

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND	751
GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC	751, 752, 753 & 754
PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHUMBERLAND	754 & 755
PRESENTATION TO BRO. WILSON	755
UNITED GRAND LODGE	756, 757 & 758
GRAND MARK LODGE	759 & 760
THE CRAFT—	
Metropolitan	761
Provincial... ..	761
INSTRUCTION... ..	761 & 762
SCOTLAND	762
CONSECRATION OF A LODGE IN NEW ZEALAND	762
MASONIC MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK	762
ADVERTISEMENTS	749, 750, 763 & 764

GRAND LODGE of SCOTLAND.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held in Freemasons' Hall, George-street, Edinburgh, on the evening of 30th of November, 1871, for the purpose of electing and installing the office-bearers for the ensuing year, and also to celebrate the festival of St. Andrew, the Patron Saint of Scotland. The lodge was opened by Bro. John Whyte-Melville of Bennoch, the Past Grand Master, and the election of the Grand Officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, when the Right Hon. the Earl of Rosslyn was, amidst the acclamation of the brethren assembled, again elected Grand Master Mason of Scotland. His Lordship having been ushered into Grand Lodge, was duly installed into office according to ancient custom. In returning thanks,

The Grand Master begged to thank them for the renewed expression of confidence they had shown in him, for no higher mark of favour could be conferred upon any brother than that which they had just conferred upon him. He could assure them he would leave no means untried that would benefit Scottish Masonry. His reign would be a useless and an empty one unless he received the same support from the brethren in the future as he had done in the past.

The other office-bearers elected were:—The Earl of Dalhousie, Past Grand Master; Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Depute Grand Master; Henry Inglis of Torsconce, Substitute Grand Master; Colonel A. C. Campbell of Blythswood, R.W.S.G.W.; Lord Erskine, R.W.J.G.W.; Samuel Hay, R.W.G.T.; Alex. J. Stewart, R.W.G.S.; John Laurie, R.W.G.C.; Rev. David Arnot, D.D., and the Rev. V.G. Faithfull, V.W.G.C.; W. Officer, V.W.S.G.D.; Major Ramsay, V.W.J.G.D.; David Bryce, V.W.G.A.; A. Hay, G.J.; Convener D. Robertson, G.B.B.; James Ballantine, G.B.; Lord Rosehill, G.S.B.; C. W. Maxwell Müller, G.D.M.; R. Davidson, G.O.; M. Mackenzie, C.G.M.; A. T. Abthorpe, G.M.; W. M. Bryce, G.T.; J. Baikie, O.G.

The Grand Lodge was then closed, and thereafter the festival of St. Andrew was celebrated—the Right Hon. the Earl of Rosslyn in the chair; and amongst those on the dais were Lord James Murray, John Whyte-Melville, Major-General Darby-Griffiths, C.B.; John Laurie, Major Ramsay, Capt. Colt, Gartsherrie; A. Stewart, W. Abbot, J. T. Oswald, Dunnikier, and others. There were also deputations from No. 1, Edinburgh Mary's Chapel; No. 2, Canongate Kilwinning; No. 5, Canongate and

Leith; No. 8, Journeymen, Edinburgh; No. 31, St. Mary, Coltness; No. 36, St. David, Edinburgh; No. 44, St. Luke, Edinburgh; No. 48, St. Andrew, Edinburgh; No. 112, St. John, Fisherrow; No. 126, St. Andrew, Kilmarnock; No. 151, Edinburgh Defensive Band; No. 226, Portobello; No. 250, Union, Dunfermline; No. 291, Celtic, Edinburgh; No. 349, St. Clair, Edinburgh; No. 392, Caledonian, Edinburgh; No. 405, Rifle, Edinburgh; No. 468, Oswald of Dunnikier, Kirkcaldy.

Among the loyal and fraternal toasts was that of "The Grand Steward of Scotland, Patron of the Grand Lodge, the Princess of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the rest of the Royal Family."

In proposing "The Health of the Prince of Wales," the Grand Master said it was impossible to drink that toast without alluding to the severe illness of His Royal Highness, but he was sure the brethren would be glad to learn that he (the Grand Master) had received private information which assured him that the Prince was in a fair way of recovery. (The toast was drunk amid loud applause.)

The Grand Master gave "The Navy, Army, Militia, and Volunteers," which was responded to by Major-General Darby-Griffith, C.B., Major Ramsay, and Colonel Campbell.

The toasts of "The Grand Lodge of England and the Marquis of Ripon" and "The Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Duke of Leinster," having been given and responded to,

Bro. J. Whyte-Melville proposed "The Grand Master." He said the brethren could not have got a more energetic Grand Master than the Earl of Rosslyn. They all knew that a scheme of benevolence would be brought before the Grand Lodge by the Grand Master, which, when carried out, would carry his name down to future generations. (Applause.)

A song, composed for the occasion by Bro. James Ballantine, the Grand Bard, having been sung,

The Grand Master rose, amid loud cheers, and said he felt very grateful for the enthusiastic reception they had given him, and he begged to thank them for the high honour which they had again conferred upon him. It was now nineteen or twenty years since he became a member of Grand Lodge, and he had tried to serve them in one position or another, and the training thus received had fitted him to fill his present position. The Grand Lodge, like other bodies, was not free from weak places, and the brother was its best friend who pointed them out, and had it in his power to set about reforming them in a proper manner. What would be brought before their notice, as they had been already told, would be an endeavour to remedy the weak point, but without their assistance he could do nothing. If they would give him their support in his scheme, it would raise the Grand Lodge to a proper place in benevolence, and that could be done by a small subscription from each member, which they would never feel, he they ever so poor. (Loud applause.) He concluded by thanking them for the honour they had done him.

Among the other toasts were—"Past Grand Masters," replied to by Bro. J. Whyte-Melville; "Sir Michael Shaw Stewart," "Henry Inglis of Torsconce," "Deputations from Daughter Lodges," "The Provincial Grand Lodges of Scotland," "The Countess of Rosslyn," "Lady Catherine Whyte-Melville," "The Memory of Deceased Members during the Year," and "The Memory of St. Clair of Rosslyn."

GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC.

[From the *Montreal Daily News*, Sept. 28, 1871.]

The Grand Lodge of Quebec assembled yesterday in the Masonic Chambers, Notre Dame-street. The following visitors were present, besides the members of Grand Lodge: Bros. T. D. Harington, P.G.M. Ontario; Josiah H. Drummond, P.G.M. Maine; Isa Berry, G. Sec. Maine; F. G. Tisdale, G.L. of New York; D. Burnham Tracy, Detroit, Michigan; N. T. Merritt, P.M. Mt. Hermon; Leverett B. Englesby, P.G.M. Vermont; Park Davis, G.M. Vermont; Wm. Brinsmaid, sen., G.L. Washington No. 3; N. P. Bowman, D.G.M. Vermont; John Bacon, G.S.B. Vermont; H. Paison, G.T. Vermont; F. S. McFarland, H. Ainsworth, W. Henderson, and C. P. Currier, Washington; William L. Wood, Hartford; L. G. Spencer, S. Mostin, D. Willey, W. Stevenson, A. H. Hall, and J. L. Mack, Vermont; G. H. Clark, St. Albans; Dr. Johnson and Dr. Billings, Hartford; &c., &c.

After routine business,

Grand Master Graham delivered the following address:—

Officers and Brethren of the M.W. the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of the Province of Quebec,—Another year, fraught with its many vicissitudes, has come and gone, and, under the most auspicious circumstances, we have assembled on this, our second Annual Communication, to interchange fraternal greetings; to review the past; carefully to consider the present; and resolutely gird ourselves anew for the labours of the future.

It is with devout thankfulness that I have the pleasure to report that this Grand Lodge has been duly recognised, and most heartily welcomed into the great family of Grand Lodges, by the twenty-two following important and influential Grand Bodies—namely, District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Iowa, Wisconsin, Texas, Nebraska, Nova Scotia, Nevada, Kansas, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina, Connecticut, Indiana, New York, Vermont, and Rhode Island. The first nine of these sister Grand Lodges extended fraternal recognition to Quebec during the first year of its existence, and the last thirteen have done the same not less heartily since our last Annual Communication eleven months ago. These Grand Bodies represent nearly half a million Freemasons, amongst whom are a host of illustrious brethren whose well-deserved fame extends over both hemispheres. These and other no less eminent brethren (whose Grand Lodges also will soon recognise us) have, in their heroic advocacy of the cause of Quebec, from their rich and varied stores of learning, poured a flood of light on the history, traditions, customs, laws, and constitutions of our Fraternity antecedent the regular formation and rights of Grand Lodges. The great care bestowed by these brethren upon the consideration of the questions at issue, the patient painstaking to ascertain all the facts of the case, the prompt recognition by some Grand Lodges, the delaying of final action for a time and for various reasons, on the part of others, and the manifest determination on the part of all to arrive at, and abide by, a just decision, have been most honourable to them, as well as gratifying to us, and have given to their decisions in our favour a Masonic and moral weight and force which can neither be gainsayed nor resisted. I, therefore, propose that Grand Lodge now express to these Grand Lodges and brethren our most hearty fraternal thanks, accompanying them with the grand honours in most ample form.

The following eminent brethren have been appointed and commissioned by me as our Grand Representatives near their respective Grand Lodges, and I beg your due confirmation of the same: R.W. Bro. H. J. Martin, District of Columbia; M.W. Bro. J. H. Drummond, of Maine; R.W. Bro. Wm. Barrett, New Hamp-

shire; M.W. E. A. Guilbert, Iowa; R.W. Bro. S. Cadwallader, Wisconsin; M.W. Bro. P. W. Gray, Texas; R.W. Bro. J. N. Wise, Nebraska; R.W. Bro. George T. Smithers, Nova Scotia; R.W. Bro. R. H. Taylor, Nevada; M.W. Bro. J. H. Brown, Kansas; M.W. Bro. D. C. Cregier, Illinois; R.W. Bro. C. A. Woodward, Ohio; R.W. Bro. D. B. Tracy, Michigan; R.W. Bro. T. L. Power, Mississippi; R.W. Bro. J. K. Wheeler, Connecticut; R.W. Bro. D. W. Tallcott, New York; and M.W. Bro. Englesby, Vermont. Representatives to other Grand Lodges will be appointed soon. The following brethren have also been appointed, or named, as Grand Representatives of these several Grand Lodges, near the Grand Lodge of Quebec—namely, R.W. Bro. W. B. Colby, from District of Columbia; R.W. Bro. J. H. Isaacson, from Maine; R.W. Bro. I. H. Stearns, New Hampshire; R.W. Bro. M. R. Meigs, M.D., from Wisconsin; R.W. Bro. E. Kemp, from Texas; R.W. Bro. H. P. Leggatt, from Nebraska; R.W. Bro. Hon. Thos. Wood, from Nova Scotia; R.W. Bro. Thomas Milton, from Nevada; W. Bro. C. Judge, from Kansas; R.W. Bro. G. H. Borlase, from Illinois; R.W. Bro. James Dunbar, from Ohio; R.W. Bro. Alex. Murray, from Michigan; R.W. Bro. S. J. Foss, from Mississippi; V.W. Bro. Coquette, from Connecticut; R.W. Bro. Frank Edgar, from New York; and R.W. Bro. Isaacson, from Vermont. Should any of these Grand Representatives be present at this Annual Communication and present their credentials, they will, I am sure, receive from you a hearty fraternal welcome.

Since our last annual meeting, I have granted dispensations to form the three following lodges: The Graham Lodge, at Bolton Centre; the Canadian Lodge, at Granby; and the Excelsior Lodge, at Actonvale. These were favourably recommended by the D.D.G.M.'s of the respective districts wherein they are situated, and also by the lodges nearest to them, and I trust they will be found to have made such progress as shall entitle them to receive warrants of Constitutions at this communication of Grand Lodge.

After the formal dissolution of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec and Three Rivers, the brethren of that Provincial Grand Body presented their magnificent banner and a large portion of their regalia to this Grand Lodge. Our grateful thanks are due, and will, I know, be heartily and unanimously tendered to these brethren and lodges for their generous and timely donation.

The committee appointed by the Board of General Purposes to supervise the printing of the amended Constitution, promptly and faithfully discharged their important duties, and deserve, as I have no doubt they will receive, your especial commendation.

The committee on the very important subject of work have held one session, and will probably be able to make report through the Grand Master at some early day.

Under the direction of the Board an excellent plate for printing Grand Lodge certificates has been prepared. The design is beautiful, and is full of Masonic significance. The work has been skilfully and elaborately executed by Messrs. Barland, Laficain and Co., of this city, at a cost of 500 dols., and I trust the certificates may meet the general approval of the brethren.

