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THE COUNCIL OF RITES.

BY BROTHER JOHN YARKER,
P.M., P.M. M., P.Z., P.E.C., &c., &c.

I would crave the insertion of a few remarks, masonically upon things in general, but bearing chiefly upon the *Council of Rites*, advocated by yourable correspondent, Bro. Wm. James Hughan in THE FREEMASON, of 26th February. Any suggestions of mine will probably weigh little with the Craft, but they are, nevertheless, the result of no little experience in the working of every branch of our Ancient Order, and are now offered for what the Order generally may consider them worth; premising that a search in the archives of Grand Lodge might possibly lead to the discovery of matter which would alter somewhat the views here propounded, and help to lighten the labours of the establishment of such a Council on a sound and firm basis.

Probably all those Freemasons who believe in the transmission of our traditions from the days of Solomon, will find little difficulty in attaching credit to reasonable Masonic tradition, whilst the more sceptical will rail at all faith in a way which if allowed to prevail in religious matters would drive Christianity from the face of the earth—I mean, were people silly enough to believe everything advanced by such sceptics as are at present engaged upon the Masonic Institution. I am credulous enough to believe a *little* more than I am able to find "Minutes" for. I hold:—

1. That the simple operative ceremonial had in England passed out of use, and been superseded by the present more elaborate one of the Adopted or Ancient Masons, prior to 1717. The proof of this traditional belief rests chiefly on the Manningham letter, the assertions of Dermott, the fact of Adopted Masons having joined the systematic "Ancients," and the apparent non-operative character and peculiar working of the Adopted Masons, coupled with very great resemblance in organisation, belief, and even of phrasology, evidently derived from the Rosicrucian Institution. Truly, there is no evidence to show that the old Society of Adopted Masons existing in 1691 was derived from the benefit societies of the Stone-masons, but let that pass.

2. That the Royal Arch degree is older than 1717, though one of the high grade series. It is, in my opinion, a very bungling addition to Craft Masonry, and ought to be separated therefrom, and if it can be shown that the lost word was

formerly given in the Master degree, the same ought to be restored to its original order. I would place its governance, along with the Mark, the Arch of Enoch, and the Red Cross of Babylon, under the Grand Chapter, and revise again the whole ceremonials. The Arch degree contains a large amount of Rosicrucian information, besides which there is other evidence, satisfactory to my mind, of the existence of the degree long prior to the date 1740, assigned by Dr. Oliver.

3. That the Templar Order and Rose Croix are representatives of the same step, and the York degree of Holy Wisdom and the Kadosh correspondencies. The origin of Holy Wisdom in 1686 is not assigned on the authority of one certificate, but of *all* issued by the Early Grand Templars, a body dating as such *its working*, at least from A.D. 1760 to 1780, and the date 1686 would not have been adopted without some good and satisfactory reason. I am inclined to give due credit to this tradition, *all* rambling, partisan, interested, *ipse dixit* assertions to the contrary notwithstanding. As the Freemasonry practised by the Adopted Masons and "Ancients" was ceremonially of strict and sworn secrecy, letter, mark, and character, literally interpreted, I should be more surprised at the existence of documentary evidence, either at York or elsewhere, than I am by its absence, and hence I do not give Bro. Findel's opinion a feather's weight. If it is true, as asserted by Entick, that Bro. Ramsay made certain proposals to Grand Lodge, search ought to be made in the Minutes of Grand Lodge, and the precise date and particulars ascertained. I disbelieve the whole tale, but it ought to be considered in connection with the apparent allusions to different workings of High Grade Masonry in certain extracts by Bro. Hughan from Dr. D'Assigny's pamphlet of 1744. These two opposite workings might be the Templar High Grade system, and that of some degrees of the A. and A. Rite, then prevailing as they unquestionably did.

4. That the present Rosicrucian Society in England is of Germanic origin, and founded on English Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry. The degree of Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, arising out of the Templar lecture, whence it ought again to be relegated. If, however, the latter will not be abandoned, that would leave a Council of Rites to deal with about four varying rites, the steps of which ought to be ranked as coequal, and not, as in Ireland, placed one upon the head of another:—

1	2	3	4
1st class, G. Lodge, 3 Craft degrees.	ditto	ditto	ditto
2nd class, G. Chap. Arch series.	"	"	"
3rd class, G. Con. Templar series.	18 & 30°	Rosi- crucian	R + of R. & C.

The 31, 32 and 33°, rank with the Templar Grand Officers and members of Grand Conclave of any one of these recognised rites ought to be admitted at reduced fees to any corresponding degree of the other rite, and such concession should be a *sine qua non* to the recognition of any rite.

The first step towards the establishment of a Council of Rites, ought to be the revision by England, Ireland, and Scotland of the Craft and Arch Rituals, in the way now undertaken by the Templars. The English ceremonies are isolated, and have really nothing to recommend them. The next step should be the election by the three sister countries of a MOST EMINENT AND SUPREME GRAND MASTER of a *Supreme Grand Council of Rites*, having complete jurisdiction over the degrees of Freemasonry and its attendant higher Orders; and assisted by Councils

(Grand Officers) of these Higher Orders with himself, *ex officio* President of all, and entitled as such, to preside as Supreme Master of any recognised Order in any province. Each Grand Lodge, Chapter and Conclave, to form its own laws, subject to the approval and revision of the General Council of Rites, which should hold its meetings alternately in each of the sister provinces, and the attendant expenses equitably borne by the three Grand Lodges. Installation by the Councils of the High Grades of the Supreme Chief in each Order, to be absolutely necessary for the recognition of his control. All Patents, Warrants, Certificates and other documents to bear the signature of the Head of the Province, and the confirmation of the Supreme Chief; but each Grand Lodge, Chapter, and Conclave would have to retain its own accumulated funds, unless some equitable arrangement could be come to for their amalgamation with the Supreme Council of Rites.

Such a *Supreme Council of Rites* would be nothing more or less, then the *revival of the Ancient Grand Lodge of All England* held at York, as shown in my recent pamphlet entitled "Notes on the Orders of the Temple and St. John."

THE EARL DE GREY AND RIPON.

In our article this week we have given a brief *resumé* of the Masonic career of the Grand Master-Elect, but have refrained from alluding to the highly distinguished position he holds as an able and consistent politician. A brief sketch of his career as a statesman may not, however, be inappropriate at the present juncture.

In June, 1859, Lord de Grey was appointed Under Secretary of State for War; in February, 1861, he was transferred to the India Board, but in July of the same year he returned to the War Office. Since then he has held the appointments of Secretary of State for War, and for the Colonies, and is now Lord President of Her Majesty's Council. His lordship married, in 1851, his cousin, the daughter of Captain Henry Vyner by his wife, Lady Mary Gertrude, daughter of the first Earl de Grey, and has issue a son, Frederick Oliver, Viscount Goderich, born in Carlton Gardens, 1852.

The Earl and Countess are, we are informed, lineal descendants of Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England.

FUNERAL OF LADY ARABELLA HESKETH.

The remains of Lady Arabella Fermor Hesketh, wife of Sir Thomas George Fermor Hesketh, M.P., Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire, were interred in a new vault in Rufford churchyard, on Saturday. About ten o'clock in the forenoon the school children, to the number of 160, assembled at the schoolroom, and, decorated with their mourning favours, proceeded in the direction of the hall. The male tenantry, to the number of 100, wearing hatbands and black scarfs and gloves, met at the hall, for the purpose of accompanying the funeral *cortege* to the church. A little after eleven o'clock the procession left the late residence of the deceased lady, the principal mourners being Sir Thomas George Fermor Hesketh, Bart., M.P.; Master George Hesketh and Master Hugh Hesketh, sons of the deceased; Sir Lawrence Palli, M.P., Colonel Ogilvy, and the Rev. W. Seymour. Numerous letters of condolence had been received at Rufford from county families, many of whom asked permission to forward their private carriages; but a special desire had been manifested to keep the funeral as private as possible, and Sir Thomas was therefore compelled to decline all the requests that were made. The *cortege* was confined to a hearse and two mourning coaches, each being drawn by four horses. The church was in the fullest mourning, and the blinds of all the houses in the neighbourhood were drawn. The funeral service was read by the Rev. J. F. Goggin, the rector of Rufford. —*Preston Herald*.

THE MASONIC BALL AT WARRINGTON.—It is fourteen years since a Masonic Ball took place in Warrington, and judging from the attendance on Thursday, February 24th, it is likely to become an annual event. About 150 were present, and the arrangements, music, &c., gave general satisfaction. Bros. Capt. Cartwright and John Bowes, P.M., &c., were the secretaries.

ANCIENT AND MODERN MYSTERIES.

BY BRO. ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE,

Provincial Grand Secretary, Middlesex; President of the London Literary Union; Editor of "The Rosicrucian," &c.

(Continued from page 110.)

In fact, Hassan played the part of a treacherous friend. Everything that occurred in the divan was carefully reported to the sultan, and the worst construction put upon it, and hints of the incapacity and dishonesty of the vizir were thrown out on the fitting occasions. The vizir himself has left us an account of what he considered the worst trick which his old schoolfellow attempted to play him. The sultan, it seems, wishing to see a clear and regular balance-sheet of the revenues and expenditure of his empire, directed Nizam-al-Moolk to prepare it. The vizir required a space of more than a year for the accomplishment of the task. Hassan deemed this a good opportunity for distinguishing himself, and boldly offered to do what the sultan demanded in forty days, not more than one-tenth of the time required by the vizir. All the clerks in the finance department were immediately placed at the disposal of Hassan; and the vizir himself confesses that at the end of the forty days the accounts were ready to be laid before the sultan. But, just when we might expect to see Hassan in triumph, and enjoying the highest favour of the monarch, we find him leaving the court in disgrace and vowing revenge on the sultan and his minister. This circumstance is left unexplained by the Ornament of the Realm, who however acknowledges, with great *naïveté*, that, if Hassan had not been obliged to fly he should have left the court himself. But other historians inform us that the vizir, apprehensive of the consequences, had recourse to art and contrived to have some of Hassan's papers stolen, so that, when the latter presented himself before the sultan, full of hope and pride, and commenced his statement, he found himself obliged to stop for want of some of his most important documents. As he could not account for this confusion, the sultan became enraged at the apparent attempt to deceive him, and Hassan was forthwith obliged to retire from court with precipitation.

Nizam-al-Moolk determined to keep no measures with a man who had thus sought his ruin, and he resolved to destroy him. Hassan fled to Rei, but, not thinking himself safe there, he went further south, and took refuge with his friend the reis Abou-l-Fazl (Father of Excellence), at Isfahan. What his plans may have hitherto been is uncertain; but now they seem to have assumed a definite form, and he unceasingly meditated on the means of avenging himself on the sultan and his minister. In consultation one day with Abou-l-Fazl, who appears to have adopted his speculative tenets, after he had poured out his complaints against the vizir and his master, he concluded by passionately saying, "O that I had but two faithful friends at my devotion! soon would I overthrow the Turk and the peasant," meaning the sultan and the vizir. Abou-l-Fazl, who was one of the most clear-headed men of his time, and who still did not comprehend the long-sighted views of Hassan, began to fancy that disappointment had deranged the intellect of his friend, and believing that reasoning would in such a case be useless, commenced giving him at his meals aromatic drinks and dishes prepared with saffron, in order to relieve his brain. Hassan perceived what his kind host was about, and resolved to leave him. Abou-l-Fazl in vain employed all his eloquence to induce him to prolong his visit; Hassan departed, and shortly afterwards set out for Egypt.

Twenty years afterwards, when Hassan had accomplished all he had projected, when the sultan and the vizir were both dead, and the society of the Assassins was fully organized, the reis Abou-l-Fazl, who was one of his most zealous partizans, visited him at his hill fort of Alamoot. "Well, reis," said Hassan, "which of us was the madman? did you or I stand most in need of the aromatic drinks and the dishes prepared with saffron which you used to have served up at Isfahan? You see that I kept my word as soon as I had found two trusty friends."

(To be continued.)

LEAVES FROM MY LIBRARY.

BY MARMADUKE MAKEPEACE.

(Continued from page 110.)

"I repeat that he is about to appear; but tell me, has the Supreme Council of the Sages yet prepared the grand charter?"

"Yes; the fundamental compact is drawn out and completed."

"Then," cried the Lady of St. Chrisogone, "may the reign about to commence be at length that of justice! May man no longer be the slave of man! May the dignity of humanity be no longer degraded by absolute authority! May the sacred table of the laws, like the star of day, shed its rays alike and equally on all! May the people be no longer a flock, the pastor of which is a butcher, and sells at his pleasure their flesh and blood! May talent be the only patent of privilege, and virtue the sole title to nobility! May the burthen of public duties rest with a just balance upon all the subjects of the kingdom! and may the sovereign sceptre, bending with holy reverence before the power of the law, never become the rod of tyranny!"

As she spoke, the majesty of her deportment, the fire of her glances, the seductive magic of her words, and the sublimity of her sentiments, inspired a strange admiration in the young Orphan of Aigue-mar. The sarcastic laugh which he had before with difficulty restrained was replaced by a reflective gravity. Ipsiboë had assumed a different character in his eyes: she appeared of a magnanimous genius; and veneration, rather than curiosity, rivetted him to the spot; he remained motionless.

