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"The RELATION of ST. JOHN the EVANGELIST to FREEMASONRY."

ANSWER BY BRO. CHALMERS I. PATON.

An article by me in THE FREEMASON of 29th October, 1870, on "The Relation of St. John the Evangelist to Freemasonry," has attracted the attention of Bro. Samuel Evans, Boston, U.S., from whose pen the readers of THE FREEMASON have been favoured, on the 10th December, 1870, with his thoughts and opinions on this subject, in what I might have designated a letter to the editor, had not Bro. Evans himself thought proper formally to announce it as "A Criticism." On this criticism I beg leave to offer a few remarks.

Bro. Evans begins by referring to my article as appearing "under the above caption," by which I suppose he means the title, or heading—the same which he has prefixed to his criticism, and which I again prefix to this letter. The word *caption*, however, is new to me in this sense. I know it as belonging to Scottish legal phraseology, in a sense accordant with its derivation from the Latin verb *capio*, I take, and as therefore not of pleasant sound in the ears of poor debtors; but Bro. Evans seems to have imagined that its derivation is from *caput*, a head. I would not have noticed so trifling a blunder had it not awakened in me some doubt, before I had read two lines, of Bro. Evans's capacity as a critic—a doubt which was confirmed when in his second sentence I found him describing the designation which I had appended to my name, as prefixed to the article, of "Member of the Masonic Archæological Institute of England, &c., &c.," as a "naming of its author's literary relationships." It is not worth while in such a case to say much of the question of the singular and the plural, although it cannot but be observed that for the purpose of creating a little prejudice against me at the outset of the "criticism," the singular—had it been warranted—would have served better. Nor do I care to inquire if membership of the Masonic Archæological Institute of England can properly be denominated a literary relationship.

Bro. Evans proceeds to say that "during years he has been interested in the question of

the relationship of St. John the Evangelist and various other St. Johns to Freemasonry, but has never been able to discover that any such relationship existed, or could with any degree of plausibility be shown ever to have existed;" and that, therefore, the title of my article, and the naming of my literary relationships, having led him to look for something substantial as well as interesting in the article, he perused it with much interest, "for the purpose of finding out what more could be said that was either new or true on so threadbare a theme by a member of an archæological institute." The reference to my being a member of that institute, with which any Freemason may well deem it an honour to be connected, is here again introduced, evidently in order to gain a little point at the commencement, which has nothing, however, to do with fair argument, with an honest criticism of my article, or a proper discussion of the subject of it; in which, "during years," Bro. Evans says he has been interested, but which he seems to have latterly dismissed as threadbare; till in the perusal of THE FREEMASON his attention was recalled to it. And the reference to the "various other St. Johns," whose names have been mentioned in connection with Freemasonry, is equally remote from the only question fairly before Bro. Evans—the relation of St. John the Evangelist to Freemasonry. Bro. Evans, in a subsequent part of his criticism, to which I shall further advert in due time, names in particular St. John the Baptist and St. John the Almoner. St. John the Baptist is mentioned in my article, and my critic was of course entitled to take what notice he thought proper of all that I had said about him; but the various other St. Johns, and in particular St. John the Almoner, might never have existed for anything of which it was the object of that article to treat. There are many St. Johns in the Roman Calendar; no fewer than thirty are noticed. If anyone wishes to establish a relation between any of them and Freemasonry, or to disprove the existence of such relation, each presents a distinct question to be considered by itself. In the discussion of any such question, I would not easily be persuaded to engage.

In perusing the first paragraph of the criticism, I was much puzzled as to the meaning of the statement already quoted, that Bro. Evans had never been able to discover that any relationships of any of the St. Johns to Freemasonry "existed or could with any respectable degree of plausibility be shown ever to have existed." It seems to me that if it ever existed—if it existed during the lifetime of the Saint—it must be regarded as an unchangeable historic fact. I began to see, however, what Bro. Evans might be supposed to have in view when I came to a paragraph beginning, "The idea of saints' patronage is universally discarded by intelligent men, and the Masonic Institution should consist of none other than intelligent men." I have a higher opinion of many members of the Roman Catholic Church than to refuse them credit for intelligence, and high intelligence; and although I am as decided a Protestant as Bro. Evans can be, and would be as far as he from saint worship, or from looking up to heaven for the patronage of any saint in the calendar, I must seek some other way than he has chosen of expressing opinion on this subject. It would be contrary to the first principles of Freemasonry to refuse admission in the Masonic Brotherhood to a Roman Catholic applying for it, because of his being a Roman Catholic and holding the doctrine of his church respecting saints. But the question remains as to the existence of connection between any "saint" and the Masonic body during his life upon the earth; and if such connection could be shown to have existed, an important relation must be deemed still to exist. His memory would fitly be cherished with peculiar regard by Freemasons, who would with delight and benefit call to mind the excellency of his character and the works by which he contributed to the welfare of his fellow-men. Protestants refuse to accord anything like worship even to the Apostles, but they do not, therefore, refuse reverence to the memory of the

Apostles, nor fail to rejoice in the thought that the power of Christianity was gloriously illustrated in their lives and in their deaths. A church dwells affectionately on the histories of its founders and its martyrs; a nation reveres the memory of its distinguished patriots; and the Masonic Brotherhood must, in like manner, ever hold specially dear the names of those whose connection with it gave it lustre, and imparted to it, through their influence, something of their own excellence in former times, however remote.

(To be continued.)

DISTRIBUTION of the HONOURS of FREEMASONRY in THE GRAND LODGE of SCOTLAND.

BY BRO. THOMAS SWINTON,

Sub. Master, Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, No. 1.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland ought to command the respect of all the Freemasons of Scotland and its dependencies, and to be dear to them all as the highest representative body of their Order. But this must depend on the manner in which the affairs of the Grand Lodge are conducted; and, unhappily, this has not hitherto been such as to make Freemasons generally regard it with the confidence which is so much to be desired, nor with the respect which, from its relation to all the daughter lodges in Scotland, ought to be deemed due to it. The reason of this is simply that the Grand Lodge has long been under the control and management of a few individuals, who have divided amongst themselves all its high offices—office-bearers being re-elected from time to time—so that some of the most honourable places have been filled by the same brethren for twelve years or more, whilst others, equally worthy of these honours, have never been permitted to enjoy them. It is unnecessary to employ the term "clique," which might be deemed offensive; it is enough to say that a few individuals have got the management of the affairs of the Grand Lodge in their hands, and for many years have managed them according to their own pleasure. This is not as it ought to be. The provincial lodges of Scotland, as well as those of the capital, ought not only to be represented in the Grand Lodge, but their most eminent members ought often to be elected to honourable offices in the Grand Lodge, by which the feeling of common brotherhood would be promoted, and the members of the Order throughout the whole country would be united together in affection, and not merely in name. There are brethren in many of the provincial lodges who have signalized themselves by their zealous endeavours to promote the cause of Freemasonry, and have, with great liberality, been the means of erecting buildings for their several lodges, or have bestowed upon them munificent gifts. But all these things seem never to have been considered by the rulers of the Grand Lodge, who have contribute to distribute the honours at their disposal as if there were no brethren worthy of regard but those resident in Edinburgh; and, in fact, even of these none have had the least chance of being elected to any high office but those of a certain very small and select circle, who can hold a private meeting before the meeting of the Grand Lodge, and arrange all that is to take place in it. It is not to the honour of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, nor of Freemasonry in Scotland, that the Grand Lodge has come to be commonly spoken of as the Grand Lodge of Edinburgh, instead of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. But there is no wonder that this is the case, when it is considered how exclusively the honourable offices of the Grand Lodge are filled by brethren resident in Edinburgh, and to how great an extent the Grand Lodge itself is composed of the members of Edinburgh lodges. One Edinburgh lodge sends no fewer than twelve Grand Stewards as its representatives to the Grand Lodge, which is out of all proportion beyond the representation of any provincial lodge. The provincial lodges are thus discouraged, and their representatives do not care to

attend the meetings of Grand Lodge; whereas, if their proper place and influence were granted to them, they would probably make an effort to attend as frequently as possible, and would carry home to the most distant parts of the country an increased knowledge of Freemasonry, and impressions highly favourable to its interests. The existing state of things is utterly contrary to that great principle of equality amongst brethren which is the boast of Freemasonry. It is not, indeed, to be supposed that each lodge ought to have the same number of office-bearers in the Grand Lodge as another; but it might be expected that a rule should be adopted for the representation of the lodges in something like proportion to the number of their members. A rude approach to this is made in the representation of the British people in the House of Commons, and in the representation of the citizens of our towns in Town Councils. The Presbyterian Church also proceeds upon this principle in the representation of Presbyteries in their General Assemblies. The principle is one evidently right in itself, and which commands approbation whenever it is stated. It is a principle which seems especially to accord with the fundamental laws and principles of Masonry, and the only wonder is that it has been so long and so much disregarded. A complete practical acknowledgement of it could not fail to have most beneficial results.

It is worthy of notice that the present state of the Grand Lodge of Scotland is an anachronism. Freemasonry has of late years made great progress in Scotland, but the management of affairs in the Grand Lodge has remained unchanged. Not very many years ago there were sometimes only a few members present at a meeting of the Grand Lodge, and it was a thing to be talked of among the brethren if there were more than thirty. Now there are often 300 present, and often there are many more. When only a few members were present—all, or almost all, resident in Edinburgh and its immediate neighbourhood—it was only to be expected that they should elect each other to all the honourable offices at their disposal. It was almost impossible for them to do otherwise. But the state of the case is now changed, and a greater liberality of spirit displayed towards brethren belonging to all parts of the country would redound to the honour of the Order, would aid in elevating the Grand Lodge to that high position which it ought to hold, and would promote brotherly feeling among all the Masons of Scotland. A proposal is about to be made, in the form of a motion, at the approaching Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, "That no office-bearer shall hold office for a longer period than three years, and on the expiry of his term of office shall not be eligible for re-election to the same office, and that at least three years must elapse before he is appointed to it again." This, however, is not to apply to the Grand Master or paid officials. This of itself would go far to cure the evils of which there is so much cause to complain. Honours would be more extensively distributed among brethren, and a better and more kindly feeling would be promoted; and if, at the same time, a more equal system of representation were adopted, brethren would feel—as they do not at present—that their attendance at the meetings of the Grand Lodge was not a thing of mere formality and sociality, but that they were called upon to take a real part in the concerns of the Grand Lodge and of the Brotherhood.

The great facilities of communication by railroad and telegraph make it possible for Masons in all parts of the country to maintain an intimacy of fellowship formerly unknown. It would be for the advantage of the interests of Freemasonry that full use were made of these, and that the management of the affairs of the Grand Lodge were accommodated to them, instead of continuing to be such as it was when the whole state of things was very different, and when the presence of a member from Stromness or Stornoway was hardly to be expected.

THE BEST FIRST.—Turner's Tamarind Cough Emulsion for the Throat and Bronchia, 13½d. and 2/9 per bot.—All wholesale houses in London and Liverpool, and any respectable Chemist.—[Advt.]

ENCYCLOPEDIA METROPOLITANA.

BY BRO. C. G. FORSYTH.

(Continued from page 36.)

In consequence of these advantages, the Fraternity called themselves Free Masons, claiming to be exempt from the laws which regulated common labourers, and to be exonerated from the burdens thrown upon the working classes of the community, whether in England or the Continent. They consisted in a great measure of Italians, with some Greek refugees, French, Germans, and Flemings, and roamed from one country to another to build churches and other edifices. A Surveyor governed in chief, and every tenth man was called a Warden, overlooking the other nine. Persons of rank frequently gave materials from feelings of religion or charity, or as a commutation of penance. That part of the Fraternity which passed into England would be more stationary and of a more permanent duration than their brethren on the Continent, being in a country less liable to the distractions occasioned by becoming the seat of war; and in consequence of its insular position offering less facility for removing. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a considerable number of churches and ecclesiastical structures were built, including several of the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. In the reign of Henry III., alone, upwards of 150 abbeys and priories and other religious edifices were erected. The style became highly ornamented in the fifteenth century, finishing with the beautiful specimens of St. George's Chapel at Windsor, King's College Chapel (Cambridge), and King Henry VII.'s Chapel (Westminster), which was not finished until the beginning of the sixteenth century in the reign of Henry VIII. After that date the Pointed Architecture declined, and the Grecian Orders were introduced under the skilful conduct of Inigo Jones. Records may be found of several contracts with Masons for the performance of work. In 1306 the dean and chapter of Lincoln contracted with Richard de Stow, Mason, to attend and employ other Masons under him for the new work, with additional east end as well as the upper parts of the great tower and transepts, which were done in the time of King Edward III., in the twenty-fourth year of his reign, when founding the College at Windsor: "Granted to John de Sponlee the office of master of the stone hewers, and gave him power to take and press both within and without the liberties so many artificers as were necessary, and to convey them to Windsor to work at the King's pay, but arrest such and imprison such as should disobey or refuse until the King took other order: with command to all Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, and I to be assisting on the King's behalf." It appears that the Masons, being dissatisfied at the "King's pay," entered into a combination in many places to evade the writs issued—in consequence of this charter or grant (and this description of grants was not singular in former times) availing themselves of their peculiar signs and tokens to recognise and assist each other from being pressed into the service. The Masonic Constitutions mention, among others, an architect called Henry Yevle, the King's Freemason. Weaver (582) mentions an inscription in St. Michael's Church, St. Alban's, on Thomas Wolver (or Wolven), Master Mason or Surveyor to the King's stone works in the time of Richard II. By an indenture dated 5th of June, twenty-first of Henry VIII., John Hylmer and William Vertue, Freemasons, undertook the vaulting of the choir of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, for seven hundred pounds, and to finish it by Christmas A.D. 1508; and in Dugdale's "Monasticon" is an agreement between the commissioners of Richard, Duke of York, and William Harwood, Freemason, for rebuilding of Fotheringhay in Northamptonshire. In the fourth year of Henry VIII., Mr. Robert Hacomblein, Provost of the "Kynge Colledge Royal at Cambrydge, and the scholars of the same with the advise and agreement of Mr. Thomas Larke, Surveyor of the Kynge's works there," entered into a contract with "John Wastell,

Master Mason of the said works, and Henry Severick, should set up a vault for the church, to be completed in three years' time, for £1,200," and in the following year Wastell contracted to set up the vaulting of two porches and seven chapels in the body and nine chapels behind the choir of the church and battlements, &c., and undertook to keep forty Freemasons on the same. Other examples might be given, if necessary. The next will be a few extracts of law enactments respecting Freemasons.

(To be continued)

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

A Quarterly General Court of the Governors and Subscribers was held at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen-street, on Monday, the 16th inst., Bro. John Hervey, V.P., in the chair. The minutes of the last Quarterly Court were read and confirmed, and the minutes of the various meetings of the General Committee were read for information.

The minutes of the Special Court of 8th December last were also read and confirmed, viz:—

"Royal Masonic Institution for Girls,
St. John's Hill, Battersea Rise, S.W.
"Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, Wood
Green, N.

"At Special General Courts of the above institutions held simultaneously at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Thursday, 8th December, 1870, John Hervey, Esq., V.P., in the chair, the report of the Committee appointed at the last Quarterly General Court of each Institution—as embodied in the minutes now read—was received, viz:—

"Special Joint Committee, Wednesday, 7th
December, 1870.

"John Symonds, Esq., V.P., in the chair,
R.M.I.G.

"R. W. Stewart, Esq., V.P., in the chair,
R.M.I.B.

"Proposed by Henry Browne, Esq., V.P., seconded by Major Creaton, V.P.:—"That in the opinion of this Committee the privileges now enjoyed by lodges, chapters, and societies, under Laws 8, 11, 17, be restricted, *in future*, to a term of twenty years."

"On amendment proposed by Joseph Smith, Esq., L.G., seconded by John Chadwick, Esq., L.G., put, carried, and subsequently adopted unanimously as a substantive resolution—

"Resolved,—That while recognising the justice of Bro. Browne's proposition as a matter of principle, it is inexpedient, at present, to make any alteration in the qualifications of donors, subscribers, &c."

"Resolved unanimously,—That the minutes just read, and received as the report of the Committee, be adopted.

"Resolved,—That, having reference to the resolution preceding, these Courts earnestly hope that the friends of both institutions will use their influence to increase the number of individual subscribers."