In compliance with the unanimous request of the municipal councils of the township of Shipton and of the village of Danville, in the county of Richmond, to lay the corner-stone of the magnificent town hall proposed to be erected in their prosperous and beautiful village, I summoned an Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge on Thursday, the 27th day of July, for the purpose of performing that interesting ceremony in accordance with the ancient customs of our Fraternity. The officers and brethren responded in large numbers. The day was favourable, and the concourse of spectators from the surrounding country and from different parts of the province was large. The officials and people of the vicinity were unbounded in their hospitality, and the exercises appear to have given general satisfaction. This event will not be without historic interest, as being the first of

its kind under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

Shortly after the last annual communication, a happy combination of circumstances enabled me to visit the city of Quebec, for the purpose of installing and investing the officers of Grand Lodge resident there. I need hardly say to you that the brethren of the Ancient Capital were, as usual, most kind and courteous. It was an occasion long to be remembered for many reasons, but especially as affording a much-desired opportunity of uniting with the brethren of that city in doing deserved honour to the highly esteemed and efficient Grand Lodge officers in that district. But I need not assure you how much our P.D.G.M., R.W. Bro. J. S. Bowen (who during the past year had removed from the city of Quebec to the city of Brooklyn, N.Y.) was missed on that occasion, as he has been in all the deliberations of Grand Lodge. Early in the summer, I had the pleasure of formally constituting *La Loge des Cœurs Unis* in this city, to which Grand Lodge granted a warrant of Constitution at last communication. Being obliged to leave, however, before the close of the ceremony, the work was well completed by the co-operation of several Grand Lodge officers present. I have reason to believe that this lodge is doing a good work, and will, I trust, prove a lasting honour to this Grand Lodge and to the Fraternity in general. It also afforded me much satisfaction to be able to accept the repeated hearty invitation of the officers and brethren of Corner Stone Lodge at Cowansville, about mid-summer, and witness the presentation of several valuable donations to the lodge, by its efficient Master, and other zealous brethren, and it was also a great pleasure to meet there so many of the Grand Lodge Officers of the Montreal and Bedford Districts, and the officers and other members of various lodges in the vicinity. The hospitality of the lodge was most generous, and all present seemed to enjoy themselves in a becoming manner. My informal visits to Montreal have been frequent and of the most pleasant character, and you need not be told that our brethren here, Masonically and otherwise, ever prove themselves worthy of the metropolitan city of the Dominion. It has been to me a source of deep regret, that I have been unable to make more numerous official visits, in all parts of our jurisdiction; but the numerous duties devolving upon me in the guidance and direction of G.L. affairs, required my almost constant presence at home, that no opportunity of promoting its welfare might be neglected, and that no important correspondence from home or abroad might remain long unanswered. The brethren will, therefore, kindly exercise due forbearance and overlook these and other shortcomings.

A communication has been received from the Grand Orient of Belgium requesting the establishment of fraternal intercourse between that Grand Body and the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Having reason to believe that the Royal Grand Master of that Grand Orient has caused to be enforced in all lodges within his jurisdiction a strict adherence to the ancient landmarks of the Fraternity in eschewing all interference in religious sectarianism and party politics, and is otherwise making that Grand Body worthy of universal recognition and fraternal fellowship, I have no hesitation in saying to Grand Lodge, that it is my hope and expectation that full inquiry into all the circumstances will lead to the establishment, at an early day, of fraternal intercourse and the interchange of representatives with the Grand Orient of Belgium, and thus help to strengthen the ties which should bind America and Europe more closely together, and so aid in the establishment of peace on earth and good will among men.

Shortly after the arrival at Washington, of the M.W. the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, as President of the Joint High Commission, I directed the Grand Secretary to forward an official communication to our noble and Most Worshipful brother, expressed our highest fraternal regards, congratulating him on his important appointment, praying that the best results to the nations involved, and to the entire world, might flow from the labours of the

Commission, and begging his acceptance of a banquet in his honour, in the city of Montreal, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. A most courteous reply was received thereto, intimating that circumstances might hasten his departure from Washington to England, immediately after the close of the labours of the Commission, so that he might be unable to visit the Dominion or accept our kind invitation.

Although compassion dictates the exercise of the virtue of silence anent the doings for the past year of the Grand Lodge of Canada, yet candor compels me to say that most of the evils which have afflicted the Craft in these two Provinces during the past twenty-two months have been almost wholly due to her unfraternal course. However, in view of all the circumstances, the Grand Lodge of Quebec could well afford magnanimously to practise charity which suffereth long; and to trust in the Great Architect of the Universe so to order His good providences that the day might not soon, if ever, dawn, on which, forbearance on our part would cease to be a virtue. Fidelity to the principles of Freemasonry, on which our action was based in forming this Grand Body, duty to the numerous Grand Lodges which have already recognized us, and the maintenance of the doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge jurisdiction would soon, *unless averted*, demand of us the vindication at all hazards, of our right and title to undivided supremacy within the Province of Quebec. And few of you will be surprised to learn that the principal officers of some of the most influential Grand Lodges which have recognized the Grand Lodge of Quebec, have been seriously considering whether the Grand Lodge of Canada was longer entitled to fraternal recognition and support, in view of her repeated unconstitutional invasions of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, by the establishment of private lodges therein. Many Grand Lodges of the United States have withdrawn fraternal fellowship from the Grand Orient of France, for a like invasion, only to a much lesser extent, of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. I need hardly assure you, my brethren, that I have used my best endeavours to have any such action anent the Grand Lodge of Canada deferred a little longer at least (for with all her faults we love her still), in the hope and belief that she would ere long retrace her footsteps from the verge of the precipice to which she seemed to be inevitably drawing near. Nor have our expectations been wholly vain. The dawns of the spirit of conciliation seem to be appearing in that Grand East. Our repeated overtures to secure peace, harmony, and the constitutional adjustment of all existing difficulties, although repeatedly spurned, have, nevertheless, borne some fruit, and there now seems reason to hope that at a very early day, all discordant circumstances will have passed away, and that the G.L. of Canada will be constitutionally re-constructed into the Grand Lodge of Ontario, and divine peace bear sway Masonically over these two provinces, between which should alone exist that generous rivalry, which can best work and best agree.

The members of Grand Lodge will be pleased to learn that it has been arranged to continue the goodly custom inaugurated at our first annual communication, of having public Divine service during our present meeting, and that our Rev. Bro. the Grand Chaplain will deliver an appropriate discourse on the occasion. It will become the G.L. of Quebec publicly to offer devout thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many and great favours vouchsafed to us during the past year.

A Freemason is under peculiar obligations to practice the cardinal virtue of temperance in its most comprehensive significance. The novitiate is carefully taught to exercise due restraint over all his appetites and passions, and to pursue such a prudent and well-regulated course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of his corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energies, thereby enabling him to exercise those talents wherewith God hath blessed him, as well for His glory as for the welfare of his fellow creatures. The more advanced Mason is under still greater obligation to maintain, in its fullest

splendor, this crown of the four cardinal virtues, temperance; and there are amongst us multitudes who faithfully discharge this most important duty to themselves, to others, and to the great Ruler and Governor of all; but it is very sad to be compelled to acknowledge that there are those of our number, who, while commendably resisting many other temptations, suffer themselves to indulge in the excessive use of intoxicating drinks. From this cause much injury is brought upon themselves and sorrow upon their families; others are led thereby into temptation, and great scandal is brought upon our beloved Fraternity. It may not be practicable to say what, in this matter, is the exact rule of duty binding upon all men under all circumstances; but it may be safely asserted that he who indulges this and any other like appetite, in the greatest moderation, is a prudent man, and a good Freemason; and it is probably true that, for many men at least, the safest rule is totally to refrain from the use of all that intoxicates. Lodges, too, should carefully avoid all arrangements which tend in any way to intemperance and excess.

It is the duty of every Craftsman to devote his leisure hours more especially to the study of such of the arts and sciences as may lie within the compass of his attainment; and, without neglecting the ordinary duties of his station, he is to consider himself called upon to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. No previous age afforded such ample facilities to enable the zealous Mason successfully to cultivate his intellectual and moral faculties, and thus enable him to show forth the glory of God, and render himself useful in promoting the happiness of mankind. The inestimable blessings of the printing press are nowhere more apparent than in affording more light in Masonry. The rich and varied literature of the Craft everywhere abounds. Proportionate to one's means, a well-selected private library is a necessity to the seeker after Masonic truth, and particularly to him who would fit himself acceptably to perform whatever official duties may be devolved upon him by the affection and favour of his brethren. Nor can I forbear expressing my high appreciation of the value to the Craft, of the many excellent periodicals now published in almost every portion of the globe, and I beg to suggest to all, and especially to newly-made brethren, that next after having become possessors of copies of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, and the by-laws of their own private lodge, they should become permanent subscribers to one or more Masonic periodicals, as their means shall allow.

Although Freemasonry requires no defence from its votaries, yet in deference to the objections of many friendly non-Masons, who occasionally express their misgivings anent our Fraternity because (as they allege) of its non-recognition of Christianity, I am constrained to depart so far from our ordinary rule of strict silence as to say, for the general information of such, that Freemasonry, at present, consists of at least three grand divisions—namely, Ancient Craft, or Symbolic Masonry; Royal Arch, or Capitular Masonry; and Knights Templars-Chivalric, or Christian Masonry. Other more inclusive divisions need not here be alluded to. The first of these, the Ancient or Symbolic, is based upon these universal principles of true religion, the Fatherhood of God, the Great Architect and Ruler of Heaven and Earth, and the Brotherhood of Man; and its special historic traditions extend from the earliest period to the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The Royal Arch or Capitular is based upon the same great principles, more extensively elaborated and applied, and its historic traditions extend to the restoration of the chosen people from Babylonian captivity, and the rebuilding of the Temple under Zerubbabel. The third, or Templar Masonry, is of more modern origin, and is chiefly based upon the great principles and historic facts of the Christian faith. The objections, therefore, sometimes conscientiously raised by non-Masons, that Masonry is non or anti-Christian, is a generalisation too sweeping in character, and springs from a want of knowledge of the great facts pertaining to our Fraternity.

For the information of younger brethren and for other obvious reasons, I am induced briefly to enunciate the few following fundamental principles of Freemasonry anent the organisation of Grand Lodges, and having especial reference to the M.W. the Grand Lodge of Quebec. In every distinct territory having a legislature of its own there exists the Masonic right to form an independent sovereign Grand Lodge. A convention of representatives of three private lodges, duly authorised, and regularly assembled, may, without let or hindrance, form a Grand Lodge in and for said territory; but it has become a very generally accepted rule that a majority of the private lodges situated therein should take part in said convention, or acquiesce in its action. The consent of any mother Grand Lodge, however desirable, is not essential or necessary; nor can any Grand Lodge constitutionally interfere with, or in any way rightfully hinder, said private lodges in the exercise of their inherent right to form a Grand Lodge of their own in such legislatively distinct territory, no matter what prior authority she may have exercised over them. A Grand Lodge thus regularly formed in unoccupied or dissevered territory possesses the inalienable right of exclusive jurisdiction over all symbolic lodges of Freemasons within said territory; and no other Grand Lodge can lawfully form new private lodges, or reconstruct old ones, from and after the formation of the new Grand Lodge. And it is incumbent on any private lodge, which through inadvertence or otherwise was not represented at the convention which formed the new Grand Lodge, to secure enrollment on its registry at the earliest period practicable, and not only all private lodges, but all unaffiliated or other individual Freemasons, official or other, resident or sojourning within her territorial jurisdiction, are constitutionally amenable to her authority for any Masonic acts which are in contravention of her sovereignty. Any arrangements which may have been entered into prior to the formation of the new Grand Lodge, by any other Grand Bodies, anent the continuance of any lodge according to its own will, under the authority of some other Grand Lodge, yet within the territory of the newly-formed Grand Body, are contrary to the Constitutions of the Fraternity, injurious to the unity, harmony, and prosperity of the Craft, subversive of Grand Lodge sovereignty, and, consequently, of no binding force on the new Grand Body. The enunciation of many other fundamental facts and principles of like importance will be found *in extenso* in our address of date Nov. 20, 1869, to the Grand Lodges of the world, in the statement concerning the G.L. of Quebec, of date April 20, 1870, in proceedings and other documents issued by this Grand Lodge, and especially in the able reports of the Committees of Foreign Correspondence and Jurisprudence, of the many Grand Lodges which have recognised us, and in others which favour our cause; also in the elaborate editorials and correspondence in nearly all the Masonic periodicals throughout the world, and in almost any reliable work on Masonic jurisprudence. The few articles, or addresses, which have appeared in opposition to the rightful claims of Quebec, have been refuted over and over again, and there is good reason to believe that at least some of their authors will recant their erroneous opinions at an early day, as some of the ablest Masons who had been misled by incorrect or insufficient information have heretofore done, to their own honour and to the good of the Craft.

During the past year we have been called upon again and again, by most solemn admonitions, to regard the uncertainty of human life, the immutable certainty of death, and the vanity of all earthly pursuits. M.W. Bro. James Dean, Past Prov. Grand Master of Quebec and Three Rivers, and honorary P.G.M. of this Grand Lodge, is no more. He lived generally beloved, he died deeply and universally regretted. It is fitting that a memorial page of our printed proceedings be dedicated to the memory of this good man and eminent Mason. Our venerable Bro. Magoon, of Doric Lodge, Danville, and our worthy Bro. Andrew McKay Smith, of Victoria Lodge, Sherbrooke, have also passed to

their rest since we last assembled in Annual Communication. The removal by death of other brethren will be suitably noticed by the District Deputy Grand Masters.

On the morning of the 15th instant I received from the Grand Secretary a document of date the 14th, and signed by M.W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, Chairman, and R.W. Bro. Thos. White, jun., Secretary of a Committee of seven, appointed by a meeting of representatives of lodges in this province, as yet on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of "Canada," asking for a conference anent the existing state of Masonic affairs in this province, and the restoration of harmony to the Craft therein. On the evening of the same day I came to this city, and held a council of officers of Grand Lodge, and officers and brethren of most of the Q. R. lodges in Montreal, when the whole subject was carefully considered at length, and in the best possible spirit. On the 16th I appointed the following distinguished brethren—namely, R.W. Bro. Pratten, D.G.M., Quebec; R.W. Bro. Meigs, G.S.W., Bedford; R.W. Bro. Milton, G.J.W., Montreal; Rev. Bro. Reid, G.C., Sherbrooke; R.W. Bro. Edgar, P.D.D.G.M., Montreal; R.W. Bro. Isaacson, G. Sec.; and W. Bro. M. M. Tait—a committee to confer with the committee of brethren aforesaid, on Wednesday, the 20th instant, if practicable, and expressing the hope that all their mutual deliberations would be conducted in a truly Masonic spirit, and that the results of their conference might be a means of restoring peace and harmony to the Craft; and to make report thereof to me immediately after their conference. On the 21st instant, the following report was received from the Grand Secretary as the result of the deliberations of the joint committees:—

"Whereas, unhappily, differences and disputes have arisen, and are now existing in Masonry in the province of Quebec, between the Grand Lodge of Quebec, A. F. and A. M., and her subordinates, on the one part, and the several lodges in the said province still holding under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada on the other part.