The Grand Master only replied to the Lady of St. Chrisogone by respectfully kissing her hand. They then departed slowly, the guard following them. Soon he could scarcely perceive the warriors through the thick mist which seemed to enwrap their flaming torches; he then quitted the thicket where he had lain hidden, and drew near the habitation of Ipsiboë, which was lighted feebly by a flambeau placed against the wall. He soon heard the hasty tread of horses on the soft ground, and in a few minutes the Duke and his numerous train had quitted the morass.

Alamède feared that his protectress had followed the illustrious stranger, and he stopped, anxious and thoughtful, near the iron gate: he dared not penetrate the mysterious dwelling, but contented himself with stealing a glance at the interior.

By the dim light of a bronze lamp which hung against one of the inner pillars, he perceived in the middle of a round hall, the walls of which were moulded and naked, a table of black shining marble surrounded by several chairs. A statue, representing the repentant Magdalen, stood upon the table; and around this symbol of Christianity were scattered, without any apparent order, a celestial globe, a triangle, an antique censer, a bishop's crozier, a mirror, a brazen serpent, a shrine containing relics, a cylinder, a royal bust, a cup, a diadem, a bible, an axe, and a crucifix.

This room, without either windows or chimneys, was cold as a cavern; and damps streamed thickly down the walls, and the floor was quite wet. The youth distinguished in the distance, to the right of the large table, some lances and a bundle of arms; on the left an open trap-door discovered the steps of a subterranean passage; and opposite the entrance a long black curtain concealed some mysterious object.

The funeral lamp was flickering, and at length by slow degrees expired. Furniture, instruments, and drapery, all were blended and lost in the shade. But Alamède's imagination, piercing the darkness, created new shapes; it appeared to him that the black curtain raised its threatening folds; he fancied that he saw indistinct and shapeless forms issue from its recesses; a dagger, with a blood-stained blade, seemed to be reflected upon the wall: he thought he heard a low murmur; at length, though still intrepid, he could not help shuddering.

Turning from this melancholy chamber, he looked round upon the external objects; but without the gloomy building all was as sombre as his own ideas. The resinous torches had been long burning there; and their thick smoke, mingling with the humid exhalations of the marsh, pictured in the air a sort of vaporous and magic cloud which was in harmony with the place. The croaking of aquatic animals, a strong wind blowing through the thick reeds and tall rushes of the neighbouring pools, the solitude surrounded by abysses, thick ruins covered with briars, a desolate spot, seemingly fit only for the habitation of magicians and spectres, every thing around presented to his disturbed imagination cabalistic emblems and supernatural objects.

Alamède was in the situation of a man half awakened from a painful dream; he was collecting his ideas with difficulty, when a prolonged and hoarse bleating, accompanied by a shrill ringing of bells, roused him from this stupor. A sight anything but frightful, and as new as it was strange, was presented to him.

The Lady of St. Chrisogone advanced hastily.

With one hand she led in a cord an unruly white goat, whose beard touched the earth, and whose curling horns terminated in sharp points; the other hand was filled with herbs and a knot of flax. A black and untamed falcon stood upon her shoulder equipped with jesses, having rings attached from which hung small bells. Lastly, she held beneath her arm, and wrapped in the folds of her large shawl, a brood of small squirrels, which were endeavouring to escape at every moment.

Ipsiboë was in the utmost embarrassment: on one side the rebellious goat was dragging her, on the other the savage falcon was scratching; and the mischievous squirrels, by repeated springs, tormented her without ceasing. Terrified at the sight of Alamède, the falcon uttered a wild cry and flew away, jingling its bells; but its talons caught by mishap in his mistress's shawl, and carried away with them a part of the floating veil which hung upon her shoulders. While Ipsiboë held by the other end of the drapery which the noble bird was flying off with, a member of the captive squirrel family effected his escape; but having leaped into the knot of flax, he was taken as if in a net, and remained hanging to it by the paw. In the meanwhile the unconquerable goat, frightened by the cries and the bells of the falcon, stuck one of his horns through the robe of his conductress, and, entangled in its long train, bounded on the slippery earth. The undignified mischance of a fall seemed to threaten, at each plunge, the tottering sovereign of this insurgent people.

All Alamède's dismal thoughts were dissipated at this unexpected scene, and his gaiety returned. The Lady of Chrisogone perceived the Orphan. In the transports of her joy she abandoned her cord to the goat, her shawl to the falcon, her flax to the squirrels. Each of the animals fled away delighted with its freedom. Ipsiboë thought neither of herself nor of them; her arms were clasping her beloved Alamède.

After the departure of the Templar and his suite, forgetting for awhile her vast political and religious plans, she had repaired to a small building near her dwelling, where her favourite animals were kept; and turning to more gentle occupations, she presented herself to Alamède—not as the fanatical head of a clandestine society, but as the simple inhabitant of a solitary country dwelling.

"Alamède, dear Alamède!" cried she, with joyful emotion, "at length I see and embrace you once more."

(To be continued.)

CONSECRATION of the PEMBROKE LODGE (No. 1299).

A meeting of this lodge was held at the West Derby Hotel, West Derby, near Liverpool, on Thursday, the 24th February, at three o'clock. Present: Bros. Thomas Wylie, Presiding Officer, Worshipful P.G.R., &c.; the Rev. H. G. Vernon, M.A., P.G. Chaplain; James Hamer, W.P.G.T., D. of C. on this occasion; Thomas Marsh, W.P.G.A. D. of C.; Alpass, P.G. Sec.; Robert Wylie, P.G.D.C.; Armstrong, P.P.G.D.; Doyle, P.M. 667; S. Peck (241), Bingham (241), Pickup (1094), R. R. Martin (1094), Pearson (1094), Pemberton (1264), Speer (1094), Widdows (673), Larson (594), Haswell (216), Balshaw (1035), Langley (P.M. 477 and 823), Haswick (292), Taylor (1182), Wood (1094), P. Thorn (1182), E. Hughes (249), Bartlett (673), Clegg (220), J. Sellars (S.W. 220), J. Cook (P.M. 220), &c., &c. Bro. Joseph Skeaf, P.G.O., presided at the Organ. Bros. William Crane, W.M., J. Cook, S.W., and John Sellar, J.W., were the officers named in the warrant.

The following was the programme: the brethren assembled in the lodge room; a voluntary was played; the Presiding Officer took the chair, and appointed his Wardens, Bros. R. Wylie, S.W., and Marsh, J.W.; the brethren of the new lodge were then arranged in order; the lodge was opened in the three degrees; opening prayer by Bro. Hamer, P.G.T.; a piece of solemn music was then played; the presiding officer addressed the brethren on the nature of the meeting; the Prov. G. Secretary addressed the Presiding Officer; the Presiding Officer replied, and gave directions as to working; the Prov. G. Secretary read the petition and warrant; the Presiding Officer inquired of the brethren if they approved of the officers named in the petition and warrant; the brethren signified their approval in due form; an oration by the Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. Alpass; an anthem was sung (133rd Psalm), Skeaf; the consecration prayer, by Bro. Hamer; Omnes—Chant, "So mote it be;" Sanctus—"Glory be to Thee, O Lord;" the invocation by the Prov. G. Reg., Bro. T. Wylie; Omnes—Chant, "So mote it be;" the lodge board was then uncovered, and the four P.M.'s, Bros. Marsh, Wylie, Crane, and Alpass, carried the cornucopia, wine, oil, and salt three times round the lodge (solemn music being performed during the procession), then halted in the East; Anthem—"Glory be to God on High;" the censer was then carried three times round the lodge by Bro. Alpass, (solemn music being performed during the progress); Omnes—Chant, "So mote it be;" Anthem; the Presiding Officer then dedicated and constituted the lodge in a most solemn manner; closing prayer by Bro. Hamer, P.G.P.; Omnes—Chant, "So mote it be;" Anthem, "Hail! universal Lord;" Hallelujah Chorus.

Bro. William Crane was then presented by Bro. Hamer to the Installing Master, Bro. Thomas Wylie. The

charges were read by Bro. Alpass, P.G. Secretary. Subsequently a Board of Installed Masters was formed, when the W.M.-elect was solemnly installed W.M. of lodge 1299. The board having been closed, the brethren were admitted, and saluted the W.M., who was proclaimed on each occasion in the three degrees.

The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year, viz., Bros. W. Vines, P.M.; J. Cook, S.W.; John Sellar, J.W.; Henry Clayton, Treasurer, S. J. Clegg, Secretary; J. Macmulldrow, S.D.; Edwin Hughes, J.D.; William Jones, I.G.; D. Saunders, Organist; J. Daglish and Bartlett, Stewards.

Bro. THOMAS WYLIE then delivered the whole of the charges in his usual correct manner. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation, after which the lodge was closed.

The banquet, which was served in Bro. Rawlinson's best style, was of a most sumptuous character, and did him great credit. The cloth having been withdrawn, the W.M. gave the usual loyal toasts, which were duly honoured.

The W.M. then proposed "The M.W.G.M.," "The R.W.P.G.M.," and "The R.W.D.P.G.M.," which were duly responded to by Bro. Alpass, P.G. Secretary. "Our Masonic Charities" was then given, coupled with name of Bro. MARSH, who responded in feeling terms.

The W.M. then proposed "The Health of Bro. Thomas Wylie," the Consecrating Master, and in feeling terms alluded to the untiring zeal, disinterested devotion and active service in the cause of Freemasonry; whenever there was a lodge to be founded or a question of Masonic jurisprudence to be arranged, or a charitable object to be supported in any way Bro. Wylie was at his post of duty executing those talents with which God had blessed him both to his glory and the good of his fellow-creatures, his hand was always guided by justice and his heart expanded by benevolence; he hoped they would do justice to the toast. (Drunk with every good feeling.)

Bro. THOMAS WYLIE, in very feeling and appropriate terms thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him in drinking his health as Consecrating Master of that day; from the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh, in his case he found his heart so full that his lips could not perform their office of conveying to them his deep sense of the honour conferred upon him; he should bear in mind the kind manner in which his name had been given to the brethren by the W.M., Bro. Crane, he hoped to live many years around his brethren in Freemasonry. After again thanking the brethren, Bro. Wylie resumed his seat evidently much affected.

Bro. WYLIE then proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and said he rose with very great pleasure to propose that toast, and spoke of the many excellencies of Bro. Crane, as a gentleman and as a Mason, and of his good working when Master of Lodge 249.

Bro. CRANE, the W.M., in reply, said he felt deeply grateful to Bro. Wylie for his kind eulogium, and to the brethren for this manifestation of their goodwill and esteem in making him their first W.M. of the Pembroke Lodge 1299. He could not deny that he was passionately devoted to Masonry, and only wished he had more time to give to the same. He then resumed his seat deeply affected by the goodwill shown him.

"The Officers of the Lodge" was then given, to which Bro. COOK, S.W., responded, and thanked the W.M. and brethren for the honour of being the first S.W., and trusted he would prove worthy of his post.

"The Visitors" was then proposed, coupled with the name of Bro. PECK, of Lodge 241. Bro. PECK, in responding, said he was much pleased with the ceremonies of the day, which were very effectively given; he complimented the officers and brethren of the lodge, and acknowledged the princely hospitality he had received. (The whole of the toasts were given and received with the enthusiasm they deserved.)

Letters apologising for non-attendance were read from Bros. Mott, P.G.D.; Laidlaw, P.G.P.; and Rev. Vernon, P.G.C. The clothing, jewels, and furniture were supplied by Bro. Jos. Wood, 18, Norton-street, Liverpool, which were very much admired and gave great satisfaction for good workmanship and value. The lodge will meet every third Thursday, at five o'clock.

A Provincial Grand Lodge of Emergency will be held on Tuesday next, March 15th, at the White Hart Inn, Brislington, for special business, amongst which will be the consecration of the Vale of Brislington Lodge, No. 1296, and the installation of Bro. Dr. Bryant (P.G. Commander of K.T. for Bristol), as its first W.M.

BRO. JOHN M. CLABON, P.G.D., has accepted the office of Vice-President of the National Association for Freedom of Worship (London and Manchester).

WE have just had the pleasure of visiting the fine old cellars of Messrs. Charles Watson and Co., the extensive Wine and Spirit Merchants of 30, Cornhill. They are quite unique in their way, and we were amazed at their magnitude and antiquity, and the delightful evenness of their temperature, so admirably suited to maturing wines; they contain a magnificent stock of grand old wines, and to connoisseurs these cellars are eminently worth a visit. The speciality of their establishment is their "Cornhill Sherry"—which we have tasted—at 30s. per doz., pale, elegant, and dry, and rich gold colour. They are a marvel of cheapness, and we can only account for their great superiority over all the wines we have ever tasted at the price, from the fact that Messrs. Watson and Co. must have possessed themselves exclusively of the entire district from which they are produced, and are offering them at such a price to the consumer as to defy all competition. The public will be amply repaid by a visit to these splendid cellars, and the proprietors, we feel assured, will be only too happy to show all visitors over them.

CONSECRATION of the PYTHAGOREAN ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER, No. 79.

