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THE RELATION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TO FREEMASONRY.

BY BRO. CHALMERS I. PATON,  
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etc., etc.

The great “Patron Saint” of Freemasons is St. John the Baptist, and next to him, St. John the Evangelist. To them the lodges in Great Britain and other Christian countries are always dedicated, and their festivals, in June and November, are observed with special honour. Protestant Freemasons, of course, do not worship them in any way—do not look to their patronage or intercession in heaven for any benefit—although they leave others to act according to their own convictions and principles in that matter, having, as Freemasons, no right to interfere with the religion of their brethren beyond demanding, according to the fundamental laws of Freemasonry, that every brother shall acknowledge God and the doctrine of a future state of being. They delight, however, in honouring the memory of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, in contemplating the virtue of their lives, and the peculiar excellencies of character which they exhibited; excellencies which it is the aim of every true Freemason to imitate, and towards which all must seek to aspire. The character of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist exhibit in the highest degree those virtues which ought to be the aim of every Masonic lodge to cultivate, and of which the reflection ought to appear in every brother. In St. John the Baptist we see the interests of morality maintained in the face of danger, and at the cost of life itself; for he died a martyr because of his faithfulness in condemning vice, even when the guilty party was a king, who had power to imprison him and behead him; in St. John the Evangelist we see the most beautiful exhibition which ever was given to the world by any mere man, of that brotherly love which as Freemasons we are bound in the highest degree to cherish in our hearts and to display in our lives. No wonder, then, that these should be the patron saints of Freemasonry, ever held in honoured remembrance, and placed before the eyes of all brethren as patterns to be studied and copied.

In one of the best-known symbols of Freemasonry, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist are called to our continual remembrance. In every regular and well-governed lodge there is to be seen a figure of a *Point within a circle*—the point representing an individual brother, the circle, the boundary line of his conduct towards God and man, beyond which he is never to suffer his passions, prejudices, or interests, on any occasion to betray him. The circle is embordered by two perpendicular parallel lines, which are to be understood as representing these saints—St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist—whilst upon the vertex rests the Book of the Law, the Holy Scriptures, exhibiting the whole duty of man. In going round this circle,

we necessarily touch upon these two lines, as well as upon the Holy Scriptures, and whilst a Freemason keeps within these limits he cannot seriously err. But let him look to the limits, for any transgression of them is fraught with fatal consequences; let him look to the Holy Scripture and the divine law therein contained; let him look to the lines of the two saints whom he acknowledges with especial honour, and let him see that his own life is according to the laws which are thus laid down for him—that he lives within, and does not go beyond, the circle which is thus marked.

Concerning this symbol of Freemasonry, it may be proper here to remark that it had its origin in the very first ages of the world, although, of course, the parallel lines representing St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, as well as the representation of the Book of the Law on the vertex, are of more recent date. It may be well supposed that the first idea which would present itself to Adam, when engaged in reflections on his own situation, and on everything presented to his view, would be that creation was a circle and himself the centre. And thus the universe appears to the uninstructed at the present day. The earth a circular plane, bounded by a horizon, which may be interrupted by hills or mountains, but of which the circular form cannot fail to be recognized; and every one naturally (and in some respects properly) regards himself as the centre of the whole system. He views all its relations to himself. Let him keep within the circle—let him look to the parallel lines, let him duly observe the Book of the Law, which crowns all—and all is well. But if he forgets the limits which these emblems signify, and goes beyond them in his conduct, it is to his own injury and that of all connected with him.

St. John the Baptist was one of the bravest and most noble of men. It is not necessary to insist on the peculiar circumstances of his birth, recorded in the gospels, or on the fact of his having been mentioned by ancient prophets as the forerunner of the Messiah. He was, in his infancy, declared to be one who would be “the prophet of the Highest;” one who would “go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;” one who would “give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,” and thus guide God’s people out of the way of danger and “into the way of peace.” He “grew,” we are told, “and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel.” He was temperate in his early years, and grew up to be the great prophet of Israel, the forerunner of the Messiah, preaching repentance to a people deeply immersed in sensuality and vice, or full of confidence in their own virtue and counting upon the favour of God because of their very birth and because of their own righteousness. He unsparingly denounced their wickedness, and exposed the falsehood of their confidence in their imaginary good works.

St. John the Baptist exhibited his faith by his works, and in his own life demonstrated the excellence of the principles which he inculcated upon others. He lived in an age of dress and effeminacy, and he appeared wearing a rough garment of camel’s hair, with a leather girdle about his loins. It was not merely because he was a prophet and came forward as an instructor of the people that their minds might be impressed by his appearance, but that he might exhibit the character which he desired them to attain. He appeared amongst a people whose God was their belly, and who delighted in the indulgence of every sensual lust and passion. He lived on locusts and wild honey, rebuking them by his plain and simple diet. He was sent into the midst of a conceited, arrogant, and self-righteous people, ready at all times to boast of their descent from Abraham, and to thank God they were not as other men are, and he thundered in their ears the great doctrine of Repentance, a total change of heart and life, a reform of principle and practice. The Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptised by him in the *albit* which at first attended his ministry, and he said, “Oh, generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” “Bring first fruits meet for

repentance,” he continued, detecting the hollowness of their temporary zeal, “Think not to say within yourselves,” he went on to add, “that we have Abraham for our father,” as if hereditary descent could be accepted by either God or man instead of personal worth, or of genuine religion in the soul. And then he warned them that the axe would be applied to the root of every tree; he told them that “every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire,” and that the Great Husbandman will thoroughly purge his flour and gather his wheat into the garner,” but will “burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

How admirable, also, were the doctrines which he preached! “He that hath two coats, let him impart unto him that has none; and he that hath meat let him do likewise.” We commonly look upon St. John the Baptist as the representative of the sterner virtues, and St. John the Evangelist as of the milder and gentler. But in both characters both are combined. We find here in the Evangelist inculcating brotherly love in the strongest manner, and we find also St. John the Baptist denouncing in the strongest terms all intercourse with those who hold evil principles or walk in evil ways. It is almost unnecessary to quote the words in which St. John the Baptist admonished the publicans or tax-gatherers, who were notorious for their extortions, “Exact no more than that which is appointed you;” or to the soldiers, “Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely, but be content with your wages.” Better lessons of morality were never taught by man, although the great purpose of St. John’s ministry was not to teach morality, but to “prepare the way of the Lord,” and to announce beforehand the coming of the Messiah.

The ministry of St. John the Baptist was not, however, of long duration, and the most glorious part of his life is the close of it. He died a martyr because of his faithfulness in condemning sin. He bore his testimony openly and publicly against the conduct of Herod in marrying his brother’s wife. The laws of God was violated, and the servant of God could not be silent. He said to Herod: “It is not lawful for thee to have her.” And when the profligate King would have put him to death, “he feared the multitude, for they counted him as a prophet.” “But when Herod’s birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodius danced before him, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised, with an oath, to give her whatever she asked. And she, being instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John the Baptist’s head on a charger. And the King was sorry: nevertheless, for his oath’s sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought on a charger and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother.” Thus ended one of the noblest lives of which we have any record, in a scene the horrors of which it is almost impossible for us now to imagine, not so much of the beheading in the prison, as of the “damsel” who had just danced before Herod bearing the bloody head on the charger to her wicked and incestuous mother. Is there a girl in Britain, we may ask, who would do the like in any circumstances or on any account whatever? The whole story presents to us a terrible picture of the times in which John the Baptist lived; a picture, however, which it is necessary to contemplate that we may know how admirable his character was, and how worthy of being kept in continual remembrance.

Freemasons do well in honouring the memory of St. John the Baptist. The honour that they show to him, however, is not merely the keeping of his festival, although from a very early period—from the reign of Vespasian, A.D. 69—they have recognised him as their Patron Saint. Far more honour is done to him in the imitation of his example, when Freemasons conform themselves to the rules which he taught, and their lives, in such measure as may be, to the pattern of his life. On the contrary, his memory is dishonoured, when the life of a Freemason exhibits any of those vices which he reprovod, and, even more, when in any lodge those who are known to be guilty of such vices are allowed to pass

uncensured, or are treated as worthy of honour and respect.

St. John the Baptist may be regarded as a martyr to his faithfulness in maintaining the purity of domestic relations. It was the law of God which he maintained, and because it was the law of God; but it was the law concerning the domestic relations. There is nothing in which Freemasons acquainted with the ancient landmarks of the Order, or with the purposes for which the Order was founded, can take a deeper interest. The purity of domestic life must be dear to the heart of every true Freemason. The Freemason is not to be merely a member of the lodge—decent in his conduct there, and pleasant in the fellowship of his brethren—but an honourable member of society, and, as such, comporting himself well towards his own wife, and all the members of his family. Whatever is inconsistent with domestic purity and peace, is inconsistent also with Freemasonry. The first duties of every man, in fact, are the duties of home, and he who neglects them cannot be supposed well to regard any other. Those transgressions of the moral law which are gross violations of these duties, and render their subsequent discharge impossible, are in violation of the very landmarks of the Masonic Order.

It must be mentioned, in conclusion, that the only Freemasonry recognized by the Grand Lodge of Scotland is that called *St. John's Masonry*. There are three degrees of this Order, but no other degrees are recognized at all. There is the degree of Entered Apprentice, the degree of Fellow Craft with the adjunct of Mark, and the degree of Master Mason, to which the Mason may after due time be advanced. The very fact that these are known as degrees of St. John's Masonry shows in what high reverence the memory of St. John the Baptist was anciently entertained, for the present method of Scottish Freemasonry has been handed down from very ancient times. Long may Freemasons continue to venerate the name and to study the example of St. John the Baptist; so will the honour of the Order be maintained, and that purity of morals, without which antiquity and all its traditions can give it no honour whatever. In St. John the Baptist's life and character we see a pattern for all Freemasons to admire and imitate; and trusting every Freemason will keep that pattern before him as the object of his admiration and imitation.

### ANCIENT AND MODERN MYSTERIES.

BY BRO. ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE,

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(Continued from page 99.)

There was a man named Ali, who resided in the city of Rei, in Persia. He was a strenuous Sheah, and maintained that his family had originally come from Koofa, in Arabia; but the people of Khorasan asserted that his family had always dwelt in one of the villages near 'Foos, in that province, and that consequently his pretensions to an Arabian extraction were false. Ali, it would appear, was anxious to conceal his opinion, and employed the strongest asseverations to convince the governor of the province, a rigid Soonite, of his orthodoxy, and finally retired into a monastery to pass the remainder of his days in meditation. As a further means of clearing himself from the charge of heresy, he sent his only son, Hassan Sabah, to Nishaboor to be instructed by the celebrated imam Mowafek, who resided at that place. What lessons he may have given the young Hassan previously to parting with him, and what communication he may have afterwards kept up with him, are points on which history is silent.

The fame of the imam Mowafek was great over all Persia, and it was currently believed that those who had the good fortune to study the Koran and the Soonna under him were secure of their fortune in after life. His school was consequently thronged by youths ambitious of knowledge and future distinction; and here Hassan met, and formed a strict intimacy with, Omar Khiam, afterwards so distinguished as a poet and an astronomer, and with Nizam-al-Moolk

(Regulation of the Realm), who became vizir to the monarchs of the house of Seljook. This last, in a history which he wrote of himself and his times, relates the following instance of the early development of the ambition of Hassan. As these three, who were the most distinguished pupils of the imam, were one day together, "It is the general opinion," said Hassan, "that the pupils of the imam are certain of being fortunate. This opinion may be verified in one of us. So come, let us pledge ourselves to one another that he who shall be successful will make the other two sharers in his good fortune." His two companions readily assented, and the promise was mutually given and received.

Nizam-al-Moolk entered the path of politics, where his talents and his noble qualities had free course, and he rose through the various gradations of office, till at length he attained the highest post in the realm, the vizirate, under Alp Arslan (Strong Lion), the second monarch of the house of Seljook. When thus exalted he forgot not his former friends; and, calling to mind the promise which he had made, he received with great kindness Omar Khiam, who waited on him to congratulate him on his elevation; and he offered at once to employ all his interest to procure him a post under the government. But Omar, who was devoted to Epicurean indulgences, and averse from toil and care, thanking his friend, declined his proffered services; and all that the vizir could prevail on him to accept was an annual pension of 1,200 ducats on the revenue of Nishaboor, whither he retired to spend his days in ease and tranquillity.