"And, whereas, with the view to terminate and for ever end said differences, and to restore harmony throughout the Craft in the said province, the said lodges—to wit, the said party of the second part—are willing to amalgamate and join with the said party of the first part—to wit, the said the Grand Lodge of Quebec; and the said party of the first part are willing to accept said lodges into their organisation, or Grand Body, the same as if they, the said lodges, had originally taken part in said organisation.

"And it is agreed by both said parties that all questions—viz., names of lodges, distribution of property in the case of duplicate lodges, and priority of number in the case of all lodges—shall be left entirely to a committee of six, three of whom shall be named from the party of the first part, and three from the party of the second part, with power to said committee to name an arbitrator, and the decision of said committee and umpire to be final.

"And the committee representing the G.L. of Q. hereby agree to submit the above terms for the acceptance of their Grand Lodge. And the committee representing the lodges under the jurisdiction of the G.L. of C. hereby agree to recommend the above terms to the representatives of the lodges at a meeting to be held by such representatives for that purpose."

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution for the consideration of matters of special importance, I have directed the President of the Board of General Purposes to submit the above to a full board for the most careful consideration, and make report thereon to the Grand Lodge for its sanction. The whole subject is of vast importance, and I earnestly entreat you all to deliberate upon it in that truly fraternal and conciliatory spirit which has characterised all our doings hitherto; to make all possible allowances and concessions consistent with honour, with the Constitutions of the Fraternity, and with the dignity and integrity of this Grand Lodge. So that whatever action may be taken by us shall be promotive of the unity, harmony, and prosperity

of the Craft, both in this province and in the sister province of Ontario, and also throughout the world. Blessed, indeed, are the peace-makers.

And now, brethren, as your servant and representative, it becomes me to return you all my gratitude for your distinguished favours, and for your unceasing kindness and forbearance amidst all my official labours, which, like most human efforts, have been very imperfect; and I beg all my fellow-officers to accept my hearty thanks for their wise and prudent counsels, their untiring co-operation, and the faithful discharge of their respective duties. Nor can I, in closing, forbear congratulating you on the unparalleled success of this Grand Lodge. The Great Ruler of the Universe has most signally blessed us with unanimity and prosperity at home, and with hosts of friends abroad. It now, therefore, only remains for us, in the exercise of the genuine spirit of our noble Order, to heal all past differences, with whomsoever they may unfortunately have existed, and unitedly strive for the early and perfect completion of the great work so well begun, each one remembering to perform well his allotted task while it is yet day, so that, when this transitory life shall have passed away, we may each be received into the Grand Lodge above, with the welcome plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Amen and Amen

JOHN H. GRAHAM, Grand Master.

Richmond, P. Q., Sept. 26, 1871.

Divine service was celebrated in the evening at the Church of St. James the Apostle, and was attended by the members of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. The prayers were intoned by the Rev. Edmund Wood, of the Church of St. John the Evangelist. The lessons were read by the Rev. Canon Ellegood, Incumbent of St. James' Church. The hymns sung were 385, 188, and 325. The anthem was taken from the 34th Psalm. The sermon was preached by the Rev. C. P. Reid, of Sherbrooke, Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. The text was from Nehemiah, chap. 2, verse 18: "And they said, Let us raise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work." The rev. gentleman dwelt in impressive terms upon the duty of charity and brotherly love, and referred to the life of St. John, whose life and example are especially looked up to by Masons. A collection was taken up in aid of the funds of the Montreal General Hospital.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

The annual meeting of the above Prov. Grand Lodge was held on Friday, the 24th ultimo, in the lodge-room of St. David's (393), Berwick-on-Tweed, under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl Percy, M.P. Twelve years ago, in 1859, the Prov. G. Lodge officially visited Berwick, with the Rev. Chaloner Ogle as Prov. G.M., and on that occasion the local brethren welcomed and entertained their representative heads with a heartiness peculiarly characteristic of the Craft. When notification of the present visit was received the brethren of St. David's Lodge resolved that, so far as they were concerned, the Provincial Grand Master and his supporters should receive a very cordial welcome, and the fact that this was the first annual provincial meeting since the present G.M. of the province had been installed, had the effect of bestirring the local brethren to have everything in first-class order. The lodge-room was tastefully re-decorated, and presented quite a beautiful appearance.

The Craft brethren, who numbered about ninety, assembled at three o'clock to meet the Prov. G.L. The lodges of the province represented were: Nos. 24, 393, 406, 431, 481, 541, 636, 659, 685, 991, 1167, and 1342.

There were also present deputations from the Eyemouth and Kelso lodges (Scottish Constitution).

At half-past three o'clock, the Provincial Grand officers entered the lodge-room, and were received by the brethren in due form.

The names of the Grand officers are as follow: The Earl Percy, Prov. G.M.; L. M. Cockcroft, Deputy Prov. G.M.; E. Shotton, G.S.W.; J. B. Winter, G.J.W.; Rev. E. S. Marrett, G.C.; Thos. Anderson, G. Treas.; R. Smail, G. Reg.; B. J. Thompson, G. Sec.; Wm. Daggett, G.S.D.; J. Ridsdale, G.J.D.; Hubert Laws, G.S.W.; E. D. Davis, G.D.C.; W. Foulsham, A.G.D.C.; J. H. Hair, G.P.; R. Fair, G.S.B.; J. S. Trotter, G. Tyler; and R. H. Holmes, R. T. Burns, Heatley, Hughes, R. Emery, and H. Renfrew, Grand Stewards. The Grand Lodge of Scotland was represented by Lord James Murray, P. Principal Z.

After the lodge had been opened in due and ample form, the Prov. G. Secretary read the minutes of last annual meeting, which were confirmed. The Prov. G. Treasurer submitted an encouraging balance-sheet, and the report of the Prov. G.L. of Benevolence showed that a large sum had been voted to the support of various Masonic charities and also to public institutions within the province. Among the items was the sum of £10 to the Berwick Dispensary and the Berwick and Tweedmouth Soup Kitchen, the division to each charity to be left to the discretion of the brethren of St. David's Lodge. The Masters of the respective lodges in the province gave *viva voce* reports of the present position of their lodges. Without exception, the reports showed that the several lodges were working prosperously and in harmony. The Prov. G.M. suggested that instead of these reports being given orally, they should be given in writing, showing the state of the finances, the number of brethren on the roll, number of initiations during the year, &c.

The appointment of Prov. Grand officers for the ensuing year was then made, with the following result: Bros. L. M. Cockcroft, D.P.G.M.; Wm. Daggett (685), S.W.; J. A. Hair (481), J.W.; Rev. W. Greenwell (659), Chaplain; Thos. Anderson (541), Treasurer; W. Foulsham (406), Registrar; B. J. Thompson (1342), Secretary; Hubert Laws (541), S.D.; George Moor (393), J.D.; Addison Potter (991), Supt. of Works; E. D. Davis (685), D. of C.; Jaques De Hart (24), Asst. D. of C.; T. T. Clark (431), Sword-bearer; John S. McGregor (393), Organist; B. G. Roberts (636), Pursuivant; J. S. Trotter (406), Tyler. The G. Stewards were then elected, and the Committee of the Provincial Fund were also chosen.

This concluded the business, and the Prov. G.M. announced that the next annual meeting of the Prov. G.L. would be held at Newcastle, under the banner of Northumberland Lodge (685).

Bro. Davis, G.D.C., in the name of the brethren assembled, welcomed Lord James Murray, as the representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and the brethren, in Masonic fashion, gave his lordship a kindly welcome.

The lodge was then closed in due form.

THE BANQUET.

The brethren dined in the King's Arms Assembly-room at five o'clock. Nearly a hundred sat down to a banquet reflecting much credit on Bro. Carr's *cuisine*. The chair was occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl Percy, Prov. G.M., and the vice-chairs by Bros. Moor (W.M. of St. David's) Prov. J.D., and B. D. Sinclair. The Prov. G.M. was supported on the right by his Deputy and the Grand Senior Warden, and on the

left by Bros. Lord James Murray, the Rev. E. S. Marrett, and C. I. Paton. After grace had been said,

The Noble Chairman gave "The health of her Majesty the Queen," which was received with enthusiastic cheering.

This was followed by "The health of the Grand Master of England, the Marquis of Ripon," in giving which the noble chairman said: If anything can make us not feel the loss of so experienced a Grand Master as Lord Zetland, it is the way that the Marquis of Ripon has conducted himself in the chair of Grand Lodge. (Cheers.)

The Noble Chairman: The next toast that I have the privilege of asking you to join with me in drinking cordially is "The respective Grand Lodges of Scotland, England and Ireland," coupled with the health of our guest this evening, and who honored us with attending at the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge to-day, Lord James Murray. (Cheers.) There is nothing more useful for bodies of Freemasons than to have the presence and the criticisms of distinguished Masons from other parts of the country to look at their work and their ways, so that they may reciprocally give and take; for it is in this way that Masonry prospers. I am happy to state that I was the medium inducing Lord James Murray to give us his company to-day, and I have no doubt we shall learn a great deal from his observations. With respect to the other part of the toast, allow me to say that, although there is some difference in the working of the three Grand Lodges in the United Kingdom, as far as harmony is concerned they work as one. (Cheers.) This is a brilliant instance of carrying out the principles of Masonry, and I sincerely hope they may long continue to be manifested. (Loud cheers.)

Lord James Murray, in reply to the toast, said: Brethren, I beg to thank you most sincerely, in the name of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, for the honour you have done us in drinking our health. Your Provincial Grand Master has told you how useful these Grand Lodges are, and I heartily endorse all that he has said regarding them. It is a good thing when brethren have the opportunity, as I have had to-day, of seeing a little of each other, and of knowing what is going on in Masonry in different parts of the country. I was very much pleased with what was done in your provincial lodge to-day, and I am very happy to learn that Masonry is flourishing in this part of the country. (Cheers.) His lordship, before resuming his seat, proposed the toast of "The Past Masters of the Grand Lodge of England, the Earl of Zetland and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales." I may allude to the fact that his Royal Highness is seriously indisposed at this present moment, but I heartily trust that he will soon be restored to vigor and health. (Cheers.) Lord Zetland is not in so robust health as he was in former days when he was Grand Master. I therefore ask you to drink with me, not only the health of the Prince of Wales and Lord Zetland, but also their better health. (Loud cheering.)

Bro. Cockcroft, D. Prov. G.M.: Brethren, by permission of the noble chairman, I rise to propose the next toast. I only need to name the toast to ensure its being received by you with perfect enthusiasm, and I have no doubt you anticipate it. It is "The health of the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master." (Loud applause, the brethren rising *en masse* and lustily cheering.) Brethren, you have shown that I have not misinterpreted your feelings, and I can only wish that the Earl Percy may be long

spared to preside over us. (Renewed cheering.) You will coincide, I am sure, with me in the hope that so long as he presides over us Masonry will flourish, and that he will never regret having taken the leadership of Masonry in this province. (Loud cheers.)

The Noble Chairman: Brethren, I thank you very much for the way in which you have received the toast which has just been proposed to you. However unworthy I may feel of the honour you have done to me in appointing me your Grand Master, I know that if, as the Deputy Grand Master has said, so long as I preside over this province Masonry will prosper, it prospers more from the good-will shown by the brethren towards me than from any merits of my own. In reviewing the past year, I am inclined to congratulate myself upon my tenure of office. When I came into office, I entered under rather difficult circumstances. Your lamented Provincial Grand Master died, and his deputy also died, and therefore the province was without any head, so to speak; but there were, as you all know, very valuable services rendered by many brethren, and these services were freely tendered, and had it not been for the support and help which I received from all sides--for although I knew a good deal of Northumberland, I knew very little, comparatively, of the Masonic province of Northumberland--I would not have been able to have carried on the business of the province successfully. As it is, I take the opportunity of congratulating you and myself on the state in which the province finds itself to-day. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) And now, brethren, before sitting down I will propose to you the next toast, which is one hinging on the one for which I have just returned thanks. It is the toast of "The present and past Provincial Grand Officers of Northumberland." I must express to you how deeply I feel my shortcomings in governing this province, but I will say that it is my desire and it shall be my endeavour, as far as I can, to give all possible assistance to my brother Grand officers of the province. It is my wish that all these higher offices should flow through the province and the brethren. (Hear, hear.) It is not an easy thing to select a certain number to fill the offices from such a large proportion of deserving brethren. I am desirous that the present mode of appointing these officers should be carried out, and although I know that those whom I appoint are well deserving of the office, and will justify the trust reposed in them, there are many brethren well worthy of being called to fill the respective offices, but I can only ask these brethren to believe that I have done my best. (Cheers.) I take this opportunity of thanking the officers, past and present, for the help they have given me, and to express the hope that they will continue to afford me their assistance and pass over my shortcomings, and that all will unite in the endeavour to make the Province of Northumberland as perfect a province as is to be found in England. (Loud cheers.)

Bro. Daggett, G.S.W., with whose name the toast was coupled, briefly replied.

Bro. Strachan, G.J.W., proposed the toast of "The Masonic Charities." Their worthy Grand Master had consented to preside at the annual festival connected with the Royal Masonic Institution for aged Freemasons and their widows, to be held in London on the 31st of January next, and the province was bound in honour to support Earl Percy at that festival. His lordship was likely to be supported by a large number of stewards on the occasion, and several of the lodges had promised to send representatives.

