

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
MASONIC LIFE-BOATS	667
MASONIC CURIOSITIES—VII.	667 & 668
OBITUARY—	
The R. W. Bro. Thomas Henry Hall	668
Bro. Captain John Carr Chambers	668
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR	668
THE CRAFT—	
Metropolitan	669
Middlesex	669
Provincial	669 & 670
ROYAL ARCH—	
Metropolitan	670
Provincial	670
MARK MASONRY—	
Consecration of a new Mark Lodge at Has-	
lingden	671
Metropolitan	671
Provincial	671
INSTRUCTION—	
Consecration of the Royal Standard Lodge of	
Instruction	671
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS	672
ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS	672
“ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARD MEN.”	672
LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE	672
MULTUM IN PARVO	673
DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BOMBAY	674
DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF S. AUSTRALIA	674
KNIGHT TEMPLARY	675
ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE—	
The War Victims	675 & 676
The “Rectangular Review” on Freemasonry:	
Its use and abuse	676
The Purple α . West Lancashire	676
THE CITY MASONIC CLUB	676 & 677
ANNUAL MASONIC BALL AT PENDLETON	677
MASONIC MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK	677 & 678
ADVERTISEMENTS	665, 666, 678, 679, & 680

Reports of Lodges 49, 73, 169, 813, and 907 London; 80, 225, 292, 523, 1000, 1072, and 1323 provincial; Mark Lodge No. 7, Red Cross Conclave No. 15, and Mark Lodge No. 22, Scotch, stand over.

MASONIC LIFE-BOATS.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

I hasten to repair an act of injustice which I committed in my communication upon the “Life-Boats,” which appeared in your last number. I spoke of the unsatisfactory accounts which had been given of the appropriation of the money formerly collected for a Masonic life-boat. The truth is, I had been misled by sundry remarks that had been made in THE FREEMASON to that effect, and by questions that had been asked about the fund without eliciting any satisfactory reply. I remember a statement made to the effect that £15 had been paid to Bro. Hyde Clarke, and that he had stated that he did not recollect to whom he paid it. Altogether, the appropriation of the fund seemed involved in doubt. I have been agreeably surprised, after all this, to find the following on page 367 of the “Royal National Life-Boat Institution” for 1870:—

“Masonic Life-Boat, per Messrs. Clarke and Smith (1869), £52 18s. 6d.”

If this should remove the dissatisfaction that has been felt as to the destination of this money, I shall be very glad.

WILLIAM CARPENTER.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

In continuation of the observations of Bro. William Carpenter in your last publication, I have also read with much pleasure your excellent and stirring article on “A Masonic Life-Boat,” and entirely agree with Bro. Carpenter as to the desirability of the Craft contributing one or two life-boats to the National Life-Boat Institution, but do not agree with his criticism, and may almost say his sneers, upon the want of success and the real cause of the “beggarly account of empty boxes which the Freemasons’ Life-Boat Committee are fain to exhibit.” He, whilst admitting the respectability of the Committee meeting at Bro. Forster’s, doubts whether there is sufficient energy put forth to “galvanise the movement into life and vigour,” and

that “it is not enough for a committee to meet, talk, and advertise their object.” I beg to inform Bro. Carpenter for his individual information that the Committee do do something more, and of that he may convince himself if he will do the committee the favour and honour of his presence at one of their monthly meetings.

The movement commenced in a very humble way with a small number of the present Committee. They were comparatively unknown to the general body of Masons, yet they have in spite of difficulties—one mentioned by Bro. Carpenter of the former almost individual exertion and the unsatisfactory and unaccountable silence of that individual and the others concerned as to the appropriation of the money contributed, which has no doubt created a great amount of distrust; another difficulty has been the lukewarmness of such brethren as Bro. Carpenter, who, whilst admitting the principle, have remained aloof—succeeded in raising nearly £200.

I deny altogether Bro. Carpenter’s allegation that the older Committee have not used strenuous individual exertion, and have not endeavoured to enlist, and can assure him that they have enlisted and still continue to enlist individuals outside the Committee, and to interest them in the cause. The proof of this can be seen by the constantly-increasing number of eminent brethren who have joined the Committee, and whose names are published periodically in your valuable paper. The Committee have also made two appeals by circular for assistance to every lodge and chapter in England and Wales, which is slowly bearing fruit.

I feel with Bro. Carpenter that it is a disgrace to the wealthy Masonic body that they have done nothing towards augmenting the fleet of the National Life-boat Institution, whilst less opulent and humbler societies have done so; and that it is quite time this disgrace was wiped away. I have great hopes that not only the “Freemasons’ Life-Boat Committee,” but also the “City of London Masonic Life-Boat Committee,” will effect that object in more than one or two instances now that the “Freemasons’ Life-Boat Committee,” with your valuable aid, have called attention to the matter; and that they will succeed in floating life-boats identified with Freemasonry.

I cannot but regret that Bro. Carpenter has not come forward to assist the older Committee with his oratory and pen; for if he had done so, they would, no doubt, with such powerful aid and personal influence, have succeeded long ago in floating at least one life-boat. But if the older Committee have done nothing more, they have at least succeeded in galvanising Bro. Carpenter and the rest of the “City of London Life-Boat Committee” into advocates for Masonic life-boats.

In spite of what Bro. Carpenter says, and what the “City of London Masonic Life-Boat Committee” may say, I cannot but think that there is some little jealousy and rivalry which should not be the case with brother Masons, and that it would be far better that the two bodies should join forces to effect the charitable object they each have in view than find fault with others.

The Masonic body having so many claims upon them to support the charities, more particularly identified with our institution, have not looked upon the Masonic Life-Boat Fund as one of their charities. But let the brethren recollect that England being a great maritime country, her ships are constantly going from and returning to her coast; and that her wealth and prosperity are so intimately connected with commerce and intercourse with all parts of the globe, that a vast number of her people must necessarily be engaged in seafaring pursuits and have to brave the dangers of the deep. Amongst these men, not only in the superior ranks, but also amongst others, and even among the passengers, will be found many Masons; and it is on their behalf that this movement may be called a “Masonic Charity;” and let the brethren remember that whilst doing good to all, Masons or otherwise, it may be the means of saving the lives of many who have proved themselves true and faithful brethren amongst us, and that such lives may be valuable to the Craft.

Let them, therefore, not forget that in every storm that howls around our rock-bound coasts a brother may be perishing for want of that help which it is the mission of the Life-Boat Committees to endeavour to extend to him.

Let them also not forget that the sailor toils and strives while other men take their ease; and that with his agency they are supplied with many of the comforts that make life enjoyable.

Having finished my remarks, let me state that they are not made on behalf of the Freemasons’ Life-Boat Committee,” but only as the individual defence of one of its members to Bro. Carpenter’s strictures, and in no way in concert with the general body, or hostile or unfriendly to Bro. Carpenter and his Committee, but merely to show them and the Masonic body generally that there is some little vitality in the older Committee.

WILLIAM MANN.

MASONIC CURIOSITIES.—VII

(Continued from page 660.)

Another Minute Book records that a Constitution was granted by Wm. Lord Byron, G.M., dated 5th January, 1748, directed to Richard Twiss, for a lodge in Norwich, which was started at the Union Coffeehouse, but in 1750 was removed to the Maid’s Head.

[EXTRACTS.]

31 Oct. 1753. A Deputation granted to Bro. W. Pue, of the Ball and Crown, Black Fryers, London, to appear at Grand Lodge on behalf of the M. and W.’s of this Lodge.

7 Oct. 1755. Two brethren appointed to officiate as Wardens at the Flower-in-Hand Constitution, unless otherwise ordered by the Master.

1757. Lodge removed to the King’s Head, in the market, but in Nov. same year returned again to the Maid’s Head.

20 Dec. 1757. Unanimously agreed that no Publicans be made Masons in this lodge for the future.

1758. This lodge agrees to the proposal of the eleven lodges in the city to have a Provincial Lodge for Norwich, Norfolk, and Beccles (Suffolk), and recommend Edwd. Bacon, Esq., as G.M.

16 Jan. 1759. One Guinea to be sent to the Quarterly Communication to be held 5 Feb. next at the Devil Tavern, Temple Bar, London.—A Treasurer’s jewel to be bought, and the P.M.’s jewel to be guilded.

1763. Bro. James Brunton was admitted gratis, in right of his belonging to one of the United Lodges.

1765. Bro. Hudson presented a 5-pint bottle on the “safe delivery of our sister.”

1767. A five-pint bottle presented by Bro. Davy on his marriage, that the brethren might wish him health and happiness thro’ that sometimes boisterous voyage.

1769. Lodge to be held by adjournment at the King’s Head, Diss, on 2 April 1770.

Aug. 1773. A letter being read from Bro. Heseltine, G. Sec., communicating the substance of a letter to Mr. Bacon, P.G.M. of Norwich, the brethren are of opinion that these private transactions are not cognizable in the Grand Lodge, and that they are satisfied Masons in a lodge have an equal right with private companys to exclude every disagreeable and unworthy member; at the same time the Bn. submit themselves to the jurisdiction of the G. Lodge in all matters cognizable therein.

EXTRACTS from the Minute Book of a Masonic Lodge meeting at the Angel, Great Yarmouth.

24 June, A.L. 5752.

Article 1st.—’Tis agreed as a firm and fundamental article to be observed in our Lodge that no person be admitted a member without the unanimous consent of all the brethren sitting in open lodge at least three days before the monthly lodge.

2nd.—That upon application made to any brother for admission of a new member he (that brother) shall communicate it to the Master, and shall deposit in his hands one guinea, and if the proposed member should repent after having been ballotted for, half a guinea shall be forfeited for the benefit of the lodge.

3rd.—Upon the last Thursday in every calendar month a regular lodge shall be held at the sign of the Angel, now Bro. Cottingham, he reserving for that purpose the dining-room, and the lodge not to be removed from thence without the Master and majority of the Lodge find it expedient.

4th.—Joining members to pay half a guinea.

5th.—The Master to be elected by ballot annually.

6th.—The Master thus elected may chose his Wardens and appoint a Secretary, unless he waives

that privilege for the peace and harmony of the lodge, which ought to be consulted.

7th.—Three shillings and sixpence per quarter to be paid by each member.

8th.—To prevent any Master from acting tyrannically, a power shall be given to any six, every regular lodge night, to demand a ballot for his deposition, if good reason can be shown for the same.

26 Aug. 1756. A lottery ticket to be bought.

27 July 1758. It was agreed to meet at Brother Bond's, at Lowestoff, on Monday, Aug. 14, 1758, to hold a lodge.

29 Mar. 1759. Sister Hansby to be allowed 18d. a week.—No suppers to be got ready on account of the lodge, but each brother to sup at home, or by himself, and to have got that by 8 o'clock.

30 April, 1759.—Abstract of a letter from the Compté T at the initiation of his son at Brunswick, Lower Saxony, where Prince Ferdinand is Grand Master:—"I congratulate you on your admission with the most ancient and perhaps the most respectable Society in the universe. To you the mysteries of Masonry are about to be revealed, and so bright a light a sun never shewed lustre on your eyes. In this awful moment when prostrate at this holy altar, do you not shudder at every crime and have you not confidence in every virtue! May this reflection inspire you with noble sentiments; may you be penetrated with a religious abhorrence of every vice that degrades human nature; and may you feel the elevation of soul which scorns a dishonourable action, and ever invites to the practice of piety and virtue."

27 Nov. 1760. Bro. Mercier, a French prisoner, allowed 7d. a week towards lodging.

"By-Lodge held Aug. 16, 1763, at which time the following Bn. was made Excellent and Super Excellent Masons by Brother James Pomfrett, from Norwich, and Bro. Richd. Baxter, Assist., and Bro. King formed the lodge for the above."

29 Mar. 1764. Bro. Harmer paid 2s. for wearing E.A. jewel.

26 Dec. 1771. The lodge informed by letter from the Grand Lodge not to admit as Masons the M., W.'s and Sec. of Lodge Caledonian, No. 263, Half Moon Tavern, Cheapside.

24 Feb. 1774. One Guinea given towards building the Hall for the Grand Lodge.

1776. Charges on making, one guinea; jewel, 2s.; Grand Lodge, 2s. 6d.; passing, 4s.; raising, 4s.

8 Mar. 1780. A letter to be sent to the Prov. G. Sec. for Norfolk, that it is very inconvenient for any members of this lodge to attend at Norwich, that this lodge has sent all dues, but know of not more than two brethren of this lodge who have received charity from the Gr. Lodge (say £5 each) for more than 12 years.

25 Mar. 1795. The law of taking the chair by succession to be abolished, and to be taken by ballot.

ON Sunday, the Rev. E. Chalmer, junior, M.A., preached at Fulwood Church, Sheffield, on the occasion of celebrating the putting in of three new stained-glass windows in memory of the late Bro. White. These handsome windows have been subscribed for chiefly by the brethren of the district, by whom the deceased brother was very highly esteemed, not only for his high abilities, but also for his great kindness and the diligence with which he attended to the numerous responsibilities which he undertook for the benefit of the Order. The centre window contains a beautiful figure of King Solomon attired in his robes, with a sceptre in one hand and a scroll in the other, in which is supposed to be inscribed a plan of the temple. Surrounding the leading figure are a number of Masonic emblems. The tracery is also very beautifully designed, and the colouring is exquisite. The two lights next to the centre are very beautifully arranged tracery windows, and the whole memorial is carried out in a most satisfactory manner. Bro. Brittain acted as Secretary to the fund. The reverend gentleman preached a most eloquent and highly appropriate discourse from the text contained in 2 Kings, 22nd chapter and 7th verse. In the course of his address he alluded to the Masonic Craft being founded on principles thoroughly in harmony with Scriptural truth, and based upon laws which induced morality and virtue of the highest order. He also referred to the exemplary character of his late worthy brother, in whose memory the windows with which the church had just been beautified had been designed, and he expressed a hope that his zeal in many good works would be emulated by many in the neighbourhood. A vast number of brethren from various parts were present at the service, which was listened to with wrapt attention.

"HAVING been cured of rheumatism by your Vegetable Pain Killer, I take pleasure in sending you this testimonial. I have used it also for colds, coughs, neuralgia, diarrhoea, &c., and consider it a most valuable family medicine, and would not willingly be without it.—JOHN NEASON farmer, Besley, June, 1869.—To P. Davis & Son."

Obituary.

THE R.W. BROTHER THOMAS HENRY HALL,

Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire.

Another prominent member of our Order has succumbed to the King of Terrors. Bro. Hall, with the exception of Lord Zetland, the oldest Provincial Grand Master in England, died on the 14th inst., having attained the ripe age of 75 years. Our deceased brother was initiated more than forty years ago, namely, on the 22nd of March, 1827, in the Shakespeare Lodge, No. 99, and soon attained distinction in the Craft, having been appointed Grand Registrar by the then Grand Master, the Duke of Sussex, in 1841. He was promoted to the rank of Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire on the 11th November, 1843, and retained that high position to the time of his decease. It will be within the recollection of our readers that Bro. Hall administered the oaths *de fidele* to the Earls de Grey and Carnarvon upon their installations as Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master respectively.

BROTHER CAPTAIN JOHN CARR CHAMBERS.

Last week we recorded the death of Bro. Captain Chambers, who departed this life on the 26th of May, 1870, at his residence, Birkbeck Cottage, Parton, Whitehaven, Cumberland. The deceased belonged to H.M. Hanoverian Regiment, Lucia, Jamaica. He was the eldest son of Alexander Chambers, of Rock Rinson, of that place, whose father and mother, John and Isabella Chambers (immediate descendants of the first family who settled on the beautiful Island of Jamaica, under a grant from the English Crown, 1640), were the first receivers and zealous promulgators of the doctrines of Emanuel Swedenborg in the Island, and indeed among the very earliest of his disciples in any part of the world. Through them the heavenly principles have been transmitted faithfully to a fourth generation.