The case was different with Hassan. During the ten years' reign of Alp Arslan he kept aloof from the vizir, living in obscurity, and probably maturing his plans for the future. But when the young prince Malek Shah (King King) mounted the throne he saw that his time was come. He suddenly appeared at the court of the new monarch, and waited on the powerful vizir. The story is thus told by the vizir himself in his work entitled Wasaya (Political Institutes), whence it is given by Mirkhond:—

"He came to me at Nishaboor in the year that Malek Shah, having got rid of Kaward, had quieted the troubles which his rebellion had caused. I received him with the greatest honours, and performed, on my part, all that could be expected from a man who is a faithful observer of his oaths, and a slave to the engagements which he has contracted. Each day I gave him a new proof of my friendship, and I endeavoured to satisfy his desires. He said to me once: 'Kojah (master), you are of the number of the learned and virtuous; you know that the goods of this world are but an enjoyment of little duration. Do you then think that you will be permitted to fail in your engagements by letting yourself be seduced by the attractions of greatness and the love of the world? and will you be of the number of those who violate the contract made with God?' 'Heaven keep me from it!' replied I. 'Though you heap honours upon me,' continued he, 'and though you pour upon me benefits without number, you cannot be ignorant that that is not the way to perform what we once pledged ourselves to respecting each other.' 'You are right,' said I, 'and I am ready to satisfy you in what I promised. All that I possess of honour and power, received from my fathers or acquired by myself, belongs to you in common with me.' I then introduced him into the society of the sultan, I assigned him a rank and suitable titles, and I related to the prince all that had formerly passed between him and me. I spoke in terms of such praise of the extent of his knowledge, of his excellent qualities and good morals, that he obtained the rank of minister and of a confidential man. But he was, like his father, an impostor, a hypocrite, one who knew how to impose, and a wretch. He so well possessed the art of covering himself with an exterior of probity and virtue that in a little time he completely gained the mind of the sultan, and inspired him with such confidence that that prince blindly followed his advice in most of those affairs of a greater and more important nature which required good faith and sincerity, and he was always decided by his opinion. I have said all

this to let it be seen that it was I who had raised him to this fortune, and yet, by an effect of his bad character, there came quarrels between the sultan and me, the unpleasant result of which had like to have been that the good reputation and favour which I had enjoyed for so many years were near going into dust and being annihilated; for at last his malignity broke out on a sudden, and the effects of his jealousy showed themselves in the most terrible manner in his actions and in his words."

(To be continued.)

### LEAVES FROM MY LIBRARY.

BY MARMADUKE MAKEPEACE.

(Continued from page 98.)

Alaméde was perfectly concealed from all eyes by a thick bush, behind which he stood and gazed on Ipsiboé with an intense and increasing surprise. More than once, as he observed the whimsical absurdity of her equipment and her gestures, he was about to indulge in that loud mirth which the vivacity and levity of his temper made it difficult to repress.

At this moment Ipsiboé addressed the Grand Master of the Templars, and her words reached the youth distinctly. "Noble Duke," said she, "we must separate: the eagle of Citeaux (a) awaits me. I have business too with Abelard; the letter of Foulques, King of Jerusalem, requires a prompt reply; the fair Alice (b), daughter of the Count of Champagne, has sent to me to meet her on the banks of the Durance; and you know that I must confer this very night with the Nuncio of Alexander. The Anti-pope Victor (c) must!"

"Hush," interrupted the Grand Master: "in these days of usurpation and sacrilege, there are no solitudes so secret where spies may not have intruded. Victor IV. governs at Rome; his eyes are upon us, and acknowledged by the clergy!"

"But not acknowledged by Heaven," cried Ipsiboé energetically. "What matters the decision of an insignificant portion of the earth? The falsely crowned idol shall fall broken and destroyed from his throne, like the statue of Dagon at the feet of the Archpriest of Israel."

"Let us quit so dangerous a topic," rejoined the Templar, in a low tone; "who can say that, among those who now surround us, there may not be traitors concealed?"

"Are not all the soldiers in your train initiated?" asked the Lady of the Morass; "are they not all noble adepts of the Grand Order? and are they not all enlightened regenerators—all *Invisibles*?"

"Doubtless they are; and the book of life" (d)—  
"Then by our statutes they must look, but not see; hear, but not understand; obey, but not inquire."

"They have sworn to these things upon the holy rood: they know that no traitor can escape death. Nevertheless!"

"Enough, Duke. Let us walk in the way pointed out by Heaven, and let no puerile fears obstruct us. The lists are open; let us boldly to the attack. I will elevate my voice to Heaven, and none shall understand who is not especially called to comprehend me. As the monsters of the Euphrates fled formerly from my sight, so the powers inimical to liberty shall now fall before me."

This singular rhapsody of religious enthusiasm and worldly politics, of holy allusions and warlike exhortations, excited the youth's surprise to the highest pitch.

"What reply shall I give to the Great Council?" replied the Templar. "Shall the man whom we expect appear?"

"I have promised you shall shortly see him."

"Let us pray that the Prince!"

"Prayers will not suffice: Heaven requires actions also. Will it be satisfied merely with zeal for the cause? Christian princes govern, and powerful religious orders extend their domination throughout Europe, yet the infamous sect of Bruys spreads over our realm, and increases under our very eyes."

"What can we oppose to them? The factions which divide our unhappy Provence deprive us of the strength necessary to combat at once the Usurper, the Toulousians, the Antipapists, the partisans of Berenger, the Imperialists, the Republicans, and the Heretics."

"The Invisibles are numerous; their members are everywhere: in the very ranks of the enemy they have friends, agents, and soldiers. In a civil war it is better to have twenty small factions to attack than a firm and single phalanx to disunite—than one enemy only to conquer."

"But we lack a head—a Bozon. Let the true monarch but show himself!"

(a) St. Bernard.

(b) This Alice was afterwards Queen of France, and the third wife of Louis VII.

(c) Victor Amadeus, who afterwards resigned his pretensions to the triple crown.

(To be continued.)

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

*Tuscan Lodge, No. 14.*—This lodge met at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 22nd ult., under the presidency of Bros. Cornwell, W.M.; Bristow, S.W.; Hillyer, J.W.; when Bro. Sadler was ably passed to the second degree. Bro. Bristow was elected Grand Steward, and a donation of five guineas was voted to the Boys' School. The lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and the brethren adjourned to the tavern and partook of the banquet supplied liberally by the new manager. Two visitors honoured the lodge by their presence, Bros. Stohwasser, P.M., and Robinson, P.M.

*Neptune Lodge, No. 22.*—This lodge met at Radley's Hotel, on Thursday, 24th February, at 3 p.m., the W.M., Bro. Thos. White, in the chair. Bros. Brown and Cooper were raised, and Bro. Berger was passed. The following subscriptions to the charities were voted: Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, £10; Boys' School, £5 5s.; Girls' School, £5 5s.; a Jewel, value six guineas, was voted to Bro. Edward Hughes, Hon. Sec.; a Past Master's Jewel was unanimously voted to Bro. Geo. Salter, I.P.M., in recognition of his services. The W.M. solicited contributions to the "Masonic Life Boat Fund," of the committee of which he is a member. Two new members were proposed: Bro. Fairweather (late Phoenix, 173) for joining, and Mr. Ward for initiation. The members adjourned to dinner at seven, and retired at 10.30. The visitors were Bros. Webber (Rob. Burns, 25), Fairweather (Phoenix, 173), Pike (Phoenix, 257), Aston (Alfred, 384).

*Lodge of Faith, No. 141.*—This lodge met on Tuesday, the 22nd February, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, Bro. James Hill, W.M., presided, assisted by Bros. Speed, S.W.; C. C. Taylor, J.W.; Green, S.D.; Thomas, J.D.; James Pitt, I.G.; also Bros. Hyde, I.P.M.; Carter, P.M. and Treasurer; Stewart, P.M.; Peavers, P.M.; N. Gluckstein, P.M.; A. E. Harris, P.M.; Gottheil, P.M.; and a full lodge of brethren. The visitors were: Bros. Symmonds, formerly a P.M. of the Lodge of Faith; Jones, also at one time a P.M. of the same lodge; Fowler, Royal Albert; and Mackintosh, of the Old Dundee. During the evening Bros. Amos and Iles were advanced to the third, and Bros. Johnson and McDowell passed to the second, degree. The ballot having proved in favour of Messrs. David and Morris Davis, these gentlemen were regularly introduced in Freemasonry according to ancient custom. The onerous duties of the evening were performed in a manner very creditable to the W.M. After the business of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to enjoy an excellent repast, under the able superintendence of Bro. William Smith. After the routine toasts had been disposed of in agreeably quick succession, the health of the Visitors was proposed and responded to by Bros. Jones and Symmonds. Bro. Jones said it was just 33 years ago that he was initiated in the Lodge of Faith, served the various offices and eventually had the honour of being the W.M. of the lodge. Soon after, circumstances occurred which caused him to withdraw, and, strange to say that this was the first time for 27 years he had an opportunity of visiting his mother lodge. It was, however, gratifying to him to find that the lodge had prospered and increased in numbers, talent and respectability.—Bro. Symmonds just wished to add a few remarks to what had been stated by Bro. Jones; he could not say he was quite so old a member of the lodge of Faith as Bro. Jones, nor had he been quite so long an absentee, nevertheless it was twenty years ago that he served the office of W.M. in the Lodge of Faith. Since then he had been travelling in many different lands. He was a true Freemason and had a perfect consciousness of the value and high importance of the Order; indeed, the whole of his family, brothers, father, uncle, grandfather, and probably beyond that, all belonged to, or had been members of the Craft. But none could so thoroughly appreciate its utility and the mystic tie which unites brother to brother in fraternal affection than the traveller while dwelling in a foreign land amongst strange people; the hand of friendship is extended to him, and offices of kindness performed in loving good fellowship. Thanking the brethren for the way he had been received, Bro. Symmonds expressed his desire to rejoin the lodge if the brethren would accept him, as he had again settled in London.—To the toast of the Initiates, Bro. David Davis replied in a neat and telling speech, whilst Bro. Morris Davis, in returning thanks, said he had volunteered into the ranks of the Craft, and, with permission, he would now volunteer a song, upon which he exerted his fine voice in a most gratifying manner. The health of the W.M., P.M.'s, and officers were then proposed and severally responded to. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by a variety of songs by Bros. Amos, Parks and Johnson, as also by a recitation from the "Lady of Lyons," beautifully rendered by Bro. David Davies, the new initiate. Altogether the meeting was of a most interesting character, and the unity and harmony existing among the brethren decidedly exemplary. It ought to be mentioned that a circular was read in the lodge, sent by Bro. E. Gottheil, P.M. 141, Hon. Sec. to the Freemason's Life Boat Fund, and the result was that nearly every brother in the Lodge subscribed towards this laudable object; while Bro. W. Stewart, P.M., proposed that five guineas should be given from the funds of the lodge for that purpose.

*Lodge of Finsbury, 861.*—This well-attended lodge met at that worthy brother of the Temple, Bro. Bond's, The Jolly Anglers' Tavern, Finsbury, on Friday last, when in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., the W. Bro. P.M. Purdy, Hon. Sec., conferred the Supreme Degree on Bros. Albrecht, Tilley, and Senior, after

which that esteemed brother, the W. Bro. Mackey, P.M., conferred the second degree on Bro. Bass and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry Messrs. Gibbs and Wilding, and closed the lodge in the usual form. After which, at an excellent banquet, supplied in Bro. Bond's usual and liberal style, Bro. Mackey presided, and in his usual and felicitous style proposed the regular loyal and Masonic toasts, giving all strangers a fraternal welcome, after which the toast of the visitors was given in true Masonic style, and in returning thanks for that of "The Visitors," (who as usual were numerous), the W. Bro. Chalmers I. Paton said: I am very pleased to be amongst you this evening harmonising in the light, and amongst the many beauties of Freemasonry one of them must be apparent to all present, that although of a different part of the nation I meet with you in the bosom of the lodge as one of yourselves, participating in its advantages, and on an equal. In fact, men of all nations, climes, or creeds, are admitted into our ancient and honourable Order as members. One essential and necessary qualification we demand is that all believe in God and a resurrection; allowing each to choose his own form of worship, and serving God as he chooses, but never acting contrary to the laws of the nation in which he resides. Much of recent has been said in regard to Freemasonry and its antiquity; on this point I shall not dwell, as I intend bringing it before the Craft in another way soon. This, however, I do say, that we have ample proof that Freemasonry existed, and was in a flourishing condition in the year 1136 in the northern part of Great Britain. It is needless for me to recapitulate all the varied beauties of the Order; by a glance at the landmarks, laws, and charges they are to be seen, and our never departing from them, but always acting up to them, will make ourselves better men, fitted for every position in life. I conclude, and thank you all for your kindness and attention to me and the visiting brethren this evening, and am sure every brother visitor will endorse all I have said.—In returning thanks for the "Masonic Charities," the W. Bro. James Terry, P.G. Sword-bearer Herts, expressed his great and sincere gratification and thanks for the liberal manner in which this lodge and its members on every occasion supported the various charities of the Order.—After the toast of "The Officers of the Lodge," Bro. James Nicholls, S.W., returned thanks; and Bro. R. S. Hart, in a neat and appropriate speech, thanked the acting W.M. for his kind congratulations on his recovery from a long and painful illness, which had been more painful to himself personally on account of being unfortunately compelled to neglect those onerous duties which he considered every officer of a lodge took upon himself when he accepted office; but he trusted by the help of the G.A.O.T.U. to show in future such an example as would be of benefit to all of the junior members as were anxious to attain the honour of the chair of K.S.—After a delightful reunion the proceedings concluded with the toast of "To all poor and distressed Masons."

*Whittington Lodge, No. 862.*—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 21st ult., at Anderson's Hotel Fleet-street. Bro. J. Weaver, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. S. S. Davis, S.W.; J. Salisbury, J.W.; J. Brett, P.M.; W. Hurlston, P.M.; W. F. N. Quilty, P.M.; D. J. Davis, P.M.; R. Wentworth Little, Sec.; W. J. H. Jones, S.D.; A. Frickenhaus, J.D.; W. F. Smith, (P.M.) I.G., and a number of brethren. Messrs. Sissons and Bullock were initiated, and Bro. Oswald was passed to the second degree. The initiation and joining fees were raised, and the sum of two guineas was voted on Bro. Little's list, as Steward for the Boys' School. An agreeable evening was afterwards spent at the festive board, which was graced with the presence of two visitors: Bros. W. Carpenter, P.M. 177, and F. J. Cox, W.M., 101. This lodge is one of the best worked, and what is of no less importance, one of the happiest in the Craft.