The Noble Chairman returned thanks for the flattering manner in which Br. Strachan had alluded to him. There was a prevalent idea afloat in the outside world, that Freemasonry consisted in great measure in eating and drinking; but this was a mistake, for the bulk of their funds went to support charities and schools, and while he rejoiced that they with all heart and soul supported the Masonic charities, he was equally glad that Masonry extended her generous hand to other institutions beyond her pale. His lordship then proposed the toast of "The various lodges in the Province." The present state of the several lodges was very satisfactory. One lodge had been added to the lodges of the province since their last meeting. It was not a large province; but he, for one, would far sooner have a small number of lodges with good men for members, than boast of a large roll with doubtful members. (Hear, hear.) He might say of the Province of Northumberland, as had been said of our country: It is a nice little tight right place. (Cheers.) He coupled with the toast the Worshipful Master and brethren of St. David's Lodge. He congratulated the St. David's brethren on their place of meeting; the lodge-room in which they assembled that day was a cheerful, pretty place. In the next place, he had, on his own part and on the part of his brother officers, to thank the brethren of St. David's for the reception they had met with at their hands. (Cheers.) They had met with the greatest kindness, and had been received with great cordiality, and they should rejoice when the time came round to revisit Berwick. It was his wish that the Provincial Grand Lodge should meet at the various lodges in proper rotation. Of course they would meet at Newcastle oftener than anywhere else; but every lodge should have the opportunity of entertaining the Prov. Grand Lodge in their proper turn. (Hear, hear.) The last point he had to touch upon was, to thank the brethren of St. David's for the dinner. He had seldom seen a better entertainment; it had been very comfortable, very harmonious, and very eatable and drinkable. (Laughter and cheers.)

Bro. Moor, W.M. of St. David's Lodge, replied. The local brethren had done their best, he said, to make the Grand Officers of the province comfortable, and in the approval of their endeavours, as it had been now expressed by the Prov. Grand Master, they felt well repaid. He hoped that he and all the brethren of St. David's would continue to do their duty on all occasions, irrespective of all consideration of such a reward; but still, when it did come it was exceedingly agreeable. (Cheers.) Brother Moor concluded by proposing "The health of Bro. Cockcroft, D.P.G.M." (Cheers.)

Bro. Cockcroft acknowledged the toast, and said his services were always at the disposal of the brethren in matters Masonic. (Cheers.)

The Prov. Grand Tyler having given his toast the toast-list was exhausted.

The meeting was rendered more enjoyable by the singing of a number of songs by several of the brethren, accompanied on the pianoforte by Bro. John S. M'Gregor, Prov. Grand Organist.

The Provincial Grand Officers and the brethren of Newcastle, Alnwick, and other places southwards, left about nine o'clock to proceed homewards by train. The brethren of St. David's Lodge remained some time after the general body of the party had retired, and, under the presidency of their Worshipful Master, spent a very harmonious evening.

PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. WILSON, NO. 962.

On Tuesday evening se'nright the brethren of the Sun and Sector Lodge, No. 965, assembled for the purpose of presenting Bro. John Wilson, P.M. and P.P.G.J.D., of Cumberland and Westmorland, with a beautiful P.M. jewel. The lodge being duly opened, Bro. Rothery made the presentation in the following terms: I have this evening the honour of presenting Bro. John Wilson, P.M. and P.P.G.J.D., with this very valuable jewel. I am sorry that I am unable to express the kind feelings and respect of the brethren who have so liberally come forward to show their gratitude for his past services, and the many benefits the lodge has received under his rule. You are all aware of the great interest Bro. Wilson has taken in Freemasonry, and that he was at all times ever ready to lend a helping hand, even when business pressed him most, to promote the welfare of this lodge. This, brethren, is not the first testimonial that we have presented to him. Some time ago we presented him with a suit of provincial clothing, the best that could be purchased in England; but this, brethren, we did not think a sufficient tribute for all the past kindness which we have experienced in his Masonic duties. I may now say that Bro. Wilson has been nearly thirty years a Mason, and I venture to say that a better Mason never received his certificate from the Grand Lodge. Further, brethren, allow me to say that the worthy brother to whom we have this evening presented this beautiful jewel was the principal promoter of Masonry in Workington, and I believe is now the only one left on the books who first formed this lodge, No. 962. I now present you with this P.M. jewel as a particular mark of the esteem with which you are held by the brethren of this lodge, also as a recognition of your past services.

Bro. Wilson, in acknowledging, said: It would be the merest and most contemptible affectation in me, if I should say that I did not rise with real heartfelt pleasure on the present occasion, to acknowledge the compliment, while what has this day taken place has taken me by surprise. In thus presenting me with this very valuable P.M. jewel, at the very time (as most of you are aware) I am so engaged in provincial matters, I can assure you that I shall wear the jewel you have this day presented to me with a feeling of sincere pleasure. If I should point at that jewel at any time it will cause in my heart a thrill of inexpressible pleasure. Brethren, accept of these my brief but heartfelt thanks, for the present as well as all other past marks of your esteem, and whatever I may have done for Freemasonry, and this lodge in particular, I feel that I have done no more than my duty.

The jewel bears the following description: "Presented to Bro. John Wilson, P.M., as a mark of esteem by the brethren of the Sun and Sector Lodge, No. 962, Workington, November 14th, 1871." The jewel is a splendid piece of workmanship, of an oval form, the centre of which is enamelled blue; at the top it is adorned with the all-seeing eye, in the centre of which is set a valuable diamond. Underneath is a square, in which is placed the 47th proposition of Euclid. The framework of the jewel is of 18-carat gold, richly engraved; it is suspended with a ribbon, ornamented with golden buckle and stripes.

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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.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1871.

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

The price THE FREEMASON is Twopence per week; annual subscription, 10s. (payable in advance).

All communications, letters, &c., to be addressed to the EDITOR 198, Fleet-street, E.C.

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

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The quarterly communication of Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England was held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall. The Grand Master, the Marquis of Ripon, K.G., presided. The meeting was very largely attended, so great a number of brethren not having met together in Grand Lodge for some time. The cause of the concourse was the probability of a lively discussion arising upon the report of the Board of General Purposes, which dwelt principally with the result of the enquiry into Bro. Matthew Cooke's motion of last September. The brethren were not disappointed, for a long debate which was characterised by more than ordinary ability on all sides, ensued. The Report was, of course, carried; no one out of all the crowd present dreamed of any other result. The proceedings of the evening were very pleasing, for the Grand Master's allusion to the illness of the Prince of Wales, Past G.M., evoked that strong feeling of love for our Royal Family which Masons have ever shewn.

Grand Lodge having been opened, the Grand Secretary (Bro. John Hervey) read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication on the 6th September, which were then put by the Grand Master and confirmed.

The Grand Master then rose and said: And now, brethren, before we proceed to the business which stands upon the paper, I feel it my duty, and I am confident that

in discharging it I shall be supported by the unanimous approval of every brother in this lodge, to ask your indulgence while I offer to you a resolution which arises out of circumstances of special emergency, which require, as it seems to me, that we should lay aside for a moment the strictest of regulations in order that we may testify at once at this meeting of our Grand Lodge the deep and heartfelt sympathy which I am sure every one of us feels for that illustrious brother whose dangerous illness has caused, and is still, though happily in a less degree, causing, the greatest anxiety (hear, hear), I am sure, to every Mason throughout the country, as to every right-thinking Englishman in the land. (Hear, hear.) You know well the illness under which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has now for some time been suffering. We should, indeed, have been wanting as Englishmen and as Masons if, assembled here in a solemn Grand Lodge as such a moment, we were not to express the feeling which arises, I am confident, in the heart of every one of us, a feeling of deep sympathy for his R.H. (hear, hear), and an humble and most earnest prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe that it may please Him in His great mercy speedily to restore our illustrious brother to his usual health and strength. (Hear.) It has been most remarkable—and a happy circumstance it is to observe—with what a unanimous feeling the sad news of his Royal Highness' illness has been received throughout the country, and how deeply the heart of the country in every part of it has been stirred. To us this sad misfortune has a special interest, because we have all seen with such deep satisfaction the manner in which his Royal Highness has devoted himself to the interests of Masonry. But I will not dwell upon that topic, because it might seem to have in it some what of a selfish aspect, and it is rather as Englishmen than as Masons that we feel deeply upon this occasion (hear, hear), and if there were any circumstance wanting to add to the depth of our sympathy to-day it would be this, that the illness of the Prince of Wales has come at a time when his illustrious and beloved mother has herself but just recovered from serious illness, and when she is little able to bear the strain of such great and ponderous anxiety. Therefore I am confident that I rightly interpret the feelings of this Grand Lodge when I invite you, from this throne, by a unanimous resolution to convey to his Royal Highness the deep sympathy which you feel with him upon this unfortunate occasion. (Hear, hear.) I would propose, therefore, to you, brethren, that you should resolve, "That this Grand Lodge has heard with the deepest feeling of anxiety and distress of the alarming illness of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and earnestly prays that the Great Architect of the Universe will, in His infinite mercy, be pleased to spare our Royal brother, and to restore him to his family, to the nation, and to his affectionate brethren in Masonry." (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Bagshaw (acting Deputy Grand

Master) said: Worshipful Grand Master, I feel that nothing I can add to what has fallen from you will impress upon the brethren more forcibly the importance of this motion. I most cordially and heartily enter into what you have expressed, and the prayer also that His Royal Highness may shortly be restored. I simply confine myself to seconding the motion.

The Grand Master put the motion, and declared it to be carried *nemine contradicente*.

Bro. the Rev. J. Edmund Cox, P.G.C., came forward at the conclusion of this portion of the business and addressing the Grand Master said: Most Worshipful Grand Master, by your most gracious permission, and with the consent of this Grand Lodge, I beg now to present to the Grand Lodge of England a reprint of the ancient Constitutions of the Order from the year 1723 to 1730. They are a fac-simile reprint of those constitutions which were for the first time submitted to the Craft by our forefathers. I ask, with the Grand Master's permission, the acceptance by Grand Lodge of this book from the publisher, Bro. Richard Spencer, Past Grand Steward, no less than from myself, the humble editor of that work (presenting the work to the Grand Master). (Cheers).

The Grand Master on receiving the book replied: Bro. Cox, I am quite sure I shall rightly interpret the feelings of the Grand Lodge in expressing to you our best thanks for the present you have made to us. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Philbrick, W.M., No. 18, then rose for the purpose of nominating a Grand Master for the ensuing year, and said: May it please you, Most Worshipful Grand Master: Brethren, I beg to nominate for the office of Grand Master Mason of England the Most Noble the Marquis of Ripon, which I am sure will secure the consent and approval, not only of every brother who bears it in this Grand Lodge, but of every Mason in the Craft. (Hear.) Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, has discharged his duties with the confidence of the Craft, which he has most honorably earned, and which we have most worthily bestowed. (Cheers).

The next business appointment was the of a President of the Lodge of Benevolence, on which the Grand Master remarked: I have now to announce that I appoint Bro. Clabon to be President of the Lodge of Benevolence. The next duty is the electing of a Senior and Junior Vice President of the Lodge of Benevolence. As no one else is proposed than those brethren who already hold those offices, I declare Bro. Joshua Nunn duly elected Senior Vice President, and Bro. James Brett, Junior Vice President of the Board.—The election of 12 Past Masters to serve on the Lodge of Benevolence for the year, was the next order of the evening, but as only 12, those already serving, were nominated, no election was necessary, and they were re-appointed.

The Report of the Lodge of Benevolence, which was moved by Bro. Clabon, and

seconded by Bro. S. Rawson, recommended the grant of £100 to a brother of the Caledonian Lodge No. 134, which was put and carried unanimously.

The following Report of the Board of General Purposes, was taken as read, and afterwards received and ordered to be entered on the minutes:—

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board of General Purposes beg to report as follows:—

1. That it having come to the knowledge of the Board, that certain persons alleged to have been initiated into Masonry by parties connected with a spurious lodge, formerly working at Stratford in Essex, have sought and obtained admission to lodges working under the Grand Lodge of England as joining members, the Board have thought it desirable as a warning to the Craft, to order the reissue of the circular of the 24th October, 1859, with a *fac simile* to the certificate issued by the spurious lodge in question.

2. The Board have taken into their serious consideration the allegations made by Bro. Matthew Cooke in his speech at the last Quarterly Communication against the officers in the Grand Secretary's office, that they "on their own account formulate, tabulate, and send abroad other degrees, and they make the office the place from whence they emanate;" that "they give and sell information, they withhold information from certain channels and pour it into others," and that "they receive per centages on the information they obtain and bestow."

The Board have devoted the whole of the two special sittings to the reception of evidence and the consideration of the allegations so made; and they especially invited information at all bearing on such matters. No evidence was laid before them in proof of the allegation that information has been sold, or improperly withheld, or unduly given by any clerk or official in the Grand Secretary's office, and the Board consequently find that such allegation is without basis or foundation.

With reference to the unrecognized degrees the Board consider it proved, that, on one occasion a clerk in the Grand Secretary's office assisted, for twenty minutes or less, at a meeting held on the premises of the Craft for purposes connected with a society not recognized by Grand Lodge, but whether or no such meeting took place in office hours is not certain. It also appears that on several occasions payments have been made to and received by the clerk in question at the Grand Secretary's office for purposes not connected with the Craft.

No evidence has come before the Board to connect any of the other officers in the Grand Secretary's office with the allegations made by Bro. Matthew Cooke in his speech at the last Quarterly Communication.

The Grand Secretary has expressed himself entirely satisfied with the manner in which the duties of his office are carried on by all the clerks employed there.

3. The Board beg to subjoin a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 17th November, 2871, showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £2,841 11s. 4d.; and on the hands of the Grand Secretary, for petty ash, £75.