In accordance with the recommendation of the General Committee, it was resolved that the list of candidates as now read, in number 58, including 37 unsuccessful from the last election, and 21 new cases, be approved as the list from which 14 boys shall be elected at the Quarterly Court on 17th April, that being the number of vacancies as now declared.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Casualties.

When the cold weather necessitates the use of fire for our comfort, how appalling is it to read in the public prints the awful accidents constantly befalling children and others from this source. For burns, scalds, sores, and wounds, Holloway's Ointment stands unrivalled; it soothes the present pain, reduces the inflammation surrounding the injured parts, extracts all unwholesome humours, and so purifies the blood in the neighbouring vessels that sound flesh soon displaces all injured or unhealthy tissues. Every household should have these remedies at hand. In the ulcerated throat, now named diphtheria, this ointment rubbed on the throat is wonderfully effective. In all chronic or constitutional ailments, Holloway's pills should be taken whilst applying the ointment.—[Advt.]

"I was suffering greatly a few weeks ago from severe pains about the kidneys and excessive weakness in the back, accompanied with nauseous sickness, confined to my bed, when a friend who had long known and experienced great benefit from the use of your Vegetable Pain Killer brought me a bottle which I used with the best results.—A. SHERREFFS, Aberdeen, October, 1867.—To Per y Davis & Son."

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

United Mariners' Lodge, No. 30.—The installation meeting of this ancient lodge was held on Tuesday, the 17th inst., at the Guildhall Coffee-house, when there were the following visitors present: Bros. J. H. Hills (157), C. Douglas (554), E. Jex (1259), Vivian (228), Thicke (144 and 538), Cottebrune (733), Webb (15), Davis (141), Ward (1257), Wigginton (1298), and Charles E. Thompson. The officers of the lodge are: Bros. Harling, W.M.; R. Shackell, S.W.; G. J. C. Smith, J.W.; Jesse Turner, Treas.; Barnes, Sec.; Osborn, S.D.; Ansell, J.D.; Deeley, D.C.; Bethell, I.G.; and Brown, Steward. There were also present amongst others: Bros. Driscoll and Taylor, P.M.'s; Tyrrell, Gladwell, Hoare, Thomas Smith, Fagg, Caseley, Lefaux, &c., &c. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. Harling, Bro. Driscoll, P.M., took the chair, and after the transaction of the routine business, initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order Mr. Thompson. Bro. Gladwell was then passed to the second degree. The next business was the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, and the choice of the brethren having, by unanimous vote, fallen upon Bro. Robert Shackell, S.W., and P.P.G. Officer Hampshire, he was presented, and received the obligation of a W.M.-elect. A Board of P.M.'s was then formed, and Bro. Shackell received at the hands of Bro. Driscoll, who is a very painstaking and efficient Mason, the benefits and privileges attaching to the chair of K.S. The after addresses he delivered with great precision, and at the conclusion was greeted with much applause. The newly-installed W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. G. J. Smith, S.W.; W. F. Osborne, J.W.; Jesse Turner, P.M., Treas.; R. E. Barnes, P.M., Hon. Sec.; W. Ansell, S.D.; H. Bethell, J.D.; Lefaux, Org.; E. J. Brown, D.C.; Deeley, I.G.; W. J. Caseley, Asst. Dir. of Cer.; J. Driscoll, P.M., Steward; Thomas Smith, Asst. Steward; and William Grant, Tyler. It was stated that, by vote of the lodge, the sum of five guineas had been paid to Bro. Binckes, the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, in the name of Bro. Harling, for a Life Subscribership in lieu of a jewel.—The W.M. stated that this vote had been come to as a mark of respect to Bro. Harling for the way in which he had passed through his year of office. He (the W.M.) would have been much pleased to have been able to have presented him with a jewel subscribed for privately, and to which he would willingly have given one-third had the members seen fit to subscribe the rest, because he had never seen the duties of a W.M. carried out so efficiently as they had been by Bro. Harling. (Hear, hear.)—After the claims of a worthy old Mason attached to this lodge had been spoken of in reference to an application he had made to the Board of Benevolence, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent dinner, superintended by Mr. Crawford, the manager, and which, by the way, gave the most unqualified satisfaction. The W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured.—He then presented the rather unusual compliment of "The Brethren in the Army, Navy, and Volunteers," and adverted to the fact that they had present a very distinguished Mason who was Colonel of a Volunteer corps (Bro. Wigginton), and from what he had seen of him, and the way in which he carried out his duties as a Mason, he was quite sure he would do the same in his military capacity. He coupled with the toast his name and that of Bro. Thompson.—Bro. Colonel Wigginton said he was very much obliged to the W.M. for giving the toast, and to the brethren generally for the way in which they had responded to it; and he could assure them it was his firm conviction that, should the services of the Volunteers ever be required, they would be found ready to a man.—Bro. C. E. Thompson also briefly returned thanks.—"The health of Bro. Thompson, the Initiate," was the next toast proposed, to which that brother responded, and said he hoped the more he knew of the Craft the better he should like it.—Bro. Driscoll, P.M. and Installing Master, after alluding in feeling terms to the absence, through illness, of Bro. Harling, said the W.M. had entrusted him with his gavel, and he had no doubt they all knew for what purpose. He gladly availed himself of the privilege of proposing his health, and although he could not then speak of his ability as a Master, he had no doubt at all but that he would discharge his duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to the brethren; and if, at the end of his year of office, they were spared, he should be delighted to be able to say he had done his duty well and faithfully. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) If he excelled Bro. Harling, he would be the best Master in London; and if he equalled him, he would rank among the most learned in the Craft.—The toast was received with every demonstration of good feeling and respect.—The W.M. said he thanked them for the very kind manner in which they had received him. He hoped by attention to his duties to earn their approbation, and at the end of his tenure of office to leave the chair with their entire approval of the manner in which he had acquitted himself, and with their good wishes and esteem. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the junior members would work zealously to get into office. The W.M. concluded by proposing "The healths of the P.M.'s," to which Bro. Turner responded in efficient terms. For "The Visitors," Bros. Wigginton, Vivian, Cottebrune, and C. E. Thompson severally returned thanks, and other toasts concluded a very happy evening, contributed to in no small degree by the kind attention and genial politeness of the W.M., Bro. Shackell.

Mount Lebanon Lodge, No. 73.—This celebrated old lodge held its installation meeting at the Bridge Hotel, Wellington-street, Southwark, on Tuesday, the 17th inst.

Punctually at 5 p.m. the lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. F. H. Ebsworth, all his officers being present to assist him. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. The report of the Audit Committee was then read and ordered to be entered on the minutes. It showed that the funds were in a most flourishing state, all liabilities discharged, and an unusually large surplus in hand. Messrs. Treton and Bagely were duly initiated, the ceremony being rendered in a most admirable manner. By desire, Bro. D. Rose, I.P.M., took the chair, and Bro. F. H. Ebsworth, W.M. presented Bro. M. A. Loewenstark, S.W. and W.M.-elect, for the benefit of installation, when he was duly installed as the W.M. for the ensuing year, and appointed as his officers: Bros. F. H. Ebsworth, I.P.M.; G. Free, S.W.; G. J. Grace, J.W.; E. Harris, P.M., Treas. (re-invested); Donkin, P.M., Sec. (re-invested); A. L. Dussek, S.D.; S. Harman, J.D.; Gomme, I.G.; T. Wilkins, D.C.; and J. H. Batten, W.S. The lodge was then called off, and about sixty brethren sat down to the banquet, the W.M. presiding. Bro. F. H. Ebsworth, I.P.M., was afterwards presented with a six-guinea Past Master's jewel, which had been unanimously voted to him at the previous lodge meeting. On the lodge being resumed, the sum of £21 was voted from the lodge fund to the charity fund of this lodge. Bro. F. J. Timms presented the lodge with a handsome album to hold the photographs of the members, and agreed to photograph each member free of expense. It was ordered to be entered on the minutes that a vote of thanks be given him for such a useful present. There were present besides those named: Bros. T. J. Sabine, P.M.; Dudley, Jacobs, Williams, Keeble, Chipperfield, Cooper, Frankenberg, G. Wilkins, Rayden, Mercer, Hager, &c. Amongst a large number of visitors were: Bros. E. H. Patten, P.G.S.B.; F. Binckes, P.G.S.; Lazarus, P.P.G.S.W. of Wilts; T. Maidwell, Reed, E. W. Mackney, Hunt, Verry, Stiles, A. D. Loewenstark, J. W. Avery, Moorcraft, Allsopp, Skarf, Mutter, Meggitt, Palmer, and several others.

Lodge Regularity, No. 91.—This old lodge held its usual meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Thursday, the 12th inst., when Bro. C. Fish, in an able manner, initiated a gentleman into the Order. The election for W.M. resulted unanimously in favour of Bro. Romford; Bro. C. Fish was elected Treasurer, and Bro. Hoare re-elected Tyler. Banquet followed.

St. George's Lodge, No. 140.—This celebrated old centenary lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at the Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich. Bro. C. Hudson, W.M., opened the lodge, supported by all his officers. Bro. G. C. Stuart (325, I.C.) was unanimously admitted a joining member. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. Bro. W. B. Blackmur was raised to the third degree in an admirable manner. Bro. E. Hubbuck, P.M., then took the chair and duly installed Bro. Johnson as W.M. for the ensuing year, who appointed and invested his officers. A five-guinea Past Master's jewel having been presented to Bro. Hudson, P.M., for services rendered to the lodge during his year of office, the lodge was closed. Banquet followed, when the usual toasts were given and received—about thirty brethren being present. Visitors: Bros. R. Boney, P.M. 79; Killick, P.M. 781; Read, P.M. 781; Griffin, S.W. 933; &c.

Domestic Lodge, No. 177.—At Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 20th inst., the installation meeting of this popular and numerous lodge took place, when there were about a hundred brethren present, amongst whom we noticed Bros. Foulger, W.M.; Walford, W.M.-elect; Ferguson, J.W.; Timms, S.D.; Kent, J.D.; and Everitt, I.G.; Carpenter, Brett, Thompson, Haydon, F. Smith, P.M.'s; Clarke, Pulsford, and Chas. E. Thompson (Southern Star), Willing, Price, Dyer, E. B. Clarke, Treadwell, and Bird. Amongst the visitors were Bros. F. Walters and Carey. The business consisted of passings and raisings, one initiation (Mr. Dyer), and the installation by the respected Bro. Brett of Bro. Walford, S.W., who delivered the after address with much effect. The W.M. then raised his officers one step each in rotation, Bro. Treadwell (one of the oldest and most respected members) being made I.G. An excellent banquet followed, and a pleasant evening was spent.

Manchester Lodge, No. 179.—On Thursday, the 19th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, this old lodge held its regular meeting. Bro. Ash, W.M., opened the lodge, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The first work done was installing Bro. Kew, W.M., who appointed as his officers Bros. Ash, I.P.M.; Letteller, S.W.; Hayward, J.W.; Hopekirk, P.M., Treas.; Hughes, P.M., Sec.; Morton, S.D.; Munro, J.D.; Sullivan, I.G.; and Gowland, junior, Org. The usual addresses were delivered and the ceremony given in an admirable manner. The newly-installed W.M. soon gave proofs of his proficiency by initiating, in a solemn, correct, and painstaking manner, Messrs. D. Witt and Shaw into Masonry. He then presented, in the name of the lodge, his predecessor, Bro. Ash, with a P.M.'s jewel. After some formal business had been disposed of, the lodge was closed. There were also present besides the above-mentioned brethren: Bros. W. Stuart, Gowland, Maddox, Berry, and Leighton, P.M.'s. Amongst the visitors were Bros. C. Greenwood, P.G.S.; Suncy, Frost, P.M. 228; F. Walters, W.M. 1309; and J. Thomas, W.M.-elect 142. The usual good banquet followed, served up under the superintendence of the ever-popular Bro. W. Smith, who, as usual, was unremitting in his attention to please all present. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and received, and after a few hours spent in an agreeable manner, the brethren separated.

Lodge of Tranquility, No. 185.—On Monday, the 16th inst., this lodge was held at Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars. The lodge was opened by Bro. Harfield, P.M. (in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Dr. Biegel, W.M., who is

with the German Army in France), assisted by Bros. L. Barnett, S.W.; Bloomfield, J.W.; P. Levy, Hon. Sec.; H. Abrahams, S.D.; N. Moss, J.D.; Schnitzlas, I.G.; Knapp, Org.; J. Holbrook, I.P.M.; M. Harris, A. E. Sidney, L. Isaacs, N. Harris, S. J. Ross, P.M.'s; and many other brethren. The visitors were Bros. F. Walters, L. Lazarus, &c. The minutes were read and unanimously confirmed. The work (done in an admirable manner, and much enhanced by the music so well introduced by the Organist) was passing Bros. Lyons, Constable, and Ross, and raising Bros. Lazarus and Matthews. The by-laws was then read. The elections resulted in Bro. L. Barnett, S.W., as W.M.; and J. Peartree, P.M., re-elected Treas. It was carried unanimously that a letter of condolence be sent to the sorrowing widow and family of the late Bro. Joseph Abrahams, P.M. The lodge was then closed, and an excellent banquet, supplied by Bro. J. Hart, followed.

St. Paul's Lodge, No. 194.—The installation meeting of this old lodge was held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Tuesday, the 17th inst. The lodge was opened by Bro. E. S. Eves, W.M., who was supported by Bros. E. H. Sparks, S.W.; W. Aldridge, J.W.; E. M. Veal, P.M., Treas.; R. Fowler, P.M., Sec.; G. Fowler, S.D.; S. Werton, J.D.; F. G. Brown, I.G.; J. Watson, C. Wilson, J. Harper, H. Renshaw, F. Renshaw, G. Wells, E. Randall, W. J. Ford, Hooper, Saxon, W. Clapton, W. Vark, H. H. Woodbridge, W. G. Temple, &c. The visitors were Bros. J. Hervey, G.S.; R. Spencer, P.G.S.; G. F. Cremer, H. Garrod, F. Walters, E. Bage, E. Loates, H. Parker, A. Gilbert, R. Avery, &c. The W.M., in an earnest, correct, and impressive manner, raised Bro. H. H. Woodbridge to the third degree. Bro. R. Fowler, P.M., Sec., in the name of the lodge, presented the W.M. with a massive gold jewel, which had been unanimously voted to him. The W.M. having been re-elected, the usual ceremony of the installation was dispensed with, the Secretary giving the address to Wardens and brethren only, which was rendered in his usual correct manner. The lodge was closed, and the usual superior banquet followed. The pleasures of the evening were much enhanced by the good music, which was given under the direction of Bro. Parker, assisted by his professional brethren.

Lodge of Friendship, No. 206.—This lodge held its meeting at the Ship and Turtle Hotel, Leadenhall-street, on Thursday, the 12th inst. Present: Bros. E. B. Barnard, W.M.; George Collier, S.W.; Alfred Harris, J.W.; H. Earles, S.D.; Wm. Conbro, J.D.; John Graywood, I.G.; Alfred Turner, Steward; William Rumsey, Treas.; John Rumsey, Sec.; R. Boyd, H. M. Collier, Frank Harrison, and John Stewart, P.M.'s; Thomas Taylor, John Waters, Allan Rumsey, W. Clifford, W. Medcalf, Samuel Gamman, and C. T. Parsons. Visitors: Alfred T. Hunt, Industry, 186; Philip Pound, Eastern Star, 95; Benjamin Abbott, Preston, 766; and J. Rollinson, Prosperity, 65. Mr. Henry Beatie, M.D., was initiated and Bro. William Clifford was passed; after which, the installation of the new W.M., Bro. George Collier, was proceeded with by Bro. John Rumsey, the ceremony being very efficiently rendered. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following officers for the ensuing year: Bros. Alfred Harris, S.W.; Henry Earles, J.W.; W. Conbro, S.D.; John Gaywood, J.D., Samuel Gamman, I.G.; Alfred Turner, Steward. Bro. William Rumsey was re-invested Treasurer, and John Rumsey was re-invested Secretary, both these brothers having held their offices upwards of a quarter of a century. At the conclusion of Masonic business, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, served in Bro. Painter's most superb style, and an evening, enlivened by Masonic and loyal toasts, speeches, and fine singing, brought the meeting to a close.

