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THE FUTURE OF FREEMASONRY
IN IRELAND.

We hope that the attention of the Masonic authorities in Ireland will be directed to the series of articles now being written in THE FREEMASON by the zealous Mason, Brother Joseph H. Woodworth, P.M. No. 245. The fact is, the writer (although he may not know it) is correctly interpreting the thoughts and desires of a large proportion of the intelligent and respectable members of the Fraternity in the "Emerald Isle," and therefore his views should be all the more carefully considered.

We have repeatedly received communications from Irish brethren of known ability and much local influence, containing substantially many of the suggestions and reflections propounded by Bro. Woodworth, and without fear of contradiction we say, emphatically, that the time has come for the Grand Lodge to welcome the advice of its friends who represent the *country*, as much as those who belong more especially to the *city of Dublin and neighbourhood*. We feel quite certain that a hearty and generous policy would bear plenty of good fruit, and secure a more thorough and affectionate support from the members scattered over the country than is now manifested. Bro. Woodworth remarks that "the apathy of the Past Masters of the various lodges is the principal difficulty with which those who would gladly help to inaugurate a better state of affairs than now exists have to contend." Unfortunately, there is a rule which debars all P.M.'s from membership of the Grand Lodge who do not obtain a Past Master's certificate, for which a fee of five shillings is exigible. We do not believe in such a qualification for membership at all, and consider every P.M., Masonically a member of the Grand Lodge under which he served his term of office, so long as he subscribes to a lodge under that constitu-

tion. This law we consider a stumbling-block to many; not because of the mere fee, which is small, but from the unmasonic principle displayed in requiring what cannot be levied on *Masonic* grounds.

We also believe the law which enables brethren to be members of the Grand Lodge, with power to vote on all questions in Grand Lodge, *without subscribing to any lodge*, is most unmasonic, and prejudicial to every right principle or method of representation. It seems absurd, Masonically, to think that a brother who so forgets his obligations as a Craftsman, to refuse payment of a small annual subscription to a Craft lodge, *can actually, by payment of a certain sum per annum to Grand Lodge, secure all the privileges of membership* that subscribing members to lodges enjoy, so far as respects their connection with Grand Lodge! This is the custom, however, under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and we believe the members will best conserve the prosperity of that body in the future by repealing such a law.

We wish every success to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and have for years worked privately to assist several of its members in promoting "pure and ancient Freemasonry" in that beautiful and naturally highly-favoured land; and all we write for now is in response to our esteemed Brother Woodworth's invitation, and to state (what, after all, is generally known), that English brethren rejoice when their brethren in Ireland rejoice, and are ready always to advise, sustain, and aid them, whenever in need of such.

W. J. HUGHAN.

"A BODY WITHOUT A HEAD."

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

I am thoroughly in agreement with you in deploring and condemning the introduction of *political* questions into French lodges; and although I also regret that the Freemasons of France have abolished the venerated office and title of Grand Master, yet it appears to me the strictures in your editorial of Dec. 2, respecting the latter event, are *too severe*. The "Grand Orient de France," on 6th Sept., 1871, it is true, "abolit la Grand Maîtrise," but, surely, under the *peculiar* position of Freemasonry in France, you are scarcely warranted in characterising this event as "monstrous," and that the "result of their violation of our most cherished landmarks will be *excommunication from the Craft universal*."

I do not come forward as the apologist of the Grand Orient of France, but simply to suggest that, after all is said and done, a more reasonable explanation may be found than the one propounded in your article, and I do so, moreover, because THE FREEMASON has so large a circulation abroad, as well as in this country; and its leading articles, especially, are so generally reliable and conclusive, that, in the main, many Masons will accept the editor's views without inquiry, and having found that able brother so correct in the past, they will receive his opinions at the present time without further question or examination.