The late lamented father and mother, Alexander and Lydia Chambers, of the venerated subject of this memorial being distinguished both for the active goodness and exceeding piety of their lives, accompanied with unflinching Christian faith and increasing endeavour to inculcate the same in the minds of all their family and household, and of all whom opportunity offered for influencing. But with none did they succeed in making so vivid an impression as on their son, John Carr Chambers, whose exemplary life has been so lately brought to a close, under the influence of the Divine doctrines, through a course of trying vicissitudes and severe family afflictions; and the ardent desire to benefit his fellow-creatures to the utmost of his power—to avoid giving them offence, alike in prosperity and adversity, by word or deed—in the former, ever referring success to the Great Dispenser of all; in the latter, bearing every trial with Christian meekness and firmness. Of the most perfect and unassuming piety; an utter abnegation of self, with most scrupulous exactness in all things; of solid judgment and immutable integrity; of the coolest bravery and the utmost sweetness of disposition, and loving kindness of manner—he won the esteem and friendship of all who knew him, and has left a chasm in the hearts of his sorrowing family never to be refilled in their passage through this transitory life. In his native country he filled many civic offices with honour and superior ability, besides the undaunted and devoted discharge of his military appointments during the last general insurrection of the negroes, when, among other exertions of

his sterling talents, he trained a troop under his own directions, which enforced the admiration of the best officers of the British Army, and owing to its conduct and that of its youthful commander, confirmed the claim, long since accorded, of the Jamaica regiments to rank with those of the standard army of Great Britain. He passed from the office of Ensign to that of Captain with unprecedented rapidity, and was so much beloved by the unfortunate Blacks, that, when some of these poor, misguided people were on trial, they declared, "They had refused to fire when they had good aim at Massa John, because he had always been so good to them."

He also attained in proportionately brief space of time to the highest degrees conferred by the Honourable Fraternity of Freemasons, of which he had become a member at the age of one-and-twenty, and to which he was always sincerely attached on account of the esteem in which he held their principle of effecting good to mankind by brotherly love and union.

The changes which took place in his beloved Island about the year 1836, to the utter depression of all its best interests and the ruin of so many opulent and generous homes, determined Captain Chambers to accompany his father on a brief visit to this country, for the purpose of consulting an oculist. He then took up his abode here, which a series of family bereavements and pecuniary disappointments induced him to continue ever since.

During the last two years of his life he was confined almost entirely to the house by an extremely painful lameness, which he bore with an unflinching fortitude and a confiding resignation to the will of the Most High, united with the tenderest consideration for all who ministered to him. His mental faculties never being impaired in the slightest degree until within nine days of his lamented death, which took place on the day fortnight of the anniversary of his 71st year. Death was brought on by a sudden gastric derangement from recent affliction, which terminated in paralysis. The last night he was capable of distinct and coherent speech he made a pathetic appeal to the Lord and Saviour, concluding with a meek and unqualified submission to His divine will and ordinance. After that a few heartrending days and nights of intense suffering, borne in quiet patience, closed his innocent and benevolent life.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

PRESCOT.—*The William de la More Encampment.*—An assembly of this conclave was held at the New Court House, on Friday, the 9th inst., under the presidency of Sir Knt. W. H. Wright, V.E. D.P.G.C., supported by Sir Knts. G. P. Brockbank, Prov. Grand Chancellor; T. H. Winder, Prov. Grand Chancellor; J. N. Porter, Prelate; J. T. Hall, P.G., First Expert; W. H. Hopkins, Prov. Grand A.D.C.; S. Morriss, P.E.; &c., &c., &c. The conclave having been duly opened and the minutes confirmed, the following approved candidates were regularly installed in due form as Knights of the Order, viz., Comps. George Turner, Reginald Young, Arthur Gield and Phillip Whittaker, Chapter of Lebanon, No. 86; also Comps. Jos. Kellet Smith, Temple Chapter, No. 1094. The conclave then proceeded to install the Eminent Commander-Elect, Sir Knt. James Turner Hall, after which the E.C. made the following appointments for the ensuing year: Sir Knts. J. W. J. Fowler, 1st Capt.; S. Morriss, 2nd Capt.; G. Turner, Reg.; P. Whittaker, Almoner; R. Young, Expert; A. Field, Standard-Bearer; and J. K. Smith, Capt. of the Lines. The V.E. D.P.G.C. then stated, he had been instructed to inform Sir Knights, that the V.E. P.G.C., Albert Hudson Royle, proposed presenting them with a complete set of books, and that he himself should at all times be most happy to do all in his power to forward the interests of the William de la More Encampment. Heartly congratulations for the prosperity of the conclave from various encampments having been given, the encampment was closed in due form and with prayer at six o'clock. The Sir Knights adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where a banquet was provided, which did great credit to the worthy host. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Enoch Lodge, No. 11.—The second meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 14th inst. Bro. Edward John Lewis, W.M., presided, and opened the lodge, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. W. H. Stallard, of Lodge No. 463, was balloted for and unanimously elected a joining member. The brethren present were H. Potter, Chas. Watson, P. Matthews, J. Dale, J. B. Ciabatta, W. Honey, and C. Montrie, P.M.'s; Medcalf, Young, Brown, Webb, McQueen, Taylor, Whittaker, and Palmer, S.W. The visitors were Bros. Kershaw, I.P.M. Confidence Lodge, No. 23; S. Stallard, John of Gaunt Lodge, Leicester; and Keene. Bro. Palmer, S.W., was unanimously elected the W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. Charles Watson, P.M., Treasurer; the Tyler was also elected. The brethren adjourned to a most excellent banquet. On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, &c., the Tyler's toast concluding a delightful evening.

Lodge of Justice, No. 147.—This old lodge met on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at the White Swan Tavern, 217, High-street, Deptford. Bro. J. Percival, W.M., supported by his officers, P.M.'s, and a large number of members presided. The second degree was given in an efficient manner; the election for W.M. resulted in favour of J. Whiffen, S.W. The Treas. J. Lightfoot, P.M., was re-elected. The lodge was closed, refreshment followed labour.

St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180.—A meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. J. R. Stacey, W.M., presided, and the work was giving Bro. Hayes the 3rd degree, Bros. Henson and Francatelli the 2nd, and Messrs. W. C. Strickland and J. A. Runciman the 1st. Bros. A. Nish and C. H. May were admitted as joining members. The ballot for W.M. was declared to be in favour of Bro. Herf, S.W.; Bro. Robinson was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. J. Gilbert, Tyler. The usual P.M.'s jewel was voted to the retiring W.M. A banquet followed, served under the direction of Bro. Francatelli, which gave general satisfaction. The customary loyal and Masonic toasts were heartily honoured, and some good vocal and instrumental music were blended with them. "The Initiates" was responded to by all the newly-admitted brethren, and each of the visitors also returned thanks. "The health of the W.M.," was given by Bro. Cameron, P.M., in a capital speech, and elicited a telling reply. Other toasts followed, and a most agreeable evening was spent. Bro. Hart presided at the piano. The visitors were Bros. Kench (P.M. 538), Ascott (W.M. 733), Reed (P.M. and W.M.-elect 733), Powell (I.G. 22), Davis (S.W. 753), M. Richards (J.W. 733), R. G. Batt (P.M. 147), F. Walters (W.M. 1309), Wheeler, Lane, H. Melberg (W.M. 32, Holland), &c.

Confidence Lodge, No. 193.—On Monday, the 12th inst., the installation meeting of this lodge was held at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street. Bro. R. Lee, W.M., occupied the chair, and was supported by Bros. Williams, S.W.; W. Thomas, J.W., W.M. elect; G. F. S. Warne, P.M., Treas.; J. Rogers, P.M., Sec.; W. Cutting, S.D.; J. Shackell, J.D.; J. King, I.G.; B. D. Kershaw, S. Webb, and J. W. Bentley, P.M.'s; C. G. Hill, A. A. Well, T. Sweetland, E. W. Fittica, A. Bishop, G. Brett, H. L. Miles, R. Scott, F. Bonney, G. Banks, C. W. Ansell, A. S. Godfrey, R. Howland, S. Hill, H. W. Thompson, J. Robert, T. Heath, W. B. Pringle, J. J. Griffith, and many others. A large number of visiting brethren were also present. The W.M., in his usual able manner, raised Bros. Sweetland and Wells to the 3rd degree, passed Bros. Ansell, Thompson, S. Hill, Howland, and Godfrey to the 2nd degree, and initiated Mr. E. J. Barker. Bro. S. Webb, P.M., having taken the chair, installed Bro. W. Thomas as W.M. for the ensuing year. The usual routine business closed the lodge, and banquet followed.

Lodge La Tolerance, No. 538.—A meeting of this distinguished lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on the 1st inst. There were present Bros. Jas. Kench, W.M., in the chair; T. E. Hardy, S.W.; Lindus, J.W.; Sly, Sec.; Hart, S.D.; Steward, J.D.; Thicke, I.G.; and the following brethren:—E. Wilson and Burmeister, P.M.'s; W. L. Morrison, Funk, Leech, Flowers, A. C. Thicke, Watson, and Wick. Among the visitors were Bros. Luckie (Villiers Lodge), and Ellis (Stanhope Lodge, No. 1269). The lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last lodge having been read and confirmed, the lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. W. L. Morrison, a candidate for raising, having passed a satisfactory examination, was entrusted and retired. The lodge was then opened in the third degree, and Bro. Morrison was duly raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. by the W.M. in a very effective and masterly manner. The lodge then proceeded to the election of W.M. and Treasurer, when the S.W. (Bro. T. E. Hardy) was unanimously elected to fill the chair of K.S. for the ensuing year. The choice of the brethren for the office of Treasurer fell on the W.M., Bro. Kench, who was at once elected to that position. Bro. Woodstock was unanimously re-elected Tyler. The W.M.-elect briefly returned thanks for his election, and the W.M. acknowledged the honour conferred upon him by the lodge in electing him to the office of Treasurer. The W.M.-elect then, in a highly flattering speech, proposed that a P.M.'s jewel, of the value of £7 7s. should be presented to the W.M., as a slight testimony of his worth and the appreciation in which he was held by the lodge. This having been seconded by the J.W., was carried by

acclamation. The W.M., in response, referred to his exertions in the interests of Freemasonry and of this lodge, and promised that whenever his services might be required they would at all times be at the command of the brethren. The Audit Committee having been appointed, and there being no further business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet. After the cloth was removed, the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts in his happiest vein. In submitting the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," he said it was one that all Englishmen were proud to drink, for it reminded them, when in distant climes, of home and its kindred ties. We ourselves did not simply invest it with all its happiest attributes, but endeavoured to honour it still further by coupling it with the Craft.—This toast having been received with the utmost cordiality, the W.M. proposed the next toast, "The Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.G.M.," in an effective speech, in the course of which he said one of the chief characteristics of an Englishman was obedience to lawfully-constituted authority. It was that quality which in no small degree had helped to raise England to the high position she held among nations. That quality pervaded all classes of society, but especially was it manifested among Freemasons. To it he was indebted for the harmony with which he had been permitted to discharge his duties to the lodge; and judging great things by small, he thought his lordship might be congratulated upon holding the high position of ruler of the Craft; and as he worthily filled that position, and was at all times zealous to promote the prosperity of the Craft, so the brethren were happy to render him that obedience which was his due.—This toast having been drunk with the usual honours, the W.M. then proposed "The Health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, P.G.M., and of the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, D.G.M.," in very felicitous terms, the toast being most cordially received.—The next toast, "The Health of the W.M.," was proposed by Bro. Burmeister in an effective manner, and having been received with loud acclamations, the W.M. responded in a very eloquent and exhaustive speech, in the course of which he reviewed the progress of the lodge for the past year, and predicted a happy and successful future.—To the toast of the P.M.'s, Bro. Burmeister replied in a characteristic speech.—The toast of the visitors having been proposed by the W.M., Bro. Luckie responded for himself and brother visitor.—The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the W.M.-elect (Bro. T. E. Hardy), and in doing so, paid a deserved tribute to his merits and his great qualifications for the office to which he had that evening been unanimously elected.—When the cheering with which this toast was received had subsided, Bro. Hardy, in reply, said: W.M., permit me to offer you my heartfelt thanks for the kind, but, I fear, too flattering, manner in which you have submitted to the brethren the toast of my health in connection with my having been elected to fill the office you now occupy. It is with mingled feelings of gratitude, happiness, pride, and fear that I acknowledge the great honour you have done me in electing me Master of this lodge for the ensuing year. It is the highest honour which you, my brethren, have it in your power to bestow, and for having conferred it upon me, I beg you to accept my sincerest thanks. I trust, W.M. and brethren, I may, without exposing myself to a charge of egotism, be permitted to assure you that my gratitude is equalled only by the happiness I experience in entertaining the belief that I have been made the object of your favours from a firm and honest conviction in your minds that I am qualified for the important, honourable, and at the same time responsible, position to which, by your votes, I have this evening been elected. The desire to occupy such a position in not only a pardonable but a laudable position; provided he who seeks it is actuated by no unworthy motive, but by a sincere and honest desire to render himself more extensively serviceable, and by firm resolve to uphold the dignity of the chair and to maintain and promulgate, in their integrity, the grand principles of the Order. Elected to occupy an office of which men enjoying the highest ranks in society have considered themselves honoured in having been made the recipients, it may be permitted to me to confess with how much pride I accept at your hands the great honour you have conferred upon me. Still, W.M. I cannot escape from the fear which possesses me that I may disappoint the expectations which some of the brethren at least are kind enough to indulge respecting my qualifications. And I fear too, brethren, I may fall far short of the excellent working it has been our privilege to witness here during the past year. I am encouraged, however, by the consciousness that I shall have the support and assistance of a very able and efficient P.M., and inspired by the hope that any failings of my own will meet with your kind and fraternal indulgence, I accept the trust you have reposed in me with a firm determination to maintain the dignity of the chair and to promote the interests of the lodge by discharging, to the best of my ability, the duties of the honourable and dignified office of which you have chosen me to become the possessor.—The next toast, "The Officers," was responded to by Bro. Lindus, J.W.—The Tyler's toast brought the banquet to an end, and the brethren separated at an early hour, after having spent a very enjoyable evening, which was enlivened by a selection of vocal and instrumental music.

Dalhousie Lodge, No. 860.—A meeting was held at Anderson's Hotel, on Thursday, the 8th inst. Present: J. W. Williams, W.M.; T. Hardy, S.W.; R. Thomson, J. C.; W. Bristo, P.M., Treas.; F. St. John Ingram, Sec.; H. Dalwood, J.D.; S. F. Littell, P.M.; F. Allen, R. Burr, M. Hermann, W. H. Wallington, C. F. Reed, W. H. Simpson, and others. Visitor, F. Walters, W.M. 1309. The work done was raising Bro. Allen to 3rd degree, and passing Bro. Guest to the second degree. The ballot taken for Bro. Dr. John Campbell White,

Westminster Hospital, was unanimous in favour of his admission. He will be initiated at the next meeting. The lodge was closed; no banquet, the brethren separated when the business was ended.

MIDDLESEX.

Acacia Lodge, No. 1309.—This young lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at the Railway Hotel, Potter's Bar. Bro. Frederick Walters, W.M., presided. He was supported by Bros. E. Sillifant, P.M., Treasurer, as S.W.; G. Cattel, P.M., Sec., as J.W.; West, as S.D.; C. F. Hall, I.G., as J.D.; J. R. Tustin, P.G.S. of Herts, D.C., as I.G.; and several other brethren, including, as visitors, Bros. Selby (157), S. Homewood, S.W. 749, and G. Johnston (5, I.C.). The minutes relating to the removal of the lodge to Potter's Bar were read and confirmed. Mr. Arthur Ovenden was initiated, and Bro. T. Dilkes passed to the second degree, both ceremonies being rendered in a very impressive manner. An appeal from the Steward, Bro. E. Sillifant, P.M., Treas., for the Royal Benevolent Institution, met with a handsome response. Some propositions for initiation were received, and the lodge was closed. Refreshment followed labour.

PROVINCIAL.