Lodge La Tolerance, No. 538.—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall on Thursday, the 5th inst. There were present Bros. Jas. Kench, W.M., in the chair; T. E. Hardy, S.W., and W.M.-elect; Lindus, J.W.; Sly, Sec.; Hart, S.D.; Steward, J.D.; Leech, I.G.; and a large number of members. Among the visitors were Bros. John Hervey, P.S.G.D. and Grand Sec. of England; Reed, W.M.-elect St. James' Union Lodge; S. Pollitzer, P.M. 49; George Shaw (late of this lodge), MacGregor, Victoria Lodge; H. Ellis, Stanhope Lodge, 1269; Seymour Smith, Crystal Palace Lodge, 742, and several other brethren. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, and the report of the Audit Committee had been received and adopted, a gentleman was duly initiated into Freemasonry, and Bro. Ellis was raised to the third degree, both ceremonies being performed in a most able manner by Bro. Kench. The installation of the W.M.-elect was then proceeded with, and Bro. John Hervey having presented the W.M.-elect, the ceremony of installation was worked in a faultless style by the W.M. The following officers were then appointed—viz.: Bros. Lindus, S.W.; Hart, J.W.; Jas. Kench, Treas.; M. Watson, Sec.; Steward, S.D.; Sly, J.D.; W. J. Thicke, I.G.; and Leech, W.S. The W.M. then invested the I.P.M. with a P.M.'s jewel, for which Bro. Kench expressed his thanks. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet. After the cloth had been removed, the W.M. gave the usual toasts in very eloquent terms. When he arrived at the toast of "The D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," he stated that he had received letters from Earl Vane, P.G.S.W., and Sir Albert Woods, Garter, G.D.C., regretting that illness prevented them attending the banquet as they intended. He then referred to his privilege of receiving the Grand Secretary as a guest, and called upon him to respond to the toast.—The Grand Secretary made a long and eloquent speech in reply, and after acknowledging the toast on behalf of the D.G.M. and the other Grand Officers, said it gave him no ordinary pleasure to be present on that occasion. He looked forward to the installation meetings of that lodge

with interest, because he witnessed the Masonic progress of several of its members with extreme satisfaction. He felt more than usual gratification in seeing his friend Bro. Hardy in the chair, for he knew him to be a good Mason, and one who would reflect honour on the lodge. He had seen him work in another lodge, with which he (the Grand Secretary) had been connected for 25 years, and he could assure the brethren that a most efficient worker, and was in every respect calculated to make an admirable W.M. He (the Grand Secretary) was also pleased with the appointments of officers. The S.W., Bro. Lindus, was a zealous worker in the Emulation Lodge, who had been nominated by the Grand Master as Master of a lodge before he had attained the rank of Warden. Bro. Hart, the J.W., was also a member of that lodge; while the S.D., Bro. Steward, was an old Mason, and one of the most distinguished workers in the lodge, and he only regretted that it had not been his good fortune to see Bro. Steward installed a Master of his lodge, but he hoped soon to have that pleasure. Of the other officers he had no doubt they would discharge their duties in an efficient manner, and he thought he might congratulate the W.M. on having such good officers, and the lodge in having so excellent a W.M., and he wished him, in conclusion, a happy year of office. (The Grand Secretary resumed his seat amid loud cheers.)—The next toast, "The Health of the W.M.," was proposed by Bro. Kench, the I.P.M., in a highly flattering and effective speech, and was responded to by the W.M. in the following terms:—Bro. P.M. Kench: For the extremely kind manner in which you have submitted the toast of my health to the brethren, I beg you to accept my warmest thanks; and to you, brethren, for the kindness and the cordiality with which you have responded, I offer my heartfelt acknowledgments. It would be mere affectation on my part were I to attempt to conceal from you the pride and gratification I experience in being permitted, by the kind favours of the members of the Lodge La Tolerance, to occupy the honourable and dignified position I now hold. In undertaking the duties of the Mastership of this lodge, I am deeply sensible of the serious responsibilities that devolve upon me. Still, I am free to confess that it has been my ambition to attain to the position I now occupy. This I regard as a legitimate and laudable ambition in every Mason, provided he is actuated by proper motives; and I trust there is not a member of the lodge who is not influenced by the same feeling and sentiment. Permit me, however, earnestly to exhort those of my brethren who may entertain the desire to occupy the chair of the lodge, seriously to reflect upon the responsibility that will devolve upon them; thoroughly to acquaint themselves with the nature of the trust to be confided to them; and to qualify themselves for the efficient discharge of the duties of the office; so that it may never in future be said that La Tolerance possesses a Master who is incompetent to the work. Indeed, brethren, my heart's desire is that this, my mother lodge, may become a perfect pattern and example in this respect. And as one means of obtaining so desirable an object, I should be glad to see a by-law to the effect that no member should be installed as Master of the lodge until he had given proof of his proficiency in all the duties appertaining to the office. I would even go a step further, and under a deep sense of the responsibilities "for the faithful discharge of the duties annexed to the appointment," and conscious that the honour, reputation, and usefulness of each lodge in particular, and of Masonry in general, depends on the skill and assiduity of its rulers, I should be gratified to see established in the metropolitan district, and in connection with each of the Provincial and District Grand Lodges, Boards of Examiners, whose certificates of competency should be an indispensable condition to installation to the Mastership of every lodge under the English Constitution. This would not only secure a fulfilment of the ancient charge, that all preferment should be grounded on real worth and personal merit, and that "no Master or Warden should be chosen by seniority, but for his merit;" but it would also go far to guarantee a uniformity of working, and eliminate from the ceremonies the false grammar and absurdities which now too frequently disgrace their performance. But while urging with all due emphasis the absolute necessity of one uniform and "established mode of working," I would not have it supposed that I consider Masonry to consist in the practice, however perfect, of the ritual and ceremony. These are necessary in an institution such as ours, and their effect should be to leave a solemn and reverential impression on the mind. Our ritual and ceremonies, however, are but a means to an end—the improvement of the human heart. The arch-enemy of bigotry, superstition, and fanaticism, the grand object of Masonry is to assist in promoting the civilization and welfare of mankind—the bringing of rude matter into due form, and socially to bind in one indissoluble bond of charity, all sorts and conditions of men. Unfortunately, it is too often applied to the most improper purposes. This I attribute to the too indiscriminate manner in which men are admitted into the order—without due enquiries being made into their position and character. The consequence is, that we find men who are no sooner admitted into the Craft than they publicly exhibit Masonic emblems, with a view to attract custom and to promote their own commercial interests. Every right-minded Mason must regard such proceedings with abhorrence, and I should rejoice to see Grand Lodge adopt some summary and effective step to put an end to such a gross degradation of the Order. For my own part, I studiously avoid such men—regarding them as men who have sacrilegiously violated in solemn obligation; as men who have desecrated one of the grand principles of the Order—truth; as men who are ignorant of and are incapable of appreciating the dignity and high importance of Masonry; and who, regardless of their moral responsibilities disgrace the Craft by perverting "Best things

To worst abuse or to their meanest use."

Brethren, our ritual itself, in several of its parts, points to something far loftier and more noble than this—to something far beyond the reach and attainment, or even the comprehension, of such men as those to whom I have alluded—to something more than mere ceremonies and the making of Masons. Breaking down the barriers which separate nations from nations, and man from his fellow-man; recognising the law of contrasts in the order of nature as the law of love in the moral order, Masonry sends out an invitation to man, wherever she finds him, bidding him put forth a new activity in the exercise of universal benevolence and charity. She bridges over the abysses which national religions have opened up between the nations of the earth, and unites them together in spirit by the bonds of charity under the law of the same Great Architect of the Universe. It is the accomplishment of this freedom and this unity that Masonry adopts as her mission, proclaiming to the world the true principle of humanity—the unity and brotherhood of all human kind, without distinction of nature or of race. It is upon this basis that Freemasonry builds, and will continue her task until she completes her glorious edifice. It is this that constitutes the grand aim and object of Freemasonry, but which can only be understood and appreciated by those who are actuated by that

"Desire which tends to know
The works of God, thereby to glorify
The Great Work-Master."

To receive at the hands of my brethren the appointment as one of the rulers of such a noble institution is indeed an honour, which I duly appreciate and esteem. To the faithful discharge of the important duties it involves, I shall devote my best efforts, with the hope that the kind wishes you have individually and collectively expressed towards me may be realised; and assuring you that I shall ever look back upon the present occasion with a grateful recollection, remembering it as amongst the happiest of my reminiscences. (The W.M. was loudly cheered at the conclusion his speech.)—The next toast "The Visitors," was responded to by Bro. Read.—The toast of "The P.M.'s" was replied to by Bros. Burmeister, P.M., and Kench, I.P.M.—Bro. Lindus, S.W., replied to the toast of "The Officers," and the Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to an end. In the course of the evening some excellent vocal and instrumental music was given by Bro. S. Smith, assisted by the brethren.

Nelson Lodge, No. 700.—This flourishing lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich. Bro. W. D. May, W.M., occupied the chair, supported by Bros. W. Graham, S.W.; J. Norman, J.W.; C. Hobson, S.D.; Ingle, J.D.; Ritchie, I.G.; Glashier, Org.; Henderson, Crawford, Cook, Rowland, Dunham, Bowles, and Tongue, P.M.'s; Copland, W.M., and P.M. 913; Davies, W.M. 13; Yong, S.W. 13; in addition to a strong muster of the members. The work done was initiating two gentlemen, passing one, and raising three. Bro. Biddick, 913, was also balloted for, and admitted a joining member. £5 was voted to a distressed brother, and £10 to each of the Masonic schools. The business being ended, the lodge was closed in due form, when the brethren sat down to refreshment, supplied by Bro. Hilton, and spent a most pleasant and harmonious evening.

Panmure Lodge, No. 715.—The installation meeting of this flourishing and most prosperous lodge was held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Saturday, the 21st inst. Bro. W. Kibble, W.M., opened the lodge supported by Bros. J. H. Townend, S.W.; W. Bennett, J.W.; S. G. Myers, P.M., Treas.; H. Muggerridge, P.M., Sec.; J. Crossfield, S.D.; H. Birdseye, J.D.; J. Jonas, I.G.; J. Paddle, C. Vines, C. H. Fielder, and J. H. Weedon, P.M.'s; C. Wyche, J. Laquin, M. Bennett, J. Harris, T. B. Yeoman, H. Warden, J. Clemmans, G. Wyatt, W. E. Stoner, J. Gale, &c. Amongst a large number of visitors were Bros. E. H. Patten (P.G.S.B.), A. Bryant, G. Yapp, G. A. Taylor, R. H. Townend, E. H. Tipton, J. H. Cox, C. Bennett, F. Walters, F. Carritt, S. Muggerridge, F. Trott, T. Turner, W. Nicholls, and H. Chambers. The work gone through was raising Bros. J. Laquin and J. Harris, passing Bro. M. Bennett, and initiating Mr. Alfred Carritt, the W.M. performing the ceremonies in a very satisfactory manner. The installation of Bro. J. H. Townend as W.M. was then proceeded with by Bro. H. Muggerridge, who went through his work in his usual superior style. The newly-installed W.M. appointed, and Bro. H. Muggerridge invested, the officers, viz., Bros. W. Bennett, S.W.; J. Crossfield, J.W.; H. Birdseye, S.D.; J. Jonas, J.D.; T. B. Yeoman, I.G.; G. Smith, P.M., Tyler. Bros. S. G. Myers and H. Muggerridge were re-invested as Treas. and Sec. respectively. The W.M., on behalf of the lodge, presented the I.P.M., with a superior P.M.'s jewel. Br. Kibble returned thanks in an appropriate speech, and the lodge was closed. An excellent banquet followed, and we regret that pressure of matter precludes our giving the speeches delivered at this and other festive boards.

Whittington Lodge, No. 862.—A regular meeting of this lodge was held at Anderson's Hotel on the 16th instant. The I.P.M., Bro. Weaver, occupied the chair (in the unavoidable absence of Bro. S. S. Davis, W.M.), and about four-and-twenty brethren were present, including Past Masters Hurlstone, Brett, and Quilty; W. J. H. Jones, J. W.; R. W. Little, Sec.; A. Frickenhaus, S.D.; W. F. Smith, J.D.; T. Kingston, D.C.; J. D. Taylor, C. Bergemann, C. Walker, W. H. Kaye, L. Adutt, F. Moll. The ceremonies of the evening comprised two initiations (Messrs. C. Steiner and G. C. Pritchard), and two raisings (Bros. Latchmeepathy Naidoo Garu and Whitehead), both being ably rendered by the Acting W.M. and his officers.

Bro. Weaver then proposed, Bro. Jones, J.W., seconded, and it was carried by acclamation, "That the sum of five guineas be voted to the 'Wentworth Little Testimonial Fund,'" and it may be added that in the course of the evening this amount was supplemented by liberal subscriptions from the brethren individually. After the proceedings in lodge a capital banquet was served, and the remainder of the evening was spent in the usual convivial and happy fraternal manner. Bro. Brett, G.P., responded for the Grand Officers, Bro. F. Walters for the visitors, and Bro. Hurlstone for the P.M.'s. Several songs were well sung during the evening with musical accompaniment by Bro. Weaver, whose execution of a difficult fantasia on the pianoforte, was also highly appreciated.

Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871.—The members of this lodge met at the White Swan Tavern, Deptford, on Wednesday, January 25. Bro. J. Truelove, W.M., opened the lodge, and passed Bro. Wilson to the second degree. Bro. W. Andrews, P.M., was elected W.M. by a large majority; Bro. H. A. Collington, P.M., Treas., was re-elected; and J. Bavin, P.M., Tyler. Present: Bros. J. Barrett, S.W.; T. Kilner, J.W.; H. A. Collington, P.M., Treas.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; J. W. Reed, S.D.; W. Myatt, J.D.; G. Andrews, I.G.; W. Andrews, P.M.; J. Ragg, G. Harvey, &c. Refreshment followed labour.

Rose of Denmark Lodge, No. 975.—A meeting of this lodge was held at the White Hart Tavern, Barnes, Surrey, on the 20th inst. Bro. C. A. Smith, W.M., presided, and was supported by Bros. W. H. Barnard, S.W.; S. H. Stephens, J.W.; G. T. Noyce, P.M., Treas.; R. Wentworth Little, P.M., Sec.; R. B. Huddleston, S.D.; C. Butcher, J.D.; W. Bell, I.G.; T. Farrell, W.S.; R. G. C. Lemon, C. Willcox, W. Hamlyn, J. Ayles, S. Curtis, W. Hayes, E. Harris, T. T. Willcox, and several other members and visitors. Mr. Samuel Harris was initiated, and six brethren were passed to the second degree. A notice of motion was given that the sum of five guineas be voted to the "Wentworth Little Testimonial Fund," after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a substantial repast provided by Bro. Willcox, the host of the White Hart.

Sphinx Lodge, No. 1329.—The regular meeting of this rapidly-rising lodge was held on the 21st instant at the Stirling Castle, Camberwell. Present: Bros. Ed. Clarke, P.G.S. of W. Middlesex, W.M.; Major H. W. Palmer, S.W.; E. J. Bailey, J.W.; J. G. Reynolds, Treas.; H. Allman, Sec.; Dr. V. Bedolfe, S.D.; S. Saunders, J.D.; J. Vockens, I.G.; J. Sugden, Steward; Hyde, P.M.; Dr. Pinder, Campbell, Mansell, Blanch, J. S. Dunbar, and Hancock; visitors, Bros. James Stevens (W.M. 1216), E. Worthington (P.M. 507), Pulsford (P.M. 507), Larham (1216), and Green (1194). The lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., and the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for the admission into Freemasonry of Messrs. George Craggs, George Champion, William Andrews, G. T. Bickerton, and Charles J. Coles, which proving unanimous in each of their favour, and Messrs. Andrews, Bickerton, and Coles being in attendance were severally initiated into the Order, the ceremony being effectively rendered by the W.M., who unfortunately was suffering from the effects of a cold. Bro. Jas. Stevens, kindly relieving the W.M. of his duties, proceeded in his usual careful and correct manner to pass Bros. Campbell, Mansell, Blanch and Hancock. Several gentlemen having been proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and a petition from various brethren for permission to hold a lodge of instruction under the warrant and sanction of this lodge, with Bro. John Thomas as Preceptor, having been duly considered and unanimously granted, a vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Dr. Bedolfe for a very handsome present made by him to the lodge (the Sphinx beautifully executed as a coat of arms), the lodge was closed in due form and the brethren adjourned to the banquet table, Bro. White's catering well meriting the encomiums passed upon it by the visitors.

