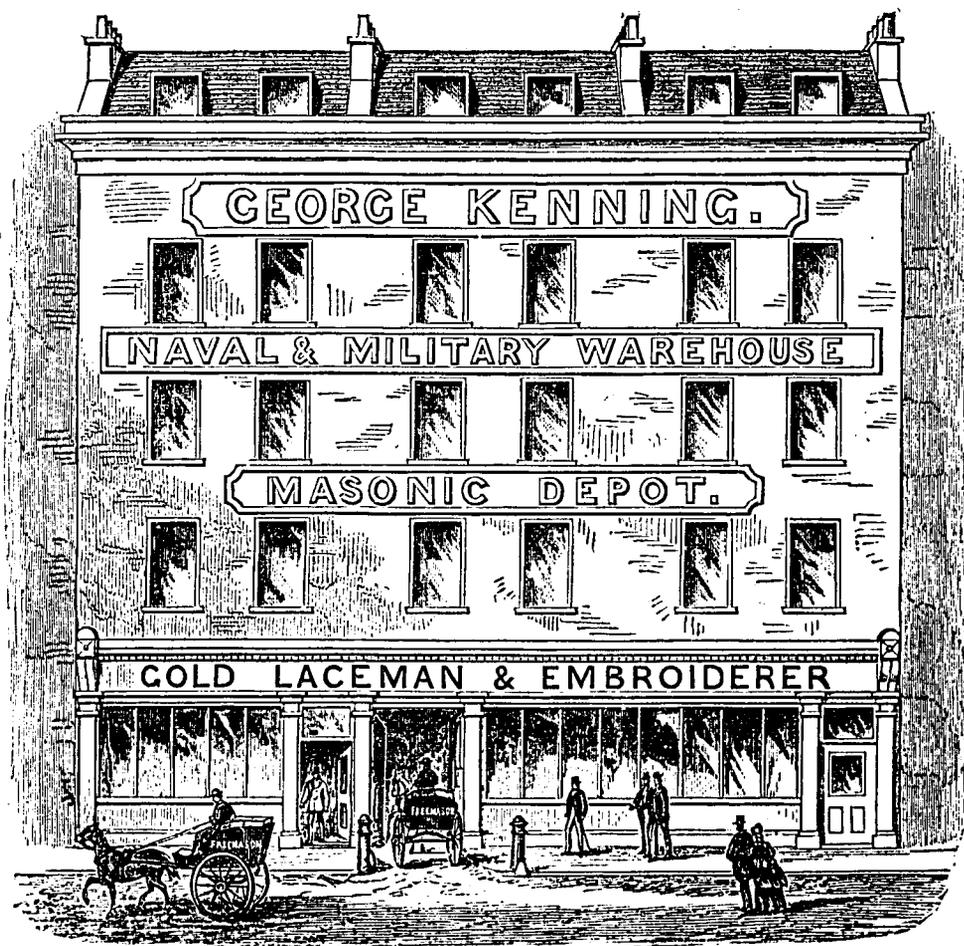
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