SUNDERLAND.—Palatine Lodge, No. 97.—The annual installation meeting of this lodge was held in the New Masonic Hall, Park-terrace, Sunderland, on Thursday, the 8th inst. Bro. B. Levy, P.P.J.G.W., ably officiated as Installing Master. The following is a full list of the officers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. W. Skelton, W.M.; M. Allison, I.P.M.; J. J. Clay, S.W., R. Humphrey, J.W.; B. Levy, P.M., Treas.; T. Younger, Sec.; S. P. Austin, S.D.; J. Crosby, J.D.; J. J. Saville, I.G.; W. M. Laws, Tyler; Denton, D.C.; Johnson and Chambers, Stewards; Coulson and Allan, Auditors. The attendance of members and visitors was large, among whom were Bros. R. Dixon, W.M.; So; T. Henderson, W.M. 94; White, W.M. 240; R. Hudson, W.M. 949; W. H. Crookes, P.G.S.; J. Potts, P.P.G.J.G.; P. G. Hoistendahl, P.G.P.; &c.

RINGWOOD.—Lodge Unity, No. 132.—The election of W.M. for the ensuing year took place on the evening of the 8th inst., Bro. Fletcher, P.M. 622, acting as W.M. The choice of the brethren fell on Bro. Brouncker, whose zeal in promoting the resuscitation of this old lodge during the past year has been very praiseworthy. The treasurer-ship was allotted to Bro. E. Low. Two votes, one for each of the Schools, were unanimously ordered to be procured, and the balance of funds in hand was found to be satisfactory. When it is added, that at the beginning of the year the number of members was only sufficient to work the lodge, and now it has 16 members, with every sign of numerous additions, it will be seen there is matter for congratulation.

LEICESTER.—St. John's Lodge, No. 279.—A meeting of this lodge took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester, on Wednesday se'night, and was well attended. On the lodge being opened apologies were received for the unavoidable absence of Bro. Stretton, S.W. (who arrived at a later hour), and of Dr. Pearce, Sec. A ballot took place for Messrs. W. Pye and W. Beeton, who were duly elected and initiated into the Order. Bros. Shuttlewood and Statham were raised to the degree of M.M. During the ceremonies Bro. C. Johnson, P.P. G.O., presided at the organ, and, assisted by several of the brethren, added greatly to their effect by conducting the musical chants originally arranged by himself. A ballot was taken for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, which resulted in favour of the S.W., Bro. Clement Stretton, P.P.G.Reg. It was resolved (as had been done at the previous meeting of the John of Gaunt Lodge) that a Masonic Ball should take place in Leicester in the course of the winter, and a committee of this lodge was appointed to act with a similar committee of the sister lodge in carrying out the arrangements. The annual festival of the lodge was fixed to be held on Tuesday the 27th inst., and the Prov. G.M. announced that the member of the Knights of Malta Lodge, No. 50, Hinckley, had arranged to celebrate their installation festival on the following day by a Masonic ball at the Town Hall. There being no further business the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

LANCASTER.—Lodge of Fortitude, No. 281.—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday evening, the 14th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Atheneum. The W.M., Bro. John Hatch, presided, and was supported by W. Bro. Edward Storey, I.P.M.; Bros. Christopher Hartley, S.W.; John Barrow, J.W.; Edmund Simpson, P.M. and Sec.; James Hatch, Treasurer; W. Heald, S.D.; W. Fleming, J.D.; W. Hall, I.G. There were also present Past Masters Bagnall, Kelland, Fenton, Moore, Stanton, King, and Whimpray; Bros. W. Hall (W.M. 1051), Mercier (W.M.-elect 1051), and about 30 other brethren. The lodge was opened, minutes of last regular lodge and of a lodge of emergency were read and confirmed, and other business transacted. Bro. William Hayes was passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M., the working tools being presented by the S.W. The next business was the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, for which office there were not less than 29 brethren eligible. The ballot resulted in the election of Bro. J. Daniel Moore, M.D., P.M., P.P.G.S. of Wks., and the installation and subsequent banquet were fixed for Thursday, 29th inst. The election of Treasurer and Tyler was next proceeded with, and resulted in the re-election of Bro. James Hatch, P.M., as Treasurer, and Bro. John Watson as Tyler. The Secretary reported that the Committee appointed to decide upon the votes for the Royal Albert Asylum had given them to a son of a member of the Craft at Southport, and to the local candidates. A committee was appointed to audit the accounts of the lodge, and there being no other business before the lodge it was closed in due form.

SHEFFIELD.—*Royal Brunswick Lodge, No. 296.*—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 12th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield, Bro. C. M. Flocton, the W.M. for the ensuing year presiding. There was a goodly number of visitors and members present. The installation ceremony being concluded, the W.M. appointed his officers, as follows:—Bros. F. B. Edwards, S.W.; J. F. Moss, J.W.; H. W. Maleham, Sec.; H. W. Pawson, S.D.; Burrell, J.D.; Fletcher, I.G.; Suckley, Organist; Hessey, Tyler; Ward, Steward; Arnison, Charity-Steward; Garnett, Almoner. Bro. Ensor Drury was the Installing Master. An excellent banquet followed.

HAWORTH, W. YORKS.—*Lodge of Three Graces, No. 408.*—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 5th inst., at the private Masonic lodge rooms, Haworth. The following of the lodge were present:—Bros. J. Preston, W.M.; J. Laidler, S.W.; E. Pawson, J.W.; W. Hemmingway, S.D.; Clough, J.D.; and the other officers. There were also present Bros. J. Brown, Whitham, W. Brown, W. Wood, Charnock, E. Taylor, and Booth, P.M.'s; and other members. The visitors were Bros. Isaac Booth, P.M. 61, P. Prov. G.S. of W.; Summerscales, W.M. 265; Emmot, P.M. 265; Rev.—Room, and several other brethren of that lodge. There were also Bros. C. J. Walshaw and E. Walshaw, P.M.'s 448; and a large number of brethren from that lodge. The ceremony of installing Bro. Wm. Jas. Laidler, S.W. and W.M.-elect, took place at half-past three o'clock, and was most impressively performed by Bro. Isaac Booth, P.M., P. Prov. G.S. of W.; after which Bro. Laidler, the newly-installed W.M., appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing twelve months, who were as follows: Bros. Jas. Preston, I.P.M.; E. Pawson, S.W.; W. Hemmingway, J.W.; W. Brown, P.M., Sec.; W. Wood, Treas.; Clough, S.D.; Leach, J.D.; Whitham, I.G.; J. Brown, Tyler. The other offices of the lodge were also duly filled up. After two candidates for initiation, and a joining brother had been proposed and other business transacted, the lodge was duly closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Black Bull Hotel, where an excellent banquet was served up in capital style, and at which about forty brethren sat down. The chair was occupied by the newly-installed W.M. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been appropriately given by the W.M., and received by the brethren with true loyal and Masonic enthusiasm, he next proposed "The health of M.W.G.M., Earl de Grey and Ripon, K.G., together with all the Officers of Grand Lodge Past and Present." The W.M. remarked that although his lordship had only recently been elevated to the high office of Grand Master, yet from his long experience, and the zeal and ability which he had always displayed in all Masonic matters with which he had been and is now connected, there could be no doubt that a very judicious selection had been made when his lordship was chosen to fill the dignified position of ruler over the Craft. (The toast was warmly received and duly honoured.)—The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Bentley Shaw, and the rest of the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, Past and Present," which was responded to by Bro. Booth, of Keighley, in some well-chosen remarks.—Bro. E. Taylor, P.M., then proposed the toast of the evening, "The Health of Bro. Laidler, the newly-installed W.M.," which was received with great applause. Bro. Taylor spoke of the Masonic and other qualifications of Bro. Laidler in the highest terms, and congratulated the Lodge of Three Graces in having elected him as their chief for the ensuing year. (The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.)—Bro. Laidler, on rising to respond, was received with the greatest enthusiasm, after thanking the brethren in feeling the brethren in feeling terms, he said that ever since he had joined the Lodge of Three Graces he had taken the greatest interest in its welfare, and since they had now been pleased to confer upon him the honour of electing him as their W.M., that interest would, if possible, be increased. It would ever be his study both in the lodge and out of it to uphold the dignity and preserve the harmony of the Lodge of Three Graces, of which he was proud to be a member.—The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the Installing Officer, Bro. Isaac Booth, P. Prov. G.S. of W.," and paid a high compliment to Bro. Booth as an eminent and zealous Mason, an able professional man, and a thorough gentleman. (The toast was warmly received, and drunk with honours.)—Bro. Booth was unavoidably absent owing to an important engagement, but his brother from Keighley responded in an appropriate speech.—The "Officers" was next proposed by Bro. Charnock, P.M., and responded to in well-chosen remarks by Bros. Pawson and Hemmingway, Grand J. Wardens.—The "Visiting Brethren" was next proposed and eloquently responded to by Bro. Summerscales, W.M.; Emmot, P.M.; Rev. Room, 265, Keighley; C. J. Walshaw, P.M.; E. Walsh, P.M.; and a brother of 448, Halifax.—The toast "Speedy relief to all Poor and Distressed Masons" brought a most agreeable evening's entertainment to a close. The enjoyment during the evening was greatly enhanced by the excellent singing of Bros. Merrick, Summerscales, Schofield, and Davis. The well-rendered recitations of Bros. Room and E. Walshaw were also most pleasing. The masterly manner in which Bro. Hemmingway presided at the pianoforte was also a theme for admiration. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Mrs. Sugden for the excellent banquet which she had provided, and the faultless manner in which it was put upon the table.

CHESHIRE.—*Combermere Lodge, No. 605.*—This lodge held its regular monthly meeting at Bro. Stokes', Seacombe Hotel, on Thursday evening, 15th inst. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. T. R. Shaw, and the officers and numerous visitors were in attendance. The lodge was opened in due form and solemn prayer, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed.

A ballot was then taken for Mr. William Gregory, which proving unanimous, and the candidate being in attendance, he was initiated in the first degree. The W.M. then proposed that Bro. Ward, of the Warren Lodge, should be elected as an honourable member in consideration of his undertaking the duties of Organist, which was seconded by Bro. Horbury, and he was elected unanimously. The election of the W. Master was then proceeded with, and the S.W., Bro. J. Sillitoe, was unanimously elected to fill the chair of K.S. for the ensuing year. The respected Treasurer, Bro. Walter Theobald, was re-elected by the unanimous consent of the lodge, having held that important office for several years. Nothing further being proposed for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed in due form and harmony, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, when the usual congratulatory toasts were given and responded to, after which the brethren separated at an early hour.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Denison Lodge, No. 1248.*—This lodge held its regular meeting in the lodge-room, Grand Hotel, on Thursday, the 8th inst., when the following were present: Bros. S. H. Armitage, M.D., W.M.; J. Groves, S.W.; J. Donner, J.W.; J. Kitchen, Treas.; J. E. Green, Hon. Sec.; H. W. Garnett, S.D.; A. Fricour, J.D.; R. Sloman, Mus. Dir., Org.; H. C. Martin, P.M., I.G.; J. Verity, Tyler; W. F. Rooke, P.M., P.P.G.J.W., the Worshipful the Mayor of Scarborough; J. W. Woodall, J.P., P.M., P.P.G.S.W.; and a goodly number of members. The lodge was opened at eight o'clock, when the minutes were read and confirmed. Mr. Campbell was balloted for, elected unanimously, and initiated by the W.M. in a very impressive manner. Bro. W. G. Knight passed an examination in the first degree and retired, when the lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Knight was re-admitted and passed to the second degree by Bro. Rooke, P.M., &c. The lodge was then worked down to the first degree and closed with solemn prayer, after which the brethren spent an hour at the refreshment-board.

BRIGG, LINCOLNSHIRE.—*Ancholme Lodge, No. 1282.*—The excellent Master of the above lodge (Bro. V. H. Carey Elwes) received a most substantial earnest of the esteem in which he is held by the members of the lodge at Brigg by a banquet given in his honour on Saturday last. The brethren present were: V. H. C. Elwes, W.M., P.S.G.W. Lincolnshire; G. Nelson, S.W.; D. M. Robbs, J.W.; H. H. Cave, Treas.; Thomas Fryer, Sec.; Thomas Marris, S.D.; Thomas Learey, J.D.; J. B. Kirkham, I.G.; Dr. Patterson, W. R. Gibbons, W. Swallow, W. Frankish, Henry Ashton, J. B. Swallow, J. Sherwood, J. R. Dudding, W. Pygott, W. A. Field, W. Hessletine, J. F. Waite (P.M. 712), W. Kirk (Gainsborough Lodge, Gainsborough), and J. Cawkwell, Tyler. Bro. Kirkham, of the Angel Hotel, provided a dinner fit to "set before a king," and with true English zest and appetite the good things provided disappeared like magic. Bro. G. Nelson, W.M.-elect, presided, on the right of whom sat the guest of the evening, Bro. Captain Elwes. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given by the chairman and duly acknowledged, that of "The P.G.M., the Duke of St. Albans, and his Deputy, Major Smyth," receiving special honour. On Bro. Nelson rising to propose the toast of the evening, there was quite an ovation, the name of Bro. Elwes being received with loud cheers, and on his rising to respond the applause was loud and long-continued.

—Bro. Elwes congratulated the lodge upon the great success that had been achieved during the first year of its existence, and expressed an ardent wish that continued prosperity might attend it. With respect to the compliment which had been paid to himself, he was unable to express the extreme pleasure it had afforded him. The delicate manner in which it had, in the first instance, been suggested, and the gratifying way in which it had been carried out, called forth his warmest gratitude. What he had done for the Ancholme Lodge was indeed a labour of love, and his warmest affection would always be manifested towards the lodge of his adoption. The esteemed W.M. strongly urged the cause of the Masonic charities, and expressed his great delight that the brethren of the Ancholme had attained a high position (considering the short time the lodge had been established) in those most excellent Masonic and Christian virtues, brotherly love, relief and truth.—Bro. Waite, after observing that he had had the pleasure of initiating sixteen members into the Ancholme Lodge, congratulated the W. Master on the successful year which was then drawing to a close, and expressed a hope that increasing prosperity might attend the lodge.—"The Health of the Earl of Gainsborough" was proposed. Bro. Nelson, of the Lincolnshire Light Horse Volunteers (of which the Earl is Captain), responded, "Success to the Lindsey and Gainsborough Lodges" was warmly received by the brethren, and after Bro. Dudding had, in the toast of "The Ladies," proved that

"No mortal can more the ladies adore
Than a Free and an Accepted Mason,"

the Tyler gave the parting toast, "All poor and distressed Masons," &c., and thus ended one of the most agreeable and fraternal meetings ever held in the little town on the banks of the river Ancholme.

MARKET HARBOROUGH.—*St. Peter's Lodge, No. 1330.*—A regular monthly meeting of this highly-flourishing young lodge was held at the Assembly Rooms, Three Swans Hotel, on Friday se'night. A telegram was received from the W.M., Bro. Kelly, R.W. Prov. G.M., expressing his regret for his unavoidable absence, and announcing that Bro. Toller, P.M. 523 and Prov. G. Sec., would kindly fill his place. Bro. Waite, P.M., and Treas., was also absent owing to severe indisposition. The brethren present were: Sir H. St. J. Halford, Bart., S.W.; Rev. J. F. Halford, J.W.; Marris, P.M., Sec.; Kemp, S.D.; Douglass, Macaulay (M.R.C.S.), Dr.