I have had the pleasure of corresponding for several years with the "Chef du Secrétariat," Bro. Thevenot, and have received

from him the "Bulletins regularly for some time. From this source, and otherwise, it has always struck me that there are many Masons in France of great promise and ability; but the political struggles of that country are the main cause of their having such little influence on the mass of brethren. When I mention *political struggles*, it should be remembered that *Marshal Magnan was appointed Grand Master, without the consent of the Grand Orient, by Décret of the Emperor—a brother!*—on the 11th January, 1862, and was subsequently elected by the Grand Orient 20th May, 1864!!! Of course, Bro. Marshal Magnan's devotion to the Order subsequently, does not in any way justify this *Décret*, which forced a Grand Master on the Order. General Mellinet was elected Grand Master 9th June, 1865, but *would not have been had the Emperor been unfavourable*. Bro. Babaud-Larivière, advocate, was chosen Grand Master 10th June, 1870, after a sharp struggle, and although *the office was abolished on the 6th September of this year, that same distinguished brother was elected President of the "Grand Orient de France,"* clearly showing that it was not the wish of the brethren to disturb the previous happy relationship existing between the Grand Master and the Craft in France.

May we not then suppose it is the wish of our French brethren to avoid *in the future* any Grand Master being thrust on them as heretofore, and to secure such immunity from imperial interference they have abolished the office of Grand Master altogether? The abolition, however, is more *nominal* than *real*, as the "President" is, to all intents and purposes, a Grand Master, just as much as the "*President*" was of the "old lodge at York," England, before A.D. 1725. If the change secures the end desired, may we not, after all, partially commend the brethren, and whilst regretting the change (and even condemning it, as I do most positively), should we not rather turn our *exposé* to the treatment which has produced the evil in question?

The law, now, is as follows: The "General Assembly" is composed of—1. The presidents, or delegates, of all lodges under the French Constitution. 2. The Council of the Order. The Assembly has the power of nominating the President of the Grand Orient of France, and the other officers are nominated by the Council of the Order. The latter body is composed of thirty-three members, elected by the Assembly for the term of three years. It is declared that "Le Conseil administre les affaires de l'Ordre et rend compte annuellement de ses actes à l'Assemblée Générale. . . . Il propose le projet de budget et le soumet à l'Assemblée," &c., &c. In short, the "Conseil" corresponds with the "Board of General Purposes" under the Grand Lodge of England, and is thoroughly representative of the Fraternity in France. I may state that the French Masons have had but few Grand Masters, only *eleven* from A.D. 1725 to A.D. 1870!

Let us hope that, under the new régime, the *principles* of the Craft will be remembered and observed; and allow me to conclude my remarks with the words which so appropriately terminate the leading article under consideration: "The objects of the Masonic Institution are not to be achieved by descending into the arena of political strife, and as the reputation of our Order is at stake, every true Mason will watch with anxiety the future course of the Brotherhood in France."

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN,

Truro, Cornwall, 4th Dec., 1871.

*JUBILEE of the "CELTIC" LODGE,
EDINBURGH, No. 291.*

On Tuesday, the 28th November, a Masonic banquet took place in the Ship Hotel, Edinburgh, in celebration of the jubilee of the Lodge "Celtic," Edinburgh and Leith, No. 291. The Right Worshipful Master of the lodge, Bro. D. Kinnear presided, and the Wardens were: Bros. J. H. Inches and George Glen.

Shortly after the lodge had been opened, a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland was announced, headed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Rosslyn. The deputation entered the lodge in the usual order, and on the appearance of the Grand Master, the brethren rose to their feet and vociferously cheered him. Amongst those who accompanied the Grand Master were: Lord James Murray; Major-General Darby-Griffith, *C.B.*; Jn. Whyte-Melville, Past Grand Master; Major Hope of Luffness, P.G. Master for Haddingtonshire; Bros. Councillors Wormald and Muirhead; Wm. Mann, S.G. Warden; W. Officer, J.G. Warden; A. Hay, Grand Jeweller; John Laurie, Grand Clerk; M. Mackenzie, Chief Grand Marshal; W. M. Bryce, Grand Tyler; and others.

The Right Worshipful Masters present were: Bros. Abbott, Mary's Chapel, No. 1; Barrie, Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2; Hudson, Canongate and Leith, No. 5; Field, Journeymen, No. 8; Dr. Fraser, St. David's, No. 36; Dr. Loth, St. Andrew's, No. 48; Thomson, St. Stephen's, No. 145; Henry, St. Clair, No. 349; Douglas, Rifle, No. 405; and Captain Allen, St. Kentigern, Penicuik, No. 429.

The Grand Master having taken the chair, rose and said: Right Worshipful Sir, knowing, as I do, that you manage your office in a thoroughly proper manner, allow me to hand you back the mallet, your symbol of office, which you wield with so much credit. (Applause.)