*Rose of Denmark Lodge, No. 975.*—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the White Hart, Barnes, on the 18th ult., and was well attended, the W.M., Bro. G. T. Noyce, being supported by Bros. C. A. Smith, S.W.; W. H. Barnard, J.W.; H. Potter, Treas.; R. Wentworth Little, P.G. Sec. Middlesex, P.M. and Sec.; G. H. Oliver, P.M.; F. H. Newens, P.M.; R. B. Huddleston, S.D.; S. H. Stephens, J.D.; W. Hamlyn, I.G., and many other brethren. Bros. Lemon and Hayes were passed to the F.C. degree, and Messrs. Clipson and Colwell were initiated, the work being carefully performed by the W.M. and his officers. After the lodge business the brethren adjourned to the banquet table, when the usual toasts were given and well received. Bro. W. Dodd, S.W. 1194, was the only visitor.

PROVINCIAL.

*SIDCUP, KENT.—Sydney Lodge, No. 829.*—This lodge held its annual meeting at the Black Horse, Sidcup, on Thursday, the 10th ult. Bro. R. P. Atkins, W. Master, supported by his officers, presided. The lodge was opened in due form, with solemn prayer. The minutes and audit report were read and unanimously received. The ballot was taken for five gentlemen for initiation, also for two joining brothers, which proved unanimous in each case. The lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Thos. Smith was presented to the W.M. to receive from him the benefit of installation, which ceremony was proceeded with, the lodge being opened in each degree. A Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. Smith was placed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom; the Board of Installed Masters being closed, the brethren were admitted, and the W. Master was proclaimed and saluted in each degree, he was then pleased to appoint the following brethren officers for the ensuing year, viz.: Bros. Thompson, S.W.; Jackson, J.W.; P.M. Henderson, Sec.; Borer, S.D.; Fairchild J.D., and Pugh, I.G., who with P.M. Snow, Treas., were invested with their collars, &c., by the Installing Master, Bro. Atkins, who was previously invested as I.P.M. Bro. P.M. Paget then delivered the usual

address to the W.M., Wardens, and the lodge, which closed the ceremony of installation. The W. Master then in a very masterly manner initiated three gentlemen into the first degree of Freemasonry. It was proposed that a vote of thanks be placed on the minutes of the lodge to the W. Bro. Dobson, D.P.G.M., and W. Bro. Hills, P.G. Chaplain, for their kindness in attending the meeting, also to Bro. P.M. Atkins for the efficient manner in which he performed the ceremony of installation, both of which were duly seconded, put to the lodge and carried unanimously. The W. Master was pleased to appoint Bros. P.M. Paget, Younghusband and Christian, as Stewards of the lodge. After the proposition for two candidates for initiation was taken, the lodge was duly closed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet room and partook of a very excellent banquet, and spent a very happy evening.

*SHEERNESS.—De Shurland Lodge, No. 1089.*—At the ordinary meeting of the above-named lodge, the W.M., Bro. J. R. Macdonald, presided. In the course of the evening, Bro. W. Pannell, Secretary, said he had the pleasant duty to perform of announcing that the lodge was now out of debt, the last encumbrance having been paid off that evening. (Hear, hear). The lodge had been in existence only four years, and its increase and prosperity had been very marked. That was to be accounted for by the fact that the brethren had all pulled one way, being determined to uphold and carry out the great principles of Freemasonry in all their unity and beauty. Had it not been for that determination, he doubted much whether he would have been able that night to congratulate them on the flourishing prospects of their lodge. (Hear, hear). The principles of Freemasonry taught them to regard their own prosperity only as a means of enabling them to extend the hand of charity to deserving objects, and he was therefore desirous of offering a suggestion, which he believed would be unanimously adopted. The brethren knew that Sheerness possessed a local charity, known as the Benevolent Society, which was one of the noblest examples of the greatest of all principles, for its aid was given without reference to creed or teaching. The funds of that society were not by any means in a flourishing state, and its efforts, especially at this period of great distress in the town, were much impeded thereby. Help was in consequence needed, and as every guinea handed to the Treasurer would materially assist those among whom it was distributed, he begged to suggest that that amount should be presented to the society from the funds of the lodge. The W.M. said he thought that it had better be made a substantive proposition at once. Bro. Pannell accordingly proposed a resolution to the effect above given. Bro. Dr. Prescott, Royal Artillery, P.M., seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously. Bro. Alfred Filmer, Treasurer of the Benevolent Society, returned grateful thanks for the kindness of the brethren. Bro. F. Jones P.M., after commending the laudable and successful efforts of Mrs. Guise, in the establishment of a soup kitchen, moved that the sum of one guinea be presented from the lodge to the funds of the kitchen. Bro. J. F. Randall seconded the motion, and it was also carried unanimously. Two brethren were initiated, and one passed to the second degree; and after the termination of business, the lodge was closed according to "ye antient custom," and the brethren present, including several visitors, spent a couple of hours very pleasantly in the interchange of harmony and brotherly love. Several toasts were proposed, and the healths of the two "initiates" and the visitors drank with Masonic honors, and duly acknowledged. The pleasant party separated at an early hour.

*LIVERPOOL.—Temple Lodge, No. 1094.*—This lodge held its monthly meeting at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool, on Wednesday, the 7th ultimo. Present: Bros. Sheldon, W.M.; R. H. D. Johnson, P.M.; Williams, J.W.; D. Watt, Winstanley, S.D.; R. R. Martin, acting as J.D.; Gilbert, I.G.; Morley and Newman, Stewards; Wood, Treas.; Marsh, P.M., P.G.D. of C., Sec., and full attendance of members. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and Messrs. Washington and Jefferys being in attendance were duly initiated into Freemasonry, after which the chair was taken by Bro. J. R. Smith, P.M., and the lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. Roberts and Skinner were passed to the degree of F.C.; Bro. Thomas Gibson was raised to the supreme degree of M.M. in a very impressive manner by Bro. J. R. Smith, P.M., after which the lodge was closed down to the first degree, and the brethren sat down to refreshment, when the usual loyal toasts were given from the chair. Bro. Thomas Marsh, W.P.G.A.D. of C., W.L., responded for the Prov. Grand Lodge of W. Lancashire. The health of the W.M. was given by Bro. Smith, P.M., and duly acknowledged. The W.M. proposed the health of Bros. P.M.'s Johnson, Smith, and Crane; and also proposed, in feeling terms, the health of the newly-initiated brethren, Bros. Richard Washington and Jeffery. Bro. Washington, in returning thanks, said that in offering his very sincere thanks for the complimentary manner in which his health had been drunk, it was was most pleasing to him to be acknowledged a brother Mason; for the cordial reception given to him he could say that he only regretted he was not a Mason sooner, he was much pleased with what he had seen and heard that evening; he would try and be a good soldier in Freemasonry, and would try and carry out the principles of the Order in the full sincerity of his heart. The toast of the Visitors was given and duly responded to by Bro. Ashmore. The visitors were: Bro. Kearns (P.M. 241), Ashmore (823), Chudley (241), Robinson (823), Brown (1182), Thorn (1182), &c. In due time the brethren separated with mutual good wishes; happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again.

*DENBIGH, NORTH WALES.—The Royal Denbigh Lodge, No. 1143.*—The members of this distinguished

lodge met at the Town Hall, Denbigh, on Friday, the 11th ult. The business of the evening included the presentation of a testimonial to Bro. John Preece, National Provincial Bank, who has lately removed to the city of Litchfield. The occasion being of a gala nature, the lodge-room was adorned with appropriate banners and Masonic crests. On entering the eye was gratified by the appearance of a very handsome and chaste collection of solid silver plate, comprising the testimonial, arranged on a table covered with crimson cloth, at the East end of the lodge, and which was inspected by a number of ladies and gentlemen prior to the meeting, by whom also the various articles of plate were much admired for the good taste and skill with which they had been manufactured. The testimonial, it should be stated, was in two parts, the one from the Masonic brethren consisting of a richly embossed salver and dinner service; and the other, by the public, of a tea and coffee-service, the whole supplied by the eminent firm of Elkington & Co., at a cost of nearly £100, almost equally subscribed, the public testimonial fund (of which R. C. B. Clough, Esq., surveyor, was the worthy Hon. Sec.) being a little over the other in amount. The lodge was opened in due form at four o'clock, and a happier and more delighted party never assembled in the good old town under the banner of the compass, the square, and the level. There were present:—Bros. John Ormiston, Wigfair, Flintshire, W.M.; J. Copner Wynne Edwards, I.P.M.; R. Vaughan Williams, County Court Judge, P.M.; John Preece, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; R. Lloyd Williams, S.W.; Rev. J. H. Roberts, Head Master Denbigh Grammar School, J.W.; Martin Underwood, J. R. Hughes, W. P. Beech, A.M., Rev. Henry Parry, J. Parry Jones, Treasurer, R. Harrison, T. Sleight, Francis Wynn, Llewelyn Lodge, Augustus Henry Reid, John Davies, &c. Bro. George Osborne Morgan, M.P. for the county of Denbigh, forwarded a kind note regretting not being present, and Bro. R. J. Sisson also sent an expression of his regret for the same, through the Worshipful Master. After the regular business of the lodge had been performed, including the various phases of the beautiful ceremonies of passing and raising in order, four of the junior brethren, the W.M. in appropriate and eloquent terms presented the lodge's testimonial to Bro. Preece, whom he complimented for having always been very anxious and cordial in affording any assistance he possibly could, not only to himself but to every brother of the lodge. As long as Bro. Preece had been amongst them, he had been always ready to afford them all assistance and instruction, had put them well forward in their duties, and he, the W.M., hoped and believed they all felt as much as he did, how greatly they were indebted to Bro. Preece for the gratifying position in which the lodge now stands. (Applause.) Bro. Preece in the course of events, they had all been happy to hear, had met with that promotion which he richly deserved from the directors of the eminent banking company with which he was connected, and upon which they all congratulated him, although they fully estimated the serious loss of the presence of so valuable a brother to the lodge. (Hear, hear.) But having left them it was thought by the members, it would be becoming on their part to present Bro. Preece with some mark of the respect in which he was held amongst them, and the regret that they felt upon his leaving the neighbourhood. In accordance with that feeling, the testimonial on his right hand had been provided, and in the name of the Royal Denbigh Lodge he begged Bro. Preece's acceptance of those gifts, possessing in themselves a certain degree of intrinsic value, but still more valuable and honourable as conveying with them the expression of the kind will and gratitude entertained towards him by his Masonic brethren. (Applause.) Gifts he was well aware, might be in themselves but of small value, and yet be most valuable to the receiver, as showing the direction of the current of good will and approbation. To Bro. Preece the brethren of the Royal Denbigh Lodge were greatly indebted,—him they recognised as their founder and leader,—as he had made the lodge what it was, and they were all very happy that the first expression of the lodge's high esteem taking a substantial form should be given to Bro. Preece. He (the W.M.) in the observations he had addressed to the lodge and to Bro. Preece, refrained from using terms of fulsome praise, or any expression which might be considered over laudatory, feeling that he best consulted the wishes of the brethren, and that anything more than the plain and honest truth would, so far from being grateful to Bro. Preece's feelings, be annoying to one of his earnest honourable and disposition; and, in conclusion, he begged to express a hope that although Bro. Preece had left them, he would occasionally make his appearance amongst them (applause). He was sure Bro. Preece would always be present with them in spirit, and he could assure him they would always be glad to hear of his promotion. Might it not be long again in coming—(applause)—and if it only led him a little nearer to them, instead of further off, they would like it all the better (applause).—Bro. Preece (who was at first so overpowered that he could not speak) returned his most grateful thanks in feeling terms. They had really, undeservedly made him a most handsome present, and which he much appreciated. He assured all the brethren that so long as he lived he would always remember and appreciate his connexion with the Royal Denbigh Lodge in the formation of which he had been merely an humble instrument. It was to the officers of the lodge and to the members of it that the credit of its success belonged. He could see well that they had started upon very good grounds, and by so continuing they could not fail to secure its future prosperity and welfare (applause). He was quite aware that the few words he had uttered fell very far short of what was due from him, and that there had been many observations made by their worthy and esteemed W.M. to which he ought to respond, but he felt himself under the necessity of requesting that they would allow him to conclude by again thanking them for

the very tangible and munificent tokens of their regard and esteem. The W.M.'s closing remarks had brought to his mind the fact that when men departed from the place where they had been actively engaged, people seemed to find out their good and bad qualities. Fortunately, he had been most kindly judged, and had to rejoice in the possession of the beautiful service of plate which they had just presented him. But, apart from that, he assured the brethren how great a pleasure it had been for him to serve them, and how inestimable was his reward in knowing that he had their approval of his conduct, and their good will and best wishes as men and brother Masons, and which by him were most heartily reciprocated (loud applause).—After the labours of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. H. C. Murless, Crown Hotel, and spent a most delightful evening. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given by the W.M., and enthusiastically responded to.—Bro. Vaughan Williams, P.M., delivered a most eloquent and appropriate speech illustrating the true and undying principles of our Order, and showing that the mission of Freemasonry is to make men friends.—Everything passed off most agreeably, several songs, contributed by Bros. M. Underwood and J. Davies, added much to the general enjoyment.—On the following day the public testimonial was presented at a meeting of influential inhabitants, held at the Bull Hotel, the Worshipful the Mayor of Denbigh, Evan Pierce, Esq., M.D., ably discharging the duties of Chairman on the occasion.