(Signed)

J. LLEWELLYN EVANS,
President.

Bro. Ll. Evans then said: In moving, that the Report of the Board of General Purposes to the members of Grand Lodge be adopted, I inform Grand Lodge that this Report is but a sequence, or a following, of the reference which the Grand Lodge at its last Quarterly Communication, had made to the Board of General Purposes with regard to a motion then brought forward by Bro. Matthew Cooke. It is my opinion, as

President of the Board, that this Report is made upon the discussion of the motion, and possibly might at this Quarterly Communication be rejected by a motion that the minutes be not confirmed; but the Board felt that certain allegations having been made in this Grand Lodge at last Quarterly Communication with reference to the conduct of officials in the Grand Secretary's office, it was the duty of the Grand Lodge to inquire into those allegations. I may state to Grand Lodge that prior to the board acting upon these enquiries a complaint was made to the Board by the Grand Secretary in reference to the allegations made against the officials in his office by Bro. Cooke. On that complaint Bro. Cooke was summoned to attend the Board. He did attend, and he protested against the jurisdiction of the Board. Without going into the question of whether his protest was a protest that could be defended in Masonic law or not, it appeared to the Board that it was absolutely necessary, whether such a protest was a right protest or not, that the allegations should be strictly and completely enquired into, and the accuracy or otherwise of them be determined. On this it was proposed and agreed to, "that the charge be withdrawn, and Bro. Cooke be informed that the Board considered, in the interest of the Craft and, in fact, in justice to the officials in the Grand Secretary's office, that the enquiry should be strictly proceeded with and determined." Bro. Cooke was invited to bring any evidence before the Board. The Board also devoted two special meetings to enquire into the truth, or otherwise, of the allegations brought forward by Bro. Cooke; evidence was tendered and enquired into; and the result you have before you. The Board found that the charge was very serious and a very damaging allegation of Bro. Cooke against officials of Grand Secretary's office, of giving, or selling information to certain persons, of withholding information from other persons, and of receiving, as it was stated, per centage for information so given or so withheld. There was no evidence whatever brought before the Board. (Hear, hear.) The Board therefore found that the allegations were without foundation (Hear, hear), and I put it to the Board, having heard the evidence, which is in Grand Lodge—it was all taken down in writing—and I may state to Grand Lodge that I perfectly and absolutely concur in the decision of the Board. I consider the decision of the Board was unanimous. With regard to the charges made by Bro. Cooke about the unrecognized degrees and the part which officials in Grand Secretary's office had taken in promulgating those degrees, the Board then considered them. It was proved to the satisfaction of the Board that one of the officials of Grand Secretary's office, who was specially appointed, on one occasion, as you will find it in the report, conferred a degree in some way or other—we could not find out—it was very difficult to ascertain how long it took—one said it occupied 5 minutes, another a quarter of an hour, another 20 minutes—while it was alleged that to confer the degree it would occupy 2 hours—we found that on the premises of the Craft—one witness stating positively it was after 5 o'clock, after office hours—we found it proved to a certain extent that a degree not recognised by Grand Lodge was given. It was also proved that money had been at times received by the same official in reference to degrees not recognised by the Craft. It was not proved—on the contrary, there was no evidence brought for-

ward whatever to connect anybody else in in the Grand Secretary's office with any charge or allegation mentioned at the last Quarterly Communication by Bro. Cooke—not one. We strictly enquired into that. There was not the slightest evidence to connect any one else with the allegation. Under these circumstances the board felt that it was their duty to report, in answer to the reference made at the last Quarterly Communication in respect of charges made in this Grand Lodge against officials in the Grand Secretary's office for doing what, if proved, would render them unworthy to continue longer in the service of the Craft, that the matter had been enquired into, and you find in the report the result. They do not pass judgment; they report the circumstance to Grand Lodge, and leave Grand Lodge to deal with it. I move that the report be adopted.

Bro. Col. Burdett seconded the motion.

Bro. Matthew Cooke thereupon came forward and said: Most Worshipful Grand Master and brethren, it is rather an invidious thing to address you on a personal subject like this, but it is a matter for every one of us. The right of forming an opinion, and the right of expressing that opinion, depend on the proceedings of last Grand Lodge. The President of the Board has told you that I was summoned, first, to attend the Board of General Purposes to give an account of words I spoke here in a legislative capacity. That Board is chosen from you, brethren; its members are your substitutes (hear, hear); and every one of us that says a thing unpleasant to the Grand Secretary, or against Grand Secretary's office, is under the penalty, if we allow this to go forth now, of being dragged before that Board as an offender. (Cries of "No, no.") Who makes them? (Continued cries of "No, no.") It is the fact. ("No," "No.") I beg your pardon. ("No.") Oh! go on. I will wait as long as you please. The very first thing that I get, is a summons from the Board. I think the duty of every Mason is to obey a constituted authority. I went up to the Board, and I tendered a protest—on your behalf, on my behalf, on the behalf of every man. Why? That we should not, if we dared to say anything that did not exactly tally with the official mind—that we should not be dragged up as offenders. That protest, whether it was received or whether it was not, I have no means of telling—these things are conducted in secret. (Cries of "No.") I think that it is time we had an open Board. (Hear, hear.) These are the times when the law is administered in this country freely and openly; when there is no quiet burking of the thing. Now, after I had attended, I was asked whether if I withdrew the charge—for I beg to say that the President of the Board has kindly shifted it on my shoulders that I have two charges against the office. In making my motion here I gave my reasons; they are no charges; I had no reason to be cited for a charge. But the Grand Secretary did cite me before the Board, and made charges against me. Now, what was the proceeding of the Board? I was asked, if the Grand Secretary withdrew his charge, would I withdraw my protest? I said, "Yes," and did so—loyally; went to him the day after; asked him how it should be done—what was to be done? Wouldn't tell; couldn't; didn't know; didn't care. I then did another thing: I had given notice of a certain motion to come on at this meeting; I thought it would not do to allow that to stand. I withdrew that. The day after, what do I get? A repetition of the sum-

mons. The President bids—the Board asks—you to come and help them to do this—and I get this summons in these words:—"You are hereby summoned to attend a special meeting of the Board of General Purposes, to be holden at this place on Tuesday, the 31st current, in order to afford any information of which you may be in possession respecting certain allegations made by you at the last Grand Lodge, charging the officials"—and this on the Grand Secretary's counter-charge against me—"charging the officials in the Grand Secretary's office with selling information to certain Masonic manufacturers, and receiving per centages for the same." Well, brethren, I took some little trouble about it: I feel very strongly upon the point; and took some trouble about it. I collected as much information as I possibly could, and of course, having no power, I could not compel the persons who had told me, to come forward and give their evidence. The first portion they selected of my speech—for it resolved itself into that, that I was to answer two particular sets of expressions I had made use of in this Grand Lodge—the first portion broke down, and I'll tell you for why. It broke down for this—simply that the persons who had given me information were afraid to meet the Board and would not come up (Cries of "No," "No," and uproar). Yes, yes: it doesn't matter. The second proves what? It proves that in these premises unrecognised degrees were given. Then what comes of this? The Board make two resolutions, and neither of those resolutions is embodied in the report. I take the report that the President has brought forward—not the report of the Board, it is the report of the President watered down by the Grand Secretary (Great laughter.) I ask—and I leave you to be the judge—I ask the President, will he produce or read to you the two resolutions come to by the Board? and then I ask you to look at your Grand Lodge papers. (Hear, hear.) Will he do so?

Bro. D. Evans: Certainly.

(The Grand Secretary here left the Grand Lodge for the purpose of fetching the originals from his office, and on his way was most enthusiastically cheered).

Bro. Matthew Cooke continued: We will take the resolutions presently. I then say this, that it was an affair that was burked—that the questions which should have been put to the official were literally burked. There were 126 of them prepared, and thirteen were asked. But, brethren, I go further than that, and I say that on this occasion I shall have to make a charge against the Grand Secretary, and I will wait till he comes back. (Laughter.)

The Grand Master, on Br. Cooke pausing, remarked that rather than waste time he had better proceed with another branch of his subject.

Bro. Matthew Cooke said: Very well. I will reserve quietly that for some few minutes, and state what I think this necessarily proves. I think that the manner in which any brother may be had before that Board single-handed to fight the officials of the Order is a thing which calls for an open Board, where every brother is allowed to be present. There is nothing so healthy as public opinion, and if we create a masonic opinion I think these things would not be done covertly, and away from the sight of the whole Craft. It may be said, it is not the custom; but if Freemasonry is a progressive science let it walk with the custom of the country. The custom of the country is not to hold courts in sly holes

and corners; but when a subject of complaint is made and a court tries its truth or falsehood, the court is thrown open. Why? To shew the fairness of the enquiry. So it should be with the Craft; we should have a certain day fixed for holding enquiries, and any brother who liked should be present.

At this point of his speech Bro. Cooke made use of such a strong expression that the Grand Master called him to order, and said: Bro. Cooke, you cannot be allowed to use that word.

Bro. Matthew Cooke replied: I withdraw that word, my lord; perhaps I was carried away by my feelings and the heat of discussion when I used it. I withdraw the word, if you please. I am not a practical speaker, and therefore it is rather awkward to be called upon to answer at a moment's notice things of this kind and before a lodge; but I do say this—I stand alone, and I am trying to fight your battle every one of you. (Laughter.) It may be your case; you may be placed in the same position as I am; and then you would say directly, if I had given way and gone before the Board without a protest, there was a precedent created, and your rights were burked. (Grand Secretary here returned into Grand Lodge). Now the Grand Secretary has returned I will proceed with what I was saying.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes, which were in substance the same as given in the report printed above, only that in addition it stated that "Bro. Little" was the clerk in Grand Secretary's office, who was proved on one occasion for a period of twenty minutes or less to have held a meeting of an unrecognised degree on the premises, and as is generally understood, in the Coffee room or Library.

Bro. Matthew Cooke continued: And now, I ask Grand Lodge, that being one half those allegations, this was culled from what I have said, one half of those allegations being the fact. Grand Lodge will judge how difficult it was to prove the other half. Now I will bring something before Grand Lodge. I say that Bro. Hervey is not a proper custodian of anything belonging to the Grand Lodge. (Laughter and great disturbance). Stay a minute: you shall hear. I am not in a position at this moment of not being able to prove the allegation. I have the whole Board of General Purposes; every man is a proof. Bro. Hervey, to shield his subordinate, what does he do? He says, "I looked out the charter or warrant, or some such document, empowering, or forming or being the nucleus on which the Order of Constantine was founded, I looked that out; I brought it to the notice of the Grand Master, and by his leave forwarded that to Lord Kenlis." I say distinctly, that is your property and not the Grand Master's or the Grand Secretary's to deal with. (Cries of "No.") I say distinctly: Bro. Hervey has no more right to give away your documents, which are part of the property of the Grand Lodge, than I have to go and take away a lease or any other document I may find in a nobleman's muniment room.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, G.J.D., asked whether these observations bore on anything which occurred in the report.

The Grand Master said that Bro. Cooke's remarks had latterly been of a somewhat desultory character; but it must be remembered that Bro. Cooke's character had been seriously impugned by the Board of General Purposes, and he thought the Grand Lodge would agree with him in thinking that Bro. Cooke ought to have all due latitude. If he thought him out of order he would at the proper time close the discussion. (Cheers.)

Bro. Matthew Cooke proceeded: I am exceedingly obliged to your Lordship and for the hearing Grand Lodge has given me. I go for an open Board, for every man to speak his opinion without being pulled up before the Board; and I say that actuated by that feeling I said what I did in last Grand Lodge, and I had no right to be called to account.

Col. Lowry Cole, P.G.D., said he had no idea

of speaking on this occasion, but he could not help thinking that the President of the Board had convicted himself of having offended against the liberty of Freemasons in this Grand Lodge. He had understood him to say that before the resolution of the Board was laid before the Board of General Purposes they thought it their duty to enquire into allegations made, before the resolution of Grand Lodge was laid before the Board.

Bro. Ll. Evans assured Bro. Cole it was quite a misunderstanding. A reference was made to the Board; but considering that grave charges and allegations were made against the Grand Secretary's office, the board thought it their duty to enquire into the matter.

Col. Lowry Cole maintained that that was exactly his position. Every brother near him understood Bro. Evans to say so.

Bro. Ll. Evans said it was subsequent to the charge being made.

Col. Lowry Cole replied: Yes; it was on that very point, Bro. M. Cooke was right—the broad principle that what takes place—although he (Col. Cole), differed from Bro. Cooke in a great deal—what was said and done by a brother in Grand Lodge he was not responsible for to the Board of General Purposes directly. (Hear, hear, and applause.) It was on that principle he called on Grand Lodge not to adopt this report until it was clearly placed on that report, that it was made in accordance with the reference to it from Grand Lodge.

Bro. Philbrick, W.M. of 18, in a long and eloquent speech defended the course pursued by the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. F. Bennoch, thought the last eloquent harangue had only missed the subject, which was before Grand Lodge, which was the report, not the way in which the report was arrived at.

The Grand Master said: Before I put the resolution which has been moved, to Grand Lodge I think it my duty to make one observation upon a portion of the statement contained in this report. It appears from a paragraph which has often been read, and to which consequently I will not more particularly refer, that in the opinion of the Board of General Purposes, a competent authority for the examination of such a question, a case has occurred in which an official employed in the office of the Grand Secretary did upon these premises of ours here, perform some ceremony, whatever it may have been, connected with a degree of Masonry not recognized by this Grand Lodge. I think that that having been the case in this building, and on the part (I feel every confidence, through inadvertence), of an officer employed in the department of the Grand Secretary, it is my duty to express openly the opinion which undoubtedly I entertain, that any such use of any portion of this building ought not to be permitted. (Hear, hear, and cheering.) I have no doubt that this building is intended solely for purposes connected with the degrees of Masonry recognized by this Grand Lodge, and that to purposes of that description it ought to be closely and strictly confined (Hear, hear), and I shall consequently feel it right to give directions to that effect (cheers). I have now to put to you the motion which has been made.