The interesting and important ceremony of consecrating this new Chapter was performed on Thursday, the 3rd instant, at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, in the presence of one of the largest assemblages of Royal Arch Masons we have ever witnessed. The Chapter was opened by Comp. R. Wentworth Little, M.E.Z. 177, P.Z. 975, as the Consecrating Principal, assisted by Comps. J. Boyd, M.E.Z. 145, P.Z. 534, and James Brett, P.Z. 177 and 975; after which the Companions were marshalled in procession by Comp. W. Watson, P.Z., who acted as D.C., and made the tour of the chapter-room during solemn music. The imposing rite of consecration was then proceeded with in the usual manner, it being only necessary to add that all the officers engaged in the ceremony performed their respective duties in a positively faultless manner, and to the admiration of all present. Comp. BRETT, as J., delivered the Oration and dedicatory prayers, and the assistance rendered by the veteran Comp. Watson was also most valuable. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Comp. Theodore Distin, assisted by Comps. G. T. Carter and R. Barnby, whose names alone are a guarantee for the perfection with which this important part of the programme was carried out. The first anthem was the 133rd Psalm, then "Glory to God on high," and finally one specially composed for the occasion by Comp. Distin. "I have surely built thee an house," the *Sandus*, and a variety of chants were also given. The Patriarchal Benediction by the consecrating Z. closed the ceremony of consecration.

A conclave of Installed Third Principals was then opened by Comp. Little, who installed Comp. J. H. H. Doughney, R. Boney, and W. West Smith (the Principals named in the charter) into the chair of J. The remarkably large number of over thirty Principals participated in this august ceremonial.

Comp. BRETT then assumed the sceptre and successively opened conclaves of 2nd and 1st Principals, installing Comps. Doughney and Boney as H., and then Comp. Doughney as M.E.Z. During these ceremonies, as in the former, Comp. Watson officiated as D.C., and Comp. Geo. S. States, P.Z. 742, as Scribe E.

The conclave was then closed, and the other companions re-admitted, when the following were elected to office and invested: Comps. T. Perridge, S.E.; Jas. Griffin, S.N.; J. R. Nash, P.S.

The M.E.Z. then rose and proposed that cordial votes of thanks to Comps. Little, Brett, and Watson, be awarded for their eminent services, this being seconded was carried by acclamation.

Comp. W. WEST SMITH, J., further proposed that the three companions already named should be elected "honorary members of the Pythagorean Chapter."

Comp. BONEY seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and in brief but able terms Comps. LITTLE, BRETT, and WATSON expressed their high appreciation of the compliment.

Sixteen brethren were proposed for exaltation, and three companions as joining members, after which the chapter was closed in due form—the closing charge being delivered by Comp. Brett.

The companions then partook of a bountiful supply of champagne and light refreshments, and the universal opinion was that the proceedings of the evening were entirely successful. The magnificent new furniture of the chapter was, we are informed, supplied by Comp. G. Kenning, of Little Britain, whose good judgment and taste in the manufacture of Masonic requisites are so widely known.

Besides the companions named in our report the other founders present were, Comps. J. Halsey, P.Z. 507, J. Bulmer, J. 174, and T. Arnold, 169. The visitors were, as we have intimated, very numerous, and comprised, amongst many others, the following distinguished and well-known Royal Arch Masons, viz.: Comps. Rev. C. J. Martyn, Grand Chaplain of England; J. Thomas, P.Z. 507 and 720, P.G.D. Ceremonies of England; W. Carpenter, P.Z. 177; Charles Cook, P.Z. 13; Capt. Shepperd (R.A.); Capt. Pitt (R.A.); E. Sisson, P.Z. 177; W. Young, P.Z. 203; A. D. Loewenstark, M.E.Z. 73, P.Z. 185; Major Gen. G. B. Mumbee, H. 1222; H. Potter, P.Z. 19; F. W. Gilbert, J. 534; E. Clark, H. 1056, J. 186; R. P. Atkins, M.E.Z. 754; J. Hasler, M.E.Z. 206; T. M. Paget, J. 754; H. J. Wright, S.E. 72; J. Rowland, 13; W. H. Green, 619; T. Smith, 164; T. A. G. Powell, 25; C. Heikel, 166; T. Simpson, 77; G. Neal, 429; J. Halley, 507; J. Weaver, 177; T. Arnold, 169; T. Bull, 145; S. Heaton, 753; J. W. Barrett, 1st Soj. 177; H. Moore, 169; C. R. Dacey, 13; W. Carter, J. 145; G. Wood, D.C. 145; C. Noelmer, P.S. 1056; E. Thiery, 145; and H. De Grey.

From the Masonic zeal and ability of the founders of this chapter we anticipate for it a very prosperous career, and there can be little doubt that by its first anniversary the Pythagoreans will have realised all the success they can desire, and be in a position to congratulate each other on the proud position to which the chapter shall have then attained.

GALVANISM.—Pulvermacher's Monthly Record of Cures is now ready for the benefit of Sufferers, containing documentary evidence of remarkable Cures effected by Pulvermacher's Improved Patent Self-applicable Volta-Electric Chain-Bands and Pocket Batteries, and may be had on application to the Sole Inventor and Patentee—J. L. Pulvermacher, 200, Regent-street, London, W. A Test on Loan sent gratis if required. **Caution.**—Spurious Electric Appliances being advertised by Quack Doctors, Patients should consult Pulvermacher's Pamphlet on that subject (free by post), embodying other most interesting matter for those suffering from Rheumatic and Neuralgic Pains, Functional Disorders, &c., &c.—[Advt.]

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The Seventy-second Anniversary Festival, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in the chair, will take place at Freemasons' Hall and Tavern, on Wednesday, 30th inst.

The following circular has been issued to the Stewards:—

Office, 6, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.,
7th March, 1870.

Dear Sir and Brother,—The Dinner Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Board of Stewards have met and agreed to a Report to be submitted to the next meeting on the 15th instant, embodying the following recommendations, which it appears to me ought to be communicated to every Steward, so that a final Resolution on a subject of so much importance in connection with the Festival arrangements may be adopted at that meeting.

I have further to inform you that though the Annual Fête and Distribution of Prizes held at Wood Green on the 8th of July has now for some time superseded the usual gathering of Festival Stewards and their friends, it has been arranged that Friday, the 18th instant, after 12 o'clock noon, shall be set apart for the reception of those Stewards who may desire to inspect the establishment at Wood Green previous to the Festival.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES,
Hon. Sec. Board of Stewards.

Recommendations by Dinner Committee.

That dining accommodation be provided for 400 Brethren in the body of the Hall, exclusive of the dais.

That seats on the dais be provided for 50, viz., Chairman and brethren of distinction; and

That the Stewards (other than Ladies' Stewards and the House Committee, who will dine at 2 p.m.) dine in the "Board Room" and "Zetland," at the same time that Brethren dine in the great Hall. (These two rooms will accommodate 100 each.)

The seats in the Hall to be numbered 1 to 400, and allotted in rotation by ballot.

Twelve Stewards being told off to superintend the Banquet in the Great Hall; it is believed by this arrangement all will be able to dine comfortably, and that the Stewards dining apart will be able to join their friends in the Hall after the banquet.

* It should be borne in mind that the decision to hold the Festival at Freemasons' Hall and Tavern has been arrived at in deference to the wishes of the M.W.G.M., and G.M.-Elect, concurred in by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and supported by the expressed opinions of large numbers of influential Brethren, that a loss of prestige would result from a strictly Masonic Festival being held elsewhere. The arrangements now recommended are the only practicable ones by which effect can be given to such wishes and opinions.

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.]

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Many aggravating sores stand ready to pounce upon the aged, when an accident weakens any part, or over-fatigue and exposure to wet or cold have irritated the nerves, rendered exquisitely sensitive by the distended condition of the veins, and the partial obliteration of their valves. The Ointment is most potent in curing all cases of ulceration, abscesses, and bad legs, after every other means have failed, and the sufferings from them are utterly unendurable. Soon after the application of the Ointment coolness and comfort are obtained in the affected part, the patient finds himself more at ease, and daily becomes more hopeful, as with departing pains a visible growth of granulation comes forth.—[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. Kernott, 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. 6d., 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.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2.—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 23rd February, at the Freemasons' Hall, when Bro. Percy Leith was duly installed W. Master. The worthy and worshipful brother has only recently returned from Bombay, where his labours in the Craft have earned him a good repute among all classes of the brethren. In the course of the evening he alluded to the great strides Freemasonry has made in Bombay of late years, and the share that he had taken in its extension. We congratulate W. Bro. Percy Leith on having attained to the distinguished honour of a chair in the Lodge of Antiquity. The W.M. appointed the following brethren to the various offices:—Bros. B. Gray, jun., S.W.; G. Q. Fordati, J.W.; W. Pulteney Scott, P.G.D., Chancellor; E. T. Barrow, Secretary; George Scharf, S.D.; C. A. Swinburne, J.D.; Major Creaton, P.G.D., Steward.

United Mariners' Lodge, No. 30.—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 10th ult., at the George Hotel, Aldermanbury. Bro. Joseph Harling, W.M. presided, assisted by his Wardens, Bros. Robt. Shackell, P.P.G.P. for Hants, and G. J. C. Smith. The lodge being opened in due form, and the minutes of the former meeting read and confirmed, a ballot was taken and declared unanimous in favour of Mr. Charles Benjamin Bethell, who was regularly introduced and initiated into the Order. Bros. Deeley, Inglis and Tyrrell, having proved their efficiency, were introduced, and passed to the degree of F.C. Bros. Lefebvre and Smith were subsequently raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. The admirable working of the three degrees by Bro. Joseph Harling, W.M., was indeed *par excellence*, and called forth the unanimous *ehlt* of the brethren. Members present: Bros. Joseph Harling, W.M.; Robert Shackell, S.W.; G. J. C. Smith, J.W.; Joseph Driscoll, P.M.; William McDonald, P.M.; W. F. Osborne, S.D.; William Ansell, J.D.; R. J. Deeley, D.C.; H. Bethell, I.G.; E. J. Brown, Steward; Lefebvre, Smith, Cushing, Tyrrell, Wilson, Ingliss, and Tagg; Jesse Turner, P.M. and Treas.; R. E. Barnes, P.M. and Hon. Sec. Visitors present: Bros. Robert Hart (Glasgow) and Patrick 117, R. H. Allen (554), Charles Senior (1211), George Gee (1257.) All business being concluded, the lodge was closed in ancient form and perfect harmony.

Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.—This lodge held its last meeting of the session on Thursday, the 3rd instant. Present: Bro. E. Roberts, W.M., supported by his officers, viz., Bros. Geo. Kenning, G. Steward Middlesex, S.W.; J. J. Harris, J.W.; W. Goodyer, P.M., Treas.; J. G. Marsh, P.M. and G.P. Middlesex, Sec.; F. Trott, S.D.; Geo. Abbott, J.D.; A. J. Dickenson, I.G.; Geo. Newman, Steward. The lodge was opened in the first, second and third degrees, and Bros. Iselton and Lucas being present, (having shown their proficiency in the former degrees,) were duly raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The ceremony was ably worked by Bro. A. Bryant (P.M. late of this lodge), S.D. of No. 12. The lodge was then resumed in the first degree, Bro. E. Roberts, W.M., occupying the chair, and Br. Charles Hopkins being present replied to the usual questions; the lodge was raised to the second degree, and the said brother was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. The subject of a summer banquet, to which ladies should be invited, having been proposed and seconded, was carried, and a committee was appointed to carry out the same. The lodge was then duly closed and adjourned till October next. The members present were Bros. E. King, I.P.M.; H. Cates, P.M.; Hosgood, P.M.; E. Brookman, J. Harvey, W. Harwood, C. Fitzjohn, J. Elliott, R. G. Dixon, E. L. Roberts, G. Parker, T. Cohu, H. Griffin, Chas. Ankell, S. Haynes, E. Taylor, T. Fisher, J. McKiernan, Chas. Hopkins, E. Raffe, Chas. Cann, H. Davis, R. E. Bright, J. Kent, J. T. Manks, A. F. Iselton, B. Marsland. The brethren, numbering about 50, then retired to a sumptuous banquet, after which the various toasts and duties of the table were ably proposed and performed by the W.M., and elicited some very excellent speeches from the visiting brethren, who honoured the lodge with their presence, viz., Bros. W. Willey (P.M. 9), A. Bryant (P.M. 12), Chas. Woodman (157), W. Wilson (144), W. Rippin (77), L. L. Atwood (279), W. Wheeler (317), S. Newton (766), G. Onslow (145), E. Garden (946), C. W. Ashdown (1076), F. Fan (693). The brethren having spent a happy and an agreeable evening, the Tyler's toast brought the festivities of the table to a close at a reasonable hour.