CONGRESBURY, SOMERSET.—*Lodge of Agriculture, No. 1199.*—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Ship and Castle Hotel, on the 14th ult., when after the usual preliminary business, Bro. William Partridge, was duly installed as W.M., by P. Masters Barnes, 103; Bowden, 103; Bramble, 103; and Stiff, 1199. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following officers, Bros. G. I. M. Blackburn, S.W.; Rev. Wm. Hunt, (Provincial Grand Chaplain of Somerset), J.W. and Chaplain; Capt. Wm. Long, Treas. and Sec.; Dr. John Hurd, D.C.; Thomas Pitt, S.D.; E. Linton, J.D.; Loftus H. Ricketts, I.G.; W. Halliday, Org.; Chas. Banwell, Tyler. The lodge having been closed with the usual solemnities, the brethren adjourned from labour to refreshment, and spent a very harmonious and fraternal evening.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Denison Lodge, No. 1248.*—This young and flourishing lodge held its first anniversary meeting at the Grand Hotel, on Thursday, the 8th ult., the brethren assembled at five o'clock, the business being the installation of Bro. S. H. Armitage, S.W. and W.M.-elect, and investment of officers. The W.M., Bro. J. O. Surtees, P.G.R., occupied the chair, assisted by his Wardens and other officers. There were also a very goodly number of P.M.'s, brethren, and visitors present to do honour to the highly-esteemed W.M.-elect (Bro. Armitage), who has for many years worked hard and zealously as a Mason, and we feel certain, from his love for Masonry and his high Masonic attainments, he will, at the expiration of his year of office, hand over the gavel in as flourishing a condition as he received it. Bro. Major, W. H. Smyth, D.P.G.M. Lincoln, performed the duties of Installing Master in a manner highly creditable to himself and with the greatest satisfaction to all present. The installation being over, the W.M. invested the following brethren as his officers for the year:—Bros. J. Grooves, S.W.; J. Donner, J.W.; J. Kitchin, Treasurer; J. E. Green, Sec.; H. W. Garnett, S.D.; A. Fricour, J.D.; V. Stewart, I.G.; J. Verity, Tyler. The next business was the presentation of a very handsome gold P.M.'s jewel, and a beautifully illuminated address to the retiring W.M., Bro. J. O. Surtees, in recognition of his valuable services in the formation of the lodge and as its first W.M., for which the recipient returned thanks in very suitable terms. The lodge was now closed, and the brethren, to the number of about 40, retired to the annual banquet, which was served in most excellent style; both viands and wine were first-rate, and certainly did credit even to this magnificent hotel and its popular manager, Bro. F. Vicour. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and most cordially responded to. The toast of the evening, the health of the W.M., was proposed by Bro. W. F. Rooke, P.M., P.P.J.G.W., in very high terms, and responded to by Bro. Armitage in style and language which must have very much pleased every brother present. The health of the sister lodge (Old Globe), coupling with it the name of its highly popular and zealous W.M., Bro. R. H. Peacock, a person both as a citizen and Mason who has justly earned for himself the respect and esteem of a very large and influential circle of friends; Bro. Peacock responded in a thoroughly Masonic and very humorous style. Some excellent songs were sung, and a really enjoyable evening was spent.

WARRINGTON.—*Gilbert Grenall Lodge, No. 1250.*—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 14th ult., at the Masonic-rooms, at half-past six. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. John Bowes, P.M., &c., presided, and was supported by Bros. W. Mossop, S.W.; W. Richardson, as J.W.; D. W. Finney, P.M., Hon. Sec.; and above twenty other brethren. The lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. One gentleman was initiated, three passed, and one raised. The lodge was duly lowered, and there being no further business it was closed with the usual solemnities.

PONTYPOOL, MONMOUTHSHIRE.—*Kennard Lodge, No. 1258.*—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Clarence Hotel on Monday last, Bro. Oliver, P.M. 471, and P.G.D.C., took the chair in the absence of the W.M., There was a good attendance of members. The minutes having been read and confirmed, Bro. W. Prosser was examined in open lodge as to the progress he had made as an E.A. Freemason; and his answers proving satisfactory, that brother retired. The lodge was then

opened in the second degree, and Bro. Prosser passed to the degree of a F.C. Freemason. The acting W.M. favoured the brethren with a lecture on the tracing-board, which was listened to with much attention. The lodge was then closed down, when Bro. Titus Lewis cordially thanked the brethren for electing him as a subscribing member. The S.W. stated that the Building Committee were not quite ready with their report, but hoped to be so at the next meeting; and that Bro. Adams, of Newport, architect, had offered not only to furnish plans, free, but also to give his services in erecting the Masonic Hall gratuitously. A vote of thanks was then proposed to Bro. Oliver, for his kindness in coming up from Newport to preside this evening, and the lodge was closed in harmony.

#### INSTRUCTION.

*The Burdett Coutts Lodge, No. 1278.*—A new lodge of instruction, named after, and working under, The Burdett Coutts Lodge, No. 1278, held their first meeting on Thursday, the 24th February, at the Approach Tavern, Approach Road, Victoria Park, and was numerously attended. The parent lodge was well represented by the following brethren, viz.: Bros. Terry, W.M. and P.G.S.B. for Herts; Saunders, S.W.; Shenton, J.W.; H. Lloyd, Sec.; Tarrant, S.D.; Lloyd, sen. and jun.; Hawkes, Cousins, Harris, Balcombe, and Verry. Among the other brethren present we noticed Bros. Henry Price, P.M.; Gabb, of the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton; Hills, Denny, Dottridge, Mountford, Shellard, Glover, Dent, Franks, and Anderson. Bro. Terry worked the consecration ceremony in that impressive, perfect, and beautiful manner for which he has gained such reputation, which called forth the praises of all present. He then installed Bro. Hy. Price into the chair of K.S., and invested the officers as follows: Bros. Saunders, S.W.; Balcombe, J.W.; Shenton, T.; H. Lloyd, Sec.; Hill, S.D.; Harris, J.D.; and Tarrant, J.G. Some of the sections were then worked by Bro. Terry. A special vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Bro. Terry, as a slight acknowledgment of his valuable services that evening; and he was also elected an honorary member, with the unanimous consent of the brethren. Bro. Glover was elected an honorary member for his kindness in officiating at the harmonium, in which he was assisted by those able singers, Bros. Mountford and Dottridge. A proposition was then made that all the brethren assembled should become joining members. On being put by the W.M., it was received with one unanimous and hearty response from all the brethren present. Bro. Saunders, S.W., of the Burdett Coutts Lodge, a very energetic and clever Mason, was elected to occupy the chair on the ensuing Thursday, who appointed his officers in rotation. This promises to be a very successful lodge, judging from the zeal displayed by the promoters, who are the founders of the parent lodge, for which the warrant was granted last August and consecrated in September; and we are assured that all those who require instruction will benefit by joining this lodge, and we recommend them to do so at once.

#### ROYAL ARCH.

WARRINGTON.—*Chapter of Elias Ashmole, No. 148.*—The regular convocation of this chapter was held at the Chapter Rooms, Sankey-street, on Wednesday, February 16th, at six o'clock, Comp. John Bowes, Z., P.Z., Prov. G.S.B., was supported by Comps. Robert Stevenson, H.; D. W. Finney, J.; W. Richardson, P.S.; Mossop, E., and about twelve other companions. The chapter was opened by the Principals, when the rest of the companions were admitted. The ballot-box was then sent round for Bros. Dr. Pennington, P. Robinson, P.M., and Jos. Cassidy, which proved favourable in each case, and the brethren being present they were duly exalted by the M.E.Z., together with Bro. Hannah, who had been elected at the previous meeting. The Principals and officers for the ensuing year were then elected, and nothing further being proposed for the good of the chapter it was closed.

LIVERPOOL.—*Everton Chapter, No. 823.*—The regular convocation of this Chapter was held on Tuesday, the 22nd ult., at the Masonic Temple, 22, Hope-street. The Chapter was opened in due form by the M.E.Z. Ashmore, J. K. Goepel, H., and P.M.E.Z. of Loyalty Chapter, 86; and Jas. Hamer, J., and P.M.E.Z. 220, &c. The remainder of the Officers and Companions were then admitted, viz., Comps. Haynes, P.S.; Holland, S.E.; Robinson, N.; H. J. Lunt, Treas., also private members Clark, Robinson, &c. The following visitors were present, Joshua Hocken, J. of 220; P.M. Larsen, H. of 220; Chas. Heedham, P.M.E.Z., 220; also Comps. Hill, Williams, Smith, &c. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Bros. Wm. P. Gunnell, of Gold Coast Lodge, No. 773, and Bishop Sharpe and Shaw, of 823, the result being unanimous in their favour. Bro. Gunnell being in attendance was examined, intrusted, and admitted, and exalted by the before-mentioned officers, Comps. J. R. Goepel, P.M.E.Z., the H., giving the Symbolic, and Jas. Hamer, P.M.E.Z., &c., giving the Historic lecture, which were delivered in the most impressive and sublime manner. The rest of the officers performed their respective parts in an efficient manner, the whole of which aroused the approbation of all the members and visitors present. The ceremony of exaltation being completed, three more brethren were proposed for the next regular meeting, and after the other preliminary business the Chapter was closed with prayer, fidelity, obedience, and harmony. The Comps. then proceeded to refreshment, and after the cloth being drawn, the never-omitted loyal and Masonic toasts were given, which elicited very many able responses, enlivened by several harmonious and pleasing songs, which brought a very pleasant evening to a close at an early hour.

MARK MASONRY.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—*Eclectic Lodge, No. 39.*—On Tuesday, the 22nd ult., the annual meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, when the installation of the W.M.-elect, Bro. S. Gourley, M.D., took place. Previous to the ceremony, the lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer by the V.W. Bro. + F. Binckes, 30°, Grand Secretary, the ballot was taken for Bro. W. Coxon, J.D., No. 1274; and Bro. H. Warwick, I.G., No. 124, who were duly elected. These brethren being in attendance were, with Bro. Davidson, who had been previously elected, advanced to the honourable degree of Mark Masters, by the Grand Secretary. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Bro. Binckes proceeded to install the W.M.-elect, according to the accustomed rites and ceremonies of this degree. The W.M. then appointed and invested the officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Bro. R. B. Harpley, I.P.M.; J. W. Cameron, S.W.; + W. Brignall, junr., 30°, J.W.; E. Hudson, M.O.; J. B. Watts, S.O.; T. Whitwell, J.O.; + Rev. H. B. Tristram, 18°, LL.D., F.R.S., Chaplain; M. Rickinson, Treasurer; E. Alexander, Secretary; B. M. Gallon, Registrar; J. Hunter, S.D.; R. H. Stafford, J.D.; J. Miller, Steward and I.G.; J. Mowbray, Tyler. The brethren afterwards adjourned to a most excellent banquet at Bro. Gallon's, Royal Hotel. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given with true fraternal feeling, and the brethren separated after having spent a most enjoyable evening.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—*Royal Kent Rose Croix Chapter, H.R.D.M.*—On Friday afternoon, the 26th ult., the members of this chapter held their anniversary meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, Bells Court, 9, Newgate-street, Bro. A. Clapham, M.W. Sov., in the chair. The chapter having been opened in ancient and solemn form, the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The M.W. Sov.-elect, Bro. + W. Brignall, junr., 30°, was presented by the Grand Marshal for the benefit of installation, which interesting ceremony was conducted by Bro. W. Foulsham, P.M.W. Sov., in a style well calculated to make a deep and lasting impression upon the assembled brethren. The M.W. Sov. having been saluted as such by the brethren present, he appointed the following officers for the ensuing year, viz:—Bros. W. Punshon, P.M.W.S., Prelate; W. Foulsham, P.M.W.S., 1st Gen.; A. Clapham, P.M.W. Sov., 2nd Gen.; H. G. Ludwig, P.M.W.S., Treas.; H. Hotham, P.M.W.S., Recorder; R. F. Cook, Grand Marshal; J. F. Manito, Captain of the Guard; J. P. Trotter, Equerry. The office of Raphael, the M.W. Sov. stated, would be filled up at the next convocation of the chapter. The chapter was closed in due form and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, presided over by the M.W.S. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent by the brethren.

MASONIC SOIREE AND BALL AT SHEERNESS.

THE SOIREE.

On Monday evening last, the brethren of the ancient and popular "Adams's Lodge, No. 158, Sheerness, held their long-contemplated *soirée*, consisting of a tea party, concert and dance, in their spacious Lodge-room, Mile Town. The catering was entrusted to Bro. J. G. Green, P.P.J.W., of the Britannia Inn, Sheerness, and was carried out with the utmost ability and success, the table appointments and decorations being of the most *riche* character. The room, too, was profusely decorated with flags, evergreens, flowers, &c., worked into various masonic emblems; and, as the brethren were attired in full masonic costume, the *tout ensemble* produced a grand effect. This was much heightened by the presence of many ladies in evening dress, for, by somewhat of an innovation, the brethren so far set aside the exclusiveness of Masonry, and admitted their wives to the Lodge-room on this occasion. Bro. Dr. J. S. Keddell, P.P.G.S.W. (who we believe has attained to 30°), presided, and delivered a truly impressive address, which we regret we are unable to find space for this week. Dr. Keddell, who has passed the "three-score years and ten," and who was barely convalescent from a serious illness, was obliged to retire at an early hour; when his place as president was taken by another septagenarian, Bro. Isaac Townsend, Secretary, of "Adams's," and P.P.G.R., for the remainder of the evening. The duties of M.C. were undertaken by Bro. John Kelly, and well carried out. After tea, a brief concert was given by several brethren, Bro. E. T. Borling presiding at the piano; and then the happy family-party (for it may be truly considered so) enjoyed themselves for some hours in "threading the mazy dance." The note of separation was not sounded until the hand of time had proclaimed "three" of the "wee sma hours ayont the twal," when all departed to their homes, thoroughly pleased with the evening's enjoyment.