PROVINCIAL.

COWES.—Melina Lodge, No. 31.—On Thursday, 12th January, the brethren of this lodge held their installation meeting. This is the oldest lodge in the province, being established in 1731, and recently, by command of the late Grand Master of England, has been, with the other Island lodges, annexed to Hampshire province. The brethren having assembled, Bro. J. Hall Smith, W.M., opened his lodge in the third degree. Bros. Westbrook, Tait, and Parnell were then introduced, and having passed the necessary examinations, were separately raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The W.M. then resumed the lodge to the first degree, when Messrs. Pepper and Hurst were initiated, after which a Board of Installed Masters was formed, when Bro. O. Haxthausen was duly placed in the chair according to ancient custom. The brethren were then admitted, and the W.M. was saluted, who proceeded to the election of his officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bros. J. Hall Smith, I.P.M.; J. G. Wheeler, S.W.; G. Jones, J.W.; J. R. Dawson, P.M., Sec.; C. Sarl, Treas.; Hunter, S.D.; J. Netten, J.D.; C. Fellows, I.G.; and D. White, Tyler. There being no further business before the lodge, the W.M. closed the same with solemn prayer, according to ancient custom. The brethren then retired to the Dolphin Hotel to a banquet, the chair being occupied by the W.M., who proceeded with the toasts, the first being "The Queen and the Craft." This was followed by "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, P.G. Master of England," "The Earl de Grey and Ripon, G.M., and the Grand Lodge of England," "The P.G. Master," "The P.G. Lodge," and "The Officers of the Lodge." We need not expatiate upon the various toasts, suffice it to say that they were drunk with a deal of brotherly feeling. The W.M. then proposed "The health of Bro. J. Smith, I.P.M.,"

and alluded in kindly terms to the duties that had devolved upon him during his year of office. Other toasts were proposed and responded to, and the brethren passed the remainder of the evening in a most enjoyable manner. Bro. George Jones presided at the piano, and also during the evening enlivened the harmony with some capital music upon the cornet.

BROMPTON, KENT.—*United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence, No. 184.*—The annual meeting of the brethren of this excellent lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on the 19th inst., when Bro. Sergeant-Major Cole, R.E., was duly installed W.M. in the presence of a large assembly, amongst whom were Bros. J. Redman, P.M., P.G.S., the retiring W.M.; W. Blakey, P.M., W.M. 1174, and P.P.A.D.C.; J. Strowse, P.M., P.S., and Treas.; W. Turtle, P.M., P.P.G.S.W.; Ashdown, P.M. 184 and 1050, and P.P.G.P.; Carter, P.M. 20, P.G.D.; Burfield, P.M. 20; Fowle, W.M. 20; Seabrook, P.M., Sec 1170, and P.G.S.; Martin, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., &c.; and Darley, P.M. 158, Sheerness. Bro. Redman, with great ability, conducted the beautiful and impressive ceremony to the admiration of all. The installation being over, the brethren of the junior degrees were admitted and did honour to the W.M. The following officers were then appointed: Bros. Murphy, S.W.; Robinson, J.W.; Strowse, P.M., Treas.; Gale, Sec.; Higgins, S.D.; Morson, J.D.; Hurley, I.G.; Husband and Hewitt, Stewards; Gorham, D.C.; and Drago, Tyler. Amongst the large number present were several military brethren. On thanks being proposed to the Installing Master, Bro. Redman, the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to refreshment at Bro. Wraith's, the Golden Lion, where they did ample justice to a spread which proved the capability of Bro. Wraith to gratify the taste, and which gave the utmost satisfaction.

LIVERPOOL.—*Harmonic Lodge, No. 216.*—On Thursday, the 12th inst., the monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Adelphi Hotel, where there was a highly respectable gathering of the brethren. An additional interest was given to the proceedings by the installation of the W.M. and the investiture of his officers. Bro. Crook, whose services in the chair appear to have given the liveliest satisfaction during his year of office, vacated his position, and Bro. Joseph Skeaf was installed as W.M. The ceremony was performed in a most impressive and highly efficient manner by Bro. James M'Kune, P.M. and P.Z. The following officers were invested by the newly-elected Master, and afterwards received the different charges from Bro. M'Kune: Bros. Jones, S.W.; John Beesley, J.W.; John Turner, S.D.; John Norman, J.D.; George Rigby Smith, Sec.; William Laidlaw, Treas.; William B. Lennie, I.G.; John Maddock, D.C.; and Ball, Tyler. In handing in the yearly balance-sheet the Treasurer made the gratifying announcement that the funds in hands at the close of the year amounted to £70 odd. The accounts were unanimously passed, and occasion was taken by several of the brethren to express their satisfaction at the financially prosperous condition of the lodge. Messrs. Conley and Crook, after being balloted for, were duly initiated in a most efficient and impressive manner by the W.M., the working tools being presented by the J.W. The charge, given by the S.W., was especially striking in its delivery, and secured the hearty approbation of all who listened.—During the evening Bro. Jones, S.W., called the attention of the brethren to the painfully sudden and lamented death of Bro. Lancelot Fleming, who had received his third degree only at the previous monthly meeting of the lodge. In the course of a few well-chosen and feeling remarks, the S.W. referred to the great loss which Freemasonry in general, and No. 216 in particular, had sustained by the unexpected death of their young brother, who, he said, had even at the outset of his Masonic career given the greatest promise of being both an active and efficient worker, and likely to rise to the very highest position in the lodge. He (Bro. Jones) concluded by moving that a letter of sympathy should be sent by the Secretary to the widow of the deceased.—Several of the brethren assembled also referred in terms of praise to the high character and great promise of the late Bro. Fleming, and the resolution was at once and unanimously adopted. After labour a splendid banquet was provided in the large and handsome dining-hall connected with the hotel, which was admirably served.—After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts (proposed in the happiest terms by the W.M.), Bro. Crook, P.M., proposed, in highly eulogistic terms, "The health of their newly-appointed Master," and said he was sure that during his year of office he would prove himself fully qualified to perform all the duties connected with it—an efficiency which had been fully established by the manner in which he had conducted the business of the lodge that day. (The toast was received with true Masonic enthusiasm.)—The W.M., in reply, said he must thank the brethren very cordially for the reception which they had given to the toast just proposed. He trusted that the manner in which the duties of the lodge were performed would, at the end of the year, meet with their approbation. No. 216 was his mother lodge, and as they were all bound morally to respect and love their mothers, he would strive to do so with regard to that lodge by doing his duty in connection with the chair in the best manner possible. His professional engagements occupied a large part of his time; but he assured the brethren that he would do his utmost to make the working of the lodge as efficient as possible, and give it his honest attention, as his predecessors in office had done. (Cheers)—"The health of the I.P.M., Bro. Crook," was then proposed by the W.M., who spoke in high terms of the manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of the chair.—Bro. Crook, in responding, said he must regret that business engagements had on more than one occasion prevented him from attending to his duties; but he assured the brethren he was a true Mason at heart, and as such he

had endeavoured to carry out all the duties of his office.—"The Visiting Brethren," "The Newly-initiated Brethren," and "All Poor and Distressed Masons," were the remaining toasts on the list, after which the lodge was closed in due form at an early hour. During the evening Bro. Busfield contributed to the harmony in a most material manner by the splendid style in which he sang several songs. The I.G. (Bro. Lennie) also added to the pleasure of the meeting by the spirited manner in which he sang "The Merry Days of Old," which the brethren generally appreciated. Bros. M'Kune, Jones, Bennett, Willett, Hook, &c., also gave vocal contributions, which went far to justify the title of the "Harmonic Lodges."

BODMIN.—*One-and-All Lodge, No. 330.*—The annual meeting was held at Freemasons' Hall on the 27th ult. The lodge was opened in the first degree by Bro. Wallis, W.M. After the minutes of the last lodge had been read and confirmed, Bro. the Hon. Levison Gower, M.P., was proposed to be affiliated a member, and Dr. Adams was proposed to be initiated at the next regular lodge. The lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees. A board of Installed Masters was formed under the presidency of Bro. Capt. Colvill, P.P.J.G.W., and the choice of the lodge having fallen on Bro. W. R. Oliver, of Bodmin, now of 40, Chancery-lane, London, as W.M.-elect, he was presented by Bro. Rub, P.P.G.D.C., and duly installed by Bro. Colvill, assisted by Bro. Wallis, P.P.G.R., and Bro. the Rev. J. D. Hawley, P.G.C., in a most impressive manner. After the W.M. had appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year, the lodge was called off from labour to refreshment, and repaired to Bro. Sandoe's, Royal Hotel, where a sumptuous banquet was partaken of, and the proceedings throughout the evening were conducted in a truly Masonic spirit.

TRURO.—*Phoenix Lodge of Honour and Prudence, No. 331.*—The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, New Public Rooms, Truro, on Monday, the 16th inst., Bro. J. F. Penrose in the chair. After the reception of an approved candidate, the W.M.-elect, Bro. J. T. Ferguson, was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year by Bro. J. F. Penrose, I.P.M. The ceremony was conducted in a most efficient manner. The following officers were then appointed:—Bros. R. M. Paull, S.W.; S. Serpell, J.W.; Rev. F. B. Bullocke, M.A. (Prov. G.C.), Chaplain; J. O. Mayne (P.M., Prov. S.G.W.), Treasurer; Thomas Olver, jun., Secretary; Hon. T. C. Agar Robartes, S.D.; J. W. Wilkinson, J.D.; Thomas Solomon, J.P. (P.M., Prov. S.G.W.), Director of Ceremonies; S. Harvey (P.M., Prov. G.P.) Inner Guard; J. F. Phillpotts and W. H. Cristoe, jun., Stewards; W. Rooks, Tyler. The business being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the Red Lion Hotel, where the banquet was served. The W.M. presided, and the Senior Warden was in the vice-chair. Sir F. M. Williams, Bart., M.P., Grand Warden of England, and numerous other members and visitors were present.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's, No. 531.*—On Thursday, 12th inst., a number of Brethren of this lodge met at the house of Bro. C. Humbles, Cleveland Hotel, when that brother, in his usual style, supplied them with a most sumptuous banquet. Bro. T. H. Haigh, of the Lodge of Truth, No. 521, Huddersfield, in the chair. Bro. J. N. Sidney, St. John's Lodge, No. 80, Sunderland, in the vice-chair. The loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed from the chair in a very efficient manner, and were right loyally and Masonically received; after which Bro. T. Turnbull, I.G. of the lodge, made a presentation to Bro. J. J. Armstrong, I.P.M., No. 531, Com. 954 (from a few private friends), of a beautiful portrait of his wife, to complete a pair, one of himself being presented to this distinguished brother a few months ago. Bro. Turnbull also presented the same brother with a splendid signet ring and Past Master's jewel on behalf of the brethren of the lodge, as a token of respect and esteem. The jewel was engraved as follows:—"Presented to Bro. J. J. Armstrong, I.P.M. of the St. Helen's Lodge, No. 531, by a number of brethren, as a mark of regard and esteem. Hartlepool, January 1st, 1871." These presents were suitably received and responded to in a very feeling manner. The portraits were from the studio of Newcombe and Sydney, West Hartlepool, and reflect great credit on the artists. The size of the portraits and frames are 3ft. 6in. by 3ft. During the evening, Bro. J. J. Armstrong presented to Bro. Thomas Forbes, P.M., a beautiful Past Master's jewel, on behalf of the brethren of the lodge, also the jewel was fixed to his breast by Bro. Armstrong. Bro. Forbes, P.M., made a suitable reply in a good speech, thanking the brethren for their kindness in presenting him with such a beautiful testimonial. Several other toasts followed, and the evening was spent in mirth and harmony, several brethren singing some really good songs. The Tyler here put a stop to the hilarity by his toast, "To all Poor and Distressed Masons," which finished the evening, the brethren separating at a seasonable hour.

BRIGHTON.—*Royal Brunswick Lodge, No. 732.*—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 12th inst., in the Masonic Rooms, Royal Pavilion. The lodge was opened by the highly-esteemed W.M., Bro. G. Smith, P.P.G.P. Sussex, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed Mr. Plumer was initiated in an able manner by the W.M. Bro. V. Freeman, P.P.J.G.W. presented Br. E. Carpenter, S.W., to be duly installed in the chair of K.S., which ceremony was performed in a most perfect manner by Bro. V. Freeman, P.M. The newly-installed Master then nominated and invested his officers as follows: Bros. G. Smith, I.P.M.; J. L. Bridgen, S.W.; W. Smith, J.W.; S. Ridley, Treas.; T. Lawson, Sec.; G. H. Day, S.D.; S. Solomon, J.D.; Jeffcoat, I.G.; Hopewell, D.C.; F.

Vincent, Steward. The W.M. then, in most appropriate terms, presented, in the name of the lodge, a P.M.'s jewel and collar to the retiring W.M. Br. Smith having returned thanks, the lodge was closed and the brethren, to the number of fifty, adjourned to the banquetting chamber, where an excellent dinner had been prepared by the Messrs. Mitton. The cloth having been cleared, the usual toasts were heartily honoured, and an exceedingly happy evening was brought to a close at an early hour.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—*Wentworth Lodge, No. 737.*—The installation meeting of this lodge was held in the Town Hall on the 16th inst. The lodge was opened in due form, and after the usual preliminary business Bro. Miller was, in accordance with ancient custom, installed into the chair of K.S. by Bro. S. Inns, D.P.G.M. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. James, S.W.; Woolrych, J.W.; Burkitt, S.D.; Cook, J.D.; and Housden, I.G. Bro. Cook was re-elected Treasurer, and Matthews, Tyler. Labour being ended, the lodge was closed in due form with prayer. The brethren afterwards adjourned to the Angel Hotel and partook of an excellent banquet. The customary toasts were given and responded to and a very pleasant evening was spent.

SOUTHEND.—*Priory Lodge, No. 1000.*—The installation meeting of this lodge, to install Bro. Jas. Cantor, the W.M.-elect, was held in the lodge-room, at the Middleton Hotel, Southend, on Tuesday, January 10th. The ceremony of installation was most impressively performed by W. Bro. William P.M. 160 and P.P.J.G.W.; after which, the newly installed W.M. appointed his officers for the ensuing year, and they were duly invested as follows:—Bros. S. Cox, S.W.; J. R. Hemmann, J.W.; Rev. T. W. Herbert, P.M., Chaplain; Frederick Wood, P.M. and P.P.S.G.W., re-elected Treasurer; W. Smith Cox, P.P.G.S.B., reappointed Secretary; A. Lucking, S.D.; G. J. Glasscock, J.D.; H. Rowley, P.P.S.G.D., as D.C.; Barton, Organist; Joseph Louth, I.G.; Edward Parsons, re-elected Tyler. A strong muster of Past and Present Provincial Grand Officers, Past Masters, and visitors were also present. The lodge been closed about thirty-four of the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, which was served up in capital style. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. The enjoyment of the evening was greatly enhanced by the excellent singing of Bros. J. Burton, J. Brazier, Girling, and Johnston.

LIVERPOOL.—*Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1035.*—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, 12th inst. The voting having been in favour of Bro. J. W. Turley, without dissentient, he was duly installed by Bro. P.M. Fozzard, who fulfilled his duties most admirably. After the installation, the W.M. appointed his officers, who were invested by Bro. Fozzard, viz.:—Bros. Morgan, S.W.; Sculthorpe, J.W.; Ferguson, S.D.; Stewart, J.D.; Crosby, I.G.; Bunting, Treasurer; Bilsbrough, Secretary; Pve, Organist. At 6 p.m. the brethren sat down to banquet, prepared by Bro. Vines in his usual satisfactory manner. Among the visitors present were Bros. Drs. Smith, Johnson, and Hughes, De la Perrelle, and Healing, P.M.'s; Lunt and Clark, W.M.'s. After spending a very pleasant evening together, the brethren separated at an early hour.