Lodge of St. James, No. 765.—On Tuesday the 1st inst., a meeting of the Lodge of St. James was held at the Leather Market Tavern, New Weston-street, Bermondsey. Bro. Daniel Boyce, W.M., presiding, assisted by Bros. G. Hyde, S.W.; R. P. Hooton, J.W.; R. White, P.M., Secretary; Neville, S.D.; W. Jones, J.D.; Child, I.G. The visitors present were Bro. Barber (754) and Howes (859). The first business done was the reading of the minutes of the former meeting, which were put and confirmed. The W.M. then raised Bro. Goodwin to the sublime degree, and after the reading of the bye-laws of the lodge the brethren proceeded to elect a Worshipful Master, and the choice fell upon Bro. Hyde, S.W.; Bro. W. J. Laing, P.M., was re-elected Tyler of the lodge. Bro. Aldridge, the Treasurer of the lodge, resigned that post in consequence of indisposition, and Bro. Jones, of the "Thatched House," Red Lion-street, Holborn, was appointed Treasurer, *pro tem.*, in his stead. There being no banquet, the brethren adjourned at an early hour.

PROVINCIAL.

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights, No. 148.*—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday night

last week, at the Masonic Rooms. The W.M., Bro. W. Smith, was supported by Bros. B. P. Coxon, S.W.; Jas. Jackson, J.W.; D. W. Finney, I.P.M.; Robt. Stevenson, P.M.; H. B. White, P.M., Prov. G.D.; John Bowes, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., C. and W.; Jos. Maxfield, P.M.; Alderman Hephherd, P.M., and about thirty other brethren. The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Bros. Taylor and W. Crompton as joining members, and Messrs. S. Hunt and John Fair as fit and proper persons; in each case the ballot was in favour, and the two gentlemen being present were initiated by Bros. Finney, P.M., and Stevenson, P.M. The lodge was opened in the 2nd and 3rd degrees, and Bro. W. H. Robinson was raised by Bro. Stevenson and Bowes. The lodge was lowered, when Bro. Sec. reported that Bro. Gilbert Greenall, P.M. 148, W.M. 1250, and P.G.S. Warden of England, had accepted the office of Steward for the second time for the Boys' School, and proposed a vote of ten guineas from the Lodge Funds for his list, which was carried.

LEICESTER.—*St. John's Lodge, No. 279.*—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, on Wednesday se'nnight, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. W. E. Stanley, and was numerously attended. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read and confirmed, the W.M. said he knew the brethren were anxious to salute with the honours the P.G.M. who was present with them for the first time since his installation, and which was done accordingly. Bro. Kelly, in thanking the brethren for their cordial reception of him, said he could only repeat what, under similar circumstances, he had said at the last meeting of the John of Gaunt Lodge, that whilst he did not wish the dignity of the office to suffer whilst held by him, and had therefore no desire that the usual honours should be neglected to be paid to the rank of P.G.M. on what he might term state occasions, or when he paid official visits to the lodges, on all other occasions it would be more agreeable to him if the brethren would consider that he attended their meetings in his private capacity as one of their P.M.'s. He then said that he was glad of the opportunity of making a communication to the brethren of both lodges who were present which he knew would give them pleasure, and which it was due to the late P.G.M. should be made known to them at once: a few days ago he had received from Lord Howe, as a present, accompanied by a most kind and graceful letter of good wishes, the whole of his lordship's Masonic clothing and jewels, including the elegant and costly gold chain of office, which he had worn as Deputy Grand Master of England and as their P.G.M., and which he (Bro. Kelly) wore for the first time that evening.—This announcement was greeted with great applause.—The work for the evening included one raising and eight passings. Seven out of the eight candidates for the second degree were present, namely, Bros. Gurdin, Williams, Captain Goodchild, Dr. Clarke, Overton, Blankley, and Santer, who, having passed an examination as to their proficiency in the first degree, were entrusted and retired. A Fellow Crafts' Lodge was then opened and they were duly passed to that degree by the W.M., who afterwards gave the explanation of the working tools, but the lecture on the tracing-board was necessarily omitted for want of time. During the ceremonies the musical chants were given by Bro. Charles Johnson, assisted by Bros. Palmer, Donisthorpe and others. The candidate for the third degree not being in attendance the lodge was closed down to the first degree. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Bro. Buzzard, S.W. No. 523, for his efficient services as Hon. Sec. to the committee for the recent Masonic ball on the evening of the P.G.M.'s installation, when a surplus of fifty guineas was realized to be divided between the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Leicester Infirmary; and which Bro. Buzzard acknowledged, stating that he had derived very great assistance in the performance of his duties by the instructions he had received from the P.G.M. On the proposition of the P.G.M., seconded by the W.M., the sum of ten guineas was unanimously voted to the Girls' school to be added to the list of the Rev. Bro. Langley, who is representing the province as Steward for that charity at the coming festival, as Bro. Geo. Brown, W.M. No. 1265, Oakham, is for the Boys'. After the transaction of some further business the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

ROCHESTER, KENT.—*Gundulph Lodge, No. 1050.*—The usual meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 7th inst., when it was opened in the first degree by Bro. G. Ashdown, P.M., 1050 and 184, P.P.G.P. for Kent, in the absence of the M.W. Bro. Wyles, who was unavoidably absent, through having to attend an important meeting of the K.R.V. (to which corps he has recently been gazetted Lieutenant), but who soon after arrived and took his position in the chair of K.S. An unusual number of brethren answered to their summonses, it being the night for electing a W.M. for the year ensuing, which was proceeded with immediately after the usual routine of business had been disposed of, when Bro. Rei Fry, S.W. received the unanimous vote of the lodge, for which honour he cordially tendered his thanks. It was then decided that the Installation should take place on Wednesday, April 13th. Bro. Gambriel was then appointed Treasurer in the same unanimous manner. Bro. Watson then gave notice, that at the next meeting he intended to propose that the sum of three guineas be presented by the lodge towards the fund now being raised for the "Masonic Life Boat." Nothing further having been offered the lodge was closed with solemn prayer, after which the brethren, under the presidency of the W.M., spent an hour or two in social enjoyment, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given in the W.M.'s happy style, and duly responded to, thus closed an evening that was of the most fraternal character throughout.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—*Saint Kew Lodge, No. 1222.*—The usual monthly assemblage of the brethren of this flourishing lodge took place at the Carnarvon Hall, Weston-super-Mare, on Wednesday, March the 2nd, under the presidency of that zealous and esteemed Bro. Capt. F. G. Irwin, W.M. Bro. Irwin's absence from the lodge meetings since November last, through illness, has been regretted by all the members, and his re-appearance amongst them was hailed with a cordial welcome. The lodge having been opened with solemn prayer and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, the names of two candidates for initiation, viz.: Mr. Sidney Lewis and Mr. Thos. Tytherleigh were submitted to the ballot and the same proving clear in each case, and Mr. Lewis being in attendance he was initiated in ancient form. The W.M. then opened a Master Masons' Lodge, and raised Bros. John Perry and David Gill to the sublime degree; the lodge was then closed down to the first degree for the usual business of the evening, after which the W.M. closed the lodge in harmony.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

British Chapter, No. 8.—This Chapter met on Monday, the 4th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of Comps. J. S. Griffiths, M.D., M.E.Z.; Monckton, H., and Richardson, J., when two candidates were exalted. The M.E.Z., with great accuracy and ability, performed the duties attached to his high office, including the working of the pedestal; the same remark equally applies to the 2nd and 3rd Principals. After the closing of the Chapter, about twenty-five Comps. including visitors, adjourned to the tavern and partook of the banquet, carefully looked after by Comp. P.Z. Baxter, Director of the Ceremonies. Comp. P.Z. Stohwasser, being the Treasurer.

PROVINCIAL.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude, No. 279.*—A quarterly convocation of this Chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Monday, the 28th ult. Owing to various circumstances, the attendance of members was smaller than usual. In the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Comp. Spittal, M.E.Z., and Comp. L. A. Clarke, H., the Principals' chairs were occupied by Comps. Kelly, P.B. and P.G. Supt., as M.E.Z.; W. Pettifor, P.Z. as H., and W. Weare, P.Z. as J. On the Chapter, being opened a Board of Installed Principals was formed, when Comp. Geo. H. Hodges, J.-elect, (who was in America at the usual period of installation,) was regularly installed into the third chair. The other Comps. were then admitted. The officers present were: Comps. Stretton, E.; Partridge, N.; Toller, P.S.; Mace, A.S.; Bembridge, Janitor; the Rev. Charles J. E. Smith, (Rugby,) and a few other Companions were present. A ballot, resulting in his unanimous election, was taken for Bro. Charles William Shaw, M.D., of No. 557, Queenstown, County Cork, who was then duly exalted. On the completion of the ceremony, the historical, symbolical, and mystical lectures were delivered by Comp. Kelly. A second candidate was absent. The Treasurer's accounts were then read and passed. A proposed alteration of the times of meeting, brought forward by Comp. Toller at the last convocation, was considered, and it was unanimously resolved that in future the meetings be held in the months of February, April, June, October, and December, being the alternate months with the Mark Lodge. The Comps. having proceeded to ballot for officers for the ensuing year, the following were elected: Comps. L. A. Clarke, M.E.Z.; George H. Hodges, H.; Geo. Toller, jun., G.; J. Kelly P.Z., Treas.; Stretton, E.; Rev. Charles J. E. Smith, N.; Partridge, P.S.; Bembridge, Janitor. The appointment of Stewards and Assistant Sojourners was postponed until the next convocation. Four brethren were proposed as candidates for exaltation. The P.G. Supt. announced, that as there had been no meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter since the year 1867, he proposed holding one shortly. There being no further business the Chapter was closed with solemn prayer, and the Companions adjourned to refreshment.

MARK MASONRY.

LIVERPOOL.—*West Lancashire Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 65.*—An emergency meeting of this lodge was called on Monday evening, the 21st ult., for the purpose of balloting for and, if selected, advancing, Bro. Wm. P. Gunnell, of the Golden Coast Lodge, 773, who is leaving England before the next regular meeting; and also for Bro. Ashmore, P.M. 823 Lodge, and M.E.Z. of 823 Chapter. The lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., H. J. Lunt, P.M. 823, and H. of 249 chapter, aided by his officers and assistants, viz., Bro. Larsen, P.M. 549 and H. 220, the S.W.; Clark, S.W. 673, and of chapters 220, 249, and 823, &c., the J.W.; Pierce, J.W. 823, Hon. Sec.; R. Williams, M.O.; James Taylor, S.O.; George Ladmore, P.M. 673, and M.E.Z. 220, the J.O.; Henry Burrows, S.D.; J. Wood, J.D.; William Barr, I.G.; Jos. K. Smith, M.D., P.M., &c.; Charles Leedham, P.M. and P.G.S.; &c., &c. The ballot was then taken for the candidates, the result being unanimous in their favour. Bro. Lunt then vacated his chair, and Bro. J. R. Goepel, P.M. and P.G.S.O., also P.M. 155 and 823, P.M.E.Z. of Loyalty Chapter, 86, presided. The candidates being in attendance were admitted and advanced, in strict conformity with ancient custom, the ceremony being administered in the most sublime manner which did not fail to impress upon the minds of the candidates and members present (nearly the whole of whom are officers and past officers in R.A. Masonry) that the Mark Master's degree, properly worked, is one of the most beautiful ceremonies under the banner of Freemasonry. A vote of thanks was according to a Bro. Goepel, and also to Bro. Hamer, P.M., &c., who assisted. The lodge was closed in form and harmony, and the brethren proceeded to refreshment.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

RED CROSS OF ROME & CONSTANTINE.

Original or Premier Conclave of England.

A quarterly assembly of this Conclave was held on Monday, the 28th ult., at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street.

Amongst those present we noticed:—Ill. Knts. Colonel Burdett, G.S.G., Ins. Gen., Middlesex; John Hervey, G.H. Chancellor; W. H. Hubbard, G. Treas.; W. E. Gumbleton, J.P., G. Chamberlain; R. Wentworth Little, G.R., Ins. Gen., Surrey; Major Gen. Gore B. Munbee, J.P., Ins. Gen., Somerset; J. Geo. Marsh, G.A., Ins. Gen., Essex; T. Wescombe, G. Standard-Bearer; H. C. Levander, M.A., G. Asst. Treas.; W. R. Woodman, M.D., G. Asst. Recorder; Angelo J. Lewis, M.A., G. Asst. Marshal; H. Parker, G. Organist; T. Cubitt, G. Herald; G. Powell, G. Sword-Bearer—Dignitaries and officers of the Order. G. Kenning, Prefect; D. G. Berri, J.G.; M. Edwards, J. R. Hills, T. W. Boord, G. A. Taylor, E. Sillifant. Visitors: Sir Knts. W. F. N. Quilty, K.G.C., P. Sov. No. 6; F. Walters, P. Sov. No. 3; G. Lambert, and W. Roebuck, C.E., of No. 15.

The Conclave was duly opened, when ballots were taken for nine candidates for installation, and for Sir Knts. Taylor and Sillifant as joining members, all of which resulted favourably. Bros. J. Taylor, 30°, A. J. Codner, W. West Smith, W. H. Andrew, C. I. Paton, and J. T. Moss, being in attendance, were then regularly installed as Knights of the Order.

A College of Viceroy was afterwards opened for the reception of candidates, when Sir Knts, Boord, Taylor, Andrew, Paton, and Moss, of the Premier Conclave, and Lambert and Roebuck of the St. Andrew's Conclave, No. 15, were admitted to the Ecclesiastical branch of the Order.

During both ceremonies, the G. Organist presided with great ability at the harmonium.