Grant, Freestone, Martin, Fuller, Whitehead, Lawrence, Symington, Newton, Platford; and Clarke and Bembridge, Tylers. Visitors: Bros. Toller, P.M. 523 and P.G. Sec.; Buzzard, W.M. 523; Crow, J.W. 279 and P.G.O.; Fentiman, No. 607; and Harrison, No. 712. A ballot was taken for the Rev. Francis Morgan Beaumont, M.A., Vicar of Farndon, who was duly elected, but was prevented attending on this occasion for initiation. Two candidates (Bros. Newton and Platford) were passed, and four out of twelve candidates were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. These were Bros. Douglass, Macaulay, Freestone, and Martin. The ceremonies were performed by Bro. Toller in that thoroughly efficient and impressive manner for which he is so well known in the province; and their effect was greatly increased by the addition of the musical service, conducted by Bro. Crow, P.G.O., on the harmonium. Bro. Joseph James Harrison, of the Lindsay Lodge, No. 712, having been proposed as a joining member, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

Pythagorean Chapter, No. 79.—The regular meeting of this prosperous and well-established chapter was held at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, on Thursday, 15th inst. There were present: Comps. J. H. H. Doughney, M.E.Z.; R. Boncey, H.; W. W. Smith, J.; T. Perridge, S.E.; J. Griffin, S.N.; J. R. Nash, P.S.; R. Trill, 1st A.S.; E. J. B. Bumstead, 2nd A.S.; J. W. Halsey, P.Z.; R. Waterhouse, C. Young, W. Myatt, H. Roberts, and C. M. Munyard. Visitor: Bro. D. Rose, No. 73. The convocation was opened by the Principals, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. A ballot for Bro. T. J. H. Wilkins (73 and 79) was unanimous in his favour, and being in attendance, he was duly exalted. The ceremony was, as is usual here, most beautifully rendered, all the officers being most proficient in their duties. Bro. George Keene Lemann, J.D. 890, was proposed by Comp. W. W. Smith, J., and seconded by Comp. J. R. Nash, P.S., as a candidate for exaltation at the next meeting of the chapter. Apologies were received from the absent candidates for exaltation, who, in consequence of the inclemency of the weather, expressed their regret for not being in attendance. All business being ended, the chapter was closed, and banquet and dessert followed, when the usual toasts were given and received. Songs and recitations were given, and the usual happy evening was spent.

Andrew Chapter, No. 834.—This new chapter met on Thursday week, at Hammersmith, for the first time since its consecration, all its members, with one exception, being present. Three brethren were exalted to the R.A. Degree by Comp. Lines, the new M.E.Z., in a most admirable manner, ably assisted by his officers, amongst whom may be particularly mentioned Comp. Read, as P.S. It is not often that a new lodge or chapter is able to perform all its work; but the manner in which the ceremony was performed on this occasion proved how much may be accomplished by industry and perseverance. It was proposed by Comp. Worthington and carried, to establish a P.P. Jewel to be awarded to those Past Principals who may discharge the duties of the chair. After some further propositions, the chapter adjourned.

PROVINCIAL.

SCARBOROUGH.—*Old Globe Chapter, No. 200.*—This chapter held its regular meeting in the Masonic Hall, Globe-street, on Wednesday, the 7th inst., when the following were present: Comps. J. F. Spurr, P.Z., P.P.G.S., as Z.; H. A. Williamson, P.P.G.P.S., H.; S. H. Armitage, Z. 1248, as J.; W. F. Rooke, P.Z., P.G.J., the Worshipful the Mayor of Scarborough; J. C. Brown, E.; H. C. Martin, N.; J. A. Chapman, Treas.; D. Fletcher, P.S.; H. Grover, 1st A.S.; R. H. Peacock, 2nd A.S.; J. Verity, Janitor; Green, Groves, and the Hon. Percy Stanhope. The chapter was opened at 8 p.m., and the minutes were read and confirmed. Comp. the Hon. Percy Stanhope was balloted for and elected unanimously as a joining member. Their being no further business before the chapter, the exaltation of a candidate was worked in a very correct manner, after which the chapter was closed in due form, and the brethren spent a pleasant hour at the refreshment board.

LIVERPOOL.—*Chapter of Liverpool, No. 292.*—The regular convocation of this chapter was held at The Temple, 22, Hope-street, on the evening of Monday, the 5th inst., under the presidency of Comp. the M.E.Z. Dr. J. Mercer Johnson, supported by Comps. R. Wylie, P.Z. as H.; James M'Keene, P.Z. 216, as J.; Thos. Wylie, P.Z., acting as P. Soj.; Laidlaw, P.Z., as S.N.; and Hurtwick, S.E. The chapter being duly opened and the companions admitted, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was afterwards taken for Bro. William Hughes, of Lodge 292, and he was declared duly elected, and being then present, his exaltation was proceeded with by the M.E.Z. Owing to the lateness of the hour—caused by the unavoidable absence of some of the companions at a meeting in another part of the town—the mystic lecture alone, by Comp. Thomas Wylie, was given, the remainder being postponed till next meeting. Nothing more in the shape of work or discussion appearing, the chapter was closed in due and solemn form, and the companions adjourned to the committee-room for refreshment. Visitors present: Comps. M'Keene, P.Z. 216, and Shortis, 1094.

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." Each packet is labelled—JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homeopathic Chemists, London. Also makers of Epps's Cocoa, a very light, thin, evening beverage.—[Adv.]

MARK MASONRY.

CONSECRATION OF A NEW MARK LODGE AT HASLINGDEN.

On Monday, the 31st October, the "Blair" Lodge, No. 113, under the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England and Wales, &c., &c., was consecrated by the R.W. Bro. Romaine Callender, jun., Prov. G. Mark Master for Lancashire, at Haslingden. There were present: Bros. the Rev. George R. Portal, M.W.D.G.M.; F. Binckes, G. Sec.; and several Prov. G. Officers.

The lodge was opened at 2 p.m., in the National Schools, Haslingden, by Bro. Thomas Hargreaves, W.M., Prov. J.G.D. Lancashire.

Immediately after the opening of the lodge, Bro. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Prov. G.M. (Craft) Designate for East Lancashire, was advanced to the degree by the W.M. During the ceremony of consecration Bro. Binckes, G. Sec., delivered an oration. He spoke of the many different ways in which the Mark Degree was worked in Lancashire, and said he looked forward to the time when all the time-immemorial Mark lodges, working without any authority but their own, would acknowledge the supremacy of the G. Lodge of M.M.M. of England and Wales, as at present constituted, so that there might be more unity in the brethren, more uniformity in the working, that visiting might be allowed and encouraged, and that there might be but one body and one supreme head.

The lodge was then closed, and a procession formed to the Commercial Hotel, where an excellent banquet had been provided.

METROPOLITAN.

Southwark Mark Lodge, No. 22.—The usual quarterly meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, the 17th inst., at Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. One brother from Lodge 700 was advanced, when the lodge was closed. Present: Bros. A. D. Loewenstark, W.M.; F. Walters, P.M.; T. J. Sabine, P.M.; H. Massey, P.M.; M. A. Loewenstark, Sec.; J. H. Butten, T. D. Barnard, T. J. Wilkins, and others.

PROVINCIAL.

NEWCHURCH.—Rectitude Lodge, No. 18.—This lodge, held under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England and Wales, &c., &c., was re-opened on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 5 p.m., Bro. Thomas Hargreaves acting as W.M. Bro. Thomas Pilling was installed the W.M. for the next twelve months, and Bro. Thomas Hargreaves was invested as the Immediate P.M., the other officers also having been appointed and invested. Several brethren were afterwards advanced to the degree, and other business having been transacted, the lodge was closed. There are several little incidents connected with this lodge which are worthy of notice. The minute book dates back to 1784, 86 years ago, and was at that time working under the old style, and numbered a great many brethren. Soon after the formation of the Grand Mark Lodge a warrant of confirmation was applied for and granted; but the cost of inaugurating and opening was more than the members counted upon, and unfortunately the lodge fell into abeyance—from which it has just been resuscitated. It is now in a prosperous condition, numbering upwards of 35 members.

INSTRUCTION.

CONSECRATION OF THE ROYAL STANDARD LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

The "Royal Standard Lodge," No. 1298, which was consecrated about six months ago, has gone on most prosperously under the guidance of that excellent Mason, Bro. Lieut.-Colonel Wigginton, and it now numbers about 30 members. Bros. Ballantine and Lee (of the Confidence Lodge) are the Wardens, and the attention and assiduity they have bestowed in their respective stations have in no small degree contributed to this satisfactory state of things. The meetings have been held at Bro. Jameson's, the Marquess Tavern, Canonbury, and the growing strength of the lodge and the absence of any convenient lodge of instruction, have induced the brethren to start a lodge of instruction of their own. The mother lodge readily gave the required consent, and on Friday, the 16th inst., the inaugural ceremony took place. It was originally intended that Bro. Younghusband, a Provincial Grand Officer of some note who consecrated the mother lodge, and inducted Bro. Wigginton into the chair, should be specially invited to perform the ceremonies of consecration and installation on this occasion also, but at the last moment a heavy domestic calamity deprived the brethren of the benefit of hearing him. Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B. Herts., was appealed to, and at the solicitation of one or two brethren he consented to fill the place of Bro. Younghusband, and certainly from the most admirable way in which he carried out those duties, and his clear delivery, the brethren felt little or no regret, in one sense, at the absence of the esteemed Bro. Younghusband. In the performance of the interesting ceremonies Bro. Terry was ably assisted by Bro. Frederick Walters and Bro. Shackell, the courteous Secretary. At the close of the Masonic proceedings Bro. Terry was loudly applauded.

Amongst the brethren present we noticed Bros. Billy (861), Rogers (902), F. Walters (P.M. 73), Revers (902), H. Price (657), Themans (141), Ballantine (1298), Barlow (667), Phillips (754), Wells (754), J. Terry (P.M. 228), Woolman (1298), Collins (1298), Catlin (1314), Butler (9), Jameson (1298), Rutterford (1298), Dupont (1298),

J. Raworthy (205), Bowden (205), Jas. Wright (1298), Rafter (1298), Chas. E. Thompson (S.W. 1158, Masonic Reporter).

Several propositions were made for the next meeting night, and the brethren then adjourned to refresh the "inner-man," and when the cloth was drawn,

The W. Master proposed "The health of the Queen," coupled with that of the Craft, which needed, he observed, no preface, as the Queen reigned in the hearts of all true Masons.

The W.M. next proposed "The health of the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.G.M." It had been his (the W.M.'s) lot many times to give the toast of the health of the Earl of Zetland—a well-trying and worthy Mason—as Grand Master, and now he was glad to say his successor was worthy of the post he occupied. As Deputy Grand Master, Earl de Grey, for many years, had the respect and esteem of the whole Craft, and he (the W.M.) was sure that as M.W.G.M. he would not only retain it, but would create in the hearts of the brethren a feeling which would last as long as his life, and much longer than he was likely to be in the Craft in his present high position. He (the W.M.) was in favour of the seven years' system; that question had not dropped, and he trusted it would not, until that end was attained. He was far from offering anything like disrespect to the M.W. Grand Master, but he thought the principle of life appointments was wrong. He hoped they would drink to the health of one who was not only "the head," but an ornament of the Order. (Applause.)

The W.M. called upon the brethren to drink "The health of the Earl of Carnarvon, D.G.M., and the other Grand Officers past and present," which they most cheerfully did.

The W.M. said there was one other toast which came under the denomination of "usual toasts," and that was "The health of our Brethren in the Army, Navy and Volunteers."

Bros. Chas. E. Thompson and Burgoyne severally responded to the toast.

Bro. Price proposed a toast which he said the brethren would be sure to receive with pleasure, and that was "The health of Bro. Wigginton, the W.M." He heartily congratulated them on having such a brother to preside over them, and from what he knew of him he was sure that under his judicious guidance the lodge would continue to prosper. He thought that they ought to be very proud of him—"So we are"—for he was a worthy man and a true Mason. (Hear, hear.) He trusted he would live many years to be amongst them. (The toast was received with every fraternal demonstration of approval.)

The W.M. (who was loudly cheered) returned thanks. He said for the kind manner in which the toast had been received he scarcely knew what to say, but he hoped that so long as he was connected with the lodge he should do his duty to their entire satisfaction. (Hear, hear.) He now had to propose the health of Bro. Terry, and in doing so any remarks upon that brother would be superfluous. He came at a very short notice to perform the ceremonies to-day, and certainly they would agree with him that he had worked those ceremonies in a most creditable manner—(applause)—in a manner not only creditable to himself, but of which the lodge might justly be proud. For the sake of the lodge, he hoped they might often see Bro. Terry amongst them, and be able to avail themselves of the instruction he was always so able and willing to impart. (Applause.)

Bro. Terry tendered his very hearty and sincere thanks for the kind way in which the brethren had responded to the toast, and as he had stated in lodge so he repeated—what little service he could render them he was always most happy to do, if it would in the slightest degree benefit any member of the lodge. He derived most of his information from one of the best Masons who ever lived—Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson; and as that brother had done before, so he (Bro. Terry) would do, and that was to impart all he knew to those who were anxious to learn. He trusted they would make this lodge of instruction one of a high-class character, and disassociate the pipe and the pot from their ceremonies. Nothing so disgusted him as to see a brother in the chair of K.S. in a lodge of instruction with an open Bible before him and a pewter pot by its side. (Hear, hear.) He suggested devoting two hours to the working of the ceremonies, and about an hour, after the business, to social chat and friendly intercourse as they might think fit. They would find a better class of persons attend, and it would be sure to work well, as it had done at the Emulation and Stability lodges of instruction. After stating how well an association for the purpose of contributing a shilling towards the Charities, of which he was the promoter, had progressed, and dilating at some length on its merits, he concluded by again thanking them most cordially.

The W.M. then proposed "Prosperity to the Royal Standard Lodge of Instruction," coupled with the name of Bro. R. Lee, the Preceptor. He assured Bro. Terry that all his remarks had met with his approval, and stated for his information that one of the propositions now before the lodge was a scheme by which the charities would be very greatly benefited, namely, "that out of the fee paid by initiates past and to come the sum of one guinea be paid to the charities," and if they were able to carry that they would soon be provided with Life-Governorships. (Cheers.) It augured well for a new lodge that before it had been established a year they were enabled to inaugurate a Lodge of Instruction, which would be a nursery for good officers for the mother lodge. (Cheers.)

Bro. R. Lee returned thanks and expressed his acknowledgments for the honour done him, and promised to give the most assiduous attention to his duties as Preceptor.

Other toasts followed and the brethren separated.

This Lodge of Instruction will henceforth hold its meetings every Friday, at the Marquess Tavern, Canonbury, when the brethren will be glad to welcome visitors.

The Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—On Wednesday last week the Fifteen Sections were worked at this lodge, held at Bro. Forster's, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., Bro. Austin, S.D. 933, in the chair. Bros. Barnes, P.M. 933, W.M. 554, S.W.; Hogard, J.D. 205 and 453, J.W.; Davis, 141, I.G.; Gottheil, P.M. 141, P.M.; Felton 186, Hon. Sec. After the usual preliminaries, they were ably worked by the following brethren:—Lecture 1: Section First, Bro. Ashburner, S.D. 1275; Second Section, Bro. Ragg, 781; Third Section, Adkin, S.W. 174; Fourth Section, Bro. M. Davis, 141; Fifth Section, Bro. J. Taylor, 903; Sixth Section, Bro. Gottheil, P.M. 141; Seventh Section, Bro. Barnes, P.M. 933, W.M. 554. Lecture 2: First Section, Bro. Newton, P.M. 174; Second Section, Bro. Lattreile, P.M. 1056; Third Section, Bro. Barnes, P.M. 933, W.M. 554; Fourth Section, Bro. Bowron, P.M. 933; Fifth Section, Bro. Barnes, P.M. 933, W.M. 554. Lecture 3: Section First, Bro. Hogard, J.D. 205 and 453; Second Section, Bro. Hogard, J.D. 295 and 453; Third Section, Bro. Barnes, P.M. 933, W.M. 554. A vote of thanks to be recorded on the minutes, for the excellent manner in which Bro. Austin had carried out the duties of the chair was proposed by Bro. Barnes, and seconded by Bro. Hogard, and carried unanimously. Bros. Matthews 185, and Rugg 781, were proposed as joining members, and unanimously elected; thus ended a very successful evening for the Confidence Lodge of Instruction. We may mention, that that we noticed several of the brethren leaving very early, which, we were sorry to see, as we consider that Bro. Austin really deserved to be supported to the end, but we suppose that they habitually keep such strict hours that even on that occasion they could not break through their established rules.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—The anniversary festival of this Lodge of Instruction was held on Tuesday night, the 6th inst., at the Royal Edward Tavern, Triangle, Hackney, Bro. W. Bristo, P.M. and Treas. 860, occupied the chair as the W.M.; supported by Bros. Hardy, S.W.; Senecal, J.W.; Ingram, Sec.; Pindar, S.D.; Sanders, I.G.; R. Wright, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M.; Gilchrist, P.M.; Rastrick, P.M.; Valee, Hyde, F. Allen, Stevens, Hammond, Dalwood, Crawley, Chillingworth, Balcombe, Thyton, King, Goddard, Rean, and some others were also present. The minutes of the meeting held on the previous Tuesday evening (when the Fifteen Sections had been worked), were read and confirmed. The report of the Audit Committee was also received and adopted. Bro. Wright, P.M., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Bro. F. Allen, the new host, provided a good spread. On the removal of the cloth, grace having been said, the W.M. proposed the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," Bro. George Rean sang, "God save the Queen." The next toast was "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, M.W.G.M.," which was duly honoured. Then was given, "The Health of the Earl of Carnarvon, D.G.M.," "The P.G.M.'s," "The Past and Present Grand Lodge Officers," coupling with it the Provincial Officers who were present. Bro. Valee sang by desire and with great spirit, "The Marseillaise." Bros. Rastrick and Wright, returned thanks. "The Health of the W.M. and Officers of the parent lodge Dalhousie," was given. Bro. G. Rean sang "My Pretty Jane;" Hardy, S.W., responded. "The host Bro. F. Allen, and his wife, Mrs. Allen," was the next toast given; Bro. F. Allen responded. Bro. Pinder sang "Skipper and his Boy." "The Visitors" was the next toast, coupled with the name of Bro. Walters. The W.M., Bro. Bristo, sang in a faultless manner, "Red Cross Banner." Bro. Walters responded in an able and fluent manner. The health of the Secretary was drunk; more songs followed, and altogether this was a most enjoyable evening, and the good singing contributed to the pleasures of the evening.