ALDERSHOT.—*Aldershot Camp Lodge, No. 1331.*—This lodge, which was formed to supply a want long felt by the military at this large station, was consecrated by Bro. Sir H. W. Beach, Bart., M.P., Prov. Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, on the 11th Nov. The officers of the lodge are Bros. C. Carnegie, P.M., P. Prov. G. Supt. of Wks. Essex, W.M.; J. Fenn, S.W.; F. Hopkins, J.W.; Captain Richardson, R.E., S.D.; M'Kenzie, J.D.; R. White, Sec.; J. Vincent, Treas.; Laverty, I.G.; and Rev. J. W. Colliers, Chap. At the first meeting of the lodge on the 1st December there were three candidates initiated and fourteen joining members balloted for. The last monthly meeting was held on the 5th inst., when all the officers were present, except Bro. Hopkins, who was detained by duty at Woolwich. Bro. J. Belling, P.M., acted as Past Master, and Bro. Osmond acted as J.W. There were about thirty-six brethren present. The lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Osmond, P.M., was then balloted for and admitted as a joining member. Five candidates for initiation—three of whom belonged to the Royal Engineers, one to the 17th Lancers, and one to the Army Service Corps—were then balloted for and approved. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Gillon and Peers (Royal Engineers), and Plimsand (17th Regt.), were passed to the F.C. degree. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, when Messrs. Lucas, Shillington, and Mount (Royal Engineers), Lavagear (17th Lancers), and Gardner (A.S. Corps) were initiated into Freemasonry. A code of by-laws was then considered and agreed to by the lodge. Bro. Vincent was appointed Almoner to the lodge, and Bros. Richardson and M'Kenzie, members of the Board of General Purposes. As the lodge will have to lease its present locale in March, a committee—consisting of Bros. C. Carnegie, J. Fenn, and Captain Richardson—was appointed to see places suitable, and report the terms at the next meeting of the lodge. The W.M. announced that a meeting would be held for instruction on the last Thursday of each month. Several candidates having been proposed for initiation, and as joining members, the lodge was closed in peace, love, and harmony.

The following reports of lodge meetings remain over until our next:—169, London; 221, Bolton; 307, Hebden Bridge; 523, Leicester; 605, Seacombe; 958, Jersey; 1086, Kirkdale; 1248, Scarborough; 1330, Market Harborough.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

WICKINS.—On the 19th inst., at Dulwich, the wife of Bro. Henry White Wickins, of a daughter.

DEATH.

WATSON.—On the 18th inst., at Linwood, aged 53 years, Bro. James Watson, M.M. of Lodges Thistle (87) and Clyde (408), member of St. Andrew's R.A. Chapter No. 69; late of 38, Carnarvon-street, Glasgow.

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.

J. M. A.—Nearly every Grand Lodge but that of England adds the 4004 to the vulgar era to complete the "Annus Mundi," or "Annus Lucis," the year of light. The "Ancients" in England formerly used the same mode of computation.

D. MACFARLANE.—The lodge "La Tolerance," No. 538, was formerly composed chiefly of French brethren, but it is not so now, and we cannot point to any lodge in the metropolis as being distinctively French in its membership. At 71, Dean-street, Soho, you might get information on the subject.

A READER.—Write to the Grand Recorder, Brother R. Wentworth Little, 7, St. Martin's-road, Stockwell, S.W.

LEX.—Pay no attention to the ill-conditioned fellow. There is no Masonic society in England which meets contrary to law, the enactment to which he refers having been superseded by one subsequently passed to prohibit Orange meetings.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"History of Furness," Part 4; J. Richardson, Times Office, Barrow-in-Furness.

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of New York.

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Ohio.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1871.

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

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

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

CHARITY is again our theme; and the immediate object of our solicitude is the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Having said thus much, it may easily be

conjectured that the approaching Festival in aid of distressed Masons and the widows of poor Masons is the foundation of our present remarks, and of our desire to enlist the sympathies of our readers. Some time ago, a French contemporary, the *Monde Maçonnique*, whose voice is now unhappily silenced by the sterner notes of war, observed, with reference to English Freemasons, that their charity was a system well organised and ably administered. Our contemporary, if we remember rightly, deprecated spasmodic efforts, and commended the "long pull, the strong pull, and the pull altogether," which had produced such creditable and lasting results as the great Masonic Institutions of England. And, undoubtedly, the *Monde Maçonnique* had reason on its side, because the education and nurture of destitute or orphan children, and the permanent shelter and sustenance afforded to the aged, in those institutions far outweigh, in actual good to the recipients, any mere transient relief to the needy, on however profuse or extensive a scale it may be. Not that we are disposed to discredit the practice of ready assistance of a temporary nature to those who really require it; but at the same time it cannot be disguised that more money is wasted on impostors and undeserving objects than would suffice to keep one hundred more children in our schools, or as many annuitants on the funds of our Benevolent Institution. There is, however, another aspect to the question, and we allude to it with regret, that more than four-fifths of the Craft in England do not contribute *at all* to any of the noble foundations established by their forefathers. Nay, some are content to apply for the benefits of those Institutions without ever having thought of them in more prosperous days—without ever having sympathised in the sorrows, or really commiserated the distress of their aged brethren or of the widow and the orphan. Can we wonder, therefore, that many of the subscribers, justly indignant at so lamentable an apathy, would fain exclude from the temple of charity those who have never sacrificed upon its beneficent altar? Can we wonder, although we may not agree with them on principle, that many are anxious to restrict the benefits of our institutions to those who have subscribed to their funds, or who have shown, in better days, a practical interest in their welfare. Were it not for the comprehensive nature of Freemasonry, and the glorious catholicity of its creed, the derelictions of duty manifested by many nominal Masons would recoil upon their own heads in the hour of penury and want. But, fortunately for them, the ample cloak of charity covers their sins of omission, and all are allowed to participate in the advantages of education and maintenance for their children, as well as sustenance for themselves, although, as we have already intimated, they have really no claim to the support of the Craft beyond the natural

sympathy which is ever evoked in generous minds by tales of misery and misfortune. Still we are glad to record that of late years great interest has been taken by many members of the Fraternity in the welfare of our charities. The increasing number of Stewards at each successive Festival, with the augmented subscriptions on their lists, may be accepted as a healthy sign of progress; but we shall not be satisfied until the responsibilities of Freemasonry are brought home so forcibly to the breast of every brother that all "who profess and call themselves Masons" shall be found eager to help the good work by fairly contributing according to their means. The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was, as many of our readers are aware, established with the view of providing an asylum for the veterans of the Craft in old age, and the widows of such brethren as had died in straitened circumstances. At a later period a scheme for granting annuities to a similar class of deserving persons was promulgated under official sanction, and eventually the Asylum and Annuity Funds were amalgamated, with the happiest results.

On behalf of this invaluable charity a Festival is held annually, under the presidency of some distinguished Mason who has attained high honours in the Order. This year the Right Worshipful Brother Colonel Francis Burdett, Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex, has undertaken the onerous but pleasing task of representing the aims and claims of the Benevolent Institution at the usual Festival, which will be held on the 3rd February; and it is very gratifying to be able to announce that the Stewards ranged under the Right Worshipful Brother's banner upon that occasion will number more than one hundred. We therefore anticipate a great success for the Institution, and we know that the most praiseworthy exertions are being made to secure it. And when we consider how many deserving old Masons are sheltered and secured from want—how many widows are aided in like manner—few words are required to commend the cause to the warmest support of the brethren; but even at the risk of harping upon one string, let us advise those who are already subscribers to the various Masonic Charities to urge the imperative necessity of subscribing upon all brethren in their respective lodges who may have been previously oblivious of the truism that Freemasonry has its duties as well as its privileges, and that one of the highest, the holiest duties of a Mason is to do good to the household of the faithful.

There can be but few of us, however young in Masonry, who have not witnessed many strange vicissitudes and changes of fortune amongst our friends and acquaintances; there can be but few of us who have not passed hours in the house of mourning, as well as in the chambers of rejoicing. Young as we may be, grief and

pain and death are not unfamiliar visitants to our homes; nor can the noblest or the most prosperous claim exemption from the common ills of life. Let us each, therefore, help to bear a brother's burden; let us each endeavour to lighten his load of care, and to smooth his troubled passage to the grave. "Behold the night cometh" when "no man can work;" but the present is ours, and can be woven by kindly words and generous deeds into a pleasantly-remembered past. The knowledge and the conviction that we have striven to do our best for the comfort of our fellow-creatures will not only awake happy memories in our hearts; but when the awful hour of dissolution approaches, our thoughts shall not be haunted by visions of vows forgotten, bright opportunities wasted, and paramount duties neglected. No hideous spectre shall affright our souls, because we shall have carried out in their entirety and truth those principles which are the glory of our Order by caring for the widow and orphan, and giving the homeless and shelterless where to lay their heads.

THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

We have received, and hold over, several letters relating to Bro. Yarker and the Ancient and Accepted Rite. All are personal to a degree which renders their insertion impossible, unless carefully pruned; and one signed by "A. S. P., of the Palatine Rose Croix Chapter," is not accompanied by the name and address of the writer. Bro. Yarker's communication contains historical facts of an interesting nature, but is intermingled with observations respecting the Supreme Grand Council 33° which we cannot publish.

Multum in Parvo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

BRO. YARKER AND THE SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL 33°.

That there are two sides to every question may be accepted as an indubitable fact; and I should be sorry that the ten thousand readers of THE FREEMASON should be allowed to suppose that Bro. Yarker's *ex parte* statement of his own case does not admit of being looked at from a point of view somewhat different from that which he has selected.

I propose neither to criticise nor to refute the arguments contained in his statement; but as a humble yet *entirely independent* member of the A. and A. Rite, I wish to invite the attention of all brethren to a most important *matter of principle* which is involved in the present discussion.

Every member of this Rite, when he is obligated in the 18°, whether as a newly-admitted candidate or as an affiliated member of one of the old independent bodies (which last I gather to have been the case with Bro. Yarker), voluntarily takes a solemn obligation whereby he binds himself, among other things, at all times to render proper allegiance to the Supreme Grand Council 33°.

Bro. Yarker, by his own confession (at page 11), admits that he publicly announced

his intention of "again working the old Templar Kadosh." Now, whether he be right or wrong, personally, in his wish to see this degree again worked, there can be no doubt that his intention was a direct infringement of the regulations established by the S.G.C. 33°; and, consequently, that he was bound by his sacred word of honour to submit his private judgment to their decree; and in contumaciously refusing conformity thereto he must, in the judgment of all right-minded Masons, be held to have unjustifiably violated his obligation of obedience, and to have deserved the penalty which has been inflicted.

Let me illustrate this position by supposing a parallel case. We know that in former days the "Ark," and many other "side degrees," were habitually worked in some private lodges; but, I ask, what would be said now should Bro. Yarker rise at a P.G.L. banquet, and publicly announce his intention again to work the old Ark or the Mark Degree in a Craft lodge? I think there can be no doubt that, if he persisted in the assertion of such an intention, the sentence which would be passed upon him by G.L. would not differ materially from that which he has suffered at the hands of the S.G.C.

I must avow that, *to my mind*, this matter of playing fast and loose with Masonic obligations, and declaring that "no subordination is due" to those whom it suits our own private purposes to accuse of "usurpation," is a very serious matter indeed. Granted that our governing body is non-elective, and that it consists of "a small minority of nine men," Bro. Yarker knew all this when he submitted himself to that body; and they were just as much usurpers when he was likely to "become a zealous member" of their Rite as they are now, when they have refused to be guided by his individual opinions. A few weeks ago we were all crying shame upon Russia for her faithlessness in repudiating solemn engagements at the first moment that it suited her personal interest to do so. But what difference is there between her conduct and that of *any* brother (whether at Bath or at Manchester), who, after having entered into solemn engagements, in order to obtain a certain Masonic rank, or the possession of real or imaginary secrets, or some other advantage best known to himself, is, nevertheless, ready, the moment he finds his opinions differing from those of others (who, after all, may *possibly* be as well qualified judges as himself), to abjure, *propria motu*, the most sacred obligations; and to ignore the truth which he was taught on first receiving "the Light"—namely, that a Mason's honour is inseparable from fidelity and obedience.

P. H. NEWNHAM, 30°.

"A COWAN."

In response to Bro. W. Carpenter's interesting communication on the word "Cowan," I will not lose sight of the subject, and hope before long to write a few lines thereon.

Permit me, however, to say that I know no one better qualified to speak on the subject than Bro. Carpenter himself, and I feel sure it is only owing to his being of such a retiring disposition that he has refrained from speaking more fully and positively on the subject.

His connection with the literary world for at least half a century, and the knowledge that he has of the mysteries of the Craft, both *ancient* and *modern*, would warrant us, I feel certain, in receiving with every

attention, not only his "crude ideas," but also his *mature thoughts* on the subject.

W. JAMES HUGHAN.

MASONIC WRITERS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

May I be permitted to remind the brethren who write any time to object to the statements made by several writers in THE FREEMASON, that we simply communicate our information (often obtained after considerable labour, and frequently at no slight cost) for the benefit of the Craft universal, without any pecuniary fee or reward; and that therefore we, who thus write, are as anxious to *receive* light as those can possibly be to whom we wish to *give* light. Hence, their objections should be supported by *facts*, and not offered in an unruly or ungentlemanly manner. I must say that unless such is the case I shall not trouble to attempt to aid or advance the literature of the Craft; and although my withdrawal may be of little consequence, as it will for certain lead others to do likewise the fact will then be of consequence.

BETA.

MASONIC RIVALRY IN GLASGOW.

There has been a great struggle going on for long among several of our Scottish lodges for precedence in regard to their antiquity, while the wonderful discoveries that are sometimes made are often rather curious. One of the latest—which, however, requires further explanation—is in reference to the Glasgow St. Mungo Lodge, No. 27, and its new date of "1051." On looking over the list of Scottish lodges for years back, I find the date of St. Mungo Lodge given as "1729." Yet, shortly since I was shown a large and gorgeously-painted silk banner, with the inscription in large gold letters upon it, "Glasgow Lodge St. Mungo, 27, A.D. 1051." This date therefore of the St. Mungo Lodge throws the St. John's, with its "Malcolm Canmore" fraternity and pretended "813th Anniversary," completely in the shade; for does not 1051 carry us back to the classical times of the immortal Macbeth? What next? However, pray tell us all about it.

L.

THE APAMEAN MEDAL.

I must apologise to Bro. Craig, at page 688, December, 31st, for being so long in replying to his query, but three things kept me back: I had to wait until the other notes I forwarded had their turn to appear; I had not a copy of Hugh Miller's work beside me, and I was engaged otherwise. However, I have now seen the "Testimony of the Rocks," page 283, where the engraving of this old medal occurs, as also "Calmet's Dictionary," which I have, and in which, under "Ark," a similar print appears, only a little smaller, and I have now great pleasure in stating what I think about it.

This medal shows us Noah and his wife in two different situations; first, in point of time, we see them seated within the ark, which is floating upon the water; then we see them after leaving the ark, and walking away from it. In this latter we perceive that Noah and his wife have their *right* hands elevated in token of adoration and thankfulness to God for his mercy in saving them. This position was quite common as a posture of prayer, &c. Ps. cxli., 2: "And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice;" and 1 Tim. ii., and 8: "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands." Prov. i., 24: "Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand and

no man regarded." Then in Isaiah ix., 12 and 17, we find the stretching out of the hand alluded to as a symbol of entreaty and mercy. Then Gen. xiv. 22: "I have lift up mine hand to the Lord." The appearance of both the man and the woman is similar, and quite in keeping with their circumstances. Both are simply shown as walking, while the left hand of the man resting on his stomach, or above his girdle, has no more connection with Freemasonry than any other portion of the sketch, and I must say that to fancy that the artist who executed this had any thought of Freemasonry in his head at the time, is, in my opinion, purely imaginary; only I am ready to admit that Bros. Desaguliers and Anderson got a number of their ideas from subjects similar to this when they manufactured our present system. There is nothing mysterious in up and transmogrifying old stones into a new building.

W. P. BUCHAN

P.S.—In connection with this I would respectfully request Bro. Craig to read and think over my quotations at page 42 of last week's FREEMASON, from the old Burgh Records of Aberdeen, especially under date 1530; and after doing so, it strikes me he will get "more light," in a manner which may be useful to him in his future Masonic readings.