THE BALL.

A grand Masonic ball, promoted and carried out by the brethren of the "De Shurland" Lodge, was held at the Victoria Hall, on Friday, the 25th ult. Over 200 "votaries of the dance" were present, including several brethren from distant towns. The ball was under the distinguished patronage of Vicount Holmesdale, Prov. G.M. of Kent; W. F. Dobson, Esq., D. Prov. G.M. of Kent; and several grand officers of the Province. The brethren present were attired in Masonic costume, and this, contrasted with the gay dresses of the ladies, aided by the brilliant illumination of the noble hall, produced a *tout ensemble*, the effect of which has seldom, if ever, before been paralleled in Sheerness. The music which was supplied by a portion of the admirable band of the Royal

Engineers, from Chatham, was, we need hardly say, perfection. The refreshment department was entrusted to the catering of Bro. Hancock, J.W., steward of the Royal Naval Barracks, and gave great satisfaction. Taken altogether, the ball was a great success, and it will probably be made an annual one.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending March 12, 1870.

MONDAY, MARCH 7.

- Lodge 12, "Fortitude and Old Cumberland," Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- " 25, "Robert Burns," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 72, "Royal Jubilee," Anderton's, Fleet-street.
- " 83, "United Lodge of Prudence," Albion Tav., Aldersgate-street.
- " 90, "St. John's," Radley's, Blackfriars.
- " 144, "St. Luke's," Pier Hotel, Chelsea.
- " 171, "Amity," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
- " 188, "Joppa," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
- " 256, "Unions," Freemasons' Hall.
- Chap. 1056, "Victoria," George Hotel, Aldermanbury.
- 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.
- British Oak Lodge of Instruction, Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile End, at 7 for 8.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8.

- Lodge 46, "Old Union," Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars.
- " 96, "Burlington," Albion Tav., Aldersgate-street.
- " 166, "Union," London Tav., Bishopsgate-street.
- " 180, "St. James's Union," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 198, "Percy," Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- " 211, "St. Michael," Albion, Aldersgate-street.
- " 228, "United Strength," St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.
- " 235, "Nine Muses," Clarendon, New Bond-street.
- " 548, "Wellington," White Swan Tav., Deptford.
- " 917, "Cosmopolitan," Terminus Htl., Cannon-st.
- " 933, "Doric," Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
- Chap. 185, "Jerusalem," Freemasons' Hall.
- 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, MARCH 9.

- Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 3.
- Lodge 11, "Enoch," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 13, "Union Waterloo," Masonic Hall, Woolwich.
- " 15, "Kent," Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham-st.
- " 87, "Vitruvian," White Hart, Lambeth.
- " 147, "Justice," White Swan, Deptford.
- " 212, "Euphrates," George Hotel, Aldermanbury.
- " 238, "Pilgrim," Ship & Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- " 749, "Belgrave," Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
- " 781, "Merchant Navy," Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse.
- " 820, "Lily of Richmond," Greyhound, Richmond.
- " 1017, "Montefiore," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 1216, "Macdonald," Head Quarters First Surrey Rifles, Brunswick-rd., Camberwell.
- " 1228, "Beacontree," private rooms, Leytonstone.
- " 1260, "Hervey," George Hotel, Waltham Green.
- Chap. 619, "Beadon," Greyhound, Dulwich.
- 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, MARCH 10.

- Lodge 19, "Royal Athelstan," Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
- " 91, "Regularity," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 206, "Friendship," Ship & Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 263, "Bank of England," Radley's, Blackfriars.
- " 534, "Polish National," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 657, "Canonbury," Haxell's Hotel, Strand.
- " 860, "Dalhousie," Anderton's, Fleet-street.
- " 1076, "Capper," Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks, West Ham.
- Chap. 72, "Royal Jubilee," Horns Tavern, Kennington.
- " 554, "Yarborough," Green Dragon, Stepney.

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.

Burdett Coutts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 7.30; Bro. J. Terry, Preceptor.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11.

- Lodge 33, "Britannic," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 134, "Caledonian," Ship & Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 157, "Bedford," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 177, "Domestic," Anderton's, Fleet-street.
- K. T. Encampment, "Mount Calvary," 14, Bedford-row.
- 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, MARCH 12.

- Lodge 108, "London," Freemasons' Hall.
- " 173, "Phoenix," Freemasons' Hall.
- Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7.

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 doctors' bills." Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in tin-lined packets, labelled JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London.—[Advt.]

MASONIC STATIONERY is supplied advantageously by Bro. T. BEEDLE, High-street, Weston-super-mare, Somerset, who executes Relief and Cameo stamping on his own premises. Bro. Beedle's Steel Pen is a really good pen, and he sends 12 dozen, per post, for twenty stamps.—[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.]

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.]

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Unfailing Restoratives.—When the climate, age, or hardships have undermined the health, skin diseases are prone to arise, and augment the existing weakness. Holloway's medicines daily prove most serviceable, even under the most untoward circumstances. His well-known and highly-esteemed unguent possesses the finest balsamic virtues, which soothe and heal without inflaming or irritating the most tender skin, or most sensitive sore. Holloway's Ointment and Pills are infallible for curing bad legs, varicose veins, swelled ankles and erysipelas. They have long been famed for their power of subduing glandular inflammations, local irritations, prickly heat, and that annoying eruption which frequently springs from neglecting out door exercise.—[ADVT.]

THE BLOOD PURIFIER.—Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla. Other Medical Testimony.—In speaking of the "Blood Purifier," old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla, G. C. Kernot, M.D., L.S.A. Lond., says: "I strongly recommend it in cutaneous diseases and all impurities of the blood." March 24, 1869.—In a letter to the proprietors, June 6, 1869, Dr. Irvine, of Irvine's-town, says: "I have been in the habit of ordering your Sarsaparilla for my patients with the best results. Send me six quarts and six mammoth bottles."—For all skin diseases, for purifying the system of mercurial poisons, and building up the broken constitution it is the only safe and certain remedy. In bottles 2s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 11s. Sold by all Druggists. Pills and Ointment each in boxes, 1s. 1/2d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d. Testimonials also from the Hon. the Dean of Lismore; General William Gilbert, of the Indian Army; ordered also by Apothecaries' Hall, London. Caution—Get the red and blue wrappers, with the old Doctor's head in the centre. No other genuine.

# The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1870.

## A RETROSPECT.

THIS is the fifty-second number of THE FREEMASON. A year has swiftly passed away since we first assumed the editorial chair, and essayed the duties of a Masonic journalist. Gloomy were the vaticinations in which many of our friends indulged, terrible their prophecies of failure. To what extent those forebodings have been realised may be judged by the fact that we have now *ten times the circulation* ever attained by any Masonic paper in England. THE FREEMASON is a great success, and this gratifying result has been achieved, we are proud to say, by no sacrifice of principle to secure an ephemeral popularity. We have boldly proclaimed our own views upon all Masonic matters, without fear, favour, or affection, and we are pleased to say that our opinions are in accordance with those of the vast majority of the Craft. The columns of THE FREEMASON have been opened to the supporters of every degree and every rite connected with Freemasonry, and we are determined to persevere in this impartial course; excluding nothing from our pages, but those anti-Masonic articles to which undue prominence has been given of late by our misguided contemporary. The influence which THE FREEMASON now wields is essentially a legitimate one, and it derives its strength from the conviction, which has gradually grown up in the minds of the Craft, that we have the true interests of Freemasonry at heart, and that our labours are directed to the attainment of just and laudable objects. In the past year's work we have been powerfully aided by many of the best men in the Order, and our warmest thanks are due to them for the encouragement and the support which they have ever been ready to extend to our efforts. We are also greatly indebted to the Masonic Press in all parts of the globe for the good wishes and kindly interest they evinced in THE FREEMASON when its success was by no means assured. We reciprocate their truly fraternal sentiments, and shall always deem it a pleasure to testify to the good which is being effected through the medium of our fellow-workmen in the fields of Masonic literature. We need only add that the success of the past year shall be an incentive to our exertions in the future, and we confidently rely upon the English Masonic public for a continuance of their support and recognition, which has placed us in so brief a period at the head of the Masonic Press in Europe.

It shall be our constant aim to foster a rational and wholesome enquiry in every branch of Freemasonry, but at the same time, we shall unflinchingly denounce those revelations which, under the guise of fair discussion, tend to unveil the arcana of the Craft or of those degrees which have long been allied to the Masonic Institution.

There is, as we have said before, some good to be found in all the appendant Orders, and as a rule, the attacks which are levelled against them, proceed from men either incapable of comprehending the beauty of the whole Masonic system, or jealous of those who surpass them in Masonic and general information.

The subject of a "Council of Rites" for all the degrees in England at present outside the pale of the Craft, is one which will demand our early and earnest attention, and in the meantime we commend it to the impartial consideration of our readers. By mutual concessions much may be effected towards the establishment of a thorough understanding between the several Orders, and we believe that the time has now arrived for the ventilation of the subject, with a view to so desirable a result. Let us consolidate the scattered fragments of the edifice, and weld all the degrees of Freemasonry into one grand harmonious union.

### GRAND LODGE NOTES.

THE meeting of the Grand Lodge on Wednesday was most numerously attended, and presented a very brilliant appearance. Earl de Grey and Ripon, the popular Deputy Grand Master, presided, supported by Lord de Tabley, Earl Percy, Lord Sherborne, Colonel Burdett, Sir Albert W. Woods, W. W. B. Beach, *M.P.*, F. M. Williams, *M.P.*, Colonel Whitwell, *M.P.*, Le Gendre N. Starkie, and a host of eminent members of the Craft. The election of Lord de Grey to the Grand Mastership was, as we anticipated last week, carried with enthusiastic unanimity, and his lordship expressed his thanks for the honour in a speech remarkably felicitous in diction, and evidently characterised by feelings of strong emotion. The noble earl then brought forward the resolution of which he had given notice, "expressive of the regret of Grand Lodge at the retirement of the Earl of Zetland from the office of Most Worshipful Grand Master," and a hearty concurrence in the motion gracefully terminated the long connection which has existed between the retiring Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of England, which he has so well and worthily ruled. We may briefly add, that all we prognosticated in our article last week with reference to the other business on the agenda paper, was fulfilled almost to the letter.

The singularly absurd list of names proposed as the Committee, to revise the Ritual of the Craft, was at once scouted by the collective intelligence of Grand Lodge, and the whole subject is now relegated to Hades, thanks to the bad generalship displayed by our would-be Masters.

However, one great work was achieved when Bro. Clabon's comprehensive reforms respecting the administration of the Fund of Benevolence received the deliberate sanction of Grand Lodge, and we heartily congratulate that worthy brother, as well as the Order at large, upon the successful result of his Masonic labours.

The less we say about the motion for restricting the Grand Master's term of office the better; but after the warning we gave last week nothing but a crushing defeat could have been expected by the promoters of the measure. We ourselves, and at least thirty of our friends preferred leaving Grand Lodge when the debate came on, rather than lend the sanction of our presence to a proposition which, under present circumstances, had all the appearance of a vote of want of confidence in the newly-elected Chief of the Order, whom it is now our duty to support freely and loyally.

A withdrawal of the motion even on Wednesday would have commanded the sympathy and approval of Grand Lodge; but, as it is, the proposal is now practically done to death by those whose past experience and services led us to anticipate that, under their leadership, the question would have been decided in the affirmative.

However, we are now quite satisfied to rely upon the judgment and good taste of our Most Worshipful Grand Master-Elect, whose reign we sincerely hope will be long, prosperous, and happy.

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

DATE OF MOTHER KILWINNING LODGE, OR NO. 0 ON THE ROLL OF THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

Some say this lodge dates from the building of Kilwinning Abbey in Scotland in the year 1140. Others say it is not so old. Again others say it is older. Would some member of this lodge kindly communicate to THE FREEMASON the date adopted by the lodge?

ONE WHO WISHES FACTS.

#### OLD MASONIC WORKS.

If time will allow I intend writing an early "History of Royal Arch Masonry," to be issued if possible before this year ends. Any brethren in possession of works of value relating to the subject, or can afford me any information respecting the working of the Royal Arch Degree during the last century, and especially from A.D. 1740 to A.D. 1780, will confer a favour, and, I trust, also promote the interests of Freemasonry by communicating (direct) with

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN,  
P.M. No. 131, Prov. G. Sec. Cornwall.  
The High Cross, Truro, Cornwall.

#### MASONIC REVIVAL.

Allow me to express my sympathy with the able remarks of Bro. Carpenter at page 105. We must think more of our principles and less of our pretensions; we must support the truth in defiance of all old notions, for truth alone will stand to the end. As Masons let us let us be honest at heart, then may we fearlessly stand by our principles, whether our age be 150 or 1050. We must have more true light amongst us than we have for long past had; we want something that will bring in, and keep in, men of the highest intelligence in the scientific and literary worlds amongst us. § ——— LEO.