FAITH LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.—The above Lodge of Instruction is held every Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, in the spacious and commodious rooms at Bro. Fisher's Restaurant, Metropolitan District Railway Station, Victoria, S.W. Ceremonies and lectures worked every Tuesday, except the third Tuesday in the month, when the ceremonies alone are rehearsed. The DOMATIC CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION is also held in the above rooms every Friday evening, at 8 o'clock, from October until April inclusive.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

WYMAN.—On the 15th inst., at Hertford, the wife of Bro. C. P. Wyman, I.G. and O., 403, 449, of a son.

DEATH.

HALL.—On the 14th inst., at 16, Norfolk-crescent, Hyde Park, aged 75, R.W. Bro. John Henry Hall, F.R.S. of Lincoln's Inn, Prov. G.M. for Cambridge.

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.

ENQUIRER.—An index for 1870 will be issued with the last number of the year.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1870.

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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.

"ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARD MEN."

"On earth peace, goodwill toward men." Such were the words of the Divine message announced to the shepherds more than eighteen centuries ago, and such are still, nominally at least, the precepts of that great religious system whose foundation was heralded by angelic rejoicings. But notwithstanding the teachings of sages, notwithstanding the experience acquired through countless cycles of time, man's nature remains unchanged, and the blessings of peace are seemingly as little valued as ever. At a time when Christian communities in every land are celebrating the nativity of the Founder of their Faith, two great Christian nations are engaged in a death-struggle, and the very horizon of Christendom is dark with blood and tears. What terrible principle of evil is abroad thus to render nugatory all the efforts of good men to promote peace and prosperity among the nations? How is it that our boasted civilisation produces such bitter

fruits, and that the wisdom and science which we so loudly vaunt cannot stifle the rage of ambition or the cruel lust for war? On the one hand, there is France—a country which, with all its faults, has ever held on high the lamp of progress and freedom—on the other hand, we have Germany, transformed from a nation of dreamy philosophers into a nation of soldiers; and both these mighty peoples ignore all their traditions of greatness in the arts that adorn and dignify life for the accursed glory of warfare and strife. Is this in consonance—we will not say, merely with the doctrines of Christianity as enunciated so plainly and Divinely by the angelic host in days of old—but, to take a lower ground, is it in unison with any of the teachings promulgated by advanced thinkers and statesmen for many years past? Must all our hopes of creating a happy brotherhood amongst the children of men be considered but as Dead Sea fruit—beautiful as theories, but utterly hollow in practice? Must we really settle down to the conviction that Schiller is right when he says that the earth is glorious, and that man is the Abaddon amidst the gladsome harmony that should otherwise prevail? Surely this is not so; surely the mystery of bloodshed will pass away, and the world will recover its pristine beauty and glow with unwonted delight in the presence of a truer and nobler inspiration. It cannot be that man shall for ever be delivered over to the ineffable bondage of hatred and fear. It cannot be that man shall for ever suffer the cruel tortures, the rending pangs inflicted by the fiend of war. It cannot be that kings and ministers shall for ever have the power—as we fear they too often have the will—to plunge their fellow-creatures into the depths of unutterable horror and despair. The words of England's greatest living poet cannot be all a dream: the "parliament of man, the federation of the world," are as yet the unborn children of Time, but let us hope that the Future bears them in her breast; and if Freemasonry can only permeate the earth with its precepts, we shall yet see the poetic vision realised in the supremacy of Reason and the mastery of Thought. Viewed in this aspect by reflecting minds, Freemasonry is at once a beacon and a landmark; it not only serves to deter us from the gross materialism of battle-fields, but it is a landmark for all ages, a boundary of Wisdom from Folly, of Truth from Falsehood. No amount of sophistry can persuade an intelligent Mason that the horrid scenes now being enacted in unhappy France are part of the destiny of the human race—say rather that they are evidences of perverted powers and dishonoured talents. The gigantic might wielded by the Von Moltkes and Bismarcks of our age is darkened with shadows from the Plutonian shores—the terror of death clings to it and trails its glories in the dust. Better far the reputation of an honest man than the frail and bloody pomp of a conqueror; better far

the triumph of one invention for the comfort of life than all the laurels of the Cæsars. At this season of the year, when the peoples of Europe bow down to worship the Holy One of Israel—at this season of the year, when *all* the civilised world record the close of a recognised period of time—may we not profitably consider these subjects, and lament that man is still so blind to his dearest and best interests? Now, we claim for Freemasonry a high place in the Pantheon of Intellect; we claim for it a mission which is as yet but partially interpreted and understood—one which the majority of us as yet see darkly, but which our children and our children's children will be able to perfect and to consummate. We claim for Freemasonry a high place in the world's regard, because it is the representative of peace; and we contend that its mission is identified with the cause of truth, honour, and civilisation.

It has been well said by an acknowledged teacher of man, that "Before us is the boundless Time which we—even we—have to conquer, to create." Let us each, therefore, thoroughly understand our position as soldiers in the army of progress; let us each labour within the sphere of our influence for the victory of our chosen principles. Without work—positive work—no great structure has ever been reared, and, unfortunately, Freemasons are somewhat inclined to be Sybarites in their ideas of duty. We must not expect our path to be strewn with rose leaves, or our steps to be supported by applauding crowds. Ours is the silent toil, whose usefulness is best shown in the happy results which it achieves. Ours is a philosophy, whose roots extend into the inmost soul; whose branches bear as fruits the divinest conceptions of the human intellect. Its outward and visible signs are exhibited in the vulgar form of material charity; but its hidden grace—its essential beauty—is the spirit of fraternity which pervades and harmonises and glorifies the whole. Within the circle of this spirit, war cannot exist; within the radius of its influence fierceness and malice are as nought. But let us ask the question in simple earnestness, are we all striving to cultivate and foster this idea of brotherhood? Are we all endeavouring to make our lodges temples of unity and friendship? Are we all showing to the outer world that garb of innocence and purity which should ever distinguish our lives as men and Masons? If not, how can we reason effectually with the men of Belial, whose hands are steeped in blood and fraud, and whose path is desolation and dismay?

Much as we may regret—and we all mourn it most sincerely—the terrible havoc and the atrocity of the present European war, we must not be oblivious of the fact that a great principle is now being asserted, and its fate must be decided by the issue of the struggle. So far, the proof is clear that retribution has fallen upon the aggressor; let us now hope that the victor will

not press his triumph to the utmost verge of vengeance. Let the Divine message which found a ready echo in the ears of the Syrian shepherds be not forgotten now—"On earth peace, goodwill toward men."

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 21st inst., at 7 p.m., under the presidency of Bro. Jno. M. Clabon, P.G.D., who was appointed to the office of President by the Grand Master at the last Grand Lodge. Bros. J. Nunn and James Brett were in their respective positions as Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents, and among the brethren present we noticed Bros. Joseph Smith, E. H. Patten, H. Garrod, Sam. May, C. A. Cottebrune, W. M. Bywater, Benjamin Head, Æ. J. McIntyre, J. Hervey, H. G. Buss, R. W. Little, J. Savage, W. Mann, Bentley Shaw, D.P.G.M. West Yorkshire; W. Smith, E. Vorley, John Boyd, F. Walters, G. H. Swan, R. Ridsen, J. Bellerby, R. W. Stewart, T. Meggy, G. King, W. Smeed, R. B. Newsome and W. Carter. The lodge was opened in due form, and the sums voted at previous meetings were unanimously carried.

Seventeen applications were made for relief. The sum of £275 was voted to relieve the distressed, as follows, viz., one £50, one £40, two £25, three £20, two £15, three £10 and three £5. Two were deferred until the next meeting. Notice of motion was given by Bro. Smith, P.G.P., to alter the hour of meeting to six o'clock by making the necessary application to carry out that object. The lodge was afterwards closed.

Multum in Parvo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

BRO. W. P. BUCHAN ON FREEMASONRY.

I must confess to an utter inability to understand what Bro. Buchan really intends by objecting to the statements of Bros. "Lupus," "Rev. P. H. Newnham," and myself. I have not written in any mood to either give or receive "jokes," but solely to set at rest a disputed point with respect to the "History of Freemasonry," and therefore if our friend Bro. "Buchan" will say *why* he objects to our views of Freemasonry being revived A.D. 1717, and seek by *facts* to show *why* we should not accept the Freemasonry of that period as a *continuation* of the Operative and Speculative Masonry of former centuries, I will examine the evidence submitted on proof of such a negative position very carefully.

W. J. HUGHAN.

THE APRON AND THE 1717 THEORY.

I think in courtesy, I ought to reply to "A Masonic Student," although I do not propose to continue a discussion in which all evidence is utterly disregarded. "W. P. B.," in triumphant tones, challenges me to produce (in support of my statements) a public Act of Parliament referring to Masons alone. I at once produce such Act. What is the result? "W. P. B." "carefully reads the remarks," and then proceeds in the old strain, as if I had been utterly unable to prove what I had asserted; whilst, in fact, the very tone in which the challenge was given was an admission that if I produced such an Act "W. P. B.'s" statements must be very much qualified.

In reply to the "Student," I would explain

that the "minute book of a Speculative," lodge referred to by me, is the book of the Warkworth and Alnwick Lodge, from which we have had an extract of 1708, and after which any more talk of 1717 appears mere waste of time and space. I am not aware that the meaning of the word "speculative" in the MS. published by Bro. Cooke is at all at issue; there was a strange suggestion that it meant "knowledge," but the context gives no room for the slightest pretension to this. The statute which "Student" cannot find is, 3 Edward VI., c. 15. Perhaps he has seen 34 Edward III., c. 9. I am unable to find 2 Henry VII., c. 3, 4. The second Parliament of Henry VII. appears to have been held in the third year of his reign, and C.'s 3 and 4 do not refer to Masons. There are other Acts more or less directly affecting Masons, but they are not to be found in all the copies.

I am aware that lodges were attached to the monastic institutions, but I have no doubt that many of your readers will find interest in the extract to which the "Student" alludes.

LUPUS.

THE TEMPLARS AND THE CRAFT.

I notice a communication from the respected Prov. G.M. for Leicestershire and Rutland, with the above "heading," and have already expressed my appreciation of the history of that flourishing province, which has been so ably written by R.W. Bro. William Kelly, and in which particulars are given in reference to the above subject. I write now to ask Bro. William Kelly if he will favour the numerous readers of THE FREEMASON with an explanation of the following statement made by him on concluding the interesting paragraph on the "Templars and the Craft."

"I may mention that I possess the seals of the old Athole Lodge, No. 91, formerly held in this town. They comprise seals for the Ark Mariners', Red Cross of Babylon, Royal Arch and Knight Templar Degrees, all of which, in like manner, were worked under the Craft Warrant."

It is very desirable to know what authority was given in the "Ancient" Craft Warrants to work these degrees. I have never been able to find any such an *authority in any of the old "Ancient" Warrants* which have been carefully perused by me, and therefore if Bro. Kelly has, I know he will gladly afford others the information which they have not been so fortunate as to discover.

W. JAMES HUGHAN.

MASONIC MSS.

As Bro. Forsyth seems to think that the MSS. he alludes to, are unknown to Masonic students, and are the earliest in the British Museum, I send you a few notes on the subject. These same MSS. have long been known to Masonic students, have been quoted frequently, and often alluded to in our Masonic periodicals. The MSS. to which our brother alludes so far from being the earliest, are nearly the latest in the Museum.

I append a list of all existing MSS. there, with their approximate dates:—

1. Bib. Reg. 17 a. 1, f. 32, 1370 to 1390.
2. Additional MSS. 23 198, 1460 to 1490.
3. Lansdowne 98, f. 276, 1590.
4. Sloane 3849, f. 213, 1646.
5. Sloane 3323, f. 195, 1659.
6. Harleian 2054, after 1660.
7. Harleian 1942, f. 1, after 1660.

But in addition to these MSS. Constitutions in the British Museum, there is the interesting transcript sent by Dowland to the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1806, which is

evidently an earlier MS. than the Lansdowne, and may be fixed at about 1550. There is the copy belonging to the Lodge of Antiquity which is fixed by them to be 1686, there is a copy at York 1693, and a second also there 1704, while Bro. W. Passworth is also in possession of a copy date, he says, 1720; Bro. Findel says 1714. There is also a copy in the possession of Lodge of Hope, Bradford, which is about the end of last century. These are all the existing copies at present known; they may no doubt be found in old libraries, and are hidden away, long forgotten amid the dusty papers of our English lodges.

Next week I will allude to copies which have, however, been in existence, and are said to have been lost or destroyed.

A MASONIC STUDENT.

A BATCH OF QUERIES.

Is it irregular to wear a P.M. jewel on the breast in a R.A. Chapter?—No.

2. Who should instal the W.M.-elect? Can the latter choose his own installing officer, or can the retiring W.M. claim the privilege of installing officer (if able) as his by right?—The retiring Master has a positive right to install his successor.

3. Can a lodge fix in its by-laws any time for the installation, or should all (English) lodges have it as near St. John's Day (27th December) as possible?—Any day can be fixed, provided it be stated in the by-laws.

4. Is it irregular to wear silver braid on the collars and on the ribbon of the apron of officers or members of private lodges?—Yes.

A PAST SENIOR WARDEN.

May I inquire, through your paper, whether any of the following lodges are now in existence; if so, I should be glad if I can communicate with the respective W.M.'s, through you:—

White Swan Lodge, Norwich	... 1789
Maid's Head Lodge, Norwich	... 1776
Castle and Lion Lodge, Norwich	... 1800
No. 103, Elusinian Mysteries Lodge, Masonic Tavern, Elm Hill, Norwich	1822
Angel Lodge, Great Yarmouth	... 1774
	C., 85.

W. & A. GILBEY'S STORES.—The *Standard* of the 16th inst., in a long account of Messrs. W. & A. Gilbey's New Stores at Camden Town, gives some interesting details. It appears that the Stores in question have a cellarage and floorage space of upwards of five acres, and were formerly used as the principal Goods Station of the London and North Western Railway. Connected with these Stores by the canal are Bonded Cellars covering several acres, in which the various Wines and Spirits as they arrive from Xeres, Oporto, Bordeaux, Cognac, &c., are stored under bond. Upwards of 300 hands are employed, principally on piecework, and an average of 3,000 dozens or about 100 tons weight of Wines and Spirits are sent out daily, in addition to which, every day, from 30,000 to 40,000 bottles are washed by steam. The business here carried on, according to the Government Returns, amounts to about one-twentieth part of the entire Wine trade; while from the fact of this firm having agents in almost every town and village in the United Kingdom, their goods can be obtained everywhere at the same price, and their position in the trade affords a guarantee of uniform quality and good commercial value. Thus, each one of their 1,500 agents, instead of supplying his customers from some two or three varieties bottled and purchased on his own judgment, holds in reality the key to a stock embracing more than 200 varieties.