W. P. B.

At a meeting of a Lodge of Emergency for the purpose of an initiation and passing, the other evening, the S.W. and J.W. were both absent. The W.M. directed the I.P.M. to take one chair, and one of the P.M.'s the other, and one P.M. the I.P.M.'s collars, there being several junior M.M.'s in office capable and anxious of an opportunity of filling those chairs. The question afterwards arose as to "there being a right on the part of the P.M.'s to claim to fill those chairs," or if the junior officers (at the discretion of the Master) might not rightly fill them for the evening? An answer in your valuable paper will much oblige,

A SUBSCRIBER.

[The W.M. has the absolute right to nominate in such instances.—ED. F.]

Original Correspondence.

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

QUALIFICATIONS OF VISITORS TO LODGES.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR,—Having had considerable experience in the above subject, I think I can answer "An Old P.M." in a tolerably satisfactory manner.

1st. Should a perfect stranger present himself for admission to a lodge, my custom has been, for the last twenty years or more, and it is derived from very old and experienced Masons, on the I.G. announcing that there is a stranger in the porch seek for admission, to send out the Deacons or two trustworthy brethren to examine him in the three degrees, and also his G.L. certificate, or any other he may have; at the same time I would not reject a brother *entirely*, unless I felt convinced he was an impostor, as I have known instances where men have been entered, passed, and raised in a lodge in the colonies, and have not entered a lodge for a considerable time afterwards, when words and signs have been forgotten and no G.L. certificate may ever have been given to the brother. I know an instance of this, when a brother wished for admittance to a lodge but could not pass himself in, and was very nearly rejected, but an old experienced brother came out, and after putting a number of questions to him, felt convinced that he could not have known what he did had he not been legally entered, passed and raised, but of course this required great caution and care. This brother rose eventually very high in the Order, and held very prominent offices; had he been rejected, the Order might have been deprived of a very useful member.

2nd. With respect to vouchers, the only way they

can be relied on is, when a brother in the lodge can "vouch" that he has previously sat in lodge with the visitor who presents himself, or that some other well-known brother has "vouched" to him that the visitor has sat in lodge with him.

It is certainly necessary to exercise every caution in admitting a perfect stranger, but at the same time a certain amount of discretion may be used; for a very worthy brother may be rejected, and perhaps annoyed and disgusted, and never attempt to enter a lodge again. What I have written is entirely from practice and experience, and I don't think I ever remember an instance where this test has not proved satisfactory. I may say that in one lodge where I was W.M. and P.M., in the neighbourhood of a large garrison town and camp, we had an immense number of strangers presenting themselves of all sorts and denominations, when we were, of course, obliged to be very particular, and though a few were rejected most were admitted. The Book of Constitutions (page 89) recommends due examination, but says very little on the subject.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

F. B.,

An old P.M. and P.G.M.

BRO. LITTLE AND THE "TESTIMONIAL."

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

VERY DEAR BROTHER,—I am delighted to know that Bro. Robert Wentworth Little's worth is to be recognised in a tangible form. We have all been familiar with him as a most energetic, zealous and learned Mason; and, what is more, London Masons are not the only brethren who are aware of Brother Little's great exertions on behalf of the Craft, for his fame is known throughout the length and breadth of the land, and as many of the articles from his gifted pen have been anonymous, we make bold to say that even where his name has not been heard, his admirable articles have been read and appreciated most heartily. In fact we know *such is the case*, as we have had letters on the subject from brethren who have acknowledged the excellence of Brother Little's writings, to whom the talented brother was unknown, but who, however, "gave honour where honour was due."

I beg, Bro. Editor, to unite my feeble testimony to the most fraternal communication of Bro. James Weaver, in THE FREEMASON of to-day. I support every word of that letter, and believe Bro. Little to be all and even more than Bro. Weaver says; and I feel sure that the worthy Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretaries will receive a ready response to their appeal.

Fraternally yours,

W. JAMES HUGHAN,

Prov. G. Sec. Cornwall.

Truro, 21st Jan., 1871.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Fully coinciding as I do in the sentiments so ably expressed by Bro. Weaver in THE FREEMASON last week, I am sure my motives in now addressing you will not be misunderstood when I say that the advertisement signed by Bros. Moss and Levander has in some respects caused considerable surprise to a large section of the Craft. I do not for a moment question their good intentions, which are sufficiently evident; but I may be permitted to suggest that it would have been more in accordance with the feelings of Bro. Little's Masonic friends if a general meeting had been called, and an opportunity had been afforded to other brethren who have known Bro. Little for a more lengthened period than have the two above-named Hon. Secretaries, to take an active part in initiating a testimonial in his honour.

At such a meeting the officers could, have been chosen, and thus what now appears to be a self-elected status, would have been avoided, while many would have been greatly pleased to originate lists of subscriptions in their own immediate circles. I merely throw this out as a hint, and to remove impressions which seem to prevail; and will simply add that our esteemed Bro. Brett is giving practical effect to a similar idea by making a goodly collection on his own account, and I am sure he will receive the hearty support of very many metropolitan Masons.

I will also mention that at the last meeting of the Plantagenet Conclave, Bros. Major Finney, J. L. Thomas, Finney, jun., Cubitt, Dr. Ward, and others mooted the question of a testimonial to Bro. Little.

Dr. Ward and myself were asked to act as Secretaries, but we did not consider ourselves of sufficient weight and influence in the Craft to carry out so desirable and important an object, but thought it would be much better to call a meeting of Bro. Little's friends. On the following Saturday, with much surprise, I read the advertisement in THE FREEMASON.

I have since received a note from Bro. Moss asking me to be one of a committee. I have not yet replied to his note, as I await an opportunity of consulting the brethren connected with the movement to which I have referred.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

JOHN BOYD.

P.M. 145 and P.Z. 145.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I was highly pleased to see the advertisement in your last issue informing the brethren that a testimonial was being "got up" for presentation to my esteemed and valued friend Bro. Little. I feel confident that the time has arrived when it would be a great injustice not to recognise in some public manner the many services he has rendered to our Order; and the object of my writing to you, is to suggest that a Committee be at once formed for the purpose of receiving subscriptions from the brethren who know and esteem him so highly, and that such Committee should include one of the Grand Officers of the province of Middlesex, of which Bro. Little is the first Prov. G. Secretary, and in the formation of which he has done so much.

Yours fraternally,

A PROVINCIAL BROTHER.

Our valuable contemporary the *Era* thus alludes to the "Wentworth Little Testimonial":—

"BRO. ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE.

"Following the example set in the cases of Bros. H. Muggeridge and James Brett, the brethren have resolved to give a proof of their recognition of Bro. Little's services to Freemasonry by presenting him with a testimonial. The services of Bro. Little, it should, however, be understood, are of a different character to those rendered by Bros. Muggeridge and Brett. These brethren, as the present representatives of the instructors in Freemasonry, have rendered invaluable assistance to the Craft in communicating the knowledge of the forms and rituals which make a perfect officer of a lodge or chapter; and consequently have exercised great influence over the spread of Masonry, and made it more attractive by the accuracy with which the ceremonies are performed when new members are added to the Order. Their labours have therefore been rewarded in a most liberal and handsome manner, and with a due regard to the value of their works. Bro. Little, however, though as perfect as they in his knowledge of lodge and chapter ritual, has devoted much of his time and attention in another direction. With him it has been a duty to pursue antiquarian researches after the history of Freemasonry, and to remove the dust and rubbish which, in a long succession of centuries, have naturally accumulated on the original fabric of the mystic art. To present it in its purity, undeformed by modern so-called improvements in the structure, to strip it of all 'meretricious graces' on the one hand, and to restore it 'majestic in its own simplicity' on the other, has been his end and aim; and while the services of Bros. Muggeridge and Brett were justly recognised as invaluable to the Craft, those of Bro. Little, in a higher and more eminent degree (seeking after knowledge "as silver and searching for her as for hidden treasure"), merit an ample and substantial reward at the hands of his brethren. The movement has met with cordial approval among the leaders of the fraternity, and Bro. Colonel Burdett, P.G.M. for Middlesex, and Bra. John Hervey, G.S., have accepted the offices, respectively, of Chairman and Treasurer of the Fund.

"OUR AMERICAN CONTEMPORARIES.

BY BRO. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

In the interesting article with the above heading in THE FREEMASON for January 14th you omit a magazine which I think one of the best published in the Masonic world, viz., *The Masonic Monthly* (Theop. G. Wadman, Boston, U.S.).

It is just probable it may not be sent you in exchange, and if it is not, it ought to be. The omission would be at once remedied by Bro. Wadman's attention being called to the fact; and, on the other hand, if you do receive it, I know well the leaving it from your admirable sketch was an oversight. "Our American Con-

temporaries," and such like articles, are desirable features in THE FREEMASON, and remind us, like the "Masonic Calendar," that Freemasonry is *cosmopolitan*. I send you an account of the Temple just erecting in Manchester, New Hampshire. The old structure was burnt, but the Craft in that country soon determined to repair that loss.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The Monthly Meeting of the Committee of this Institution was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Thursday, the 26th inst., Bro. J. A. Rucker in the chair.

The minutes of the last General Committee were read and confirmed, and the minutes of the last Quarterly General Court and the House Committee were read. The medical officer's allowance was increased from £25 to £40 a year, in consequence of the great increase of work. Also a notice was given to present him with a gratuity of one hundred guineas for his great exertions during the recent heavy sickness at the school. The subject will be brought before the next Quarterly Meeting.

One petition was received.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the meeting.

Masonic Miscellanea.

A GRAND Masonic assembly is to be held at Aberdeen early next month, which we have no doubt will be the means of bringing the members of the various lodges together, and have a fine fraternal effect.

THE "Stockwell" Lodge, No. 1339, will be consecrated on Thursday, the 2nd proximo (by Brother R. Wentworth Little, G. Sec. Middlesex), at the Duke of Edinburgh, Stockwell, at 5.

WE are glad to see that Bro. Dr. Jones, of Asparria, Cumberland, has been presented with a purse of gold in recognition of his musical talents, and more especially for his services in connection with the church choir.

A GRAND Masonic ball, to which the public will be admitted, will be held at Pendleton Town-hall, by united Lodges of Salford, on Thursday, Feb. 2, in aid of the Salford and Pendleton Royal Hospital and Dispensary Funds.

AT the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution Bro. H. G. Buss, of 127, Offord-road, Barnsbury, will represent the Knights of Constantine, and will be happy to receive additions to his list.

A MEETING of the Bective Sanctuary of the Rite of Misraim will be held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, the 31st inst., when the Levitical and other high grades of the Rite will be conferred on brethren in attendance. In order to remove erroneous impressions, it may be as well to state that none of the grades worked in any wise conflict with the degrees worked under the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

WE are informed that the following new conclaves of the Red Cross Order have been, or are about to be, opened:—

- The "United States' Premier," No. 38, at Washington, Pennsylvania.
- No. 39, at Cleveland, Ohio.
- No. 40, at Cincinnati, Ohio.
- No. 41, "St. James's," at Maitland, Ontario.
- No. 42, "St. George's," at Bolton, Lancashire.
- No. 43, "Roman Eagle," at Poona, East Indies.

WE have received some lines on the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows, at Croydon, Surrey, written by the venerable Bro. John Harris, P.M. and P.Z., an inmate of this Institution, and who is now in his 80th year. They are published on a 4to royal sheet, price 2d., and the proceeds arising from their sale will be given to the Royal Masonic Life-Boat Fund. Bro. Harris is now totally blind, but his faculties are evidently as bright, and his zeal for Masonry as unabated, as they were in his younger days.

WE understand that the majority of the copies of "Masonic Sketches and Reprints," by Bro. W. James Hughan, are already subscribed for, and that in all probability there will not be a copy left when the book is ready for issue, early in February. The brethren who have had circulars sent them respecting it should lose no time in applying direct to the author (Truro, Cornwall), or disappointment will be theirs. The first part will be a careful reprint of the "History of Freemasonry in York," which has been exceedingly well received by the press both at home and abroad. The second part, which Bro. Hughan has just completed, will contain "Unpublished Records of the Craft," and valuable appendices, copies of the Harleian MS. (No. 2054) and the Sloane MS. (No. 3323), from the British Museum, and other MSS. never before published. Also extracts from the Records of the extinct Grand Lodge of all England, lately discovered. The work is to be dedicated to the Prov. G.M. of Cornwall, and will be sold on behalf of the Masonic Charities.

CAPITULAR Masonry is spreading in New Zealand, the Grand Chapter of England having recently warranted a new Chapter at Hokitika. Thus is Masonry taking the place of paganism and cannibalism.

It is announced that the Crown Prince of Denmark, who has recently been made a Mason by Charles V., King of Sweden, is to succeed the late M. W. Bro. Bastrup, as the Grand Master of Danish Freemasons.

HUNGARY, where Masonry has been dormant for almost eighty years, through the prohibition of the Austrian Government, is rapidly throwing off its lethargy. The three lodges already established at Pesth, Temesvar and Osdengurg, are said to number fifty members each. The establishment of new lodges at Presburg and Baja is under contemplation, and we hope to be able to announce the formation of a Grand Lodge in Hungary at no distant day.

THE Masonic fraternity in California is enjoying a prosperity unexcelled by any State in the United States, reaping bountiful harvests of blessings innumerable; numbering its hundred and four score lodges, with a membership of nearly ten thousand; with a magnificent temple, at once the pride of the Order and of the city in which it is located; with a Grand Lodge fund of twenty thousand dollars; with private lodge funds and halls all over the State of millions of dollars value; with a membership of the first citizens of the State for wealth, wisdom and social and moral standing. On its trestleboard is laid out a plan for a Masonic Home for Masons in distress.

ROYAL ARCH.

On Thursday, 26th January, a meeting of the Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73, was held at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark. Present: Comps. J. W. Avery, M.E.Z.; T. J. Sabine, H.; F. Walters, P.Z., as J.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.Z., Treas.; M. E. Loewenstark, S.E.; J. T. Moss, P.S.; E. Harris, 1st A.S.; &c. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Comps. T. J. Sabine, M.E.Z.; J. Trickett, C.E., H.; M. A. Loewenstark, J.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.Z., re-elected Treas.; W. Roebuck, C.E., S.E.; T. J. Moss, S.N.; and E. Harris, P.S. Comps. Shalless, Stedman, and Timms were elected Auditors. It was carried unanimously that a five-guinea P.Z.'s jewel be presented to Comp. J. W. Avery, M.E.Z., for his efficient services during his year of office. Comp. T. J. Sabine, M.E.Z.-elect, represents the chapter as its Steward for the Boys' School at the next festival in March. The chapter was then duly closed. No visitors were present.

INSTRUCTION.

The usual weekly meeting of the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, was held on Wednesday last, the 18th inst., at Bro. Foster's, Railway Tavern. Bro. C. C. Taylor on the chair. Bro. Maud, S.W.; Bro. Felton, J.W. and Sec.; Bro. Gotthiel, S.D. and P.M. and Bro. M. Davis, I.G., and several other brethren. After the minutes were read and confirmed, and the third degree ably worked by the W.M., as also, the 1st and 2nd sections of this lecture by Bro. Gotthiel, the following propositions were carried unanimously:—Bro. C. C. Taylor, elected as Treasurer; Bro. T. F. Felton, re-elected as Secretary; Gotthiel, P.M. elected Preceptor; Bro. Eltham, (Priory Lodge, No. 1000) elected joining member, it was also deemed necessary in the interest of the lodge to alter the time of meeting from seven to half-past seven o'clock, and to close at half-past nine instead of nine o'clock as heretofore.

MASONIC BALL AT LIVERPOOL.