In No. 26 of *The Tattler*, for 9th June, 1709, I find this passage, which seems to dispose of some of Bro. Leo's ill-considered theories as to "1717" Freemasonry. The allusion made is to certain fops known then as "Pretty Fellows":—

"You see them accost each other with effeminate airs—they have their signs and tokens like *Freemasons*."

In my humble opinion the writings of "Leo" are to be classed with those of one Pinkerton, whose anti-masonic lucubrations have been recently published, to the disgust of many brethren, in the columns of your contemporary, the *F.M.M.* HOMO.

We are sorry that through pressure of matter we are again obliged to leave over several important communications.

## UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday last at Freemasons' Hall, the EARL DE GREY AND RIPON, K.G. occupied the chair as M.W. Grand Master; Earl Percy, S.G.W.; Algernon Perkins, as J.G.W.; Lord de Tabley, as Deputy G. Master; Rev. C. J. Martyn, G. Chaplain; J. Cooper Forster, G.D.; W. P. Scott, G.D.; Sir Albert Woods, (Garter), G.D. Cer.; Æneas J. McIntyre, G. Registrar; A. J. P. Powell, G.D.; L. Tomkins, G.D.; Samuel Tomkins, G. Treas.; John Hervey, G. Sec.; Joshua Nunn, G.S.B.; William Ough, G.P.; James Brett, Asst. G.P.; Chas. B. Payne, G.T., and among the Past G. Officers and Brethren we noticed the following:—W. B. B. Beach, P.G.M. Hants. and Isle of Wight; R. J. Bagshaw, P.G.M. Essex; Samuel Rawson, P.G.M. China; Lord Sherborne, P.G.M. Gloucestershire; Colonel F. Burdett, P.G.M. Middlesex; Le Gendre Starkie, John Havers, and V. Williamson, P.G. Wardens; Rev. Davy and Rev. J. Simpson, P.G. Chaplains; F. Roxburgh, P.G. Registrar; J. Ll. Evans, President of the Board of General Purposes; George Cox, J. Smith, W. G. R. Potter, J. Udall, S. E. Snell, J. M. Clabon, Bentley Shaw, Lewis Crombie, Jabez Hogg, W. Pulteney Scott, John Savage, Benjamin Head, J. L. Creaton, J. Nelson, W. Gumbleton, J. R. Stebbing, J. N. Tomkins, Locock Webb, James Fraser, and Hutton Gregory, P.G. Deacons; J. Symonds, T. Fenn, and N. Bradford, P.G. Directors of Ceremonies; W. Young, E. Walmsley, E. H. Patten, Hyde Pullen, R. J. Spiers, and James Mason, P.G. Sword Bearers; T. A. Adams, P.G. Pursuivant; Raynham W. Stewart, F. Binckes, J. B. Moncton, E. J. Barron, T. Meggy, H. G. Buss, P.G. Treas. Middlesex, Lindus, W. H. Hemsworth, Brackstone Baker, Edward Cox, George King, T. J. Sabine, Hosgood, Samuel May, J. W. Halsey, J. Griffin, J. H. H. Doughney, R. Spencer, R. Wentworth Little, P.G. Sec. Middlesex, Dumas, A. A. Pendlebury, James Stevens, and J. Coutts.

Grand Lodge having been formally opened, the GRAND SECRETARY read the regulations for the government of Grand Lodge, and the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of December last, which were confirmed.

Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART then rose and said: In pursuance of my notice on the last occasion, I beg to propose that our Brother, the Earl De Grey and Ripon be our Grand Master for the year ensuing, and I feel certain that in proposing him I shall hear no dissentient voice. (Cheers.)

LORD DE TABLEY: Brethren, it has been proposed and seconded that our noble Brother, the Earl de Grey and Ripon, be elected on this occasion Most Worshipful Grand Master to the Craft in England. Those who are of that opinion will be good enough to hold up their hands. (Cheers.) (The brethren having unanimously carried the proposition, his Lordship said): I am sure that this Grand Lodge having carried that proposition unanimously, they have merely expressed the unanimous voice of the Freemasons of England.

SIR ALBERT WOODS then called on the brethren to salute his Lordship in the usual manner.

The EARL DE GREY AND RIPON: Right Worshipful Sir, officers and brethren, I can assure you that it is with no small emotion that I rise to return you thanks for the signal proof of your confidence which you have just been pleased to afford to me. I am well aware, brethren, that the vote of to-night will require to be confirmed at the ensuing Grand Festival before I shall be called upon to enter on the duties of the office for which, as far as I can judge this evening, it will be your pleasure to call me; and therefore, this would not be a suitable opportunity for entering at any length into the expression of my thanks. But I should, indeed, be wanting to my own feelings if I were not to seize the first moment to tender to you the expression of my heartfelt gratitude for the great honor which you have been pleased to confer upon me. I can assure you that it will be my constant endeavour during my tenure of this office, if it should be confirmed to me, be that tenure short or long, earnestly to labor faithfully to discharge the duties that will then be imposed on me. (Hear, hear.) And I feel very deeply the sense of the importance and the responsibility of those duties, because it seems to me that it is no light matter to be called to the supreme government of such a body of my fellow countrymen, as those who are enrolled in these fortunate days in the ranks of Masonry. And I feel also—and even yet more deeply—the immense difficulty which must lie upon any one who is

called to follow in this great office one who has filled it now for a quarter of a century (cheers), as worthily as Lord Zetland. All that I can say is, that it will be my constant endeavour to follow—with however feeble steps—the bright example which he has set me. And, brethren, that allusion brings me to a task far more congenial to me than the speaking of myself, it brings me to the discharge of the duty which I gave notice that I should undertake to-night at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge—the moving of a resolution expressive of your sentiments at the retirement of Lord Zetland. I know well that it can need no words of mine to induce you heartily to concur in the expression of your admiration and respect for that distinguished Brother, and of your regret that we should be deprived of his services as Grand Master. The duty has fallen to me, brethren, of drawing up the resolution; and this is the mode in which I venture to submit it to you:—

“That this Grand Lodge desires to record its sense of the eminent services which have been rendered to Masonry by the Most Worshipful the Earl of Zetland in the course of the 26 years during which he has presided over the Craft; and to convey to his Lordship the expression of the heartfelt regret of the members of this Grand Lodge at the termination of the intimate connection which has existed for so long a period between him and them; and of their hope that they may still be permitted to enjoy for many years the great benefit of his presence among them, and of his counsel and advice; and to assure him that the manner in which he has always discharged the important duties of his great office has won for him the lasting respect and affection of this Grand Lodge.”

Brethren, I am confident that you will all agree in the sentiments which I endeavour to embody in the resolution. I am sure that none of you will contest that the services which Lord Zetland has rendered for six and twenty years to the Craft have been eminent and valuable. I will not trouble you with figures or statistics upon this occasion; but I have asked at the Grand Secretary's office for some information as to the progress of the Craft since 1844, and I find that during that period the number of lodges in the calendar has increased by 720 from 1844 to 1870; that the number of certificates issued in 1844 was under 1,600, and that during 1869 there were 7,000 (cheers). And I find also that there has been an equal increase in the progress of our Masonic Charities and in the degree of their prosperity. Now, brethren, I do not mean to say—it would be unjust to the Craft at large if I were to say—that that great progress of Masonry has been due only, or that it could have been due only, to the distinguished person who occupied this throne. No doubt, every brother in his degree and position has contributed to that progress, but you will all agree with me, I am confident, that if the rule of the Craft during that lengthened period had not been wise and judicious, that great progress would not have been realised. Well, then, if such have been the services of Lord Zetland, is it not natural that we should feel a deep regret that we are about to lose him as the occupier of the great office of Grand Master? We are about to lose that which we cannot replace—five and twenty years' experience,—that which is of the greatest importance in a great office like that of Grand Master—a knowledge of the Craft and of the business of his post; and we are about to lose that which is more important still, a man of high and noble nature, from whose mind every mean, petty, personal consideration is ever absent; a man who gave to the rule of the Craft a stamp of integrity and honour. (Cheers.) Well, then, I ask you to express your earnest hope that it may please the Great Architect of the Universe to preserve that valuable life to us for many years to come, and that we may often see in this hall him who will then be our Past Grand Master, aiding us with counsels to which we shall listen with reverence, and affording us a guidance that we shall always honour. And, I am sure, that is a wish echoed by every brother in this room. And, lastly, I ask you to convey to the Grand Master a testimony of your respect and affection. Has he not for his gentleness, his consideration, his untiring zeal for the Craft, his courtesy in an eminent degree, a right to claim at your hands that recognition of it? I venture, therefore, to believe that I can propose these resolutions in the confidence that they will receive from you an unanimous, an enthusiastic reception, and that by that reception you will show that the great body of Freemasons of England know what it is to be well served, and to express their gratitude for good service. (Cheers.)

Bro. DUMAS: I indeed feel it a very high honour to have to rise to second the proposition which your lordship has placed before Grand Lodge. But after the earnest and graceful manner in which you have done it, any attempt of mine to second it properly would be attenuated and feeble. We must all feel very grateful to you for having expressed our feelings so eloquently, feeling assured that we are not able to couch our thoughts in such able language as that in which you have been pleased to embody them.

The motion was then carried *nem. con.*

The EARL DE GREY AND RIPON: I have now, brethren, to move in the usual manner, “that this resolution be engrossed and emblazoned, and that it be presented according to the usual custom to the Most Worshipful the Earl of Zetland.”

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bro. RAYNHAM W. STEWART proposed the re-election of Bro. Samuel Tomkins as Grand Treasurer.

Bro. BRACKSTONE BAKER seconded the motion.

Bro. SAMUEL TOMKINS: Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren, I thank you cordially for the honour you have conferred upon me, in re-electing me to this distinguished office in the Craft. I can assure you I feel very sensible of the kindness you have exercised in so doing. If at any time another brother is placed in this position, I shall feel pleased if he finds even a greater prosperity of the Craft than I have. That it may be so is my earnest hope. When a future Treasurer may see your Lordship retire from office, which I hope may be after a longer service than even your predecessor. I trust I may have the gratification of feeling that he has filled the post longer than I have. (Cheers.)

GRAND REGISTRAR then stated the circumstances under which the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick wished to become an independent Grand Lodge, and trusted that it would be recognised as such by this Grand Lodge, and that representatives would be exchanged if necessary.

Bro. STEVENS, P.M. 720, moved the election of a Committee of Past Masters, respecting the uniformity of working in Masonic Lodges. The Grand Secretary read out a list of thirty-nine Past Masters, proposed by Bro. Stevens to serve on the committee, whose appointment he advocated. The fact that power was reserved to “add to their number” caused some merriment in the large assemblage of brethren present. [Bro. Stevens spoke on his motion, but he was evidently suffering from very severe indisposition, and under these unfavourable circumstances he was inaudible to our reporter.]

Bro. SAVAGE said that the brethren nominated, were by no means the most suitable for carrying out the measure advocated by Bro. Stevens. He (Bro. Savage) certainly would not propose to *increase* the number. Indeed he thought that fifteen, or even a smaller number, would have answered the purpose much better than the large number that had been nominated. He drew attention to two distinct systems of working in vogue, and said that the operation of the committee must fail in the desired effect, unless brethren were nominated who had made themselves familiar with both systems. He missed the names of several brethren who certainly should be nominated if a favourable and fortunate result was to be arrived at. Bro. Savage proceeded to mention several brethren who, in his opinion, should have been included in any committee of this kind, among whom were Bros. Pendlebury, Brett, Muggerridge, Minton, J. Smith, Martin, Thos. Harris, &c. Such were the names he would suggest. They did not want a committee of thirty or fifty, ten or fifteen would be sufficient. He had thrown out the names mentioned by him merely as a suggestion, and he thought that to have any good result, the committee must be formed of men who had made themselves masters of both systems.

Bro. UDALL said that this matter had been mooted in Grand Lodge some years since, by Bros. Muggerridge, Sabine, and Barton Wilson. He thought that it was left in the hands of Bro. McIntyre, and that if that brother would, he could speak to the question. For his part he should move that the thing be put aside altogether.

Bro. COOKE objected to the great number of brethren proposed in the motion of Bro. Stevens. He considered that it would be best to have a Grand Stewards' Lodge on this subject with seven assessors, who perhaps after a long series of many years, might possibly arrive at some result.

Bro. HORACE LLOYD (Q.C.), would venture to propose an amendment, namely, “that the appointment of this committee be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.” He did so on two grounds, first, he gathered that in the opinion of those around him too large a number had been nominated to give an efficient working committee, a committee which, it must be remembered, would have to inquire, to investigate, and to report; and secondly, because he thought it was the general opinion that the subject had not been sufficiently considered to enable those present to recommend with precision those who should be nominated to serve on the proposed committee. His own idea was that the committee should be formed from among a few eminent Freemasons to represent schools of opinion, and that the Grand Registrar, the Grand Secretary, and the Chairman of the Board of General Purposes should be added to their number. Such a committee, he ventured to think, would give a free and impartial report upon the question, which would probably receive approval from all quarters, and he therefore ventured to hope that the consideration of the

matter of the election of the committee would be postponed to the next meeting of Grand Lodge.

The amendment having been seconded,

Bro. HAVERS rose to make one or two remarks, not so much to discuss the nomination of the committee as to remark upon the difficulty of having a committee at all. It had been his fate to sit as an arbiter when this very question was raised years ago in a friendly manner, by Bro Barton Wilson and Bro. Henry Muggerridge. Those appointed to the task sat for many months, and the result was *nil*. His opinion was that with all the good will in the world to effect a uniformity of working, it was physically impossible to effect it. That was the result they arrived at, and it was quite useless to expect any unanimity in a committee composed of 39 members on such a subject. The King of Sweden had requested their attention some years since to the Swedish ritual, but they found that though the ancient landmarks were adhered to it would have been impossible for them to adopt the Swedish ritual. He thought it wise to defer the question, but warned them that they could not make all men's memories alike.