The *Standard* points out that the position selected for these Stores combines the advantages very difficult to obtain in London, of road, rail, and water carriage, and concludes its remarks as follows:—

"Altogether this Establishment is well worth inspection; and to visitors to London, with whom a day at the Docks has always represented one of the standing sights, we can only say that they will find a visit to the Stores of perhaps greater interest, as here they will see all the various processes of bottling, packing, &c., on such a scale as certainly cannot be seen elsewhere, not even in the wine-producing countries."—*Standard*, 16th Dec., 1870

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BOMBAY.

The half-yearly communication of the District Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 2nd November, at the Freemasons' Hall, Mazagon, at 6 p.m. The proceedings were of a very interesting nature. In the absence of the District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. the Hon. J. Gibbs, who was prevented by illness from attending, the chair was occupied by R.W. Bro. G. Taylor, Past District Grand Master, supported by W. Bros. Dr. T. Diver, Deputy D.G. Master; J. Dixon, D.S.G.W., C. E. Mitchell, D.J.G.W.; W. H. Hussey, D.G. Sec.; Bro. J. J. Winton, D.G. Treas.; W. Bro. Col. L. W. Penn, C.B., D.S.G. Deacon; Bros. H. Prescott, as D.J.G.D.; L. Morcom, as D.G. Org.; W. Bro. C. Beard, D.G. Sword-Bearer; Bros. T. Crawford, as D.G. Pur.; J. W. Seager, D.G. Tyler. Members: W. Bros. J. P. Cornforth, P.D.G. Warden; A. C. Gumper, P.D.G. Warden; J. P. Leith, P.D.G. Chaplain; H. H. Avron, P.D.G. Registrar; Capt. B. H. Mathew, P.D.G.W.; Bro. G. Bease, P.D.G. Dir. of Cer., &c., &c.

Lodges "St. George," "Concord," "Star of India," "Emulation," "Truth," and "Eastern Star" were represented.

The District Grand Lodge was opened with prayer. The minutes of the last three communications (having been printed and furnished to members) were taken as read and confirmed.

The District Grand Secretary reported that communications had been received from the D.G. Lodges of Bengal, Madras, and Punjab, on the subject of jurisdiction. The latter concurred with the proposal of the D.G.L. of Bombay, but the two former could not agree. Read also a communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, in reply to a memorial from the District Grand Lodge of Bombay, praying that lodges at outstations may be permitted to appoint representatives to attend on their behalf at the quarterly communications of D.G. Lodge. The Grand Master regretted that in the present state of the law he could not comply with the prayer of the petition, nor did he think it expedient to alter the law to meet the wishes of the petitioners; but that the District Grand Lodge could follow the example of the Provincial Grand Lodges in England, by paying periodical visits to the lodges under its jurisdiction.

The District Grand Master offered a few remarks on this matter. He thought that the Grand Master was not aware of the inconvenience that the members of the D.G. Lodge would be put to in visiting Mofussil lodges, which were scattered so far apart, and the impossibility of members leaving their business to go on these excursions, without incurring great expense. It was not as in England, where there was a network of railways, and the lodges in each province were within a few hours' communication with each other. He had no doubt that, when these points were fully explained to the Grand Master, the prayer of the petition would be complied with.

The Deputy District Grand Master then rose, and said he had a very pleasing duty to perform. He regretted that the District Grand Master was prevented by indisposition and absence from Bombay from being present to invest the Past District Grand Master with the apron, collar, and jewel voted to him by the District Grand Lodge, as a slight mark of the eminent services he had rendered to the Craft as a ruler during the last nine years.

The P.D.G.M. having handed the hiram to the Deputy D.G.M., the latter read the resolution proposed by the District Grand Lodge, and invested the P.D.G.M. with the clothing, amidst the plaudits of the assembled brethren.

Then followed the addresses from individual lodges, which were read and delivered to the P.D.G.M. by the representatives of lodges, all breathing the affectionate esteem and regard in which he was held by the brethren over whom he ruled. Some of the addresses were not quite completed in the style the donors hoped to have presented them; but those that were finished displayed the excellent workmanship of the Bombay Education Society's Press, and were greatly admired.

The Past D.G.M., who was deeply affected, rose and thanked the brethren in eloquent and feeling terms for this fresh proof of their kindness and approbation of the manner in which he had discharged his duties as D.G.M. during the last nine years. He would carefully treasure up these souvenirs of the happy years he had spent among the brethren, and hand them down as a heirloom to his children.

A donation of 100 rupees was unanimously voted to the widow of a deceased brother.

A donation of 500 rupees was voted to the Fund for the Relief of the Sick and Wounded during the war.

W. Bro. Gumpert alluded to the death of R.W. Bro. A. J. Greenlaw, District G. Master of British Burmah, and the eminent services rendered by him to the Craft in general. It was proposed and unanimously resolved that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the D.G. Lodge of British Burmah, sympathising with them in the great loss they have sustained.

W. Bro. Percy Leith brought to the notice of the D.G. Lodge that a project was on foot to construct a Masonic Hall in Bombay. He suggested that a meeting should be called, and that representatives from all lodges, &c. (English and Scotch), attend to discuss the matter. There was every hope of success attending their present attempt to give Bombay a commodious hall calculated for all Masonic purposes.

There being no further business, the D.G. Lodge was closed with prayer.—*Masonic Record of Western India.*

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The District Grand Lodge of South Australia held its Quarterly Communication at the Freemasons' Hall, Flinders-street, Adelaide, on the 5th October last. The R.W. Bro. Arthur Hardy, F.P., D.G.M., occupied the chair, supported by the W. Bros. Henry Edward Downer, S.M., D.D.G.M.; Macaulay, P.M., as S.D.G.W.; and the W. D.G. Secretary, as J.D.G.W.; Bro. the Rev. Canon Farr, M.A., D.G. Chaplain; W. Bros. Wicksteed, P.D.S.G.W., as D.G. Sec.; Letchford, D.G.S.D.; and Galley, as D.G.J.D.; Bros. John Cox Bray, D.G. Pursuivant; H. E. Bright, D.G. Steward; Magraith, P.M. 598; Senior Wardens of 583 and 598; Cox, W.M. 842; and the Junior Warden of 842. Visitors: Bros. Pudney, 598; Cunningham, 583; Stratton and Wilson, 842. W. Bros. the S.D.G.W., J.D.G.W., D.G. Treas., S.D.G.D., D.G. Supt. Works, D.G. Dir., Cers. D.G. Swordbearer, D.G. Organist, and D.G. Steward, were excused attendance. W. Bros. the D.G. Registrar, D.G. Asst. Dir. Cers., and Bro. Paltridge, D.G. Steward, were fined for non-attendance.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The R.W. District Grand Master then proceeded to appoint the officers for the ensuing year:—

D.G.S.W.—His Honour Edward Castress Gwynne, Primary Judge in Equity, P.D.G.S.W.

D.G.J.W.—J. F. Botting, P.D.G. Treas.

D.G. Chaplain—The Rev. George Henry Farr, M.A., Canon of the Dean and Chapter of the Diocese of Adelaide, P.D.G. Chaplain Scotch Constitution, Lodge of Friendship, No. 423.

D.G. Registrar—John R. Gurner, P.D.G. Asst. Dir. of Cers., P.G.D. Registrar.

D.G. Secretary—Ralph Everad Lucy, P.D.G. Sec. and P.M. MacDonnell Lodge, No. 842.

D.G.S.D.—Aulay Macaulay, P.D.G.S.D. and P.M. Lodge of Truth, 649.

D.G.J.G.—John Rudall, P.M. Lodge of Fidelity, No. 584.

D.G. Supt. of Works—The Hon. Thomas English, M.L.C., P.D. G. Dir. of Cers.

D.G. Dir. of Ceremonies—William Hill, P.M. Lodge of Harmony, No. 505, and P.D.G. Org.

D.G. Asst. Dir. of Ceremonies—William Henry Bean, P.M. United Tradesmen's Lodge, No. 583.

D.G. Swordbearer—Augustus E. Davies, P.M. Clare Lodge, No. 874.

D.G. Organist—Henry Louis Durieu, P.D.G.J. Deacon.

D.G. Pursuivant—John Cox Bray, P.G.D. Pursuivant.

D.G. Stewards—William Martin Letchford, W.M. Lodge of Harmony, No. 505; Henry Edward

Bright, M.P., Lodge of Fidelity, No. 584; Thomas Paltridge, W.M. Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1172; Charles Francis Godfrey Ashwin, P.M. Lodge of Truth, No. 649; and Henry Hill, Lodge of Harmony, No. 505.

Bro. McIntyre, P.M. 583, was elected D.G. Treasurer, and Bro. John Monck, Tyler.

Report of General Committee.

"To the R.W. the D.G. Master and

"District Grand Lodge of South Australia.

"Your Committee report:—

"That they have ascertained that £45 was paid by the District Grand Lodge for furniture on the 14th day of August, 1866. They are, therefore, of opinion that the giving it up to the trustees of the Freemason's Hall ought to be a sufficient equivalent for the use of the hall to the end of the year, at which time they hope to be free from debt.

"They recommend that afterwards a reasonable rent be paid for the use of the hall, and that a liberal subscription be made annually towards paying off the principal for which the hall is mortgaged, provided that they are shown a reasonable prospect of the liquidation thereof in the course of a few years, and that a remainder is insured to the Benevolent Fund.

"They regret that the trustees have not put them into a position to make any more definite recommendation; but, if supplied with the requisite information, will endeavour in a supplementary report, to supply the deficiency.

"They report that during the past quarter, dispensations have been granted to the Duke of Edinburgh Lodge to walk in procession for the purpose of presenting an address to Bro. His Excellency Sir Jas. Fergusson, Bart.; and the United Tradesmen's Lodge to pass and raise Bro. Hyman at intervals less than four weeks.

"They regret to say that a very heavy list of brothers have had their names erased from the lodge, chiefly for non-payment of dues:—From the United Tradesmen's Lodge—Reuben Mills, Alex. McKenzie, B. C. De Lissa, Wm. Fowler, Richard Stephens, Samuel Lazar, Alex. Wearing, Carl Henning, Chas. White, and Robt. Symes. From the Lodge of St. John—George Lambert, Stephen Hall, George Knight, Hugh Matthisen, Charles Dean, James McDonald, W. Burley, James Perry, Donald McLean, Thomas Taylor, and William Rogers.

"They have satisfaction in reporting that the returns to June, 1870, show the addition of the names of thirty-six brothers as initiated into Masonry. They are also pleased to report that the returns were made very regularly, and dues paid, only one exception having been made; and that all dues to Grand Lodge have been remitted by August mail.

"As the October Quarterly Communication is the time for the R.W. the D.G.M. to appoint officers for the ensuing year, it will be your duty to elect Treasurer and Tyler.

"Also, to elect ten members of the General Committee. The following brothers have consented to act if elected:—W. Bros. Whittell, Wicksteed, Gurner, Hamlin, McIntyre, Hill, A. E. Davies, Crank, Macaulay, and Tuxford.

"Also, four members of the Board of Management of the Masonic Benevolent Fund, and three Auditors. Bros. Whittell, Botting, Gurner, and Haussen have consented to act, if elected, on the Board.

"F. J. BOTTING, Chairman.

FREDERIC WICKSTEED, Secretary.

"Adelaide, September 20th, 1870."

The consideration of the report was postponed until next meeting. A new General Committee and a Committee of the Masonic Benevolent Fund for the ensuing year were appointed; as also the Auditors.

The balance-sheet and return of the trustees of the Masonic Hall was then read, and it was decided that the whole matter be left in the hands of the General Committee, and that they be requested to prepare a report for submission to D.G. Lodge.

The balance of the South Australian Masonic Benevolent Fund is £116 1s. 2d.

There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed with solemn prayer.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has kindly stated that it will afford him great satisfaction to preside at the Anniversary Festival of the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots in the ensuing year.

We have great pleasure in stating that Bro. Jesse Owen, the Hon. Secretary to the "Tedder Fund," will be happy to receive subscriptions, and will gladly forward circulars with the names of the committee and the objects of the fund. Applications can be addressed to the editor.

KNIGHT TEMPLARY.

The half-yearly meeting of the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar was held on Friday, the 9th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. The M.E. and S. Grand Master Sir Knt. W. Stuart, occupied the throne, supported Sir Knts. the Rev. J. Huyshe, the D.G.M.; Col. Vernon, Past D.G.M.; C. J. Vigne, P.G.C. Dorsetshire; Capt. Philips, P.G.C. Suffolk and Cambridge; the Right Hon. Lord Eliot, P.G.C. Cornwall; the Hon. A. W. A. N. Hood, *M.P.*, P.G.C. Somerset; Major Harvey T. Duncan, P.G.C. British Burmah; Capt. Clerke, Past P.G.C. West Indies; A. C. Crookshank, Past P.G.C. Ceylon; S. Rawson, Past P.G.C. China; the Earl of Limerick, Grand Prior; R. J. Spiers, D.P.G.C. Oxford; Capt. Portlock Dodson, D.P.G.C. Kent; S. Rosenthal, F. Binckes, P.G. Officers, and a large number of fratres.

The Grand Conclave was opened in ample form, and the Grand Registrar called the muster roll.

The P.G.C. for Somerset, the Hon. A. W. A. N. Hood, and the P.G.C. for British Burmah, Major Harvey T. Duncan, attended and performed their homage. The minutes of the last Grand Conclave were read and confirmed. The following report of the Committee was then read:—

"Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master:

"The Committee of Grand Conclave has the honour to report that the numerical force of the Order has steadily increased since the date of the last meeting.

"The change in the place of meeting is an important event, which has taken place since the last Conclave. The premises at Bedford-row having been sold, and it having been found impossible to come to any arrangement with the purchaser in any respect advantageous to, or within the means of the Order, the Committee appointed *ad hoc* was reluctantly obliged to recommend the abandonment of that locality. The Board of General Purposes of the Craft kindly offered the use of the De Grey and Ripon Room, at Freemasons' Hall; but it being found not only too small, but so inconveniently situated with regard to those auxiliary rooms requisite for the performance of the ceremonies and the convenience of the officers, the Grand Director of Ceremonies, to whose discretion the Committee had remitted the matter, saw no other solution of the difficulty than to fix on the room we now occupy, and which, with those adjacent, offers great convenience. Your Committee will, however, not lose sight of the matter, should a more suitable arrangement be subsequently found possible.

"Since the Grand Conclave holden in May, a new warrant has been granted to the Moore Encampment, at Peterborough, Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada.

"The Very Eminent Dr. Falconer, the old and valued Grand Commander of Somersetshire, having, from the great increase of his professional business as a physician, found his time too fully occupied to allow him any longer to perform the office entrusted to him, resigned it into your hands, and you have been graciously pleased to appoint as his successor, the Honourable A. W. A. N. Hood, member for West Somerset, eldest son of Viscount Bridport, a captain in H.M. 25th Regiment. The Committee has to report that Captain Hood has accepted the appointment and announced his intention of presenting himself to perform his homage at this Conclave.

"A vacancy in the Committee having thus occurred, you have been pleased, in exercise of the power conferred by the Statutes, to appoint the Right Hon. the Lord Skelmersdale to supply his place during the remainder of the year.

"The Very Eminent Grand Commander, Colonel Greenlaw, having been removed, in the course of military duty, from British Burmah, he resigned his charge, and you have been pleased to appoint to the vacancy Major Harvey Tuckett Duncan, who has accepted the appointment, and signified his intention to attend and perform his homage at this Conclave. Your Committee regrets to report that Colonel Greenlaw, who was acting on behalf of the Grand Commander of Madras, the Very Eminent Sir Knt. Arthur Macdonald Ritchie, during his absence on leave, has since departed this life.

"The United Province of Northumberland and Berwick, and that of West Yorkshire, are still *in commendam*, no appropriate person having yet been found to assume their command.