The Conclave was then resumed, and after ballot the following Chevaliers were declared unanimously elected to office for the ensuing year:—John Trickett, C.E., Ins. Gen. Kent, as M.P.S.; Angelo J. Lewis, M.A., as V.E.; Thomas Wescombe, as Treas. Comp. Gilbert was re-elected Sentinel.

The M.P.S. handed in a notice of motion to increase the installation, joining, and banquetting fees, after which the Conclave was closed.

THE BANQUET,

which gave general satisfaction, was held under the presidency of Sir Knt. WESCOMBE, M.P.S. When the cloth was removed, the presiding officer gave "The memory of the founders of the Order," which was drunk in solemn silence, "Her Majesty the Queen, and the Christian Orders" followed, and was received with enthusiasm, the National Anthem being sung with accompaniment while the Knights stood to order.

The "Healths of Lord Kenlis, the M. Ill. G. Sovereign, and the rest of the G. Council" were next proposed by the M.P.S., who commented in the warmest terms, upon the support which Lord Kenlis had extended to the Order since his advent to the throne, and also upon the efficient manner in which his lordship's exertions had been seconded by the members of the Council.

The toast was received with great cordiality, and in returning thanks, the Very Ill. Knt. Col. BURDETT referred to the progress of the Order, and expressed his belief that it was destined to attain a very high position in connection with the Craft. (Applause.)

The next toast was that of the "Grand Senate, the Inspectors General of Divisions, and the K.G.C.," to which an equally hearty reception was accorded.

Major-General MUNBEE, Ins. Gen. for Somerset, responded in an eloquent and telling speech, avowing that he regarded the ceremonies of the Order as peculiarly impressive and sublime. He reminded the Knights, that a recent discovery in the archives of the Grand Lodge of England had placed beyond dispute the authenticity of the assertion that the Order, in this country at least, had for many years been fostered and cherished within the bosom of the Masonic Fraternity, although from causes which had been elsewhere explained, its rites and privileges were confined to a select circle of the Craft. In the present age, however, it was not desirable to restrict its benefits to a favoured few, but at the same time, none but worthy Masons should be admitted within the pale of an Order at once so august and venerable. (The gallant general resumed his seat amidst loud applause.)

The M.P.S. then proposed the health of the "Newly-Installed Companions in Arms," observing that the accession of six neophytes to the Conclave was not itself so great a subject of congratulation as the fact, that the brethren installed in the course of the evening were worthy and honourable men who were ever foremost in every good work, and had each and all attained the position of W.M. or P.M. of their respective lodges. He welcomed them heartily into the fellowship of their chivalric brotherhood. (Cheers.)

"The Red Cross" song, with musical accompaniment, was sung by Sir Knt. Parker.

Sir Knts. PATON and MOSS, on behalf of the the Noviciates, expressed their acknowledgements for the knightly reception they had experienced, and promised to remain true and faithful to the vows into which they had entered that evening.

Ill. Sir Knt. JOHN HERVEY, G.H. Chancellor, then introduced "The health of the M.P.S.," which was enthusiastically received. In the course of his observations the G. Chancellor said he had had the pleasure of meeting Sir Knt. Wescombe on several previous occasions, in lodges and chapters, and he could bear strong testimony to his zeal, and the respect in which the M.P.S. was held by all who knew him. (Great applause.)

The M.P.S. in reply, thanked the Ill. Knt. who had proposed his health, (which he regretted to say was not so good as it might be,) and also the Knightly Fraters generally for their kindness. He had been both a W.M. and a M.E.Z., but he could fairly say that the office of M.P.S., which he had filled during the past year, had given him even greater pleasure and gratification than any he had attained to previously. Before he sat down, he would propose "The health of Ill. Knt. Wentworth Little," whose efforts had so greatly contributed to the present success of the Order, and especially to the prosperity of the Premier Conclave. (Cheers.)

Song, "Come Chloe," Sir Knt. G. Taylor, 30°. Sir Knt. LITTLE having appropriately acknowledged the compliment paid him, the M.P.S. said he had next a pleasing duty to perform, namely to place on the breast of Sir Knt. Cubitt, a Past Sovereign's jewel on behalf of the Conclave, and after some eulogistic remarks, he presented the jewel amidst the felicitations of all the members.

Sir Knt. CUBITT made a suitable response for himself and the P. Sovereigns; and the M.P.S., in consequence of ill-health, then vacated the chair in favour of Sir Knt. HERVEY, who proposed "The Visitors" in his usual genial style.

Sir Knts. WALTERS and QUILTY responded. The CHAIRMAN then gave the "Officers," with which, after paying a merited compliment to Sir Knt. Lewis, the V.E.-elect, he coupled the name of Sir Knt. Parker, Organist, to whose musical abilities the Conclave was so much indebted.

Sir Knt. PARKER returned thanks, and then played a brilliant fantasia.

The "Sentinel's Toast" closed the proceedings of this very happy and enjoyable meeting, and after coffee had been served, the Knights separated.

The Enthronement Assembly on the 30th of May promises to be a magnificent success, a noble lord, well-known for his Masonic zeal, and a reverend brother holding high rank in Grand Lodge, being among the aspirants for installation on that occasion in the mother Conclave of England.

Roman Eagle Conclave, No. 6.—The second anniversary meeting of this Conclave was held on Saturday, the 26th ult., at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street. Sir Knight H. C. Levander, M.A., Grand Assistant Treasurer, M.P.S., presided, supported by Sir Knight W. R. Woodman, M.D., Grand Assistant Recorder, V.E., and about twenty other Companions. Dr. Woodman, the M.P.S.-elect, was inducted into the chair of Constantine, and Dr. C. H. Rogers Harrison having been admitted to the Priestly Order by the Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Little, was placed in the chair of V.E., to which he had been elected. The officers appointed were as follows:—all being present for investment. Sir Knight the Rev. W. B. Church, M.A., S.G.; J. Read, J.G.; H. A. Allman, H.P.; W. F. N. Quilty, P. Sov. Treasurer; A. A. Pendlebury, Recorder; S. G. Foxall, Prefect; W. Hurlstone, S.B.; J. Weaver, Org.; W. C. Lucy, M.D., Herald; A. Perrot and C. A. Thompson, Stewards. Bro. T. D. Barnard, Nelson Lodge, No. 700, being in attendance, was then duly installed as a Knight of the Order, after which the conclave was closed. At the banquet, which followed, ample justice was done to the good things provided under the supervision of Sir Knight Smith, the excellent manager, and on the cloth being cleared the usual toasts were drunk with enthusiasm. A P. Sov.'s jewel was presented to Sir Knight Levander by the M.P.S., Dr. Woodman, in the name of the conclave, and for which that worthy chevalier duly expressed his acknowledgements. Sir Knight F. Walters, P. Sov., No. 3, responded for the visitors; and the health of the "Newly Installed Companion" was also well received. We may add that Sir Knights A. Perrot, Dr. W. C. Lucey, W. J. Adams, J. R. Foulger, and other courteous Knights sang some good songs during the course of the evening.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending March 19, 1870.

MONDAY, MARCH 14.

Lodge 5, "St. George and Corner Stone," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 29, "St. Albans," Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
 " 59, "Royal Naval," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 193, "Confidence," Anderson's, Fleet-street.
 " 222, "St. Andrew," London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.
 " 879, "Peckham," Malsmore Arms, Peckham.
 Chap. 22, "Mount Zion," Radley's, Blackfriars.
 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 15.

Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
 Lodge 73, "Mount Lebanon," Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
 " 95, "Eastern Star," Ship & Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
 " 162, "Cadogan," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 194, "St. Paul's," Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
 " 435, "Salisbury," 71, Dean-street, Soho.
 " 704, "Camden," York & Albany, Regent's-park.
 " 857, "Leigh," Freemasons' Hall.
 Chap. 19, "Mount Sinai," Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-st.
 " 167, "St. John's," Radley's, Blackfriars.
 " 186, "Industry," 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 16.

Grand Stewards' Lodge, Freemasons' Hall.
 Lodge 30, "United Mariners," George Hotel, Aldermanbury.

" 140, "St. George's," Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich.
 " 174, "Sincerity," Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-st.
 " 190, "Oak," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 700, "Nelson," Masonic Hall, Woolwich.
 " 969, "Maybury," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 1159, "Marquis of Dalhousie," Freemasons' Hall.
 Chap. 10, "Westminster & Keystone," Freemasons' Hall.
 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 17.

Lodge 23, "Globe," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 49, "Gihon," Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham-st.
 " 55, "Constitutional," Terminus Hotel, Cannon-st.
 " 63, "St. Mary's," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 169, "Temperance," White Swan, Deptford.
 " 179, "Manchester," Anderson's, Fleet-street.
 " 1139, "South Norwood," South Norwood Hall, South Norwood.
 " 1278, "Burdett Courts," Approach Tav., Approach-road, Victoria-park.
 Chap. 79, "Pythagorean," (Emergency Meeting), Ship Tavern, Royal-hill, Greenwich.
 Knights Templar Encampment, "Observance," 14, Bedford-row.
 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 Courts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 7.30; Bro. J. Terry, Preceptor.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18.

House Committee Boys' School.
 Lodge 6, "Friendship," Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.
 " 143, "Middlesex," Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
 " 201, "Jordan," Freemasons' Hall.
 " 813, "New Concord," Rosemary Branch, Hoxton.
 Chap. 176, "Caveac," Radley's, Blackfriars.
 K.T. Encampment, "Kemys Tynte," Masonic Hall, Woolwich.
 K.T. Encampment, "St. George's," 14, Bedford-row.
 St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Pier Hill, 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 19.
 Lodge 715, "Pannure," George Hotel, Aldermanbury.
 " 1185, "Lewis," Nightingale Tavern, Wood Green.
 M. Lodge, "Southwark," Bridge House Htl., Southwark.
 Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby New Cross-road, at 7.
 Red + Conclave, "Villiers," No. 9, Northumberland Arms Hotel, Isleworth.

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.]

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATHS.

FERMOR-HESKETH.—On the 28th ult., at Easton Neston, Northamptonshire, the Lady Arabella Fermor-Hesketh, wife of Sir Thomas George Fermor-Hesketh, Bart., M.P., of Rufford Hall, and R.W.P.G.M. of West Lancashire.

JONES.—On the 3rd inst., suddenly, at Sittingbourne, Bro. A. J. Jones, P.M. 188, late of 42, Newington-crescent, deeply regretted by a large circle of Masonic and private friends.

LAIDLAW.—On 21st ult., at 150, Falkner-street, Liverpool, aged 75 years, Miss Ellen Laidlaw, sister to Bro. W. Laidlaw, P.M. and P.Z. No. 216, and P.G. Purst. West Lancashire.

NELSON.—On the 5th inst., after a short illness, Brother Richard Reed Nelson, P.M., P.Z., P.D.P.G.M. and Prov. Grand Sec. West Yorkshire, in the 47th year of his age.

SALLUST.—On the 1st inst., Brother Adolphus Sallust, P.M. 172, of 8, Cross-lane, Idol-lane, E.C.

Answers to Correspondents.

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

W.M. 1065, Juppulpore. Thanks for list of subscribers and remittance, which have come safely to hand. We shall be glad to hear from you at all times, and will readily act as your proxy in voting for the Masonic charities. One guinea per annum to each school secures one vote at the half-yearly elections of both, and five shillings to the male and female branches of the R.M. Benevolent Institution a vote for each at the annual election to the Annuity Fund in May. All are equally worthy of the support of our Anglo-Indian brethren.

In consequence of an unusual press of matter we are again reluctantly compelled to hold over several interesting communications and reports of lodge meetings till next week.

We are requested to state that our reporter made several mistakes in the names suggested by Bro. Savage at last Grand Lodge as a committee on the ritual. Bros. Fenn, P.A.G.D.C., and Murton, of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, and Bro. John Thomas were named instead of those stated in the report.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1870.

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

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

THE GRAND MASTER-ELECT OF ENGLAND.

SUCCESSOR to a long line of illustrious chiefs in Freemasonry, the Right Honourable the Earl de Grey and Ripon accepts the office of Grand Master of England, with the heartiest welcome from the Craft.

It is true that his lordship is not yet formally installed into the chair, which has been graced by so many of the wisest and best on the Masonic scroll of fame; but he is already enthroned in the hearts of his brethren as a Mason worthy of their warmest affection and esteem, nor dare we for a moment doubt, that upon next "St. George's Day" our noble brother will be girded with the apron, and entrusted with the sceptre, of his good and kindly predecessor, who in uttering his "Nunc Dimittis" carries with him the mingled regret and admiration of the whole Masonic world. Still, we cannot forget that mutability is inevitable in this mortal existence; the coming generations tread fast upon the heels of the present, every

day "the bell doth toll the knell of some departed soul," and we may therefore rejoice in the fact that we are not called upon to mourn the actual loss of our present Grand Master, but simply to express our sorrow, that advancing age forbids him to retain the high office which he has so long adorned. It must, however, be a source of profound gratification to Lord Zetland, that his successor on the Masonic throne is a nobleman of such sterling worth and talent as Earl de Grey. The office of Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England is not a dignity to be played with, neither can its duties and responsibilities be ignored. In the first place, the Craft desire to see in that exalted station a man of high rank, whose name and lineage are pure and noble. But this is not all, he must also be a man of administrative ability, willing to devote his time to the interests of the Order, liberal in his support of the Masonic Charities, and, though last not least, a firm but urbane president at the General Assemblies of the Craft. The Grand Master-elect possesses all these qualifications in an eminent degree; his personal character is unsullied by a single stain, his name shines in the brilliant constellation of England's living statesmen, his attachment to the Masonic Order is great and unquestionable, his zeal for the prosperity of our Charitable Institutions unwavering and sincere, while to those who have witnessed the admirable manner in which he has presided over the Grand Lodge and other Masonic gatherings, it will appear superfluous to add that the noble earl is the very *beau ideal* of a chairman.