This, one of the principal provincial balls of the season was held on Tuesday the 10th inst., in the Town-hall, and was attended, by between 500 and 600. This was all the more gratifying, as the object for which this annual *reunion* is held is a charitable one—namely, providing funds for the education of the orphan children of deceased brethren in West Lancashire who have been left unprovided for. We understand that upwards of forty such orphans are now being educated in this way in different schools in the kingdom, and the funds which are annually derived from these gatherings form a very handsome nucleus for that purpose. Thus it will be seen that those of the brethren, together with their uninitiated friends—including, of course, the Lancashire witches, who, however ardently they may desire to pry into the mysteries of Freemasonry, are unable to have their wishes gratified—have a double motive to serve in attending the Masonic Ball—namely, that of deriving pleasure themselves and of conferring material benefit upon others. Two more powerful motives cannot operate in the minds of those who desire to enjoy the sweets of life to their fullest, and hence is to be attributed the large attendances at the annual festivities. Next to a fancy dress gathering, nothing is so picturesque as the scene which a Masonic ball-room presents—the elaborate costumes and costly paraphernalia of the brethren vying in splendour with the elegant dresses of the ladies, which may be said to include more colours than are to be found in a rainbow. Indeed, nothing so nearly approaches a fancy dress ball as a full dress gathering of the Masonic body; for among the number are brethren who rejoice in the dignity of "Knights Templar," whose cloaks of many colours, with devices of every conceivable kind, conspicuous among the number being the red cross, hide completely the regulation broadcloth dress coat and give their wearers rather a romantic appearance. Then, again, the gold-edged collars and cuffs, the crimson scarfs, the white aprons, and the adornments of other members of the craft, impart a very novel aspect to the ball; while Scotch brethren, in their kilts, and military and naval men, in their uniforms, add to the *tout ensemble*. Thus it becomes almost difficult in contrasting a fancy dress ball with that of the Craft to say where the one ends and the other begins. The company at the Town-hall included the merest tyro in the mystic art, as well as those who had reached the thirty-second degree. Although the Tylers stationed at the bottom of the staircase had not very warlike countenances, their drawn swords were sufficient to strike terror into the hearts of any who had come upon other than pleasureable motives bent. The party began to assemble at half-past eight o'clock, and continued arriving until midnight. The two ball-rooms were fully occupied by dancers up to an early hour and nothing that could contribute to the terpsichorean delights was left unprovided. The excellent music discoursed by Bro. G. W. Phillip's band appreciated by those who stood up in the dances, while the few who lounged upon the cushions and settees seemed to revel in the combination of sweet sounds, and to be bewildered by the rapid movements of the dancers as they flitted to and fro like so many objects in a kaleidoscope. Although the two rooms were crowded, the space was so utilised as to prevent unpleasant collisions; and this was in no small degree due to the admirable tact which that redoubtable master of his art, Bro. Molyneux, displayed in conducting the ceremonies. At eleven o'clock the supper-room was thrown open, and for the next two hours Bro. William Vines, of the Canton, was engaged in attending to the creature comforts of the party, which, with the aid of an admirably selected and well-stocked *cuisine*, he was able most successfully to do. The list of dances, included four polkas, six quadrilles, four gallops, four lancers, four waltzes, and two schottische.

THEATRICAL.

OLYMPIC.—During the past week Mr. A. Halliday's "Nell," has been performed here to crowded houses—followed by "Paul and Virginia," which most satisfactorily finishes the evening's amusement. All the pieces meet with a good reception nightly and are well appreciated.

ROYALTY.—At this house has been acted "Diamond cut Diamond," then "Dora's Device," the program... concluding with the burlesque of "Whittington Junior and his Sensation Cat," to numerous audiences who testify their approbation of all the pieces produced. We can recommend this theatre to all who may wish to enjoy a good evening's entertainment.

SADLER'S WELLS.—It is sufficient to observe that Mr. Pennington still appears at this house, to ensure the attendance of all those who appreciate his talents as an actor, in "Richard the Third," "Merchant of Venice" and "Virginius." The concluding piece is the pantomime "Sinbad the Sailor."

SCOTLAND.

THE CRAFT.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. LOGIE AT DUNDEE.

The Operative Lodge, No. 47, met on Wednesday evening, the 18th inst., Bro. Longmuir, R.W.M., occupying the chair. The R.W.M. was accompanied by Bros. Alexander Kelt, R.W.M. 49; Jas. Berry, R.W.M. 78; William Gelletly, R.W.M. 158; George F. Roger, R.W.M. 225; and Past Masters Logie, Stratton, Robertson, Cowie, and Depute Masters Brew, Smyth, and M^cGregor. Bro. Henry, S.W.; and Bro. Wilson, J.W.

The lodge having been opened by the R.W.M. in due and ancient form, he intimated the meeting to be a special one called for the purpose of presenting Bro. Logie, the I.P.M., with a gold watch and appendages as a token of respect and in return for the eminent services rendered to the lodge. The lodge having been put under the charge of the Junior Warden, supper was thereafter served by the Stewards, which finished and duly charged, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts duly pledged and responded to, the R.W. Master called upon Worshipful Past Master Stratton to make the presentation.

Bro. Stratton then said: Right Worshipful Sir, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, and brethren—I must say that I would have preferred the duty which you, Worshipful Master, desire me to do—namely, to propose the health of your respected predecessor and to make this presentation—had been undertaken by yourself. As you and the brethren of the lodge think otherwise, I have to thank you for the honour thus conferred on me, and I will now do so with great pleasure. This, Worshipful Master, has been the third testimonial made in this lodge during the past twenty-one years, and though presentations are now too common, this one is an exception, and is alike honourable to you in proposing it as it is to Bro. Logie, now about to receive it. I had the honour of being Master of this lodge when Bro. Logie joined, now about thirteen years ago, and during this long period of years Bro. Logie has been but one year out of office, and that one when ill with fever. Step by step—Deacon, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, Depute Master, and then Master (and I have always held that rising step by step is for the prosperity of lodges). Bro. Logie, therefore, in his quiet, unostentatious manner, having filled all the offices of the lodge, and as he has done a deal for the lodge, is well entitled to this testimonial; and I am glad to hear your subscriptions to it have been heartily given, and must therefore redound to the credit of you, Bro. Logie; and (turning to Bro. Logie) I have now much pleasure in handing to you this handsome testimonial, and I have no doubt you will look upon it as such. I wish you long life to wear it—a wish reciprocated by all the members of 47; and before I sit down I desire to say to you, young members of the lodge that this presentation and this happy meeting ought to stimulate you in your duty to your mother lodge.

Bro. Logie: Worshipful Master, Past Masters, Wardens, and brethren, I don't think that I ever rose with the idea of less to say than I can now. If I fail in properly thanking you all, I know you will excuse me. I have, as Bro. Stratton has said, held all the offices in the lodge, and, specially, that of Master, now for four years; and I am glad you are all pleased with the services rendered. I have never studied to add largely to the lodge—quality, not quantity, has been my aim. I now wish to thank you sincerely for this handsome present. I appreciate the gift very much. I can only say it will never be parted with by me as long as I live, and though a bachelor, I do trust it may descend to a worthy member of the Craft.

The following toasts were then given: "Sister Lodges," "Success to 47," "Provost and Council of Dundee," "Harbour Trust," "Town and Trade of Dundee," "The Cause of Education," and the toast of "The Master," when the Junior Warden called the lodge again to labour, and thereafter the R.W.M. closed the lodge.

EDINBURGH.—*St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 48.*—A meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall. The lodge was opened by Bro. C. F. Matier, W. Depute Master, assisted by Bro. Dr. Hammond, S.W.; Bro. William Hay, P.M., as J.W.; and several other brethren. A petition was presented from Mr. W. C. Gilles, and being found regular, he was balloted for and unanimously elected. The candidate being in attendance was then admitted and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry by Bro. Matier. The ceremony was performed with the utmost solemnity, and was deeply impressing to the candidate. No further business being brought forward, the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren afterwards sat down to a substantial

supper, to which they did ample justice. Bro. Dr. Loth, R.W.M., was in the chair, supported by Bros. Dr. Carmichael, P.M., and Matier, D.M. Bro. Mackersey, P.M., acted as croupier. The only toasts were "The Queen," "The R.W.M.," and "The Newly-initiated Candidate." The brethren separated at an early hour.

Rifle Lodge, No. 405.—On Tuesday, the 17th inst., an interesting ceremony took place at this lodge, which was the presentation of a very handsome jewel to Bro. W. M. Bryce, 30°, Treasurer. The jewel had been especially made for the purpose, and was the gift of Bro. Captain Gordon, 30°, R.W.M. of St. Ternan's Lodge, who was, unfortunately, unable to be present, and had deputed Bro. C. F. Matier, 30°, G.S., to present it in open lodge. Bro. Matier, after a few appropriate remarks, affixed the jewel to Bro. Bryce's breast, and trusted he would be long spared to wear it.—In reply, Bro. Bryce expressed his high appreciation of the kindness of Captain Gordon, and assured the brethren generally of his desire to do all that lay in his power to promote the interests of the Craft.

ABERDEEN.—*St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 93.*—A special meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, on the 16th inst., for the purpose of initiating Signor Guglielmo, the composer of "The Lover and the Bird," and other popular ballads. The chair was taken by Bro. E. Savage, P.M., 30°, assisted by Bros. Forrest, P.M., as S.W., and Milne, as J.W. We also observed present: Bros. C. Fitzgerald Matier, P.M., 30°; Captain Gordon, W.M. St. Ternan's, 30°; Captain Crombie, W.M. St. Machar's; and many others. The first degree was given in the best possible style by Bro. Savage. The chair was then taken by Bro. C. F. Matier, and the lodge being raised to the second degree, two candidates were passed Fellow-Crafts. Bro. Matier then raised the lodge to the third degree, and gave the first portion of the ceremony in his usual excellent manner to three brethren. Bro. Savage gave the second part, and there being no further business, the lodge was closed in due form, with solemn prayer. We are exceedingly pleased to have had an opportunity of visiting the brethren in Aberdeen, and of testifying to the excellence of their work, which puts many a London lodge to the blush. We have never seen it equalled, except in East Lancashire and West Yorkshire. This shows the fallacy of the popular idea that Masonry is very loose in Scotland. We advise those who think so to go for a short time to the North, and visit the "Granite City."

MARK MASONRY.

CONSECRATION OF THE CALLENDER LODGE OF MARK MASTERS, No. 123, E.C.

This new lodge was opened in the Town Hall, Bury, Lancashire, on the 13th inst., by Bro. Thos. Hargreaves, W.M. of the Blair Lodge, No. 113, E.C., Haslingden, in due form with solemn prayer; Bros. Lawrence Booth acting as S.V. and J. M. Whitehead as J.W. The following brethren were then advanced to the degree of Mark Master, according to ancient custom, by Bro. Wm. Romaine Callender, jun., R.W.P.G.M.M. of Lancashire—viz.: Bros. James Kenyon, James Shaw, and John Randle Fletcher. The R.W.P.G.M.M. then called upon the P.G. Sec. to read the warrant from the M.W.G.M.M., after which, Bro. W. O. Walker, the W.M.-designate, petitioned the R.W.P.G.M.M. to consecrate and constitute the lodge as the Callender Lodge, No. 123, E.C.

The R.W.P.G.M.M., in accordance with the petition of the brethren, proceeded to consecrate the lodge, assisted by the following P.G. Officers:—Bros. J. M. Wike, P.G.J.W., as P.G. Chaplain; John Tunnah, P.G.S.O.; John Chadwick, P.G. Sec.; John Duffield, P.G. Reg. of Wks.; W. Roberts, P.G.S.D.; Thos. Hargreaves, P.G.J.D.; S. Titmas, P.G.E.C.; Thomas Ashworth, P.G.A.D.C.; W. H. Prince, P.G. Swd. B.; L. Booth, P.G. Stand. B.; John Fothergill, E. Hartley, and Amos Stott, P.G. Stewards; and W. Walker, P.G.I.G. On the completion of the ceremony of consecration, Bro. W. O. Walker's assent was required to the ancient charges. The brethren beneath the rank of Installed Master were requested to retire, and the W.M.-designate was installed, according to ancient custom, by Bro. W. Roberts. The brethren were readmitted, and having duly saluted their new W.M., he proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Bros. Lawrence Booth, P.M. 191, S.W.; John Mitre Whitehead, P.M. 1012, J.W.; Joseph Handley, P.M. 191, M.O.; Andrew Milne, P.M. 191, S.O.; Frank Dawson, P.M. 191, J.O.; James William Kenyon, P.M. 42, Chaplain; Thomas Crompton, P.M. 191, Treasurer; Henry Maiden, P.M. 191, Secretary; Frederick Crompton, J.W. 191, Registrar of Murks; John Halliwell, S.W. 1012, S.D.; William Handley, W.M. 1012, J.D.; Captain Watson, Past Warden 1174, Dir. of Cers.;

John Randle Fletcher, Organist 191, Organist; Samuel Bailey, S.W. 191, and William Balmer, Sec. 191, Stewards; George O'Neil, I.G. 1012, I.G.; Ingham, Sec. 42, Tyler. The Provincial officers then retired, and the lodge was closed in ancient form, with solemn prayer, by the W.M.

The brethren then sat down to a banquet, provided by Bro. W. Handley, of the Derby Hotel, Bury, in his usual *recherché* style. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and received in a most enthusiastic manner. The enjoyment of the evening was essentially contributed to by a most efficient glee party, consisting of Bros. Bailey, Dumville, Edmondson, and Wroe, accompanied by Bro. J. R. Fletcher.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF MARK MASTERS.

The quarterly meeting of the Ashton United Lodge of Mark Masters was held recently at the Astley Arms Inn at Dukinfield, Ashton-under-Lyne. There was rather a poor attendance of brethren. The lodge was opened by Bro. John G. Whitehead, W.M. Bro. Thomas Hargreaves, W.M. Blair, 113, Prov. J.G.D. Lancashire, being the only visitor. The minutes of the last regular lodge were read and confirmed.

At the last quarterly meeting held in October, at the Pitt and Nelson Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bros. W. R. Callender and Hargreaves being present, it was resolved to form a committee to look into the accounts of the late deceased Secretary and report to next lodge. They were also empowered to report to next lodge upon the advisability of joining the Grand Mark Lodge of England.

The Secretary read the report, which was as follows:—"The committee who were appointed at the last meeting have met several times, but are not prepared to report upon the accounts of the late Secretary until next lodge. They have taken into consideration the desirability of joining the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and have come to the conclusion that, if the Mark Masters of the Ashton district were to amalgamate with the Grand Lodge, it would impose upon the brethren extra contributions, which the majority would not be willing to pay, as they would not gain any privileges they have not at present, except uniformity of working and visiting the lodges under the jurisdiction of the G. Lodge, which very few would avail themselves of. They also believe that it would be a serious disadvantage to the members of the Funeral Fund, although it would not be interfered with by G. Lodge."

The W.M. read a letter he had received from Bro. Binckes, assuring them that the Funeral Fund would not be touched in any way. He (the W.M.) was sorry there were so few present. He wished that the matter might have been thoroughly discussed. Would any of the brethren express their opinions? The obstacle in the way of fees payable to Grand Lodge would prove very great; and another fear was that of introducing a third element, as there would be a few dissentients from the movement. There were already two elements—members and non-members of the Funeral Fund.

The S.W. moved, and the J.D. seconded, that the report be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. Thomas Hargreaves did not wish the brethren to think that he had come there to dictate to them, and to tell them what to do and what not to do. He hoped the brethren would thoroughly disabuse their minds of any such opinions; he would be the last to introduce any dissension into the lodge, or to cause a break in its harmony. He would simply say what he in their case would do; and before the W.M. put the motion to the meeting he expected by arguments and plain facts to induce some of the brethren to propose an amendment. It would not be advisable, from the small number of members present, to decide the question one way or another. It was a momentous question, and one not to be settled without due deliberation. The Mark Degree, to his certain knowledge, was worked in Lancashire in four different ways, and each party so working maintained that theirs was the correct ceremony. All could not be correct, and the question then arose—Which was the correct ceremony? A solution of that difficulty could only be arrived at by the brethren visiting the different lodges and seeing the working. If they did so, he felt sure they would think as he did: that the ceremony as authorised by the G. Lodge of England was the only correct one. And he asked them, as Masons and as men of common sense, if they found that their working was wrong, would they not correct it at once? Most decidedly. Now, he should ask them to adjourn the debate until next lodge; and in the meantime the brethren would have an opportunity of visiting the Blair Mark Lodge, at Haslingden, and the Union Mark Lodge, at Manchester, to both of which he most cordially invited them. For all the brethren who might visit either of those lodges, he felt convinced, if present at the

next meeting, would vote for amalgamation with G. Lodge. The W.M. has said there were already two elements in the lodge, and it would be injudicious to introduce a third. He thought differently: that by amalgamation it would have a tendency to bring the two former elements into closer contact, and to place them all upon one common level.

Bro. Stafford and others protested against receiving the report.

A Brother did not think the working ever had been correct, as during his membership he had seen it changed two or three times.

Bro. Walker proposed as an amendment, and Bro. Stafford seconded, that the report stand over until next meeting, which was carried.