The report was then adopted.

Bro. Clabon's motions were carried.

Bro. F. Bennoch moved and Bro. J. Savage seconded a donation of £500 for the relief of the sufferers by the fires at Chicago and the Western prairies.

The Grand Master said: I cannot help taking part in this question. Bro. Bennoch has alluded to the truly fraternal feeling of the Masons of the United States towards me as your representative when I was in that country. I have carried away from there so strong a feeling of the reception I had there that I feel it would indeed be most ungrateful in me if I were not very heartily to concur in the resolution which has been proposed on this occasion.

The motion was carried unanimously, and Bro. Samuel Tomkins, Grand Treasurer, said he would pay the amount at once without waiting for confirmation by next Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge was then closed.

GRAND MARK LODGE.

The half-yearly meeting of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, &c., was held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, and was very numerously attended.

The Grand Master, the Rev. G. R. Portal, M.A., presided, and among the other brethren present were: Bros. J. C. Parkinson, G.J.W.; Magnus Ohren, G.M.O.; J. R. Stebbing, G. Treas.; Frederick Binckes, G. Sec.; Eugene Cronin, G.S.D.; Morton Edwards, G.J.D.; William Hudson, G. Asst. Dir. of Cers.; H. R. Trigg, G. Sword-bearer; I. J. Wilkinson, G. Standard-bearer; Rev. C. R. Davy, William S. Webster, P. W. Koch, and R. J. Spiers, G. Stewards; W. E. Gumbleton, P.G.S.W.; Wm. Mann, P.G. Reg.; Thomas Meggy, P.G.M.O.; James Stevens, P.G.J.O.; Revds. T. F. Ravenshaw, D. Shaboe, and W. B. Church, P.G. Chaps.; J. Nunn, P.G.S.D.; S. Rosenthal, P.G.D.C.; H. C. Levander, P.G. Dir. of Cers.; T. J. Sabine, P.G. Asst. Dir. of Cers.; R. Spencer, P.G. Sword-bearer; A. D. Loewenstark and J. H. Wynne, P.G.I.G.'s; S. M. Lazarus and John Read, P.G. Org.'s; C. Hammerton, H. Massey, and M. A. Loewenstark, P.G. Stewards; Geo. Barlow, Prov. G.J.W. Middlesex and Surrey; G. John Smallpiece, P.G. Treas. Middlesex and Surrey; W. O. Walker, P.G.M.O. Lancashire; Thomas Birchall, P.G.J.W. Lancashire; Thomas Hargreaves, P.P.G.J.D. Lancashire; John Chadwick, P.G. Sec. Lancashire; J. C. Duncombe, P.G.J.D. Leicestershire and Rutland; R. C. Elsc, P.G. Asst. Dir. of Cers. Somerset; and a large number of Masters, Past Masters, and Overseers of private lodges.

Grand Lodge having been formally opened, the Grand Secretary (Bro. Fredk. Binckes) read the minutes of last Grand Lodge of 6th June.

Bro. Joshua Nunn desired to know a little more about the treaty, proposed by these minutes to be confirmed, between this Grand Lodge and the supreme bodies, the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, the Knights Templar, and the 33rd Degree; because, he thought, the Jewish brethren might object to it. This jurisdiction should keep itself aloof from all other jurisdictions, and as there were many Jewish brethren in Masonry who might feel themselves debarred from joining the Mark Degree if it was at all connected with Christian bodies, they should learn all the particulars of these treaties before they were adopted by this Grand Lodge. In deference to the objections of the Jewish brethren, he would like to see this matter a little more ventilated before it was passed, and he would therefore move that these minutes, excepting the portion which referred to the treaties, be confirmed.

Bro. A. D. Loewenstark seconded the motion. Although, on a former occasion, he had advocated the treaties on the ground of freedom, he now thought that Jewish brethren could not join any degree in Masonry that was not honestly and truly Masonry universal. Although there were not many Jewish brethren present, there were, he was sure, many conscientious Masons, who would take the matter into consideration, and not vote for the adoption of these treaties until they thoroughly understood what was meant by it. If the adoption were carried, it would be a great drawback to Mark Masonry, which had worked well for a great number of years. Let them go on in that way, without any innovation; if not, there would come a

time when they would regret the step they proposed to take.

Bro. H. C. Levander was astonished that a misunderstanding on such a point could take place. The treaty between the contracting parties was not in opposition to either, and did not interfere with the ritual of Mark Masonry. If the treaties in any way interfered with the universality of Mark Masonry, he, for one, would be the last to vote for them. He moved, as an amendment, that the minutes be confirmed.

Bro. Gumbleton having heard the treaties fully read over at the time they were entered into, agreed with Bro. Levander, that they did not interfere with the Mark Degree, and seconded the amendment.

The Grand Secretary thought it would be hardly respectful to Bro. Nunn if he did not explain that, whether a brother be a Jewish or a Christian brother, if he was a member of the Mark Degree, and was not a member of the A. and A. Rite, Knights Templar, or Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, he was no more affected by these treaties than if they did not exist. Such brother was only a member of the Mark Degree. Therefore, there could be no possible objection that the universality of the degree could be jeopardised, or its interests prejudiced, to the smallest possible extent.

The Grand Master had imagined that this subject had been, on former occasions, worked thoroughly threadbare. Bro. Lazarus (whom he was glad to see present) then explained that the treaty could make no difference to the Hebrew brethren. It did not affect the ritual or universality of Mark Masonry in any way. All it did was to bind the parties to be on friendly terms with each other, and Earl Percy told the brethren that it no more affected the Judaism of the Jews than a treaty between England and Turkey would affect the Christianity of England. The treaties had been of the greatest service to this Degree, and had been the means of obtaining support from distinguished brethren on critical occasions in the provinces, which, but for those treaties, it would not have had.

Bro. Joshua Nunn having replied, the amendment of Bro. Levander was put and carried, and the minutes were confirmed.

The Grand Master said he had great pleasure in announcing that he had received official communication to the effect that this Grand Mark Lodge had been recognised by the Grand Chapters of Iowa and Pennsylvania, and that these Grand Bodies were willing to receive, and grant grand rank to, representatives of Grand Mark Lodge, on that body agreeing to receive, and grant grand rank to, representatives from them. The time had now come, therefore, to settle the footing on which this lodge would receive such representatives. He need not point out the enormous strength the recognition gave the Mark Degree in this country, and he thought it would be advisable that the Grand Master confer on the representatives of the Grand Chapters of Iowa and Pennsylvania the rank of Senior Grand Warden, and also to give them a distinguishing jewel; and he proposed that if these foreign bodies appointed brethren as their representatives who had filled the highest posts in Canada and the United States—for instance, if they appointed a Past Grand Principal—he would rank in Grand Mark Lodge next to the Past Grand Masters; but if the foreign chapters should appoint a member of this Grand Lodge as our representative at its assemblies, he should have the rank of Past Grand Senior Warden, or immediately after the S.W. of the year. The representatives

here of foreign Grand Chapters should rank after our S.G. Wardens. There was one other point. He wished to ask for power—as numerous brethren who belonged to our lodges in the colonies could not be rewarded by the G. Master giving them office in Grand Lodge, although they might have distinguished themselves by hard work in the colonies—to reward such brethren by granting them rank as Past Grand officers. At present, the Grand Master had no power to do so. He believed it would strengthen the position of this body in the colonies, and he therefore proposed to ask Grand Lodge to grant him that power. The M.W.G.M. concluded by moving a resolution in terms of his address.

Bro. Walker, Prov. G.M.O. Lancashire, seconded the motion.

Bro. J. R. Stebbing asked whether it would not be better if the rank proposed to be conferred were *not exceeding* Past Senior Grand Warden? It would be very inconvenient to be obliged always to give the highest rank, and he would rather trust to the Grand Master's discretion in conferring the rank. They might always give Past Senior Grand Warden's rank; but it would be as well not to be compelled to do so.

The Grand Master thought the suggestion a good one, and the motion, as amended, was put and carried *nem. con.*

Bro. T. J. Sabine (Brighton), on rising to nominate the new Grand Master, said: The period having arrived when, under the Constitutions that govern this Order, it is necessary to nominate some distinguished and skilful brother who has done good suit and service on behalf of the Order to occupy the place which, during the past two years and a half, you, Most Worshipful Grand Master have so worthily filled, I rise for the purpose of naming an experienced and skilful brother as the future Grand Master of this Mark Degree. I am sure I have need to make mention only of the name of the brother proposed, for him to receive at your hands hearty and unanimous approval. I refer, then, to our present Deputy Grand Master, our noble brother, the Earl Percy. I am quite sure, Most Worshipful Grand Master, that if there is any brother connected with this flourishing and prosperous Degree who deserves such a distinguished recognition at our hands, that brother is Earl Percy. In every phase of Masonic life, in every moment of necessity, at every period of the history of this G.M. Lodge since he has been connected with it, he has always been prepared and ready in every possible way to promote, to support, and to increase its authority, its members and the area of ground over which it extends. During the past eighteen months, our noble brother has held the distinguished position of Deputy Grand Master of the Order; and I believe that by preferring him to the higher office we shall be giving a tone and satisfaction to the whole Order wherever it may be spread, throughout this or throughout distant countries: and I am quite sure that when his term of office shall have expired, when it will be found necessary in order to comply with the constitutions of the degree to supersede him for some other brother, this Grand Lodge will not regret in having nominated and their having elected Bro. Earl Percy to the position to which I now nominate him. (Cheers.)

The Report of the General Board and the accounts were then read by the Grand Secretary, from which it was clearly shewn that this Degree was in a most flourishing state, that brethren were everywhere joining the Order, and that the funds in the hands of the Grand Treasurer were most

gratifying. The Report of the General Board also contained the following recommendations, each of which required special motion for adoption by Grand Lodge:—

1.—Abolition of qualification of W.M. of a Craft lodge as necessary for a candidate for the office of W.M. of a lodge of Mark Masters.

2.—Recognition of Dep. Prov. Grand Masters as Grand officers, with seats on the dais, during their absolute tenure of office as such.

3.—That ten guineas be contributed from the funds of Grand Lodge to the "Binckes Testimonial."

4.—Presentation of jewels to Chairman and Stewards of Mark Benevolent Fund Festival in July last.

Bro. James Stevens, G.S.O., moved the abolition of the qualification of W.M. of a Craft Lodge as necessary for a candidate for the office of W.M. of a Lodge of Mark Masters. He did not think there was any necessity to take up time by referring to the circumstances which gave rise to the motion. There had been a great hindrance to this Degree in consequence of the difficulty hitherto existing of the necessity of having a brother for Master of a Mark Lodge who had filled the chair of Master of a Craft Lodge previously. It had been objected to the alteration that there was a portion of the ceremony of installation similar in both degrees, but he based his motion on the understanding that the Board of General Purposes take care to make such a change in the ceremony of installation that the similarity should not exist. At present, if a brother who had not been a P.M. of a Craft Lodge was by dispensation installed as Master of a Mark Lodge visited another Mark Lodge on Installation day, he was not allowed to remain in the lodge during the ceremony of Installation. His natural condition was completely set aside, although he had perhaps been very serviceable to the Order. The old rule was got rid of now by a side-wind, which he (Bro. Stevens) thought unworthy of this Grand Lodge, and he would therefore move that the qualification be abolished on the understanding that the Board of General Purposes altered the ceremony of Installation.

Bro. H. C. Levander, G.J.O., seconded the motion.

Bro. Stebbing, Grand Treasurer, was afraid there were too grave objections to the motion to justify its being passed. Some modification might take place to meet the occasional difficulty and relieve brethren of the inconvenience of passing a resolution actually to abolish the qualification for the chair of Mark Lodges. If the qualification be abolished altogether, brethren would very readily obtain the chair without sufficient exertion being made to obtain a duly qualified brother. He was aware that in other degrees the qualification was not insisted on; but they must recollect that Grand Lodge of England, the parent Grand Lodge of all Masonry, was their sovereign, and they must be especially jealous that nothing be done to cause reflection that they were at all interfering with the ancient rites and usages of Craft Masonry, or had actually abolished that which had been held so essential. It was a grave thing for Grand Mark Lodge to do. A brother should not be placed lightly or hastily in the chair without due exertion being made to find a properly qualified Master. There might be reasons where on occasions they might have to depart from this rule, but those reasons should be thoroughly examined and tested, and if urgent cases did occur, then the Grand Master being satisfied that every exertion had been made should have the power of granting dispen-

sation. In the country there was great difficulty to get officers to take the chair at Masonic Lodges and Chapters, but he thought that with a little exertion they might get help without breaking the laws of Masonry.

Bro. Morton Edwards, who was a W.M. of a Mark Lodge by dispensation, said he had been obliged to quit a lodge-room lately during the installation of the W.M. One or the other must be wrong,—either the Mark was interfering with the Craft, or the dispensation of the Grand Master was not sufficient to provide for the irregularity of a W.M. not properly qualified.