We offer no apology, however, for offering to our English readers a slight sketch of the distinguished career of their newly-elected ruler. George Frederick Samuel, Earl de Grey, and Earl of Ripon, Viscount Goderich, Baron Grantham, and a Baronet of England, was born in London, in 1827, and succeeded his father as Earl of Ripon in 1859, and his uncle as Earl de Grey in the same year.

He was not, like many of his fellow peers, initiated during his collegiate course at the University, as we learn, that in May 1853 his lordship, then known as Viscount Goderich, became a Mason in his ancestral county, the lodge in which he first saw the mystic light being appropriately enough, the "Lodge of Truth," now No. 521, and held in the busy manufacturing town of Huddersfield. Of this very excellent lodge his lordship was appointed Senior Warden in as brief a time as possible, and in 1854 and 1855 he presided as Worshipful Master, and at once applied himself with assiduity to the studies necessary upon the attainment of the Oriental chair. We are informed that the older brethren of the lodge retain many pleasing memories of the remarkable skill with which Lord Goderich conducted the business of the Craft, even at that comparatively early period of his Masonic career, and in the necessarily limited sphere of a

private lodge. In due time, however, his lordship was called to the dais of the Grand Lodge of England, in which he held the post of Senior Grand Warden in 1856, and upon the retirement of Lord Dalhousie in April, 1861, Earl de Grey and Ripon was nominated by the Earl of Zetland to the distinguished position of Deputy Grand Master, an office which he has continued to fill uninterruptedly from that time to the present, with immense credit to himself and superlative advantage to the brethren at large. As Deputy Grand Master, his lordship also became *ex officio* Second Grand Principal, or H., of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

In addition to these honours, our future Grand Chief has held the high station of Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire since February 1861, and as that province is the largest in England, its annual meetings being frequently attended by over three hundred brethren, the noble Earl may be truly said to have served such an apprenticeship as a provincial ruler of the Craft as would fairly entitle him to the loftiest position in the Fraternity, without the stronger claim of having acted so long and so efficiently as the Deputy of the Earl of Zetland. His lordship succeeds to the Masonic Throne at a period of unexampled Masonic prosperity in England; every day the charmed circle of the mystic brotherhood is widening and expanding throughout the land; every day fresh materials are being added for the edification of our sacred temple; the sound of our fraternal labour is unceasing, and the Master-Builder's gavel never still. The coffers of our charities are not empty, albeit great exertions are still needed for the Boys' Institution; there is no strife within our borders, no discord in our tyled retreats.

May this harmony continue under the enlightened sway of Lord de Grey and Ripon; may the success of our glorious Brotherhood be, if possible, augmented under his rule. That such is the desire of every true Freemason we are well assured, and it is in this spirit, and with the homage due to greatness and virtue combined, that we hail rejoicingly the accession to power of our worthy GRAND MASTER-ELECT.

GRAND STEWARDS' LODGE.—We are informed that this lodge will very considerably add to its members at its regular meeting, on Wednesday next, the 16th instant, at Freemasons' Hall. The lodge at present has 31 members, and from the manner in which its numbers have been progressing of late, we hope to see this lodge the most numerous, as well as the most influential, lodge in the Craft—all present and past Grand Stewards being eligible for election in this lodge.

THE FREEMASONS' LIFE BOAT.—A committee of the Freemasons' Life Boat was held on Thursday, the 3rd, instant, at Bro. Forster's, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C. Bro. A. E. Harris, P.M., 141, in the chair. Present, Bros. Gottheil, P.M. and Hon. Sec.; S. Davies, Treas.; H. M. Levy, P.M. 188; Manus, 188; Davis, 223; Gluckstein, P.P.G.S.W. Essex, &c.; Stebbing, P.G.D. (England); and Jas. Wyld, Zetland Lodge (L.V. Guardian), &c. The Hon. Sec. announced that subscriptions had already been received to the amount of £14 12s.; and, additional, per S. Davies, £3 8s.; C. Davies, £1 5s.; A. E. Harris, £3; H. M. Levy, £1; Gluckstein, £2 2s. 6d.; and Gottheil, £6 14s. 6d.; total £31 2s.

Obituary.

BRO. RICHARD REED NELSON,

P.M., P.Z., Past Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and
Prov. Grand Secretary, West Yorkshire.

A faithful and indefatigable labourer in the Masonic vineyard has been called away suddenly from the scene of his earthly toil. Richard Reed Nelson is no more! Our departed brother was, truly, not one of those who enter the sanctuary and thenceforth fold their arms and sleep; he was not of those who regard Freemasonry as an agreeable pastime, deaf to its mystic teachings and heedless of its moral significance. He was essentially a workman in the quarry, a delver in the rich mine of practical Masonry; one who grappled with difficulties sufficient to appal ordinary men, and who never shrank from the onerous path of duty because there was a lion in the track. The Order needs such men, for, let it be said with sorrow, there are even now in the Craft too many lack-a-daisical Masons, carpet knights, statues of straw, and "wind-bags," as the Chelsea philosopher contemptuously calls the human shams of our time.

Earnestness of purpose and vigor of action are what we want, and these Bro. Nelson possessed in a degree common to few men. For the charities he worked with untiring energy, bringing the claims of the Boys' School especially straight home to the hearts of the Yorkshire brethren, and his sudden demise will be especially felt in the great West Riding where he lived and laboured amongst the Craft. Bro. Nelson was entered, passed, and raised in the Alfred Lodge, No. 306, Leeds, and afterwards joined a good old lodge, bearing a good old name, "The Three Grand Principles," No. 208, Dewsbury, in which he first served the office of Worshipful Master. His Masonic career dates only from October, 1851, but in that comparatively brief period he made his mark in the world of Freemasonry. Founder and first Master of the St. John's Lodge, No. 827, Dewsbury, Provincial Grand Secretary, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, high and merited were the honours showered upon his head, honours which but "stimulated him to further exertions," so that had he lived we might have reasonably anticipated that the dais of the Grand Lodge of England would ere long have received an accession in the person of Bro. Nelson.

It was, however, as Prov. Grand Secretary, an office of paramount importance in a large province, that our lamented brother particularly distinguished himself, combining as he did those Masonic and business qualifications which are essential to the due performance of the duties of the position. This appointment he held at the time of his decease, which took place on Saturday, the 5th instant, at Dewsbury, and his remains were consigned to their native earth on the 10th instant, as will be seen by the following circular:—

Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire of Antient, Free, and Accepted Masons.

Broomfield House, Dewsbury, 7th March, 1870.
Worshipful dear Sir and Brother,—By desire of the Very Worshipful D.P.G.M., Bro. Bentley Shaw, J.P., it is my painful duty to inform you of the death of W. Bro. Richard Reed Nelson, P.M., Prov. G. Sec., &c., and to acquaint you that his remains will be interred at the cemetery, Halifax, on Thursday next, the 10th instant, at one p.m.

Should you be desirous to assist in paying the last tribute of respect to his memory, you are requested to meet at the Masonic Hall, St. John's Place, Halifax, at twelve at noon, where all brethren are invited to assemble.

I am, Worshipful dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

CHARLES OLDROYD, Prov. G. Treasurer.

P.S.—The brethren are not expected to appear in Masonic costume.

This, our tribute to his memory, is, we avow, a most imperfect one, but we may add that the lesson of his life is suggestive. It speaks in solemn tone; let us each perform our allotted task while it is yet day, let us not hold back our hands from the plough, or faint with weariness by the way. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," therefore let the record of our dead brother's acts stir us to deeds of good before death comes and quenches every opportunity in the midst of darkness and dismay.

We cannot close this necrological notice more appropriately than by quoting the following lines, entitled "The Broken Column," written by Bro. Rob Morris on a similar melancholy occasion:

"His WORK was not done, yet his column is broken,
Mourn ye and weep, for ye cherished his worth;
Let every tear-drop be sympathy's token,
Lost to the Brotherhood, lost to the earth.
His WORK had been planned by a WISDOM SUPERNAL;
Strength had been given him meet for the same;
Down in the midst he is fallen, and vernal
Leaves hang above him, and whisper his fame.
His WORK was to BUILD, on the walls we beheld him
Swiftly and truly they rose 'neath his hand;
Envious death with his gavel has felled him,
Plumb-line and trowel are strewn o'er the land.
His WORK thus unfinished to US is entrusted;
MASTER OF MASONS, give strength we entreat,
Bravely to work with these implements rusted,
Wisely to build till the temple's complete.
SO MOTE IT BE.

Mulum in Parbo, or Masonic
Notes and Queries.

THE ARK MARINERS' DEGREE.

I herewith send you, for the information of a "Mark Master," a copy of the "Gill" Ark Mariners' Warrant, and also a draft of a warrant for working the "Mark" and other superior degrees dated in 1796. In another charter (the publication of which I reserve) the "Red Cross" forms one of the series of degrees worked under Lord Ranelagh. I may take this opportunity of stating that the Red Cross was worked in connection with a K.T. Encampment in Dublin over forty years ago, and that I sent a copy of a certificate issued to a brother at that time for insertion in THE FREEMASON some months ago, but was informed that the MS. was lost or mislaid. This is to be regretted as it was the only copy I possessed. Fortunately, however, the original certificate was seen and perused by several brethren, amongst others by Brother Frederick Binckes, to whom I referred the bearer, as the Mark Degree was also mentioned in the certificate. The language of the diploma was decidedly Christian, and could not have referred to the "Red Cross of Babylon" or any other peculiarly Jewish degree. The bearer, an old man, was relieved with a small sum from the funds entrusted to the Grand Almoner of the Red Cross order, the certificate bearing the strongest evidence of authenticity.

R. WENTWORTH LITTLE.

"A Dispensation, granted on board the Grand Royal Ark Vessel moored at the Surrey Tavern, Strand, London.

"I do hereby authorise and empower our trusty and well-beloved brothers (sic orig.) Charles Sinclair from this time to assemble and hold a Royal Ark Vessel under this dispensation, on all lawful occasions and reasonable times to enter Ark Mariners on board until they are qualified to receive a warrant from the Grand and Royal Ark Vessel, provided the above brothers pay a due respect thereto, otherwise this dispensation to be of no force or virtue.

"Given under my hand and seal this fifth day of the ninth month, from the year of the flood 3348, and the twentieth of October, in the year of our Lord 1796.

"Signed ROBERT GILL, A.G.C.N."

ADOPTIVE MASONRY.

Can you inform me whether any degrees for the fair sex are conferred in England, and if so, where?

QUERIST.

[We have heard it said that a lodge for ladies is held in Yorkshire and that the Countess de Grey and Ripon is the Grand Mistress, but cannot vouch for the truth of the report.

Bro. Macoy, of New York, sent us some time ago the rituals of the Eastern Star degrees, which have been placed in the hands of a brother who may possibly use them.—ED. F.]

The society of "Asiatic Brethren" originated in a schism amongst the German Rosicrucians during the last century. A personage named Ecker was its founder, and by means of the society he obtained great consideration from the court of Berlin. After a time, however, Frederick of Prussia suppressed the order in his dominions, but it was revived at Vienna, and spread rapidly throughout the provinces of the Austrian Empire. It is now, however, utterly extinct, but its ritual is known to several Masons both in England and on the Continent.

ANTIQUARIUS.

PRETTY FELLOWS AND FREEMASONS IN 1709.

I readily admit that Freemasons, as well as Free Cordiners, Squaremen, Pretty Fellows, &c., had their tokens before 1717, but it does not therefore follow that the signs and tokens, ceremonies, rituals, and degrees which we as Speculative Freemasons now use, were so used before 1717. In fact, I consider they were not so used, and I hereby challenge proof of the same; for in all my researches I have neither seen it nor can I get any one to point it out to me, either publicly or privately. "They have their signs and tokens like Free-Masons," refers to the customs of the Social Masons of that date—1709. In the social part of our Freemasonry still, we have "signs and tokens" used among the brethren which do not form part of our rituals. Lastly, was Sir Richard Steele a Freemason himself at the date, June 9th, 1709? The Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, and the Lodge of Kilwinning admitted gentlemen long before 1709, and gave them a "token" or tokens, or something equivalent, yet neither these nor any other Scottish lodges I know of practised our Speculative Freemasonry until after 1717. So the quotation from *The Tatler*, which I have seen in the original, although correct enough, is nothing wonderful.

LEO.

DATE OF MOTHER KILWINNING LODGE, NO. 0,
(page 114).