The amendment, viz.: "That the question of the nomination of the committee be deferred until next Grand Lodge," was put and carried.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter was taken as read.

The following money grants were carried unanimously:—

To the widow of a Bro. of the Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871, Deptford	£50
To the widow of a Bro. of the Lodge of Fidelity, No. 269, Blackburn	£40
To the widow of a Bro. of the Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25, London	£30
To a Bro. of the Lodge of Australia Felix, No. 474, Melbourne, Victoria	£50
To the six orphan children of a Bro. of the Union Lodge, No. 129, Kendal	£30
To the widow a Bro. of the St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 222, London	£50

On the report of the Board of General Purposes a discussion arose, in which Earl de Tabley, Bro. Raynham Stewart, Bro. Evans, &c., took part, as to whether the report should be referred back for reconsideration, or whether the consideration of it should be deferred. It was ultimately decided that it should be referred back.

Bro. CLABON then rose and said that it would be in the remembrance of Grand Lodge that he had proposed that the surplus of the Fund of Benevolence should be applied for the purpose of apprenticing the children of the schools; that the committee reported favourably upon the scheme; but that Grand Lodge negatived the idea. Various matters had become engrafted on the question during the inquiry, and the committee reported on all those matters. The committee recommended that the powers of the Board of Benevolence be increased; that when they have formerly given £5 they may give £10, and that, in cases in which they have hitherto given £10 they may be empowered to give £20. Secondly, that the various rules to be followed by different classes of applicants for benevolence may be assimilated. At the present time, Bro. Clabon said, personal inquiry was only made in town applications; he would, however, suggest that a visit to the house be made in all cases. The next question was whether the President should be nominated, as now, for each meeting, or whether he should be an officer appointed for a year. The same question would arise as to the Vice-President. He reminded Grand Lodge also that the board is called by various names—a defect which it was very desirable should be remedied. (The report being dated as far back as February 1869, Bro. Clabon read extracts bearing upon the several matters he was advocating.) The first motion was that the Lodge of Benevolence may order the payment of any sum not exceeding £20 towards relieving distressed brethren; £10 for the widow or child of the same, to be increased to £20 in cases of need. But that where more than £10 is paid at once it should not be effectual until confirmed. The next motion was to the effect that all petitioners for relief shall be visited at their own residences; that in the case of country petitions visits had hitherto been dispensed with, but the present motion provided that they should now be made in the case of country as well as of London petitions. The next motion related to the relief of members of lodges out of England, and provided that in the case of foreign or colonial petitions relief should be extended only for the purpose of returning the petitioner to his native land. The next was that the institution be styled the Lodge and Board of Benevolence, instead of the Committee and Board of Benevolence: all of which were carried unanimously. Bro. Clabon said the next point was the appointment of the President and Vice-President, in regard to which he also read extracts from the report of the committee, and he urged that it would be far more beneficial if these officers were appointed for a term instead of being nominated for each occasion, as at present. Were

they appointed for a period, they would, by study of the laws and precedents, become expert in the transaction of the business before them. He made no complaint of the way in which those summoned to preside performed their duties, but he was convinced they would have performed them still more satisfactorily if they had been conversant with the work to be done. By the present arrangements these officers must be summoned from the Grand Officers, but this motion, if carried, would have the effect of throwing the offices in question open to the whole Craft.

Bro. SAVAGE rose to second Bro. Clabon's motion. The matter, he said, proposed by himself had had very careful consideration by the committee, and came up unanimously recommended. As to the office of Vice-President, his own ideas had been modified by the committee, but in these modifications he entirely concurred, for in this case he certainly thought that in the multitude of councillors there was wisdom. He spoke from 20 years' attendance at the Board of Benevolence, and he could speak to the urbanity and general good qualities of those appointed to take the office of President of that Committee, but he thought that to carry out the recommendations of the Committee would be to effect a vast improvement.

The motion was then put from the throne, and carried.

The M.W.G.M. then called upon Bro. HERVEY, Grand Secretary, for the Grand Lodge accounts, and the same having been read were, upon the motion of Bro. R. W. STEWART, approved and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The memorial from the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, against certain proposed alterations in the rules of the "Royal Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons" was referred to the Committee of that Institution.

Bro. JOSHUA NUNN, G.S.B., rose in reference to the notice of motion he had placed on the paper, viz.:—

"That, provided the resolution, proposed by the Committee on the Fund of Benevolence, to replace the last paragraph of No. 6 Fund of Benevolence (in the Book of Constitutions) be passed by Grand Lodge, to move— 'That the form of the certificate required to be sent to the Lodge of Benevolence with all petitions, (and to be signed by the visitor, a member of the lodge, or some other brother,) be referred back to the said Committee on the Fund of Benevolence for details and adjustment.'"

He said it was necessary that this should be done, for otherwise they would not know what they required of country members. So little was known at present, that it was impossible for them to give suitable relief in some cases. He was sure there were many who would agree with him in this.

The motion having been put by the GRAND MASTER, was carried unanimously.

Bro. J. RANKIN STEBBING, P.G.D., then rose and said, that he proposed to occupy Grand Lodge for a few minutes, to take their vote upon an important question. He begged to propose, in the words of the motion that he had placed on the paper:—

"That in the opinion of Grand Lodge, no future Grand Master should hold that office for more than five years in succession, unless in the case of a Royal Prince."

It was his desire that the annual election of Grand Master should take place as now. No alteration whatever should occur in the present mode, which had answered extremely well, but that they should place a limit on the retention of that office by not allowing it to be held for more than five years by the same Grand Master, however distinguished. This he said was no new notion; it was but reviving a state of things that formerly existed, when it was an uncommon occurrence for a Grand Master to hold office for a longer period than two, three, or four years. It was desirable to associate with Grand Lodge as many distinguished noblemen as possible. In former times they had had thirty-two Grand Masters whose period of office was under two years. This was found extremely beneficial, and they found that when in those times a brother was re-elected for four or five years, it was for some special quality. Lord Byron sat for five years as Grand Master; he was very assiduous in his duties, and that was the cause of his re-election. It was true that in Scotland such an arrangement was not found practicable, but they must compare like things with like. They would find that certain peculiarities in Scotland rendered a comparison in this respect between England and Scotland inapplicable. He thought that the proposed change would hold out inducements to the Peers of England to flock round the Masonic Throne, which he held must be extremely beneficial to Masonry. He would put it to brethren present to consider what would be the effect if the rule obtained in private lodges which obtained in Grand Lodge. Whenever the practice of continuous re-election was adopted in private lodges it had the effect of bringing such lodges to decay. The matter was therefore of an importance which demanded that he should

boldly declare his sentiments without being thought to cast reflections upon any one. Their Past Grand Master had been most assiduous and efficient, and he made no complaint, but the complaint he did make was this, that where they had a Grand Master for a quarter of a century they had only the same stream of thought pervading all the proceedings. What, he would ask, would be the condition of the State if statesmen were all of one opinion? and what would be the condition of the Church if our bishops were all of the same mind? (laughter). Take any country, any people, any institution, any profession, and if there is only one description of opinion they did not have a strong institution, profession, country, or people. He would not detain them longer at that late period of the night; he cast no reflections on the Past Grand Master or the in-coming Grand Master, of whom nothing could be said too kindly, but he would ask them to vary the statesmen in Masonry, and make Masonry stronger, and if they did so, as it had flourished in the past, so it would flourish again.

Bro. Raynham Stewart's notice of motion,

"That no brother shall hold the office of Grand Master (unless he be a Prince of the Blood Royal) for a longer period than five years, at the end of which time he shall retire from office for at least one year."

was then spoken to by a brother who held that the relinquishment of office for one year, after the expiration of five years, would have a most beneficial effect, as it would give the Grand Master a rest which, by that time, he would need. This was found to work well at the Bank of England, where the Directors are obliged to retire for a year after a certain term of service.

Br. BRACKSTONE BAKER reminded the brethren that though this question had been again brought forward, it had been disposed of most effectually ten years ago. The same resolution was brought forward by Bro. Stebbing in 1860, when he supported it by the same arguments he had used to-night, but it produced no more effect than he (Bro. Baker) expected it would produce now. Only four hands were then held up in its favour in a very large lodge. He went on to say that if the proposed alterations were effected with regard to the Grand Master, they might as well apply the same rule to the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, &c. He would therefore end with the amendment, that this Grand Lodge declines to entertain the proposed alterations.

This amendment was seconded by a BROTHER, who said, that though there might be some arguments in favour of the motions, those against them were much stronger. He thought that they must be unanimous in their vote. They all knew how the Craft had flourished under the late Grand Master, he thought that the Craft was now in a very flourishing condition, and he deprecated any change. Why, he would ask, should a Grand Master be precluded from holding the throne for ten years? They had the power of election.

Bro. CLABON said that he should hardly have risen, but it happened that he belonged to a society where the proposed method had been in vogue, and it worked most disastrously.

It was argued by a BROTHER, that the adoption of this resolution would limit the future members of Grand Lodge in their decisions. But it would do another thing, it would compel them to re-elect the Grand Master. He did not mean to say that the resolution pledged them to that course, but if a Grand Master were not retained in office for the term prescribed, it would imply dissatisfaction. He thought it a remark worthy the consideration of the lodge, that they were called upon to elect men merely because they were peers of the realm, but because they were meritorious. He thought, therefore, that the amendment should be carried.

EARL DE TABLEY rose and said, that as Peers of the Realm had been alluded to, perhaps he might be allowed to say a few words on the present occasion. Much had been said, and well said, by Bro. Stebbing, as to the period for which the Throne should be occupied. But he (Earl de Tabley) could only say, that it would be a disadvantage to any one ascending the Throne to know that the time was limited as proposed. What was best for the country and best for Masonry was a strong Government, and therefore he would most cordially vote for the amendment, and trusted it would be supported by the majority. He would like to take, the opinion of the M.W.G. Master on the subject. (Cries of "No, no.") The noble Earl resumed his seat after one or two further remarks.

Other brethren rose to address the G. Lodge on this question, but were repeatedly interrupted by cries of "Divide."

Bro. HAVERS then rose, but was assailed in like manner with cries for a division. He said that if they were all going to vote for the amendment he would sit down, but if not he claimed the right, which their justice would not refuse, to speak on the subject. He had been so often at their mercy and their indulgence that he did not doubt obtaining their indulgence now. Within three short months

the matter in hand had been rejected by a majority of seventy-five. He believed that when hands were counted that day there was a majority of seventy-five. Bro. Stebbing had made a lengthy and most admirable speech, but he (Bro. Havers) was pained to find that there was nothing in it. He had told them of the number of peers who had presided over Masonry during 62 years, he had told them that there were as many as ten peers on the dais at one time, but he (the speaker) challenged any one to prove that the circumstances of the two periods were alike. He ascribed the prosperity of Masonry and the Masonic institutions to the long tenure of office by the late Grand Master, which was entirely owing to merit. He would boldly say that should the time ever come when a Grand Master did not deserve re-election, that he would not hold his office beyond his twelve months. He would not say that it would be any reflection upon the Grand Master who is leaving the chair, or that it would be a mark of disrespect to the present Grand Officer, but if they fixed a period during which a man might hold office it would attach a certain stigma if he were not to complete that term. He did not want to give up any of the power he possessed. They now had the right of electing their Grand Master every year, why should they trammel themselves with a restriction of that power? They must bear in mind that the qualifications for the office of Grand Master were peculiar: first he must be of the highest rank, then he must be a man of influence, and again he must be a zealous Mason. These were no ordinary qualifications, and it behoved them not to make unnecessary changes. They must bear in mind also, that a rule of this kind applying to the Grand Master would apply equally to Provincial Grand Masters, and amongst that body it would cause the greatest difficulty. Reference had been made to the Bank of England, but let them look to the hospitals, and other similar institutions; did they not find, that when they had found a good man for president, they kept him as long as they could. After a few further words, Bro. Havers resumed his seat.

Bro. STEBBING would only detain them three minutes—(cries of "Divide,")—but if they would not give him three minutes he would keep them three hours. He said he did not mean to bring this question forward every three months, but on the last occasion the division was called in question; that was the cause of its being reproduced to-night. He purposed at a very distant time, however, to bring it forward again. He would never desert what he considered a right principle.

The amendment was then put by the M.W. GRAND MASTER, and carried by a large majority.

The lodge was then closed in ample form, and with solemn prayer.

**ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.**

We have great pleasure in announcing that the following esteemed brethren have been promoted to superior degrees, as follows:—

- Bro. Frederick M. Williams, to the 31°.
- Bro. James Glaisher, F.R.S., 32°.
- Bro. Hyde Pullen, Asst. Secretary General, 33°.
- Bro. Percy Leith, 33°.

The last-named brother has also been nominated as Deputy-Inspector General for India, an appointment which will doubtless give great satisfaction to the brethren in our Indian empire.

**Original Correspondence.**

**THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.**

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR AND BROTHER,—Having waited for the second publication of your paper, and seeing that no one has answered the letter signed "Strict Justice," I would recommend him to make himself acquainted with the Rules of the Institution before he rushes into print and states that which is not true. I scorn an anonymous libeller and should have taken no notice of it, but that it might do mischief to the Institution if it remained unnoticed.