Bros. David Radcliffe (Milton, 1144) and George Burton (Unanimity, 89) were advanced to the degree of Mark Master. Several brethren were admitted members of the Funeral Fund, and others proposed. Bro. James Pollitt (W.M. Milton, 1144), on behalf of that lodge, wished to be incorporated with this Mark lodge. It was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Business being finished, the lodge was closed.

ROYAL ARK MASONRY.

An influential preliminary meeting of members of the Royal Ark Mariners' degree was held at the Lyceum Tavern on the evening of Monday, the 16th inst., when a Lodge of Instruction was opened, Bro. James Stevens, of St. Mark's Lodge, presiding as Commander N. The ceremony of elevation was rehearsed in a most satisfactory manner, Bro. Harris acting as J. and Bro. Lowder as S.

It was resolved that the next meeting be held on Monday, the 23rd inst., and then to found the Lodge of Instruction; all members of the degree present on that occasion to be recognised as founders of the lodge, without payment of the entrance fee. A vote of thanks was passed unanimously to Bro. Stevens for the efficient and impressive manner in which he had rendered the beautiful ceremony of this ancient degree; and it was also resolved that he be requested to occupy the chair of N. on the next occasion. Among those present were Bros. M. Edwards, Hammerton, Loewenstark, &c. Bro. M. A. Loewenstark is the Scribe (*pro tem*).

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

WILLIAM DE IRWIN CHAPTER, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

The William de Irwin Chapter of Sov. Princes of Rose Croix held their first meeting (after reception of warrant from Supreme Grand Council, for the chapter has during the past year been worked under a dispensation) on Thursday, the 12th inst., in the Weston-super-Mare Masonic Rooms, which had been tastefully and correctly fitted up by E. and P.P. Cox. The following E. and P.P.'s were present at the opening of the chapter, which had been called for an early hour in order to suit the convenience of visitors:—Ill. F. G. Irwin, 31°, M.W.S.; Ill. General Munbee, 30°, Sen. General; Capt. Townsend, Jun. General; E. T. Inskip, Treasurer; Benj. Cox, Registrar; Fredk. Vizard, Raphael; Ill. — Davis, 30°, Grand Marshal; F. Clarke, Captain of the Guard; Matthias and Jones, Heralds.

The chapter having been opened in due form, the following brethren, members of the Weston-super-Mare Craft lodge and R.A. chapter, were balloted for and unanimously elected, viz., Major John Walter Vizard, Alfred William Butter, and Wm. Thomas Male, the latter by dispensation as a serving brother. The candidates having been prepared and entrusted, were perfected and advanced to the degree of Sov. Prince Rose Croix of H.R.D.M., the ceremony being rendered in that impressive and correct manner for which this young chapter has frequently been commended by the Supreme Grand Commander of the Order. We particularly noted the working of E. and P.P. Vizard as R., Davis as Gd. M., and Townsend as H.P.

At the close of the second point, the M.W.S. expressed his regret at the absence of the Sov. Gd. Commander, the Ill. Bro. Vigne, and said he was quite sure the E. and P.P.'s would regret it still more when they learned that illness alone prevented his attending the chapter that evening. The M.W.S. proceeded to say that Bro. Vigne had presented for the use of the chapter a handsome alms-bag, and he was quite sure the members would value it still more highly when he told them it was worked expressly for the chapter (as the monogram would show) by the fair hands of their Supreme Grand Commander's daughter.

The thanks of the chapter were voted to Miss Vigne for her handsome gift.

The M.W.S. announced that the Supreme Grand Council had been pleased to confirm their charter and present them with a regular warrant, which he read, and afterwards said he was quite sure the members of the De Irwin chapter would continue to deserve the high opinion formed of them by the Supreme Grand Council.

E. and P. Bro. Inskip was unanimously elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The M.W.S. then proceeded to appoint his officers as follows: Ill. E. and P.P. Munbee, S. Genl.; E. and P.P.'s Clarke, J. General; Townsend, High Prelate; Cox, Registrar; F. Vizard, Raphael; Davis, Grand Marshal; Major Vizard, Capt. of the Guard; Matthias and Jones, Heralds; and Perfect Brother Male, Outer Guard.

The Most Wise Sovereign next appointed the presiding officers under the Grand Lodge of Perfection, Council of Princes of Jerusalem and Knights of the East and West, as follows:—Ex. and P.P.'s

Cox, Most Powerful Master of the 4°, or Lodge of Secret Masters.

Jones, Right Worshipful Master of the 5°, or Lodge of Perfect Masters.

Butler, Most Illustrious Master, 6°, or Lodge of Intimate Secretary.

Matthias, Thrice Illustrious Master, 7°, or Lodge of Provost and Judge.

Wiltshire, Thrice Potent Master, 8°, or Lodge of Intendant of Buildings.

Taylor, Commander, 9°, or Lodge of Elect of Nine.

Major Vizard, Ill. Commander, 10°, or Lodge of Elect of Fifteen.

Pigott, Thrice Ill. Commander, 11°, or Chapter of Sublime Knights Elected.

Davis, Most Potent Commander, 12°, or Chapter of Grand Master Architect or Knights of Kilwinning.

Inskip, Grand Master, 13°, or Chapter of Royal Arch of Enoch.

F. Vizard, Thrice Potent Grand Master, 14°, or Chapter of Grand Lodge of Perfection.

Townsend, Sovereign Master, 15°, or Council of Knts. of East and West or Kts. of Red Cross of Babylon.

Clarke, Most Equitable Sov. Master, 16°, or Council of Knights of Princes of Jerusalem.

Munbee, Most Puissant Ven. Master, 17°, or Council of Knights of the East and West.

A communication from Supreme Grand Council was read, and some remarks made relative to the possibility of the suspension of the Bath brethren interfering with their position in the other (so-called) unrecognised degrees. The M.W.S. said it was a subject that could not be entertained in a Rose Croix Chapter.

After a short discussion relative to by-laws and other matters, alms were collected, and after the usual ceremonies the chapter was closed and the members adjourned to dinner, which was served by Bro. Kirkbride, of the York Hotel, in his usual excellent manner. After dinner a most pleasant and instructive evening was spent, the brethren heartily regretting when the M.W.S. and other brethren were forced to leave by train for Bristol.

KING WILLIAM CITED FOR TRIAL.

In compliance with the request of a valued correspondent, we place the following document on record. We have already expressed our opinion on the subject:—

"CIRCULAR FROM THE MASONS OF PARIS.

"Lodge of Henry IV., Grand Orient of France, 16, Rue Cadet, Paris.

"TT. CC. FF.—Encircled by the armies which obey the Sovereign of Prussia, we come to address to you the last cry of distress, and that it may reach you we entrust it to those sublime messengers which Science—that fruitful mother—has taught us to hurl through space, as if to defy the mad efforts of the men of prey, who foolishly suppose that thought can be penned up, subdued, chained, like a criminal in prison.

"Do not imagine, TT. CC. FF., that we ask for physical intervention. The self-denying spirit which animates us, the consciousness we have of defending a right cause, and, permit us to add, our own courage, will enable us, it is our firm hope, to conquer those who have made themselves the detestable instruments of the barbarous theory which dares to assert that *Might may oppress Right*. As you will see by the enclosed document, our sole object is to call for the formation of an impartial Masonic jury, from which we will enquire whether the complaint that we make against Bros. William and Frederick of Hohenzollern—the one King of Prussia and the other Prince Royal—be well founded, yes or no, from a Masonic point of view.

"If you will have the goodness to examine the reasons brought forward by us in support of this request; if, in addition, you admit that they are well founded in right and Masonic ethics, remember, TT. CC. FF., that never has an occasion presented itself where the universal human brotherhood could show its existence and its power in a manner so solemn and so impressive. By constituting itself supreme judge of the great case brought before it, it will show that it does not confine itself to inscribing at the head of its documents the noble device, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," but that it understands that each of the terms of that motto is capable of serious application to all its members without distinction. It will do more: it will open the glorious path, in which the outer world cannot

soon avoid following it, namely, that differences between nations, instead of being decided by brute force, ought to be settled by international arbitration, on principles purely legal, but conformed to the humanitarian aspirations of modern civilization, of which Freemasonry is and will remain the torch-bearer.

"This circular, with the enclosed document, is addressed to the Orients and the lodges of the whole world. Each one of them may elect and send a commissioned delegate, credentialed with regular powers, to represent it at the illustrious Areopagus, summoned to assemble provisionally at Lausanne, Switzerland, March 15, 1871.

"In the hope, TT. CC. FF., that our appeal will be listened to, we offer you the expression of our fraternal regard.

"Given at Paris, November, 1870.

"THE FRENCH FREEMASONS TO THE UNIVERSAL MASONIC BROTHERHOOD.

"*Requisition to put on trial the Bros. William and Frederick of Hohenzollern*:—

"Brothers: At the beginning of the sanguinary war which is desolating humanity and civilization, the Freemasons of France, far from approving of the aggression against Germany, of which Bonaparte has been guilty, protested energetically. In all our lodges a cry of horror was heard, and its echo must have reached your midst.

"At the present time the sovereigns of Germany, who at first had taken arms to defend themselves, not content with having chastised the aggressor, continue a war which has no longer a legitimate object. They attack, in their turn, a people which has never ceased to show itself most friendly of all nations to foreigners, and particularly to the German nation. They make use of the numerous Germans who had received the hospitality of France, to betray that hospitality and to repay it by murder, fire, robbery, and devastation. They push their barbarous conduct even to the extremity—leading their soldiers to the walls of Paris, that great city which, more than any other, has shown itself liberal, pacific, and opposed to all international war.

"Brothers, the German sovereign has been guilty of the greatest of crimes, and that crime is the more to be detested because William of Hohenzollern and his son, the leaders of the German army, on entering the Masonic body, swore solemnly to observe its laws.

"William of Hohenzollern and his son are, in consequence, accused of perjury and treason. The Universal Masonic Brotherhood summon them to the bar of its tribunal three months from this date. The tribunal before which they are to appear will be composed of all the Orients of the world.

"The sittings of the jury will be held in neutral territory, at Berne, or any other city that may be ultimately fixed upon.

"If they fail to appear in answer to this summons, William of Hohenzollern and his son will be declared false to their oath, felons, and outside the pale of Masonic law. They will be condemned to suffer the penalties prescribed by our laws. They will be execrated for ever, and their memory will be handed down to the imprecations of posterity.

"Given at Paris, 30th Nov., 1870

"Address notes of compliance to Bro. J. F. J. Tierque, senior, Place de Chevelu, No. 6, Geneva (Switzerland)."

Bro. H. NEWMAN and the VOLUNTEER BALL IN LIVERPOOL.

On Friday last week the annual ball of the First Lancashire Engineer Volunteers took place at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, and was a complete success in every respect. No fewer than 1500 invited guests, officers and volunteers were at the merry meeting, which comprised a prize distribution and soiree as well as a ball, and the almost unprecedented enjoyment and harmony which marked the whole of the evening's proceedings were solely due to the untiring exertions of Bro. Henry Newman, Captain in the corps, who is well known as an indefatigable Volunteer and excellent Mason.

Amongst the large company were the following brethren: Bros. His Worship the Mayor (J. G. Livingston, Esq.), Major Bousfield, Dr. R. H. D. Johnson, P.M. (surgeon to the corps), Dr. Slack, Dr. Keisch, Capt. Hargreaves, Capt. Boggs, Capt. Newman, Richard Morley, G. Dyke, John Macbeth, J. Wood, W. H. Molyneux, J. B. MacKenzie, &c.

After tea and the prize distribution (which was made in happy terms by Bro. Livingston), dancing was commenced and continued for several hours with the greatest spirit.

The supper for the officers and invited guests, and refreshments for the men were provided by Brother Wm. Thomson, of the George Hotel, Upper Pitt-street, his purveying giving complete satisfaction.

PROPOSED MASONIC HALL FOR LINCOLN.

Masonic halls are springing up throughout the country. The design for the new Masonic Hall for Lincoln, to be erected on the site recently purchased on the north side of Newland, has been decided on. The building will be commenced in the spring, and, in addition to the rooms to be used for Masonic purposes, will comprise a large assembly-room, or concert-hall, and other rooms and offices. The designs have been prepared by Bro. W. Watkins, architect, of that city. The ground-floor plan contains two entrances, each 9ft. wide. Between them is a room 24ft. square, to be used for sales or small meetings. Immediately behind this room, and approached from the right-hand entrance, is the large open staircase leading to the Masonic departments, which occupy the whole of the front or the first storey. Immediately behind the sale-room, and approached from the left-hand entrance (which will be the chief entrance to the public assembly-room), are cloak-rooms. Behind these are staircases leading to the galleries, which extend round three sides of the large assembly-room. This hall, which is 78ft. long, 32ft. wide, and 25ft. high, has an orchestra at the extreme end, 16ft. wide and 13ft. deep, to right and left of which are two green-rooms. Exclusive of the orchestra, the hall will seat 700 persons. The principal staircase, approached from the right-hand entrance, leads to the Masonic lodge, which consists of a reception-room, 24ft. by 18ft.; a porchway leading to the lodge-room, which latter is 36ft. by 24ft., and 22ft. high in the centre; and a preparation-room, together with stores for lodge furniture, &c. The building is designed in the Geometric style of Gothic architecture, and is intended (on certain conditions) to be a memorial of the late Dr. Oliver, and, with that view, provision is made in the centre of the front for a life-size statue of him, which will be placed upon a pedestal, supported by coupled polished granite columns, and surmounted by an ornamental traceried canopy. The front will be 45ft. wide, and 50ft. high from the pavement to the apex of the centre gable, which will be surmounted with the life-size figure of St. John. It is to be regretted that the design is for merely a front.—*Builder.*

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending February 4, 1871.

MONDAY, JAN. 30.

- Lodge 79, Pythagorean, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
 ,, 831, British Oak, Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile-end-road.
 Mark Lodge, Southwark, Bridge House Htl., Southwark.
 Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (174), Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Station, at 7.
 Wellington Lodge of Instruction, White Swan Tavern, Deptford, at 8; Bro. Dille, Preceptor.
 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, JAN. 31.

- Lodge 141, Faith, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 Palestine Rose Croix Chapter, Freemasons' Hall.
 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.
 Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, Horse and Groom Tavern, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, 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, FEB. 1.

- Grand Chapter, Freemason's Hall, at 7.
 Lodge 511, Zetland, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 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 7½.
 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, FEB. 2.

- Lodge 10, Westminster & Keystone, Freemasons' Hall.
 ,, 27, Egyptian, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 ,, 45, Strong Man, Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.
 ,, 136, Good Report, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
 ,, 192, Lion and Lamb, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-st.
 ,, 227, Ionic, Ship & Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-st.
 ,, 231, St. Andrew's, Freemasons' Hall.
 ,, 538, La Tolerance, Freemasons' Hall.
 ,, 554, Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
 ,, 822, Victoria Rifles, Freemasons' Hall.
 ,, 1155, Excelsior, Sydney Arms, Lewisham-road.
 ,, 1178, Perfect Ashlar, Gregorian Arms, Bermondsey.
 Chap. 2, St. James's, Freemasons' Hall.
 ,, 9, Moriah, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
 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.
 Burdett Courts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 7.30; Bro. John Saunders, Preceptor.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3.

- Festival of Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.
 Lodge 706, Florence Nightingale, Masonic Hall, Woolwich.
 ,, 890, Hornsey, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 ,, 1305, St. Marylebone, Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood.
 Chap. 8, British, Freemasons' Hall.
 ,, 259, Prince of Wales, Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
 Mark Lodge, Thistle, Freemasons' Tavern.
 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 Htl., 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 Htl., 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 Htl., Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; Br. Pulsford, Preceptor.
 Doric Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes Tavern, Mile-end-road, at 8; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.

- Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar, at 7; Br. D. S. Potts, Preceptor.
 Temperance Lodge of Instruction, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford, at 8.
 Royal Standard Lodge of Instruction, Marquess Tavern, Canonbury; Bro. R. Lee, Preceptor.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4.

- General Committee Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
 Lodge 142, St. Thomas's, Radley's Hotel, Blackfriars.
 Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7.
 Sphinx Lodge of Instruction, Stirling Castle, Camberwell, at 7; Bro. Thomas, P.M., Preceptor.
 Mount Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, at 8; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.

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.

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., Homoeopathic Chemists, London. Also, makers of Epps's Cacaoine a very light, thin, evening beverage.—[Advt.]

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.

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