The old Lodge of Kilwinning, alias "Mother Kilwinning," claims to date from the foundation of Kilwinning Abbey in 1140, but they have not the least shadow of proof for any such assertion, nor can they point to any proof of the existence of any lodge there at that early date. Further, the old Abbey ruins they point to to support the said idea belong to the Pointed style and period, and the age of the oldest portions is nearer 1240 than 1140. That there was a "building fraternity" therefore in Kilwinning in 1240 I admit, but we have got no proof as yet of the "Lodge of Kilwinning" being then in existence, nor can they give any proof of their existence until long after. The Abbey of Kilwinning founded in 1140 would, I consider, be built of wood, but afterwards, when the monks got properly settled and were in funds, &c., they set about building the stone erection. The old Lodge of Kilwinning has minutes from 1642, but they lament the loss of an older book, which probably went back to about 1600. As to the pretension of "Mother Kilwinning" being the mother lodge of Scotland, all the others being off-shoots from it, that is simply nonsense—it is one of our Masonic dreams. When the work which my esteemed friend Bro. D. Murray Lyon is engaged on is published, viz., the history of the Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, we shall no doubt receive more light.

LEO.

"THE MASONIC TOBACCO BOX."

If Bro. Swete will communicate with Bro. Buchan anent this, I shall be satisfied. LEO.

The following extract purports to be an account of the initiation of a Freshman in the American Universities—after this, let Freemasonry hide its diminished head. VIATOR.

"Here, in a low, dark passage-way, several maskers, dressed in the deepest and dearest black, are grouped around an upright skeleton, whose sockets glisten with a dull phosphore-scent light. A freshman is brought up face to face with this ghastly figure, and his bandage removed. A student ventriloquist, stationed behind the skeleton, addresses the victim as if through the skeleton's mouth. The figure seems to command him, in a hollow and cavernous voice, to shake it by the hand. The freshman after some resistance obeys. Instantly a quiver shoots over his frame, and he becomes as ghastly pale as the skeleton itself. Master freshman will learn the secret of all this hereafter in the recitation hall—he has to thank electricity for this ill turn. Next he is brought to a room where stands a masked figure dressed as a headsman. Beside him is seen a guillotine, and the victim—again permitted to see for what he is destined—is laid upon the floor, and his head inserted beneath the fatal and glittering axe. As he stoops for this purpose he turns white to see lying beside the guillotine a blood-stained cloth. The executioner sets the deadly machine in motion, and it descends with a whiz upon the neck of the freshman—stopping short however within an inch or two of it. We, as spectators, know that the axe is of harmless pine, painted a shining steel colour; and we have time to perceive that there are firm stops above where his head is placed. He is next led to a cold, damp, cellar-like apartment, with only the damp ground for footing, where he is

enveloped in a particularly damp and uncomfortable shroud. There is a long narrow hole in the ground, in the middle of the room; beside it, a coffin. The neophyte receives a solemn lecture from a grim-looking fellow, who stands with folded arms above the grave, and then is compelled to step into the coffin and lie flat on his back. The ropes which pass under it are grasped, the coffin is swung, and then with a slow swaying motion it descends into the grave. All of a sudden there is total darkness, a board is placed over the top of the hole, and our poor freshman, for the first and last time in his life, experiences what it is to be buried alive. If he has in his childhood been the victim of nurse's ghost stories, his situation is really terrible. It lasts, however, but a moment: he is drawn up again, and passes on to other trials of his courage. The next thing is to take him into a room brightly illuminated by torches, where a kind of high court has been organised. On a raised platform, disguised, sits the judge who is to 'put him to the question.' All sort of ridiculous queries are put to him, some of which he would rather not answer, but is awed into submission. Then a cloth is raised just below the judge's chair, a coffin is discovered, and in it a corpse, with a gash across its forehead—a corpse, however, of wax only. The forehead of this ghastly object the freshman is forced to kiss; and that ends his initiation."

KNIGHTS OF PATMOS OR ORDER OF PHILIPPI.

I have seen a certificate of the above Order on which are the words "We meet at Philippi." Is anything known of the Order? STGMA.

[It was formerly conferred on Knights Templar, and its history was derived from the Apocalypse. The emblem was a serpent with its tail in its mouth, emblematical of eternity.—ED.F.]

Original Correspondence.

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

COMP. BRETT AND THE CHAPTER OF PRUDENT BRETHREN.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—With reference to certain letters which have appeared in THE FREEMASON, respecting the part Comp. Brett took in the consecration of the "Prudent Brethren" Chapter, I believe every one then present will admit that he performed the duties which devolved upon him in a most admirable manner. I take this opportunity of placing upon record extracts from letters received from three distinguished members of the Craft, as examples of about forty others, on the occasion of the recent Testimonial Dinner, in which just testimony is borne to Comp. Brett's Masonic services. Colonel Burdett, Prov. Grand Master for Middlesex, in regretting his absence from the Testimonial Banquet, expresses his "extreme gratification to find that his (Comp. Brett's) Masonic worth, and unceasing exertions for the benefit of the Order, have been acknowledged by the brethren," and adds, "that no brother could have worked more zealously or in a manner more worthy of general approbation." Bro. Hervey, the Grand Secretary, states that "There is no brother in the Craft for whom I entertain a higher respect than I do for Bro. Brett;" and further pays a merited tribute not only to our brother's ability as a Masonic preceptor, but to the kindly manner in which he communicates instruction. Bro. Hughan, Prov. Grand Secretary for Cornwall, writes respecting Bro. Brett, "His devotion to Royal Arch Masonry in particular has won the admiration of the Order, and his preceptorship has been the means of instructing thousands. . . . He richly deserves a grand testimonial, address, and banquet."

Testimonies like these from recognized authorities in the Order far outweigh any feeble meed of praise that may fall from my pen, but I may add that in the company of Bro. James Brett, I have acquired most valuable Masonic instruction, especially in the ceremonies of the Royal Arch degree, and in stating this I am but echoing the sentiments of a host of brethren in the Metropolis.

Yours fraternally,
R. WENTWORTH LITTLE, P.Z.,
Hon. Sec. Brett Testimonial.

MASONIC ASSERTIONS.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I perceive at page 100 of your columns, Bro. Chalmers I. Paton stating that, "The present method of Scottish Freemasonry has been handed down from very ancient times." Now that is a simple mistake, for said "present method" was never practised in Scotland before the first quarter of last century, whatever less, and as yet there has never been produced any proof of its being so old in Scotland as 1720.

Then, as to this "Masonic Tobacco-box," alluded to at page 117, and which I find has been thrown at my head in "Notes and Queries" of January 29th, I should like to see it before admitting the age of the emblems to be "1670." The description of

them given by Bro. Horace Swete is of no value as to their age; to form any opinion upon the age of the engraving *per se* one would require to see it; therefore, if Bro. Swete can see his way to send me the box per book post—registered for safety—I shall examine it, and immediately thereafter safely return it. If, however, he cannot do so, perhaps he could send a careful rubbing of the top and bottom, and Bro. "Leo"—with whom I am acquainted—and I will feel obliged.

For myself, I have seen so many "cock-and-bull" Masonic stories ending in smoke, that I have learned to be cautious before admitting anything.

I am, yours fraternally,

W. P. BUCHAN.

151, West Nile-street, Glasgow.

HURAM ABIF.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I cannot accept the explanation given by "D. Stoltz," in your issue of Feb. 26th, respecting the discrepancy in the two accounts of the lineage of Hiram Abif in 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles. It strikes me as more natural to refer the statement in Kings "of the tribe of Naphtali" to the widow father, than to Hiram's father, who was clearly of Tyrian descent.

We would thus have the widow, Hiram's mother, descended by her father from the tribe of Naphtali, by her mother from the daughters of Dan, and this widow of purely Jewish descent, was married to Hiram's father, of purely Tyrian descent, and thus a blending of the two races in Hiram Abif.

E. M.

A DISTRESSING CASE.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Will you allow me, through the columns of your journal, to draw the attention of the Craft to the case of Eliza Buswell, who has been totally paralyzed for ten years. Her husband, Charles Buswell, died about two years since; he was a P.M. of the "Industry" Lodge, 186, and a Companion of the Lily Chapter of Richmond, 820; he was employed by the South Western Railway Company, but, owing to the affliction of his wife, was unable to make any adequate provision for her, and she is now nearly in a state of destitution.

An effort is being made to procure her admission to the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, but it seems almost a hopeless task, unless funds sufficient can be raised to purchase the necessary number of votes. Donations on behalf of this object (or proxies for votes in the above Institution), will be thankfully received by,

Yours fraternally,

JESSE OWENS, Finsbury Lodge, 861,
40, Vorley-road, Junction-road, Upper Holloway, N.

AN APPEAL TO THE CRAFT.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Through your kindness, I beg to make an appeal to the Craft for some assistance, to enable me to emigrate to Canada. The circumstances of my misfortune are, about two years ago, after being out of employment and not being able to obtain anything to do, I was compelled, much against my inclination, to adopt the calling of an omnibus conductor, which was a living, and kept to it till the 4th December, 1869, when through an accident that befel me in October, by being knocked off the omnibus of which I was conductor I was spitting blood from the time of the accident till I was forced to give up, although I could not afford to do so, having previously lost my child and having had my wife ill for some time afterwards, and of course had to incur expenses which I wished to have paid but had to give in at last. When my doctor saw me, he said I had broken a blood-vessel, and must obtain some lighter employment. I wrote to my employers and told them how I was situated, asked them for some lighter employment, when they informed me it should have immediate attention, and all that has been done for me, after eleven weeks, is by their informing me that they have nothing they can appoint me to, and gave me one sovereign.

After waiting some time, I asked them to re-instate me as odd man, and they said they "cannot keep pensioners." Although I met with my misfortune in their service, and by another omnibus belonging to the same company, through which I have been brought down to the present time penniless, having had to part with all I possessed for support through the arbitrary power of the company, and having been a conductor, I have great difficulties in obtaining anything else.

If the Craft will kindly answer the appeal of their distressed brother they will always have his heartfelt thanks.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

R. A. GOSSET, Lodge 164, Old Aberdeen.
90, White Lion-street, Islington.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As a constant subscriber to your paper, will you be kind enough to give me your opinion on the following case:—

A gentleman was initiated in Lodge 376 in the year 1859, from which time he has never attended his lodge, his excuse being that it would cost him £50. In the year 1861 he was proposed as a joining member, and on a ballot there appeared for him three white balls, against him twenty-two black. In May, 1869, he was again proposed, when a long discussion took place, and a Board of General Purposes was summoned to discuss the question, consisting of the W.M., his Wardens, and the P. Masters, at which meeting two old P.M.'s stated that they had heard the candidate in a public room divulge as much of his preparation and part of the ceremony as he could recollect. Can he claim to be passed and raised in the same lodge, or is he a fit and proper person for further honours in the Craft? AN OLD P.M.

[Certainly not.—ED. F.]

THE "YORK" LODGE, No. 236.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR,—I thought the following act of grace of the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., relative to the York Lodge would interest you, and perhaps your readers.

For the reasons explained [in the enclosed memorial, the brethren at York had long expressed a desire to change the name of the lodge. At the commencement of the present year, and in view of its being the last year of office of the noble Earl, (who is our oldest subscribing member, having been a member for upwards of twenty-five years,) it was felt the time had come to ask for permission to make the change; accordingly I gave notice in open lodge, and to every brother by circular, that I should read a form of memorial to that effect at the next lodge. The draft was so read, a vote was then taken and carried unanimously to adopt it; and that it should be signed, and forwarded to the G.M. through the Grand Secretary. The following is the reply:—

"Freemasons' Hall, London,

"Sir and Bro.,—Your memorial to the M.W. Grand Master, praying permission to change the name of your lodge. His Lordship has been pleased to accede to the application, and the lodge will therefore in future bear the name of 'The York Lodge,' No. 236.

"I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
"JOHN HERVEY, G.S.

"To Bro. J. C. Swallow, Sec., Lodge No. 236."

These documents have been entered upon the minutes of the lodge, and the change of name is now an accomplished fact.

I am, dear Sir, yours fraternally,

JOHN CHAS. SWALLOW,
Sec. of The York Lodge.

COPY OF MEMORIAL.

"To the Right Honourable the Earl of Zetland, K.T., Most Worshipful Grand Master.

"We the undersigned, the Master and Wardens of the Union Lodge, No. 236, meeting in the Masonic Hall, Duncombe-place, York, in pursuance of a resolution passed in open lodge at a regular lodge, held on Monday, the seventeenth of January, A.L. 5870, A.D. 1870, humbly request your Lordship to grant permission that the name of this lodge may be changed from that of *Union*, to the *York Lodge*.

"It has long been the wish of the brethren of the lodge that it should be more closely connected with that of our ancient city, and with the Masonic glory with which it is associated.