I remain, Sir and Brother,  
Yours fraternally,  
JOHN UDALL, P.G.D.,  
1st March, 1870. V.P. of the Institution.

**THE CHAPTER OF PRUDENT BRETHREN.**

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your impression of Saturday last, appears a letter, signed "F. H. G." as to the formation of the above Chapter, in which he states that "the present M.E.Z. Comp. John Boyd was the sole originator of the Chapter," an error which I wish to correct; as though Comp. John Boyd, with Comp. George States (in concert with each other) formed the Chapter, it is only fair to add that Comp. George States took upon himself all the preliminary duties of the Scribe, and the

great success of the Chapter was, to a large extent due to his exertions, which can be easily proved by referring to the two last summonses, wherein it will be seen that the major number of the candidates were his own proposition, and I think it but right to give credit where credit is due, and which was duly recognised by the M.E.Z., who, on the 1st regular meeting formally presented him with a very handsome Jewel, for the exertion he used in the formation of the Chapter.

Yours fraternally,  
△

**DOMATIC LODGE, No. 177.**  
(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—My attention has been drawn to some letters in your paper with respect to the Domatic Lodge, complaining of certain omissions in the short notice of the proceedings, and it is inferred that there has been a wilful omission of facts that took place. Now, the truth is that the furnishing of the notice was entirely gratuitous on my part, and I left before the presentation to Bro. Tanner took place, so that I was in ignorance of it, or from my respect to that worthy brother I should gladly have included it in the report.

I may say, Sir, that I have often been complimented upon the accuracy not only of my reports of private lodges, but of Grand Lodge itself.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,  
Yours truly and fraternally,  
C. E. T., Masonic Reporter.

**UNIFORMITY OF WORKING.**

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR AND BROTHER,—Many Masons in this almost outlying province, are anxiously watching the movement now going on for promoting "Uniformity of Ritual," and are indebted to you for your advocacy of it, and also for the support you are now giving to the pretty universally-expressed wish, that a Master should be required to prove himself capable of working the degrees and ruling a lodge before being installed. We trust you will not cease to wield your powerful pen in this cause until these points have been gained, and not even then until they have become a reality even in the most distant provinces. A glance at the working of the lodges in our town, will demonstrate the necessity of some organisation that shall have full powers to enforce these necessary, not reforms, but a return to ancient custom. We have four lodges, numbering close upon 600 subscribing members, and at least as many more Freemasons who have ceased to be on the Grand Lodge annual returns. Many of these would have been active and zealous Freemasons, and an ornament to the Craft, but have withdrawn from attendance at lodges, disgusted with the careless working and management, and with the frequent spectacle of members totally incapable being pushed into office, while much more able brothers are left out in the cold. In each of these four lodges there is a different working, and the examination before being passed and raised varies considerably, but a candidate is never turned back to learn better, however imperfect his knowledge. Very few of the W.M.'s are ever able to raise a candidate, and some of them have a very limited acquaintance with the Book of Constitutions.

For an instance of the many irregularities of government that have crept in, take the following recent one of many examples. An ordinarily minded person would generally suppose that calling a lodge of emergency to ballot for and initiate a candidate or candidates, should only be done when these candidates have no reasonable chance of being present at a regular meeting of the lodge within the prescribed time. Yet the W.M. of a lodge that claims to be the oldest here since the commencement of 1870, called his lodge together on an emergency to ballot for candidates who could attend any night during the six months, and after the ballot, proceeded with the initiation of some of them, although the circular calling the meeting did not contain any announcement, as usual, "to make, to pass, to raise." How many of those who have brought discredit upon our Order have been admitted at similar Lodges of Emergency? To show the discipline of another of the lodges I visited lately, the J.W. requested the W.M. peremptorily to proceed with his business. There is a talk of a warrant being applied for, for a fifth lodge here, and if rumour speaks correctly, matters of government are not likely to be improved there as two of the chief officers have been anything but patterns of attendance in their mother lodges, and another one has frequently stated he considered it beneath his dignity to accept a Steward's position. Should not a brother learn to serve before he is called to govern? It would I am sure prove for the benefit of any lodge, he may be called upon to preside over. The rank and file of Freemasons are usually overlooked. However much they adhere to our principles in every day-life, and prove to the world that Masonry is a reality and not a myth, they stand a poor chance of recognition unless they can get a foot within the charmed circle. Such should not

belong the case. Long may THE FREEMASON flourish to open its columns for the advocacy of the removal of the many abuses and irregularities that have crept into the Masonic system, is the earnest wish of

Yours fraternally,  
A LOVER OF UNIFORMITY & FAIR PLAY.

**"THE MASONIC TOBACCO-BOX."**

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—When I wrote to your private address and said that business would take me in a few days to London, and that I would bring the "Masonic Tobacco-box" with me to show Bro. Leo, if he were resident in London, I did not anticipate that the necessity for the journey would not then occur. I therefore, as Bro. Leo has again adverted to the subject in your journal, write a full description of the said box, that he and other brethren interested in the matter may know as much as I do about the matter.

The box is made of brass, 5 inches by 2½, and 1½ thick, the lid and bottom are pannelled with an orolo or bead, and both beads and the fillet which surrounds the box are engraved with herring-bone ornaments. On the bottom of the box, is engraved the heraldic bearing of the family of Drummond, Earl of Perth, having the motto "gang warily," in a scroll. The crest is supported by the helmet of an esquire, and the shield, destitute of supporters, is ornamented on either side by Elizabethan scroll work similar to that often seen on the title pages of old books such as "Fox's Martyrs," &c. On either side of the armorial bearing are the letters I.D. I enter into these particulars before I describe the Masonic emblems on the lid, as they have much to do with substantiating the date of 1670, below the armorial bearings on the bottom of the box. It will be noted that the box is of common brass, and that therefore if engraved at all would in all probability be so at the time of its manufacture, especially as tobacco was then an expensive article, and a plain unengraved box of so cheap a material would hardly have been made for it. Now, the date and armorial bearings are on the bottom, not on the lid, giving great grounds for the probability, at the least, that the engraving on the lid was executed at the same time. The date 1679 is, however, open to the objection that the box might have been made at any future time, and the date futurally added. The form and fashion of the box is undeniably ancient, and the intrinsic evidence of the coat of arms carries out the truth of the date. The only persons at that time that had a right to the bearings, motto, and crest were John, or James, Drummond, John, being Earl of Perth, entitled to a coronet and supporters, or if not then enjoying the earldom, still as the eldest son of an Earl would not use the simple helmet of an esquire. James was the Hon. James Drummond, who a few years afterwards was raised to the peerage with the title of the Earl of Montfort; so that only in 15 years, from 1670 to 1685, could or would he have had an Esquire's helmet. So much for the affirmed truth of the date 1670, now for the insignia on the lid. I will simply describe them from right to left, as any stranger unacquainted with Masonry might do:—

1st. A scroll of the same Elizabethan character as that surrounding the armorial bearings, hanging from this above a square, below cross-keys, then a Doric pillar surmounted by a sun; suspended on this pillar is a shield with a square, an obtuse angle, an acute angle, a right angle, and two right angles; beneath this a ribbon with the square, Bible, and compasses. In the centre is a Tuscan pillar, surmounted by the moon, having seven stars and three stars and a comet to the right; on this pillar is a face blowing to the right and left, with the letter E to its right, and W to its left; beneath the figure is the letter S, beneath this is a clock pointing to xii.; below the clock a ribbon with a square, mallet, and rule divided into inches. To the left a Corinthian pillar surmounted by a man's bust with a halo round the head; on the pillar a shield with a point, a line, a circle, and a square or cube; below this a ribbon with a square, level, and plumb rule; on the extreme left an Elizabethan scroll with a ribbon holding compasses, a joniometer with a sun between the limbs of the compasses; below this two quill pens crossed. Suspended by a cord between the right and centre pillar is a medallion, having engraved around it *virtute et silentia*, within which is the capital letter G enclosing a ladder, gavel, square, and compasses. Suspended by a cord between the centre and right pillars is a ring divided into inches, enclosing a tessellated pavement with the capital letter G in its centre. On the floor between the left and the centre pillar is a rough piece of stone, and a squared cube; between the centre and right pillar, a squared cube with what appears to be a gavel on it; behind both, rough ground with a tree or sapling growing on it.

The above is a faithful description, which any draughtsman can reduce to a plan, and on which I make no comments.

I am, yours fraternally,  
HORACE SWETE, M.D., Lodge 1222.

**THE VICEROY OF INDIA AND THE FREEMASONS OF CALCUTTA.**

The *Calcutta Examiner* has a report of the Viceroy's visit to the Grand Lodge on Wednesday night, June 26.

The Viceroy, soon after his arrival in India, accepted the office of Lord Patron of Masonry in Bengal, but this was his first visit to the Lodge. His Excellency, who was attended by Major Bourke and Captain Brooke, arrived at the Lodge at 7 p.m., where he was received by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the officers of the Grand Lodge, and conducted to the Temple, where the usual mysteries were gone through, in the presence of about 150 brethren. About eighty members, all in fact whom the Hall would accommodate, proceeded to the banquet, at the conclusion of which, the District Grand Master (H. Sandeman, Esq.) gave the toasts of the Queen and of the Grand Master of England, Ireland, and Scotland.

He next gave the toast of the evening—"The health of the Lord Patron;" and, after alluding to previous Governor-Generals who had been Masons, gracefully alluded to the great popularity which Lord Mayo had earned from his willingness to join in our amusements, to share in our pastimes and our games, and to encourage the liberal arts and sciences in this country. Bro. Sandeman concluded by wishing success and prosperity, health, and happiness during his tenure of office and a safe return to his native country to His Lordship, and the toast was drunk with loud applause. His Excellency replied as follows:—

"Right Worshipful Sir, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and Brethren,—I assure you that among the many tokens of kindness and consideration I have received since I have been in India, I may, without any affectation, say, I value none more highly—indeed none so much—as the reception you have just accorded to me. I assure you that if in any efforts that I have made to contribute to the happiness of my countrymen in India, or in the discharge of the more important duties of the high office which I have the honour to hold, I have been so fortunate as to secure the good opinion of my brethren in the Masonic Craft, I shall feel that I have earned a high reward. (Cheers.) I most sincerely hope that during the four years of office which yet remain to me in this country I may continue to merit the good opinion which you, R. W. Sir, have so kindly expressed. I am well aware that the position I hold is a very arduous one. Men often begin well, but by their after-conduct do not merit all the encomiums that have been passed upon them at the outset of their career, but I have received so much kindness and consideration at the hands of my countrymen that I do not despair of meriting and receiving their kindness to the end. (Loud cheers.) I have been now for more than a quarter of a century a member of the Masonic Craft, and I am free to confess that I have not been so active a Mason as I ought to have been; indeed, I must also admit that I have oftener been present as a guest at the banquet table than in Lodge. Nevertheless, I say, without hesitation, that, as years advance, I am more fully convinced than ever of the great mission the Order has performed, and is performing, for the benefit of mankind; the important influence for good which the Craft has exercised, and must ever exercise, over society at large; and of the fact, which must be recognized by every consistent member, that a good Mason cannot be a bad man. (Loud cheers.) In my country, Masonry is greatly appreciated, perhaps because harmony is not a very prominent characteristic of the Irish people (laughter), rather an Irish reason you will say, but it is nevertheless true, and the reason may be that in Masonry is found a bond of union not to be met with elsewhere. (Cheers.) It was a source of great gratification to me, soon after my arrival in this country, to find my name inscribed in your Masonic Diary as Lord Patron of the Order, and also to see noticed in same page the establishment of the Bengal Masonic Association for providing a home and education for the orphans of indigent Masons. I can only say if the intention now made for the first time in India to establish such an association prove successful, it will be most gratifying to me to remember that it took its birth in the same year in which I became the Lord Patron of the Order. (Cheers.) In my own country, great interest is taken in such institutions; the last Masonic festival at which I assisted before I left Ireland, and which was attended by more than 2,000 people, was held at Dublin in celebration of the anniversary of an institution of this nature, in which 80 female orphan children of Masons are provided for. You may believe, therefore, that my sympathies are heartily with you in this attempt to direct your charitable energies into a suitable channel, believing as I do, that no fitter field for their exercise can be found than that which you have chosen. (Cheers.) I again thank you most sincerely for the very kind and cordial manner in which you have received this toast, and I assure you that, if at any time it is in my power to do anything which may be thought

by you, Right Worshipful Sir, or by the Brethren generally, for the furtherance of the interests of the Craft, I hope you will command my services; and it will always be a gratification to me to show that I am proud of the position in which, by your kindness, I have been placed." (Loud cheers.)

After the toast of "Our Guests," to which the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR responded, the VICEROY proposed the health of the District Grand Master, who, he said, had contributed more than any one to the welfare of Masonry in Bengal,—which was received with prolonged cheering.

A few more toasts and the usual "Happy to meet, sorry to part" brought to a close a very pleasant and cheerful evening.

**Advertisements.**

**A YOUNG LADY**, residing in Clapham, is desirous of obtaining **JUNIOR MUSIC PUPILS** (Instrumental). Terms, One Guinea per Quarter. Lessons given at her own or Pupil's residence.—Address, Office of this Paper.

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"Lord Francis Conyngham, who this time last year bought some of Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne from Mr. Davenport, and has found it a most wonderful medicine, will be glad to have half-a-dozen bottles sent the above address."

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