The Grand Secretary said there could be no doubt it was inconvenient for a Master installed under dispensation, to be refused to assist at the installation of a properly-qualified brother. It appeared to be an anomaly. In the case of Most Wise Sovereigns of the Rose Croix Order, or a Commander of an Encampment, they could be installed without having been Master of a Craft Lodge; but in the Royal Arch a companion could not be even a third principal without having first been a W.M. For himself, he hardly knew which way to vote upon this motion. There was no question that there was a dispensing power in the Grand Mark Master, according to the Book of Constitutions; but if dispensations were too often granted, they lost their force, and he therefore thought this question required a large amount of consideration. He was one of those who had become converts to the opposite side of the question he had originally advocated. No one would regret more than he, if anything was done needlessly or idly—he would not say to aggravate, but—to excite the feelings of Craft Grand Lodge against this Grand Lodge. If he thought such could be the case, he did not know that he should take a contrary course. He could not lose sight of the fact, that the resolution was adopted when this Grand Lodge was in a very different position to that which it now occupied. As a matter of fact, there did once exist a very strong feeling of antagonism in Craft Grand Lodge to this Grand body. Our ancestors, he thought, were wise in their generation in adopting the rule. The body was then a very small one, and there was a difficulty experienced in selecting a brother for W.M., but now the body had increased to an enormous extent—they had 140 lodges, and that number was rapidly increasing—and there were plenty of qualified Masters to be found. He thought that a little more consideration should be given to the question, before a decision was arrived at. There was power given to the Grand Master, by the Book of Constitutions, to meet a case of urgency, and, he would ask, was it worth while to offend the prejudices of brethren by making the road to the chair too easy?

Bro. J. C. Parkinson cordially agreed with Bro. Binckes; they ought not to make the chair too cheap. He thought good fruit would be borne from this discussion, and he should move that the matter be referred back to the General Board.

Bro. C. Hammerton seconded it.

Bro. Stebbing would remark that there was a state of things elsewhere similar to this. A brother took the chair of a lodge to qualify him for the Royal Arch; but he never was allowed to attend the installation of Master of a Craft lodge. If they could refer the matter to the General Board, let them do so; but do not instal Masters into the chair without giving them first an insight into the Craft.

The Grand Master asked, whether it was for the interest of Grand Mark Lodge that

a brother who had worked hard in Mark Masonry should be debarred from entering the chair because he had not filled the chair in another degree? He would suggest the following alteration in Brother Parkinson's motion: "That it be referred back to the General Board, to effect such an alteration in the obligation of an Installed Master," in the first place, "and in the chair secrets," in the second place, "as that a dispensation of the Grand Master would enable a brother to take the chair."

Bro. Parkinson agreed.

Bro. Stebbing would propose that no brother should have access to a Board of Installed Masters, unless he had been admitted to the full ceremony of installation."

Bro. Duncombe, Prov. G.S.D. Leicester and Rutland, seconded it.

Bro. Parkinson's motion was carried.

On the motion of Bro. R. J. Spiers, Oxford, the recognition of Deputy Provincial Grand Masters as Grand officers, with seats on the Dais, during their absolute tenure of office as such, was carried.

On the motion of Br. Parkinson, seconded by Bro. Magnus Ohren, ten guineas were contributed from the funds of Grand Lodge to the Binckes' Testimonial.

Jewels were then presented to the following Chairman and Stewards of the Benevolent Fund Festival in July last:—Bros. Parkinson (chairman), the Rev. A. B. Fraser, the Rev. L. O. Bigg, T. Strahan, Magnus Ohren, J. H. Wynne, R. J. Spiers, F. Davidson, the Rev. D. Shaboe, and the Rev. Vyvyan H. Moyle.

Bro. James Stevens, G.S.O., rose and said: This evening, our Deputy Grand Master, Earl Percy, has been nominated as your Grand Master for the ensuing year, and of course this sounds the token of a very speedy parting from our present M.W.G.M. I believe it is customary that on the G.M. leaving the chair of office, to present him with the Past Grand Master's jewel, an honour which has been conferred on his predecessors; but I have been giving some slight consideration to the services our M.W.G.M. has rendered to you during the past three years. I hope you will take me as meaning fully what I state, when I say I think his services during the past three years have been somewhat in excess of any similar period of time since the working of the Mark degree, seventeen years ago. I have looked through the various reports connected with Mark Masonry from that time, and I am quite certain that, however you may follow up my idea in making some remark upon it, it will interest you to know to what a considerable extent our present M.W.G.M. has carried out the duties of his exalted position, and the progress the Mark Degree has made under his most admirable superintendence. At the time when our E.W.G.M. took charge of us, we numbered 103 lodges, and those 103 lodges represented all that had been formed both antecedent to and during the years of our former Grand Masters, four in number, representing a period of about 17 years. During the two years and a half—that is, from the time of his election to the present time—no less than 38 new lodges have been connected with the Order—twice the average of the number of lodges previously connected with it. The number of certificates appear to me to have gone on in an increasing ratio, from the date of our M.W.G.M.'s accession to office, to 150, in one half-year to 489, and now nearly 530 during the past six months. Our receipts have also increased very greatly indeed. In addition to which I have noticed by our reports many works that have been carried out through our

M.W.G.M.'s introduction, and by his action, which have placed the Degree in a very good and forward position. The provinces that have been created in that time, the recognition of this Grand Lodge by the Grand Chapter of Canada, the presenting of the charity jewel, are only some few of the good deeds he has done for us. It has struck me, brethren, that there ought to be some distinguishing mark of your confidence in the Grand Master (hear, hear), over and above that which has been shown to his predecessors, and what form that is to take is the great difficulty I have to set before you; but there certainly never has been a Master who has gone out of the chair, who has done so much during the time he has been our Sovereign. I therefore leave it to you, brethren, that inasmuch as it is difficult to decide what would be most acceptable to the Grand Master, it struck me that in addition to the Past Grand Master's jewel, which he will receive almost as a matter of right, you would, among yourselves, consider whether there should not be altogether some distinguishing badge which would associate in your minds our Master's good undertakings for us when he comes amongst us again; it struck me that something like a pendant jewel to a collar—it is not the expense—but you ought to give some distinctive mark for such good work, such admirable labour, for I can assure you that during the time I have been attending the Boards of General Purposes, the work has been such as must have received from you the greatest approbation of his ever-readiness to attend to our interests. I therefore lay it out to you, trusting that some other brethren here, more of position than myself, will give it their attention and say what shall be done, but I make these remarks to you to show my feeling on the subject.

Bro. Parkinson suggested a committee, and Bros. Stebbing, Parkinson, Stevens, Meggy, Binckes, Rosenthal, and Spicers agreed to serve.

The Grand Master said: Brethren, I do not know how sufficiently to express my thanks for the very kind words which have fallen from Bro. Stevens, and the exceedingly kind way in which this Grand Lodge has received them. I shall have another opportunity, when I instal my successor in this chair, of entering into a detailed statement of the way in which I have carried out the duties you imposed upon me three years ago, and therefore I will not detain you with any statistics as to the progress of our Order. I shall content myself with thanking you for the very kind motion, and the kind way in which it has been received.

Grand Lodge was then closed, and the brethren afterwards dined together. The toasts of the evening were proposed and honoured, and some delightful singing was given by Bro. De Lacy, Mr. Barnby, and Mr. Hodges, under the direction of Bro. John Read, Past Grand Organist.

BRO. W. J. HUGHAN, of Truro, Cornwall, will be very glad to hear from any brethren who possess, or know of, minutes of lodges, or copies of M.S. Constitutions, of an older date than A.D. 1720. Our well-known and highly-esteemed Brother is now engaged in preparing another work for the press, which we believe will pay especial attention to the M.S. Constitutions of the Freemasons, and has in his possession several copies of these ancient and valuable documents, which he will publish for the first time. He is particularly anxious to have every information obtainable with respect to these manuscripts in the possession of lodges and brethren, as soon as possible.

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Lodge of Faith, No. 141.—The second regular meeting of the season of this ancient lodge took place at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C., on Tuesday, the 28th Nov. Bro. C. C. Taylor, W.M., presided, assisted by Bros. Green, S.W.; Themans, J.W.; J. Kennett, S.D.; Waygood, J.D.; M. Davis, I.G.; W. Carter, Treas.; Anslow, Sec.; and Longstaff, Tyler. There were also present: Bros. Pevers, W. Stewart, William Pope, Hopwood, N. Gluckstein, A. E. Harris, E. Gottheil, and James Hill, P.M.'s, and a large lodge of brethren. The preliminaries being disposed of, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, from which it appeared that £10 had been voted to be placed on the list of the W.M., who had announced his intention to represent the lodge as Steward at the next festival in support of the Annuity Fund for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. The W.M. then conferred the third degree on Bros. Gluck, Nathan, Challis, and Levy, after which Bros. Tolady, Stokes, Ellis, Covington, Kendall, and Mead were passed to the second degree. These onerous duties were performed with a degree of perfection reflecting the highest credit on the W.M., and also on his officers, who went through their work with intelligence and ability. At the banquet table, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were briefly given and responded to, and profound sympathy was expressed at the mention of the serious indisposition of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The name of Her Majesty was also received with the greatest warmth and enthusiasm. The visitors were Bros. Hayward (186), Woodman (157), and Hume (51). The proceedings were enlivened with songs by Bros. M. Davis, P. Davis, Painter, Woodman, Hume, and the following Masonic song, written and sung by Bro. Hutton, to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne":—

From earliest ages have we known
The Great Creator's power,
Broadcast are all His blessings thrown
To man, each day and hour.
One of our race has taught us how
United we should be;
For, singly, we must surely bow
To adverse Destiny.

When Æsop lived, he knew our race
Were selfish to degree;
His knowledge easy 'tis to trace
Of poor humanity.
Of sticks a bundle, tied with string,
Each tried to break in vain;
When single, then, indeed, the thing
Was quickly rent in twain.

Let craftsmen, then, example shew,
By helping one another;
How sympathising is, in woe,
Each Mason for his brother.
United let each heart and hand
On earth for ever be,
That we may form a joyful band
In heaven's eternity.

Refrain—Let Masons all well bear in mind
United they must be,
And the emblems of their noble Craft,
Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Star Lodge, No. 1275.—The regular meeting of this rapidly-increasing and prosperous lodge was held on Friday, the 1st inst., at the Marquis of Granby Tavern, Deptford. Present: Bros. C. J. Hogg, P.G.S., P.M., W.M.; G. F. Guest, D.C., as S.W.; H. Crabtree, J.W.; J. Smith, P.G.P., P.M., Treas.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; T. Darke, S.D.; G. Pynn, P.M., J.D.; E. Townsend, as I.G.; W. Kipps, Org.; J. Gilbert, Tyler; W. Ough, P.G.P., I.P.M.; R. F. Duff, S. Homewood, C. Saunders, J. Fox, J. Davis, C. Drake, J. Drake, A. Flaxman, E. Lane, W. Bell, J. J. Limebeer, W. H. Trampleasure, G. S. Elliott, and W. M. Bull, Visitors: Bros. J. Coates (144) and E. H. Thiellay (D.C. 145). The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Messrs. C. Drake, J. Drake, A. Flaxman, and E. Lane were initiated into Freemasonry, and Bros. Dr. A. Farr and W. Avill were passed to the second degree, in an admirable manner by the W.M. It was resolved that the future meetings of the lodge be held elsewhere, the selection of the house being left for discussion at next regular meeting. There being five candidates for initiation, it was arranged to hold an emergency meeting on Friday, the 29th inst. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, to banquet.

PROVINCIAL.

HERTFORD.—*Hertford Lodge No. 403.*—The installing meeting of this lodge was held at the

Town Hall on 28th ult., the brethren present were: Bros. H. B. Hodges, W.M. (presiding); J. D. Medcalf, S.W.; O. N. Wagner, J.W.; J. R. Cocks, Treas.; T. S. Carter, Hon. Sec.; J. Boatwright, S.D.; W. H. Nicholls, J.D.; the Rev. L. Deedes, Chap.; C. P. Wyman, I.G. and Org.; S. Neale, M.C.; C. Drummond, I.P.M.; S. Austin, P.M.; E. A. Simson, L. B. Harvey, H. Campkin, E. Salisbury, P.M.; F. Taylor, W. P. Willson, W. Warrener, J. Harrington, A. J. Small, P. Page, Abel Smith, R. Dimsdale, E. R. P. Francis, F. Roberts, H. C. Heard, P.M.; S. S. Frankenberg. Visitors: Bros. R. B. Croft, 396; W. B. Heath, P.M. 504; R. R. Shillitoe, P.M.; Shillcock, P.M.; J. R. Dagg, 449; R. C. Barnes, 468; R. H. Groombridge, J.W. 183; W. Cutbush, 141; Adcan, Grindle. Bros. Abel Smith, Francis and Roberts were passed to the third degree; Bro. Croft was elected a joining member; Bro. J. D. Medcalf, S.W., was installed W.M. by Bro. Hodges, I.P.M., in a masterly style, and he appointed as his officers: Bros. E. A. Simson, S.W.; S. Neale, J.W.; the Rev. L. Deedes, Chap. (reappointed); J. W. Cokes, Treas. (reappointed); T. S. Carter, Hon. Sec. (reappointed); J. Boatwright, S.D. (reappointed); W. H. Nicholls, J.D. (reappointed); C. P. Wyman, Org. (reappointed); H. Campkin, I.G.; C. Drummond, M.C.; E. Salisbury, W. P. Willson, Stewards; and T. Wright, Tyler (fourteenth time). The W.M. presented Bro. Hodges with a solid gold P.M.'s jewel which had been voted by the lodge, and a Prov. Grand Senior Warden's jewel which has been subscribed for by some of the brethren. Bro. Hodges presented Bro. Carter with a Past Secretary's jewel in token of his esteem and regard. It was resolved that application be made for permission to form a Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to the lodge. The lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to a sumptuous banquet in the assembly room at the Shire Hall, where they spent a very pleasant evening, and retired at an early hour.