"Our early traditions inform us, that from the time of Prince Edwin, A.D. 926, when the first lodge was held in the Norman Crypt of York Minster, under a charter from King Athelstan, a Grand Lodge existed in an uninterrupted stream, until about the year 1780; and although the York Grand Lodge then died out, from the growing importance of Masonry in the South of England, yet, Masonry itself continued to flourish in the North, and gave birth to the Provincial Grand Lodge for Yorkshire, and from which sprang the Union Lodge in the year 1777, one of the most influential lodges in the province. The Provincial Grand Lodge was always held at York until the year 1821, when it was divided into separate provinces. On the 14th of August 1821, the first Provincial Grand Lodge, under the title of North and East Ridings of Yorkshire was held in the 'Grand Lodge Room,' in the City of York, and there regularly until the year 1830, and it was not until the year 1835 that the Provincial Grand Lodge was held out of the city. Since which period, it has been held in various towns in the province, and at York in 1836, 1838, 1841, 1843, 1848, 1851, 1856, and 1864. Thus the importance of York as having taken a prominent place in the History of English Masonry; the charges and regulations it has framed under the title of the York Constitutions, and the present appellation still given to those working under them 'of Ancient York Masons,' entitle us to your consideration to make the required change.

"That the name of our lodge should be distinctive is by the brethren desired, as there are already two Lodges of the Union in London, and nine in the country, beside eight of the same name in foreign parts.

"For the desired name of York to distinguish our lodge by in the future, we call your Lordship's recollection to the fact, that throughout the world, this city has been

for a great length of time regarded almost as the birthplace of 'English Masonry,' or at least as its foster mother, and we do hope that this feeling, coupled with our strong desire will be a sufficient excuse for sincerely hoping your Lordship will grant our request.

"We have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most humble and obedient servants,

"THOMAS GIBSON HARTLEY, Worshipful Master.
JOSEPH TODD, Senior Warden.
MATTHEW COOPER, Junior Warden.
JOHN CHARLES SWALLOW, Secretary."

THE FREEMASONS' LIFE BOAT.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I wish to ask through your columns for some information respecting a circular I have received, as W.M. of a lodge, concerning "The Freemasons' Life Boat." The circular is signed "E. Gotthiel, P.M. 141, Hon. Sec.," and contains these words, "I wish it to be distinctly understood that the Committee is neither directly nor indirectly connected with any person or persons who have at any time attempted a similar movement."

I have understood that the history of "The Freemasons' Life Boat" is simply this:—"Some few years ago, a brother collected a certain sum of money for a Life Boat, but appropriated it, it was said, to his own use. I believe this was not the only instance in which private individuals had appealed to the Craft on this subject, but I cannot say what became of the money collected. About two or three years ago a committee was formed, as I believe, to take up the subject in a *proper manner*, and as it was a subject in which I was much interested, I entered into communication with a brother, personally unknown to me, but who, I believe, took a lively interest in the matter. I don't see his name down on the committee in the circular I have received, though I feel certain he told me he was on the committee himself, and mentioned various illustrious brethren whose names are also wanting in the circular. At the time I speak of, an appeal was constantly made in the pages of *The Masonic Mirror*, I have, however, heard nothing more of the subject since.

Now, I wish to know whether the committee of which Bro. Gotthiel is the Hon. Sec. is the same as the one that was, I believe, started two or three years ago? If not, whether the present committee is to be considered as an opposition committee, as one would gather from the words I have quoted? If it is an opposition committee, I think we ought to be informed what they propose doing with the money already collected within the last three years, as they distinctly have repudiated any connection with any "similar movement," though I know money has been collected for the purpose of presenting a Life Boat to the National Life Boat Institution.

Hoping that this may catch the eye of one of the committee, and produce a reply.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
W.M.

THE MASONIC TOBACCO-BOX.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

I have a number of photo-lithographs of engravings from the notorious Bro. Finch's works. This man, who was expelled by Grand Lodge, flourished during the latter part of the last, and early in the present centuries, and appears to have had a great predilection for Masonic diagrams.

If Bro. Dr. Swete will forward me his address, I will send him one of these photo-lithographs, which he will find is very similar to the engraving on the Tobacco-box, and indeed in some respects, may be said to be exact. The columns may be described in the same language as in Bro. Dr. Swete's letter, in *THE FREEMASON*, of the 5th inst.

Although I do not believe the engraving on the Tobacco-box to be more than a century old, I admire the fair manner in which Dr. Swete has made known its character, and feel all the more inclined to send him the photo-lithograph for his perusal. I should like to have a photo of the engraving on the lid.

Yours fraternally,
W. J. HUGHAN,
Prov. G. Sec. Cornwall, &c.
Truro, 5th March, 1870.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR,—The description given by Bro. Swete, in *THE FREEMASON* of March 5th inst., of the Masonic signs depicted on the now celebrated box is full of interesting information for enquiry. Allow me also to inform Bro. "Leo," that within the past few weeks, I have seen a beautifully carved oak figure (representing St. John the Baptist,) the base of the pedestal on which the figure stands, contain carvings of some curious Masonic signs, and the date 1610, the whole has every appearance of antiquity.

AMMI, No. 1222.

JURISDICTION OF GRAND LODGES.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR,—If your correspondent "Delta" elects to lose his temper and his manners in his reply to my communication published in one of the numbers of your *FREEMASON* for December last, I do not elect to follow his example in my response. I write over my own name what I have to say. He screens himself behind a fictitious one, for Delta is not the name of a man, but of a thing, while he is so impolite as to call me a *thing*. Doubtless he believes he can by one fling of his poudrous strength crush out "J. Fletcher Brennan *et rei omne genus*." Perhaps he can. We shall see.

To use the "Delta" opening; "please say to 'Delta' that I never charged him with entertaining so liberal and consistent an idea as to recommend one style of government for all Masonic Rites; nor did I represent him to any extent as holding that different Rites should be under the same Masonic government. It is the infinite consequence that he attaches to but one style of Masonic government, as such, that constantly blinds him to the demands of truth and justice. The *Bulletin* of the Grand Orient of France for August last reported the discussion and result of the demands of G. L.'s of Louisiana and New York, and in it there is not a line to prove, nor a word, that the Grand Master, the General Mellinet, nor any other Grand Master or member of that body proposed to reconsider the matter after the vote on Bro. Poulle's motion. "Delta" it is that errs, and endeavours to mislead by saying what he does in that connection to favor his own predictions, and, also, in that other connection that, as he says "the G. L. of Louisiana has declared as *effectively* as if embodied in its constitution that" men of every race and color may be candidates for Masonry within its lodges. There is not a Grand Lodge in the United States, and not to speak only of the late slaveholding States, that in any manner recognises that the black American can be a Freemason. The dogma embodied in one of the "Charges" to the operative Masons of the middle ages, and which was cancelled by the Grand Lodge of England after the Union of 1813, is and has ever been in the United States maintained in the strictest manner as a "landmark," and it is that the candidate for Masonry *must be free-born*. That he must be a free man is sufficient for the Grand Lodge of England, but not so for the Grand Lodges of the United States of America; and a New York writer on Masonic Law, in a work produced by him in 1864, takes the Grand Lodge of England roundly to task for the "removal of this landmark."

At the risk of being tedious, I must crave your indulgence to represent this matter as it is, and not as "Delta" says it is, with the desire to make capital in favor of the positions of the N.Y., La., and other U.S. Grand Lodges. Bro. John W. Simons, a Past Grand Master of New York Masons, and the chief advocate of the disruption of intercourse between his Grand Lodge and the Grand Orient of France, which was adopted in his Grand Lodge last June, is the writer above referred to. In his book, after offering what he styles fifteen Ancient Landmarks, he uses the following language:—

"Self-interest, or the predominance of a feeling entirely extraneous, will sometimes lead men to close their eyes to the most indubitable propositions. Take, for example, the fourth landmark above cited. [4. The new-made Mason must be free born, of lawful age, and hale and sound at the time of making.] Its existence as a fundamental principle of Masonic law, from the very earliest times of which we have any record is beyond dispute; its language too plain to admit of equivocation; and it is just as much an integral and immovable part of the Masonic system as the one requiring a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being; and we can admit an argument as to the right to abrogate one with the same propriety as the other. Nevertheless, the Grand Lodge of England a few years ago solemnly amended its constitution by striking out free born, and putting in its place free man; thus changing an essential feature of the law, or, in plain terms, removing an indisputable landmark."

There is a double iniquity in this proceeding of the English Grand Lodge, from the fact that at its establishment it was solemnly agreed that no regulation should be adopted in derogation of the Ancient Landmarks, and that agreement is just as binding as a landmark, for it was entered into as a condition of the resignation of the general sovereignty into the keeping of the Grand Lodge, which, therefore, not only sets aside a landmark, but violates an express stipulation that it would not do so."

In reply to the above I met it, in the *American Freemason* for January, 1868, with the following language:—

"Had Bro. Simons stated the *cause* for this action of the Grand Lodge of England, it would be evidently proper, and reflect more credit upon him than any amount of well-written testimony as to the fact. The Grand Lodge of England as their successor received in 1813 the institution of Masonry from her predecessors, the two Grand Lodges located in London city, with all the faults and errors they had committed for nearly seventy-five years. During that time both of them had en-

deavoured to propagate Masonry in every country, not only the dependencies of Great Britain but others, with but little concern as to the style of population in those countries, whether slave or free. In the West India Islands, both British and French, also Dutch, in Essequibo, Demerara, New Guiana lodges were founded with English Grand Lodge warrants, some of which exist to this day on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England, and large portions of the membership of which were not free-born, although when made Masons they were free-men. The present Grand Lodge having succeeded to this inheritance—one, the peculiarities of which it is not probable engaged the consideration of either of the high contracting parties when they transmitted to it their respective charges, and exacted of it the engagement mentioned by Bro. Simons—believing 'twas better to be right than continue intact the letter of a 'landmark,' whose spirit had been notoriously rendered void by the acts of its predecessors, concluded to and did change the same to correspond with the facts of the case, and no longer continue in name that condition long since discontinued in fact. And in this, we believe, instead of condemning that Grand Lodge so severely as Bro. Simons proceeds to do in his future remarks upon the subject, all reasonable brethren will rather find cause for praise in so sensible an action."

The manner of John W. Simons in his treatment of this subject is the manner of every Grand Lodge Officer in the United States. In no part of the world could this "landmark," as he is pleased to consider it, have the same bearing on so many intelligent men as in this country, and hence it was found to be that which should be most strenuously and to the very letter administered. "Delta," as an American, is perfectly well aware of this, and yet he wants to cast the blame of rejecting black free-men in America upon the operative lodges. This is the contemptible sophism I alluded to in my last. The American operative lodges *must* be governed by the terms of their respective Grand Lodge Constitutions, in manner exactly as the states of this republic are governed by the Constitution of the United States, including its every amendment which by the State Legislatures, in sufficient number may be adopted. Only By-Laws are the lodges permitted to make for themselves, and should one of these conflict with that Grand Lodge's Constitution in any particular, that lodge's discipline, and, if the offending law is not repealed, its warrant is arrested. In this way all liberty or independent action is forbidden to the operative lodges—no change to correspond with change of national circumstances, consequent on national movements being permitted to them. Such change, under the present régime, must first obtain in the Grand Lodges, and if not there they do not obtain at all. For three years past the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, has had before it a petition from the colored brethren in that state for recognition, and but within the month of December last was an answer, and that in the negative, vouchsafed. That body maintains that they are *clandestine-made* Masons, because when the charter to organize African Lodge, No. 459, English Register, was (in 1784) granted it was an invasion of the Masonic territory of Massachusetts by the Grand Lodge of England. No regularly organized Grand Lodge existed in Massachusetts previous to 1792. All history proves this, for not until then did the operative lodges of the state organize such a body. African Lodge, No. 459, was organized under its Master Prince Hall in 1787; *ergo*, that act was an invasion of the G. L. of Massachusetts jurisdiction! This is the style of assumption put on by American Grand Lodges. "Delta," as the advocate of this high-handed, utterly illiberal, unjust and despotic style, can hardly contain his anger at being met by me writing in the interests of truth, justice, and universal Freemasonry. He talks about religious *sects*, in contradistinction to churches, as if there was but one Christian Church in the world, and asks: would the Established Church of England fraternize with the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist or Congregationalist—I take it this is what he wishes to say—or any other Christian Church? As to the fraternization, by which I suppose he means communion, that is a matter of taste, and does not serve as an illustration; but as to the Established Church of England declaring as *clandestine* every other form of Christian worship, because it did not establish those forms, or because they were established by other Christian authorities in England, and forbidding to its members intercourse with or recognition as Christians of those other churches and their members—this, I believe, no man can or will affirm the Establishment has ever done. And yet this is precisely what the Grand Lodges of Freemasons of the United States have done, are doing, and demand shall be done.

I remain, fraternally yours,
J. FLETCHER BRENNAN,
Editor of the *American Freemason*.
Cincinnati, Ohio (U.S.A.), Jan. 29th, 1870.

THE eighth and last volume of M. de Tchibatcheff's work on Asia Minor will shortly appear.

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That still endureth in his breast,
Though desolate may seem his lot.
'Tis then, in sorrow's darkest hour,
He lifts his weeping eyes above;
And by the beacon light of Faith
He recognises Heaven's love;
He feels however great his trials
Each chast'ning is in mercy sent,
And life hath some sweet pleasure still,
For joy with grief is often blent.
And though the latter shades his path,
God's love will guide him safe through all;
Will cheer him with the blessed hope
Of joy to compensate for all;
Of joy in that fair blissful home,
Where sorrow's tears shall cease to flow;
And happiness shall take the place
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