"In consequence of a deputation from the Province of Lancashire, urging on your Committee the advisability of issuing an agenda paper a week previous to the meeting of the Grand Conclave, for the purpose of keeping the Order in general, and the

absentees in particular, better informed as to the business to be brought before it, and of any change contemplated in the statutes, rules, or ordinances of the Order, your Committee decided in conformity with the above representation, to present and recommend for the consideration of Grand Conclave a motion to carry out the views expressed by the deputation, which will be formally moved, for altering the statute regulating the distribution of the agenda paper.

"Your Committee directed the Grand Vice-Chancellor to anticipate the decision of Grand Conclave by issuing the agenda paper of the business at the present meeting, according to the terms of the motion referred to, and before the same could be submitted to Grand Conclave for adoption; and such agenda paper has been distributed accordingly.

"Your Committee has decided to recommend the following grants from the Fund of Benevolence:— Sir Knight D—£10, and Sir Knight W—£25. The particulars of these cases will be stated to you orally by the Grand Treasurer, to whom they will be moved.

"At the suggestion of the Melita Encampment, subscriptions have been solicited for the sick and wounded in the present Continental war. Thus challenged to carry out one of the original objects of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St. John, those administrative officers with whom communication could be conveniently had at this season of the year, when the summoning of a Committee would have been futile, thought it would not be easy to reject such a suggestion; and, in consequence, issued a circular, which has produced no very considerable result.

"It is now suggested by your Committee that, inasmuch as the general fund subscribed for the sick and wounded amounts to so very large a sum, and in an indirect way may be considered as tending to nurture the war, the sum subscribed by members of the Order would be better applied to the relief of those unfortunate persons who have, by the calamity of war, been rendered destitute, without any fault of their own, and who will starve should they not receive a temporary assistance. Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the subscribers should be communicated with, with the view of obtaining their assent to the proposed change in the destination of the fund, and that its administration be entrusted to a Sub-Committee, especially appointed for such purpose.

"The Grand Treasurer reports the gross balance on the general account to be	£404 12 10
Less to the credit of the Almoner's Fund	261 9 9

£143 3 1

which will be materially increased by May next, when the higher rate of fees granted by the Grand Conclave shall have come into the Exchequer.

"It is in contemplation to keep the general roll of members of the Order, in future, on parchment, to ensure greater durability.

(By order of the Committee of Grand Conclave),
"‡ P. MAC C. DE COLQUHOUN,
Grand Chancellor."

Sir Knt. C. Chandos Pole, Second Grand Captain, proposed, and Sir Knt. Chorlton seconded the following motion (which was carried *nem. con.*), for carrying out the recommendation of the Committee as to the future issue of the agenda paper:—

"At page 11 of the Statutes, paragraph 20, for the words 'given to each knight attending,' substitute the words, 'sent at least a week before the meeting of Grand Conclave to each Grand Officer, and to each private encampment in England and Wales, through the Grand Registrars of the respective provinces.'"

The following motion for authorising the change in the destination of the fund subscribed for the sick and wounded, was proposed by the D.G.M., the Rev. J. Huyshe, seconded by Sir Knts. Rawson, and agreed to, after explanation from Lord Eliot:—

"That on the subscribers being communicated with, and consenting thereto, the money collected in answer to an appeal from the Grand Chancellor of the Order be handed over to the Refugees' Benevolent Fund, through the Provincial Grand Commander for Cornwall, the Right Honourable Lord Eliot."

The motions for benevolences recommended in the report were then moved and seconded, and carried *nem. con.*

The report of the Committee was then received and adopted.

The Grand Almoner collected the alms, after which the Grand Conclave was closed in ample form.

A Grand Priory of the Order of Malta was then opened by the Grand Prior, the Rev. J. Huyshe.

The minutes of the last Grand Priory were read and confirmed.

The report of the Committee was read as follows:—

"Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master,
"Your Committee has no special observations to make with respect to this Order on this occasion.

"The Grand Prior held in May last a Priory, under the Banner of the Observance Encampment, at which twelve members presented themselves, and were admitted into the Order; but inasmuch as, pursuant to the notice that he would hold a Priory, under the Banner of the St. George's Encampment (London), should a sufficient number of knights signify their desire to be received into the Order, and sufficient number of knights not having sent in their names, the Grand Prior has not thought it necessary to detain you for the somewhat lengthy ceremony on this occasion. The knights in question will, however, be able to receive the degree in May next.

"The stock of certificates on paper being exhausted, your Committee has ordered them to be printed for the future on parchment.

"By order of the Committee of Grand Priory.

"‡ P. MAC C. DE COLQUHOUN,
Grand Chancellor."

The report was received and adopted, and the Grand Priory was afterward closed in ample form.

The G.M., the D.G.M., the Rev. J. Huyshe, the Past D.G.M., Col. Vernon, with other knights, then adjourned to banquet.

Original Correspondence.

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

THE WAR VICTIMS.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—A few weeks since I obtained from you the favour of insertion of a communication in which I asked aid on behalf of the poor French peasants and others, who, through the devastating progress of the war in their country, have been reduced to a condition of poverty and extreme suffering. Alas! my pen was destitute of the power to touch the hearts of those to whom I addressed myself; and as is often the case, the inadequate handling of a subject mars the very object with which it is taken in hand. Would that I could write as fervently as I feel for those thousands of helpless ones—men, women, and children—whose homes have been destroyed, whose country has been devastated, and whose prospects are only of desolation and mourning. I should, in that case, be the means of bringing to their aid thousands of those who read THE FREEMASON and sympathise with human suffering. Trustworthy men tell us of travelling through what were some of the most fertile and fruitful tracts of country between Paris and the Rhine, in which the population is reduced to such a condition of destitution and suffering as to be literally stunned or stupefied. A correspondent of one of the daily papers says:—"If I had the power to describe to you a tittle of the misery and desolation existing in the towns and villages I passed through, you would think me guilty of exaggeration. The sight of hamlet after hamlet, and small town after town, in which every shutter is closed, and the only sound to break the awful stillness in the chief thoroughfares is the clatter of our horses' hoof, is melancholy enough in itself. But when dismounting one comes from the general to the particular by entering house after house in the vain search for a small loaf or a cup of warm coffee, for which a handful of silver is offered, the real distress which reigns supreme is more nearly realised. It is not easy to carry much food on horseback; it is still harder to keep entirely to oneself the slender stock one does set out with when, at the first meal, hungry children come round and fight for the well-picked bones of a chicken, and women with infants at the breast almost faint with gratitude at the gift of a ha'porth of bread. I was consequently nearly famished upon arrival at Etampes. Have you anything left in England after all you have so generously given? I am ashamed to take up the cry of the horse-leech's daughter; but the weather is so hard and these poor people are so terribly hungry, I solemnly declare to you that their condition is desperate in the extreme. At Toury, a town of some two thousand inhabitants, the priest came into a house where I was—a baker's—and through a thin partition I heard him—shall I divulge it?—asking the baker to steal—no, to *take* a handful of meal from some entrusted to him by the Prussians to bake bread for them, and watched over by a sentry at

the bakehouse-door—that he might take it to keep the soul in the body of a woman who had just brought a child into the world. I heard the baker crying like a baby as he declared that it was more than his life was worth to tamper with the stock which had been so carefully weighed out to him. In another house in the same town I found a respectable family which had been living for more than a week on onion broth—not made with meat, but simply onions and water !”

Others, and many writers with both the French and the German armies, but especially the former, give numerous proofs of similar and extreme suffering in other parts of the country through which the armies have advanced. Multitudes—women and children in particular—are thus reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress ; and the future is no brighter nor more endurable than the present—that is, if seasonable aid be not at once afforded them. Happily, there are some who, in view of their own happy Christmas, are thinking upon the desolate, and are sending their contributions to them. But the objects of relief are so many that the contributors need to be multiplied a hundred-fold.

My appeal has met with a response from a few of my brethren, and from the daughter of one ; and what I now ask is, that you will permit me to acknowledge their contributions in the columns in which my appeal to them was made. Here is the list :—Bros. W. Bartell (177) 10s. ; H. Chapman (177) 2s. 6d. ; W. Carpenter (177), 5s. ; W. Shearman, 2s. 6d. ; G. Darcy (901), 5s. 6d. ; W. G. Haylock (901), 5s. ; collected by the latter in 901, 14s. 2d. ; Miss Tilly Anderson, 10s. ; smaller sums, 6s.

I propose to keep my list open for a week or two more, and then hand the sums I have received to the *Daily News* Fund.

Yours fraternally,
WILLIAM CARPENTER.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Faith, hope, and perseverance, in a good cause, will not fail to be rewarded in the, one way or other ; while on the other hand, rashness and want of consideration, is always unfortunate. I therefore trust that I have have not been too rash in sending you the following question, suggested to me by the communications of Bro. Hughan and a Masonic Student in last Saturday's number of THE FREEMASON, page 641:—Suppose that two or three “ Good Templars ” were to affirm that their Order was first founded or instituted by Jonadab, about A.M. 3128 (Jerm. 35-6, 2 Kings, chap. x.), or by any other worthy founder at any time prior to A.D. 1850, and suppose them to affirm that the Order as it not exists was but a revival of the ancient Order and re-instituted, with improvements, say about 1860, how could it be proved, say a hundred years after this, that Good Templarism did not exist before 1850, if they now, like “ some too scrupulous brethren ” in Masonry (in 1720), were to collect and destroy all the papers and parchment, evidences of their recent origin, for the benefit of the mystery? I submit that there would then be about as much evidence to prove the ancientness of the Good Templars as there is to prove the existence of Freemasonry prior to 1717 under the like circumstances.

Yours fraternally,
W. G. DORIC.

THE “ RECTANGULAR REVIEW ” ON “ FREEMASONRY: ITS USE AND ABUSE.”

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—

“ He who complies against his will,
Is of the same opinion still,”

and I presume such will be the case with our friend the “ Editor R. R.”

I would not attempt to occupy your space further on this subject, were it not that I am unwilling to be thought capable of shrinking from the acceptance of a direct challenge, and thereby subjecting myself to the imputation of cowardice. I therefore, as the shortest, clearest answer to the “ Editor of R. R.’s ” letter in your last, enclose you copy of balance-sheet for 1869, as circulated throughout the Craft, which will supply all the information called for by your correspondent, except that in connection with the “ Stewards’ Fund.” For the management of that fund, which has nothing whatever to do with the funds of the Institution, the Board of Stewards for each Festival is solely responsible, and the Board for 1869, having, as a matter of course, been dissolved there is no one to call to account, and therefore I decline to republish its financial statement, contenting myself with simply stating that from the surplus of its fund the Board of Stewards very generously voted £131 5s. od. to the funds of the Institution.

In the statement enclosed, the item, “ Ordinary Expenditure, £4,671 19s. 8d.,” is the amount of the actual direct cost of the establishment at Wood Green. The other figures speak for themselves,

and I flatter myself, that the balance-sheet is just evidence of that success which must inevitably be the object of envy and detraction. Very fortunately the achievement of the former enables one comfortably to endure the latter, and in perfect equanimity I commend myself and this “ unmanaged,” best-abused Institution to the tender mercies of “ R. R.” and his kindred spirits.

Faithfully and fraternally yours,
FRED. BINCKES, Secretary,
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys,
Freemasons’ Hall, 21st Dec., 1870.

RECEIPTS, 1869.

	£	s.	d.
To balance in hands of Bankers, 1st January, 1869	1,286	15	10
Special donations	192	0	0
Ditto, and subscriptions	12,379	17	8
	13,858	13	6
Bro. Rev. J. E. Cox, produce of sermon preached by Bro. G. Leach—	£22	3	4
Legacy of the late Bro. G. Leach—			
Less duty	90	0	0
Interest	3	8	10
	93	8	10
Sale of lists of Subscribers	2	10	0
	118	2	2
Purchased admission	157	10	0
	275	12	2
	14,134	5	8
To loan from bankers	5,000	0	0
To balance due to bankers on current account	582	13	2
	£19,716	18	10

EXPENDITURE, 1869.

	£	s.	d.
Building acct., architect’s commission, &c.	8,710	12	9
Interest on mortgage account, less income-tax	433	10	6
Interest on bankers’ advances	48	14	4
Secretary’s commission on surplus receipts	350	0	0
Secretary’s provincial travelling expenses	67	12	6
Pension to Bro. A. U. Thiselton, Past Secretary	100	0	0
Collector’s commission on surplus receipts	70	0	0
Examination fees	48	19	3
Recreation for boys during holidays	23	14	4
Law costs, &c., purchase of plot of ground at Wood Green	19	13	2
Reprints for list of subscribers	14	15	0
Gratuities to 12 boys on leaving institution	6	0	0
Hire of omnibus for committee	19	10	0
Bros. Winn and Cox, foundation of Oxford Local Examination prize, and “ Canonbury Medal,” interest on	8	10	0
Secretary, per resolution of General Committee to recoup office expenses	100	0	0
Burglary, to recoup Assistant Masters, matron, and Servants	4	10	6
Commission on drafts (Bnk’s)	0	1	10
Commission collector, being balance on surplus receipts to 31st December, 1868	19	5	0
Ordinary expenditure	4,671	19	8
	£14,716	18	10
To first moiety of mortgage paid to Messrs. Crawley, Arnold and Green	5,000	0	0
	£19,716	18	10

Audited and found correct,
JOHN HERVEY,
JOHN UDALL,
PIERCE EGAN,
J. A. S. LOVATT.

Jan. 15th, 1870.

THE PURPLE v. WEST LANCASHIRE.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Every member of the Order must fully agree with “ P.Z.,” &c., that “ the favouritism and abuses are too glaring in West Lancashire to be passed over ;” but I would remind him that individual efforts are useless if the Prov. G.M. will not personally interest himself in these matters. I have heard that he is not likely to do this. That whilst it pleases your correspondents to write, it does the holders of office no harm ; and that if no reply is given to the various objections urged, the subject will soon be exhausted and die out, leaving them still open to adopt their own

course. This is also evident from the fact that the Prov. G.M. has not replied either to my letter to him direct (which I can assure “ P.M., P.Z.,” duly came to his hands), or to that inserted in your publication of the 29th October last.

A difficulty in carrying out the suggestion of “ G. B. E.,” that the province be divided, might soon be got over if lodges in the northern division would take the necessary steps ; and I would advise members not to delay in taking the initiative. Such an arrangement is indeed very desirable.

I shall be glad to tabulate for publication, as suggested by “ P.M., P.Z.,” a list of brethren who for the last fifteen or twenty years, have been appointed Prov. G. Officers (if Secretaries of lodges will kindly furnish me with particulars, through you), also information as to the number of times we have, in our several lodges, had the advantage of their supervision and instruction.

Yours fraternally,
P.M., Liverpool.

December 20th, 1870.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR,—A great deal has been written upon the above subject, and appeared in your journal from time to time, and I quite agree with those who advance that many have just grounds for complaint ; but *all* who may desire the coveted distinction cannot obtain it in so large and numerous a province. I know of instances where brethren have joined lodges in other provinces in order to get into Provincial Grand Lodge ; and of many others in which brethren of education and position, who worked in every instance well and efficiently for the cause in lodge and chapter, as well as outside of both, who have been passed over, indifferent workers and young Masons being appointed to offices in the West Lancashire Prov. Grand Lodge.

This is sufficient to disgust and wean from us many of our best and most influential members. Now, what is the cause of this state of things? Simply the leaving of matters in other hands than the proper ones. If the Prov. G.M. would visit lodges and chapters in his own province, make himself acquainted with the manner in which each were worked, and seek for information from the various P.M.’s and P.Z.’s, such a state as the present one would not exist ; but so long as the recommendation of two or three of the Prov. G.L. Officers are taken and acted upon, so long will unjust appointments be made, favouritism and cliquesism be in the ascendant, and those who would grace the Prov. G.L., and whose investment would be hailed with satisfaction by the brethren generally, kept in the background. A radical change is required ; it must, and will, occur. The brethren are commencing to agitate for it : they ask that no unfair appointments be longer made, and say that the continuance in office year after year of those who can never expect to take higher rank, should be put a stop to ; that these should resign upon their laurels, and make way for others who are worthy of any Prov. G.L. distinction, and whose name is legion.

Yours very truly, &c.,
A P.M. WHO PLEADS FOR OTHERS
THAN HIMSELF.
Dec. 20th, 1870.

THE CITY MASONIC CLUB.