MARKET HARBOUROUGH.—*St. Peter's Lodge, No. 1330.*—The regular monthly meeting was held on Friday, 1st inst. The W.M. Sir Henry Halford was unavoidably prevented from attending, and the I.P.M. Bro. W. Kelly, P.G.M., was absent owing to indisposition, the chair was therefore occupied by Bro. G. Toller, jun., P.G. Sec.; amongst those present were: Bros. the Rev. J. Halford, P.G. Chap. S.W.; F. Kemp, J.W.; Rev. J. Beaumont, Chap.; W. H. Morris, P.M. as Sec.; T. Macaulay, S.D.; Dr. Grant J.D.; J. Dixon, Org.; Robinson, I.G.; Fuller, Steward; Albert Pell, *M.P.*, P.G. Reg.; and many other members of the lodge. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bros. Wiggins and Ellis passed a satisfactory examination as E.A.'s, and were passed to the degree of F.C.; the lecture on the tracing-board was given by the W.M., after which portions of the ceremony of initiation were worked in a lodge of instruction. The lodge having now purchased a set of jewels for its own use, on the motion of the Rev. J. Halford a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to St. John's Lodge, Leicester for the loan of their jewels, which had hitherto been used. Some discussion took place as to the establishment of a Lodge of Instruction.—The Rev. J. Halford, S.W., on behalf of the lodge expressed his thanks to the acting W.M. for coming over from Leicester to undertake the duties of the chair.—Bro. Toller having responded, after a candidate had been proposed for initiation, the lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent an hour very pleasantly in social intercourse. This young lodge as was alluded to at the late meeting of P. Grand Lodge, is progressing very favourably, and possesses an exceedingly handsome set of furniture and jewels.

INSTRUCTION.

Mount Sinai Chapter, No. 19.—The usual weekly meeting of this justly-celebrated chapter was held at the Union Tavern, Air-street, Piccadilly, on Saturday, the 25th ult., when, instead of labour, the companions set the evening apart for refreshment. Bro. Smith, the host, provided an excellent banquet, which gave universal satisfaction, the wines being pronounced of the finest quality. On this auspicious occasion the presiding officers were Comps. J. Brett, G.D.C., P.Z., as M.E.Z.; J. Thomas, H.; J. Boyd, P.Z., J.; C. A. Cottebrune, P.Z., P.S.; and Woodstock, P.Z., S.E. The Stewards under whose auspices the arrangements were so well made and carried out were Comps. Sharp, Cameron, Hamilton, Beck, Reed, Swallow, Finney (sen.), Finney (jun.), Gordon, Merrick, and Woodstock, S.E. After the cloth was removed, the customary toasts were given. Comp. J. Smith, P.G.S.B., responded for the Grand Officers, and Comps. W. Carpenter, Buss, and Masterman replied for the visitors. Comp. C. A. Cottebrune, P.Z., in an eloquent speech, gave the toast of "The Presiding M.E.Z., Comp. J. Brett," which was most enthusiastically received. Comp. Brett responded, and in glowing terms proposed the toast of "The P.S., Comp. C. A. Cottebrune, P.Z.," in connection

with the Mount Sinai Chapter of Instruction, which was equally well received, these companions being justly so popular. Comp. C. A. Cottebrune did ample justice, in his response, to this all-important toast. The toast of "H. and J." was well received, and both responded. "The Principals of the Mount Sinai Chapter" was replied to by Comp. Rice. Comp. R. W. Little responded for the lay members. The pleasures of this truly-festive gathering were enhanced by the songs of Comps. J. Stevens, Masterman, &c. Thirty-four companions were present. This social reunion will not interfere with the regular anniversary banquet, which will be held at the usual time, and of which due notice will be given.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.

Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge, No. 275.—Bro. Wm. Phillips, R.W.M., occupied the chair at the annual election of office-bearers on Friday, 1st December. The following brethren were duly chosen: Bros. Wm. Phillips, R.W.M.; John Hay, D.M.; W. M'Gilchrist, S.M.; D. Rowan, S.W.; H. Mathieson, J.W.; James Smith, Treas.; C. Redpath, Sec.; Wm. Guthrie, Chap.; John Miller, S.D.; T. Phillips, J.D.; A. Higgins, S.S.; R. White, J.S.; R. Smith, I.G.; John M'Naught, Dir. of Music; J. M'Keaken, Tyler. After the election, the installation of office-bearers was done in a very efficient manner by Bro. J. Wallace, S.D. of P.G.L., who, along with Bro. Miller, of the Busby Lodge, were made honorary members. The lodge was thereafter called from labour to refreshment, when song and sentiment went round till high twelve, and all left pleased with the proceedings of the evening. We may add that this lodge is in a very flourishing condition, the report of the auditors (Bros. Guthrie and M'Gilchrist) showing that, besides having a complete set of paraphernalia, they had also a goodly balance in bank, which has been greatly brought about by the manner in which the lodge has been presided over by the highly-respected R.W.M., William Phillips.

EARL OF ZETLAND LODGE, No. 1364.

(To the Editor of the Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—You, on November 25th, gave a very good report of the consecration and banquet of the above lodge, but in the paragraph containing the names of the newly-installed officers some slight error occurs.

After "G. A. Rean, S.D." the other names should read:—*H. W. Wallington, J.D.; B. Peart, I.G.; H. Bateman, Organist; and H. T. Lowe, D.C.*

By inserting the above you will greatly oblige,
Yours fraternally,
J. L. FYSH,
Secretary.

CONSECRATION OF A LODGE IN NEW ZEALAND.

The inauguration of the Sir Walter Scott Lodge (S.C.) took place on Sept. 15, at the Thames, in the temporary lodge-room provided at the Wharf Hotel. The ceremony was successful, imposing, and very numerously attended by Masons from far and near, and moreover attracted a great deal of attention on the part of the outer world. Bro. D.P.G.M. Beveridge presided, and was assisted by the following P.M.'s: Bros. Fitzgibbon, Goldsboro', Tyler, Jenkins, Collins, Brodie, and Stevenson. After the ceremony of inaugurating had been concluded, sixteen candidates were initiated into the mysteries of the first degree, their names being: Messrs. Hornsby, Wood, W. Rowe, J. Brown, Briton, Hicks, Elmsworthy, Sully, Higgins, Davidson, Steadman, Goodall, Bignell, Rattray, and Bruce. Some time was occupied by the ceremony of initiation, which took place thus early in the day's proceedings in order that the new members might have the opportunity of witnessing the installation of officers of the new lodge. The names of the officers were as follows: Bros. Beveridge, W.M.; Robertson, D.M.; Brodie, R.W.S.; Goldsmith, S.W.; Dewar, J.W.; Basley, S.D.; Hannaford, J.D.; Chapman, Sec.; Philp, Treas.; J. Hill, Chap.; Clarkson, I.G.; and Stephenson, Tyler. The members of the lodge and the visiting brethren then went in procession, headed by the Volun-

teer Band, to the Presbyterian Church, where Divine service, suitable to the occasion, was conducted by the Rev. Bros. Hill and V. Lush, and an impressive discourse on "Brotherly Love" delivered by Bro. Hill.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending Friday, December 15, 1871.

The Editor will be glad to have notice from Secretaries of lodges and chapters of any change in place or time of meeting.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9.

Lodge 108, London, Ship and Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-street.
" 173, Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall.
" 1328, Granite, Freemasons' Hall.
Mark Lodge (104), Macdonald, Head Quarters 1st Surrey Rifles, Brunswick-road, Camberwell.
Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7; Bro. C. S. Dilley, Preceptor.
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.

MONDAY, DEC. 11.

Lodge 5, St. George & Corner-stone, Freemasons' Hall.
" 29, St. Alban's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-street.
" 59, Royal Naval, Freemasons' Hall.
" 193, Confidence, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
" 222, St. Andrew's, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.
" 579, Peckham, Maismore Arms, Peckham.
" 957, Leigh, Freemasons' Hall.
Strong Man Lodge of Instruction (45), Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 8; Bro. James Terry, Preceptor.
Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (174), Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Station, at 7.
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), Horse and Groom Tavern, Winsley-street (opposite Pantheon), Oxford-street, at 8; Bro. J. R. Stacey, Preceptor.
Wellington Lodge of Instruction, White Swan Tavern, Deptford, at 8; Bro. Dilley, Preceptor.
St. John of Wapping Lodge of Instruction (1306), Gun Tavern, High-street, Wapping, at 7; Bro. T. Mortlock, Preceptor.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12.

Lodge 96, Burlington, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-street.
" 166, Union, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
" 180, St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall.
" 198, Percy, Ship and Turtle Tav., Leadenhall-st.
" 211, St. Michael's, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-st.
" 228, United Strength, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.
" 235, Nine Muses, Clarendon Hotel, New Bond-st.
" 548, Wellington, White Swan, Deptford.
" 834, Ranelagh, Sussex Hotel, Hammersmith.
" 933, Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
Chap. 185, Jerusalem, 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.
Faith Lodge of Instruction, Artillery Arms, Rochester-row, 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.
Ben Jonson Lodge of Instruction, Ben Jonson, Goodman's-yard, at 8.
Florence Nightingale Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, at 7.30.
Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, Gladstone Tavern, Bishopsgate-st. Within, at 7.30; Bro. Bolton (W.M. 1227), Preceptor.
St. Marylebone Lodge of Instruction (1305), British Stores Tavern, New-street, St. John's Wood, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13.

Committee R. M. Benevolent Institution, at 3.
Lodge 3, Fidelity, Freemasons' Hall.
" 11, Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
" 13, Union Waterloo, Masonic Hall, Woolwich.
" 15, Kent, Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham-st.
" 87, Vitruvian, White Hart Hotel, College-street, Lambeth.
" 147, Justice, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.
" 238, Pilgrim, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
" 781, Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse.
" 1017, Montefiore, Freemasons' Hall.
" 1216, Macdonald, Head Quarters 1st Surrey Rifles, Brunswick-road, Camberwell.
" 1228, Beacontree, private rooms, Leytonstone.

" 1260, Hervey, Iron School Room, Moore Park, Walham Green.
" 1306, St. John of Wapping, Gun Tavern, High-street, Wapping.
Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.
United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), the Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales' Road, Kentish Town, 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, DEC. 14.

Lodge 19, Royal Athelstan, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-st.
" 263, Bank of England.
" 534, Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
" 657, Canonbury.
" 860, Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
" 1076, Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks, West Ham.
" 1288, Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sisters'-road, Holloway.
Chap. 72, Royal Jubilee, Horns Tavern, Kennington.
" 619, Bendon, Greyhound Hotel, Dulwich.
The R.A. Chapter of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor. Ceremony, explanation of R. A. Jewel and Solids, part sections.
Fidelity Lodge of Instruction (3), Goat and Compasses, Euston-road, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.
Panmure Lodge of Instruction (720), Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7; Bro. John Thomas, 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.
Chigwell Lodge of Instruction, Bald-faced Stag Hotel, Buckhurst Hill, at 7.30.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15.

Lodge 6, Friendship, Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.
" 201, Jordan, Freemasons' Hall.
" 813, New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
Chap. 176, Caveac, Unions Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, Portugal Htl., Fleet-street, at 7; Bro. Brett, Preceptor.
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.
Stability Lodge of Instruction, Guildhall Tavern, 33, Gresham-street, at 6; Bro. H. Muggeridge, Preceptor.
Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8; Bro. Wm. Watson, Preceptor.
Burgoyne Lodge of Instruction, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales' Road, N.W., at 8.
St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Gladstone Tavern, Brompton-road, S.W.
United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Edinburgh, Shepherd's-lane, Brixton, at 7; Bro. J. Thomas, P.M., Preceptor.
Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar, at 7; Br. D. S. Potts, Preceptor.
St. James' Lodge of Instruction, Gregorian Arms Tavern, Jamaica-road, Bermondsey, at 8.
Temperance Lodge of Instruction, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford, at 8.
Burdett Courts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 7.30; Bro. John Saunders, Preceptor.
Clapton Lodge of Instruction, White Hart, Clapton, at 7.30; Bro. John Saunders, Preceptor.
Pythagorean Chapter of Instruction (No. 79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich-road, at 8; Comp. W. West Smith, Preceptor.

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The following items appear in *Pomeroy's New York Democrat* :—

A NEW LODGE IN PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

It is with pleasure we announce that the M.W. Bro. John H. Graham, LL.D., Grand Master of Masons in the province of Quebec, has been pleased to issue his letter of dispensation for the formation of a new lodge in the beautiful village of Georgeville, Stanstead, to be called Mount Orford Lodge. W.M. Keyes, M.D., M., N. A. Beach, S.W., and R. L. Ayer, J.W.

We are also officially informed that the Grand Lodge of Quebec will unite with its American sisters in their action towards Hamburg, for violation of Grand Lodge Territorial sovereignty in New York and New Jersey.

CHICAGO TO QUEBEC.

The Fraternity under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, have sent their first instalment for the relief of Chicago. For so young a Grand Lodge, were they to do no more, the offering is magnificent. The following telegraph tells the story :—

“Chicago, Oct. 22.

“To G. H. Graham, Esq., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, Richmond, P.Q.

“Your dispatch advising that four hundred dollars in gold, first instalment raised by Quebec lodges for sufferers by late fire received. A thousand thanks. God bless the Craft in Canada.

D. C. GREIGER,
Grand Master of Illinois.

THE ceremony of Installation will be rehearsed in the Camden Lodge of Instruction, Adelaide Tavern, Haverstock-hill, on Monday next, the 11th instant, at 8 o'clock. This lodge is in a very flourishing state, and has given no less than 67 guineas to charities, besides many small sums to distressed brethren.

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The case is strongly recommended by the following brethren:

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*JAS. STEVENS (G.), P.M. 25, 720, 1216, P.M. Mark 104, W.M. Mark 139, P.G.O., &c.; Clapham Common.

Proxies will be thankfully received by the brethren marked thus *, and by the Widow, 4, Phoenix-terrace, Wirtemberg-street, Clapham, S.W.

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