This club held its annual banquet at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, on the 12th inst., Bro. W. Carpenter, P.M. 177, in the chair, and Bro. W. E. Haycock, P.M. 901, in the vice-chair. There were also present amongst others : Bros. E. G. Rolls, W. Naylor, H. Chapman, F. Walters, J. Child, Ferguson, Darcy, W. Mann, D. D. Beck, W. Scaman, S. Homewood, J. Cox, T. Lawrence, R. Ord, T. Jackson, G. Carey, J. Lawrence, and J. T. Lucas.

The charities are well supported by this society, and about a month since a subscription was commenced for the “ City of London Masonic Lifeboat,” and already amounts to over £200 ; and we hope before the summer to see the object attained for which the members have so ably appealed.

After a good banquet had been discussed, the claims of the fund were ably advocated by

The Chairman, who rose and said he had now to propose what, on these occasions, was called the toast of the evening. It reminded him that we were living in the era of clubs. There were clubs of every conceivable description—clubs for eating and for drinking, and some for both. There were clubs for clothing, and building, and talking, and walking, and swimming, and dancing, and singing, and rowing, and yatching, and thieving. We had clubs of all grades, from the aristocratic Carlton to the Christmas gin and pudding clubs. (Laughter.) Of the value of these clubs it would be difficult to form a just estimate. He might say, however, that some were mischievous ; some harmless, and some

useful in various degrees ; but they all testified to the fact that man was a gregarious animal, and understood something of the advantages derivable from association and co-operation. (Hear.) Might he not place the City of London Masonic Club—which was the subject of his toast—in the category of useful clubs? (Hear, hear.) He might, and he did so. (Cheers.) What was the object of the club? Some who had visited them for the first time that evening might think that their object was eating and drinking—(laughter)—but it was not so. Eating and drinking was with them but an accident. They ate and drank as a matter of duty, although they tried to make the duty, as they strove to make every duty, a pleasure. (Cheers and laughter.) But what was the primary object of the club? He would briefly tell them. It was to advance its members in a correct verbal knowledge and a just appreciation of the ritual of Freemasonry; in a correct verbal knowledge of their ritual, so that they might, as far as that went, become qualified to take office in their respective lodges; and in a just appreciation of the ritual, so that they might—clearly comprehending the meaning of its several parts—be able to deliver it with that propriety and due emphasis which were indispensable to render it instructive and impressive. (Hear.) A ritual was useful only as a means to an end. No ritual, whether Masonic or more directly religious, was other than that. Freemasonry was a system of morality—he could not say a peculiar system of morality—for he believed it to be based upon the only real foundation of morality—the Bible; but it was a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols, and it was only as the allegories were explained and the symbols interpreted that the high moral truths and principles embodied in it were developed and made plain. (Hear.) He need not point out to them the great difference there was, for both instruction and devotion, between an imperfect and slovenly and a perfect and intelligent recital of their ritual, and a dignified and lucid explanation of the symbols introduced in it. In the one case, the ceremonial was irksome and valueless, sometimes degenerating into something little better than a solemn farce; in the other case, it was an instructive and impressive ceremony, stimulating the mind and the affections in the pursuit of our duty towards God and man. (Hear.) Well, then, they saw the object of the City of London Masonic Club, and if such as were not members of it would visit it on any Monday evening, he thought they would admit that the means employed were well adapted for the attainment of their object. They worked the ceremonies and they conversed—not debated—upon any point in the ritual that to them appeared obscure or diverted from the original, so that they might acquire a thorough understanding of its import or meaning. There was a notion in some quarters that Masonic clubs should not be encouraged, lest they should be productive of evil instead of good. No doubt they were liable to abuse; but what was not? There was no reason why a Masonic club should not be conducted with as much propriety as a lodge of instruction; and he could safely say that this club was so conducted. If any doubted, let them come and see. (Hear.) He had now told them what was their object, and he believed that in so far as that object was attained, the Craft would be improved and they would be benefited. The basis of Masonry was as wide as the world; it was the sacred volume—truth in its highest, purest, most comprehensive and most practical form; and upon that foundation rested the triad of their Masonic obligations—brotherly love, relief, and truth—a triad comprehending all human virtues and forming a constellation which, when undimmed by the clouds of vice or error, shone forth with such heavenly brilliancy that it commanded the admiration and approval of God and man; for as those virtues were exemplified, they were carrying forward the beneficent purposes of the Great Architect of the Universe, who made His sun to rise on the evil and the good and His rain to descend on the just and the unjust. (Hear.) He would not be so impertinent as to deliver them a homily on their Masonic obligations, but he might be permitted to say, that if Masons fully realised their obligations, and carried out their principles, the world would present a very different aspect to what it now did. In their families and in their social relations, and in all their transactions with the outside world, truth and brotherly love would be their characteristics, and others would become imbued with the like feelings and principles. (Hear, hear.) The demon of war would be checked in his course of death and desolation. The bloody harvest of the battle field would be stayed, and the bombarding of cities and the burning of villages, amidst the shrieks of helpless women and children would become things of the past, only to be adverted to with feelings of detestation and horror—(cheers)—never to recur. In proportion as Masons realised their obligations and felt the force of the principles they professed, they would labour for the mental,

moral, and religious culture of mankind, feeling with the poet, that—

“Were half the power that holds the world in terror,
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,
But used to raise the human mind from error
There'd be no need of arsenals and forts.”

(Cheers.) He concluded by proposing “Prosperity to the City of London Masonic Club,” which was heartily received and drank.

Bro. James Chapman in responding to the toast, said he had been asked to say something about the City Masonic Life Boat Fund, of which he was the Honorary Secretary. He would not occupy their time by saying anything upon the good and merciful object of providing life-boats, to surround the shores of our maritime island. The value of such vessels was well known and appreciated, the only thing to be regretted was, that they were not more numerous. (Hear, hear.) The whole number of life-boats floated and maintained on our extensive coast was only 223, a number greatly inadequate to the exigencies of the case, and he thought that the work these few boats did should stimulate them to try and increase the number. (Hear, hear.) In the course of last year, the National Life Boat Institution had been the means of saving 118 lives from various wrecks, of and saving 24 vessels from destruction. Altogether, the Institution had contributed, since its establishment, to the rescuing of 20,000 lives from shipwreck. (Hear, hear.) What would be the extent of their rescues if their fleet were half as large again? He believed that it was from want of consideration only, that life-boats were not more numerous, and he thought it a disgrace to Freemasons, that while the Odd Fellows, Foresters, and Licensed Victuallers had each their life-boat, the Craft was without one. (Hear, hear.) He and those who were working with him, wished to see that disgrace wiped away, and especially they wanted to see it wiped away from the City of London, which, though the richest city and the largest port in the world, had no life-boat identified with its name. (Shame.) He wished it to be well understood, that this Life Boat Fund had not been originated in rivalry to the other and older one that was intended to float a Masonic Life Boat. They rather hoped to stimulate the brethren who were on that committee to greater zeal and activity. He thought they required a little stimulus, for the fund raised by the City of London Committee amounted to as much in a month as the others did in, he believed, a couple of years. (Hear, hear.) But he again deprecated all ideas of rivalry. Let each committee do its best to enlarge its sphere of action, and to get as much money as it could, and he believed that before the close of the next year there would be two Masonic Life Boats afloat, under the direction of the National Life Boat Society. (Cheers.)

Several other toasts were given and good speeches made thereon (but we have not space to insert them), and the brethren separated, having enjoyed themselves much, and resolving to carry out the object they had undertaken—to establish the “City Masonic Lifeboat Fund.”

ANNUAL MASONIC BALL AT PENDLETON.

The annual grand soiree and ball of the Richmond Lodge, No. 1011, of Ancient and Accepted Masons was held on Thursday, December 15th, in the large room of the Pendleton Town Hall, and, as usual, was one of the most fashionable gatherings that has taken place in this district for some time past. There was a large attendance of the brethren and their friends. The decorations of the ball-room was this year entrusted to Mr. Williams, of Manchester, who for a long time was connected with the Messrs. Tyrer, Quay-street, and the manner in which he has carried out his design, both as regards comfort and elegance, reflect the highest credit upon him. Usually light and attractive the hall had undergone a complete metamorphosis; the entrance and outside corridors were completely carpeted, and the adjoining ante-rooms were tastefully furnished and upholstered. The ball-room was most elegant, and the scene was particularly attractive when the gay throng, robed in dresses of most exquisite taste and in every variety of colour, moved in the mazy dance. The walls were decorated with the various devices and emblems of the Craft, both of ancient and curious design. Trees and shrubs, placed in suitable positions, contributed much to the beauty of the room. These were also arranged at intervals of a few feet on the grand staircase. For those who did not dance, other amusements were provided, such as chess, cards, and stereoscopic slides.

The brethren appeared in their full Masonic clothing, and dancing, which commenced shortly after eight o'clock, was kept up with spirit until the small hours of morning, relieved at intervals by songs and recitations, the contributors of which were, amongst others, Bro. Cockshot, who gave “Dogberry and Verge's Charge to the Watch,”

and Bro. Brooks, who gave several songs. Shortly after midnight the company partook of an excellent supper, at which all the delicacies of the season were served up. After ample justice had been done to the varied and abundant repast,

Bro. Ellis, W.M., proposed “The Queen and Our Lady Friends,” whom, he observed, they seldom united together, but on this occasion, he had great pleasure in doing so.

Bro. Harrop responded on behalf of the ladies. He paid them a high compliment, and said the fact of associating themselves with Freemasons showed they were anxious to assist and further a good and noble cause, and therefore were entitled to the just esteem of the brethren. (Hear, hear.)

The toast having been drunk,

Bro. Ellis, W.M., proposed “The Health of the Visitors,” and

Bro. Statham, in responding, said he felt almost incapable of doing justice to their toast. However, he would be but a poor Freemason were he wanting in gratitude, or unable to return his very hearty thanks for the compliment that this lodge had paid them in sending the invitation, on the virtue of which the visitors appeared on that occasion. The same spirit of hospitality did not always exist; the present move was a step in the right direction, and he was glad the Richmond Lodge were determined to wear away the stigma which so clung to the Order in this respect. (Hear, hear.) This would enable them to introduce their lady friends, and do much, he thought, in strengthening and developing that good feeling which was so characteristic of Masonic brethren. (Hear, hear.) The secrets of the Order he was not at liberty to explain to the visitors, but if the gentlemen were at all curious on the point, they might soon satisfy that curiosity by joining. He could not say so much to the ladies. (The toast was enthusiastically received.)

Bro. Lafosse proposed “The Health of Bro. Ellis, W.M.,” and referred at great length to the marked kindness with which their most Worshipful Master always treated those with whom he came in contact, but more especially visitors, no matter whether married or single, on every possible occasion.

Bro. Ellis, in responding, thanked them for the compliment they had paid him, and for such a flattering proof of their goodwill and sympathy—feelings which he knew were genuine, and which he esteemed it an honour and a privilege to reciprocate. (The toast was drunk with three times times.)

The party then returned to the ball-room. Bro. T. Ellis, the W.M., officiated as M.C., assisted by Bros. J. Dixon, P.M.; T. Wallis, S.W.; M. Fentem, J.W.; T. Preston, S.D.; J. Ellis, J.D.; and R. Johnson, I.G.

Amongst the company present were the following brethren:—Sir Knights J. Bowers, P.E.C.; Simpson, Dobell, Fentem, and Ellis; Bros. H. Holder, P.P.G.P.; U. Nicholls, P.P.G.P.; S. Statham, P.M.; Harrop, W.M. (Newall); Dickson, P.M.; Dodge, P.M.; Caldwell, P.M.; Brooks, Moore, Radcliffe, H. Ellis, &c.

REPORT of Dr. Arthur Hill Hassall, Analyst of the “Lancet” Sanitary Commission, Author of “Food and its Adulterations,” &c., &c., on Mayar's Semolina: “I have carefully tested, chemically and microscopically, the samples of Semolina sent by Messrs. L. Mayar & Co., 36, Mark Lane, London, E.C. I find them to be perfectly genuine, of excellent quality, and eminently nutritious. They contain a very large percentage of nitrogenous matter, chiefly gluten, and are far more nutritious than any other food, such as Arrowroot, Tapioca, Sago, Corn Flour, Farinaceous Food, ordinary Wheat Flour, or any of the Cereals in use as food in this country.—(Signed) ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D., London.”—Highly recommended by the Faculty for Infants, Invalids, &c. Makes delicious Pudding, Custards, Blanc Mange, &c. After a trial no family will be without Mayar's Semolina.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending December 31, 1870.

MONDAY, DEC. 26.

Lodge 79, Pythagorean, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.

“ 831, British Oak, Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile-end-road.

Chap. 188, Joppa, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.

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.

St. James' Union Lodge of Instruction (180), Swan Tavern, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, at 8.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27.

Lodge 92, Moira, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.

“ 186, Industry, Freemasons' Hall.

“ 205, Israel, Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars.

Chap. 29, St. Alban's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-street.

Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, 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.
 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.
 Sydney Lodge of Instruction (829), Cambridge Hotel, Upper Norwood, at 7.30.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28.

St. John the Evangelist.

Lodge 212, Euphrates, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, 507, United Pilgrims, Horns Tavern, Kennington.
 ,, 754, High Cross, White Hart, Tottenham.
 ,, 898, Temperance in the East, 6, Newby-place, Poplar.
 Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.
 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.
 New Concord Lodge of Instruction, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, at 8.
 Confidence Lodge of Instruction, Railway Tav., London-street, City, at 7.
 Peckham Lodge of Instruction, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham; Bro. David Rose, Preceptor.
 Temperance in the East Lodge of Instruction, George the Fourth, Catherine-street, Poplar.
 Stanhope Lodge of Instruction, Thicket Hotel, Anerley, at 7.30 p.m.; Bro. H. W. Lindus, Preceptor.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29.

The R.A. Chapter of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.
 Fidelity Lodge of Instruction (3), Goat and Compasses, Euston-road, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.
 Finsbury Lodge of Instruction, Jolly Anglers' Tavern, Bath-street, City-road; Bro. Stean, Preceptor.
 United Mariners' Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes, Mile-end-road, at 8; Bro. T. J. Barnes, Preceptor.
 St. George's Lodge of Instruction (140), Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, at 8.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30.

Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 7.30; Bro. W. Watson, Preceptor.
 Stability Lodge of Instruction, Guildhall Tavern, 33, Gresham-st., at 6; Bro. Henry Mugeridge, Preceptor.
 St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Pier Hill, Chelsea.
 Unions Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 Domestic Chapter of Instruction, Metropolitan Railway, Victoria Station, at 8; Comp. Cottebrune, Preceptor.
 Pythagorean Chapter of Instruction (No. 79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich-road, at 8; Comp. W. West Smith, Preceptor.
 Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, Portugal Hill, Fleet street, at 7; Bro. Brett, Preceptor.
 United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Edinburgh, Shepherd's-lane, Brixton.
 Belgrave Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Wellington Hill, 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, DEC. 31.

Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7.
 Mount Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, at 8; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.

Advertisements.

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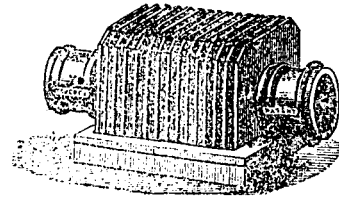
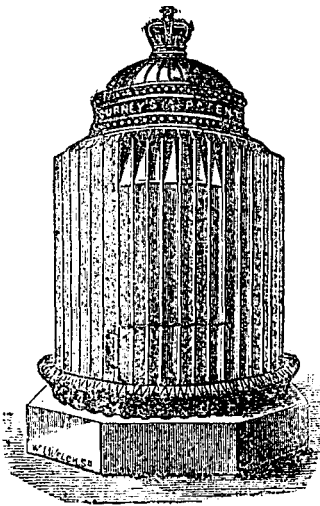
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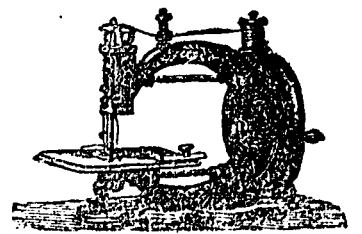


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