Bro. Kinnear, R.W.M., then took the chair.

The brethren having partaken of cake, fruit, and wine,

The R.W.M. rose and proposed "The Holy Lodge of St. John," which was drunk in silence.

The R.W.M. then gave "The Queen, God bless her," which was received with much applause. The brethren having sung the "Queen's Anthem,"

The Past Grand Master, Bro. C. Whyte-Melville gave "The Great Steward of Scotland, Patron of Scottish Masonry, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." (Loud applause.) He said: Most Worshipful Grand Sir, Right Worshipful Grand Master, Wardens, and Brethren, I was quite sure, as loyal Masons, you would receive this toast in the manner you have done. You all remember the Prince when he was amongst you in this city, and the public act which he performed on that occasion. I know, therefore, that you all regret and sympathise with His Royal Highness in the illness which has overtaken him; but I hope that, by God's providence, he will come through it. I hope he will have a speedy recovery, and for many years to come be an honour to the Craft. (Loud cheers.)

The toast was drunk with all the honours, the orchestra playing "The Prince of Wales' Anthem."

Bro. Lord James Murray proposed "The Navy, Army, Militia, and Volunteers." He said: I have been called upon to propose this toast rather unexpectedly, but I need say nothing, as it carries its own recommendation with it. But he was sure all would agree with him, that our forces, when called upon, would do in the future as they had done in the past. (Applause.)

The toast having been drunk with the usual honours, and the "British Grenadiers" played by the orchestra,

Bro. Major-General Darby-Griffith, *C.B.*, rose to reply, and was received with loud applause. He said: Most Worshipful G. Sir, Rt. Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren, I do not know whether you expect me to return thanks for the navy, militia, and volunteers. (Laughter.) It would alter my speech if I have. (Laughter.) Is there any militia present? None. (Laughter.) Volunteers? Plenty. (Laughter.) For the

navy I have great pleasure in returning thanks. In former days our ships were made of wood, and floated; but now they were made of iron, and sank. With regard to the present army, it is in a state of transition, not having had time to recover from disestablishment. (Laughter.) It must have required long heads to frame the present warrants, and I only hope it may not require still longer ones to make the new arrangements answer. (Laughter.) We have one certain good guarantee for the future of the army: His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge still presiding and looking after the interests of the army, and giving his valuable assistance to the War Minister. (Applause.) In speaking of the army under the old purchase system, which carried the glory of our country into many distant lands, I trust I may be allowed to pay a warm tribute of admiration to the gallant Scotch Horse now in Edinburgh, with whom I was for so many years associated. In all the wars they were engaged they brilliantly distinguished themselves, while in time of peace at home, ready for duty at a moment's warning, yet good and quiet citizens in quarters, as a letter from Lord Provost Lawson and the magistrates bore strong testimony of when the Greys left your splendid city in 1863, after a sojourn of two years. (Applause.) In conclusion, I thank the W.M. for the kind way in which he proposed my health, and the manner in which you received it. (Applause.)

The song "O'er Nelson's Tomb," having been sung,

The R.W.M. proposed "The Grand Lodges of England and Ireland," which toast was enthusiastically received.

Bro. Dr. Burton replied on behalf of the Grand Lodge of England in a few appropriate remarks.

Bro. McCormick responded for the Grand Lodge of Ireland. He said that he had come direct from Dublin to pay homage to that jubilee, as he felt it to be his duty to be present, and on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Ireland he begged to thank them. They all knew they had dissension in that unhappy country, and no one knew the difficulties the Craft had to encounter there, but they had God on their side and would succeed. (Applause.) Two years ago they had no schools, now they had two, male and female, of which he was governor. When the Boys' School was opened they had an empty treasury, but now they had £7,000. (Applause.) One brother, who died some time ago, had left them a legacy of £500. (Applause.)

A trio having been performed by Bros. Bridgman, Hope, and Poyser.

The Right Worshipful Master proposed "The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Earl of Rosslyn, M.W. Grand Master Mason," amid prolonged applause. On quietness being restored, he said: I was perfectly sure you would receive the toast in an enthusiastic manner, his lordship being so thoroughly known to every lodge in Scotland, he might say to the three Crafts. (Applause.) I am sure every one present must regret the severe cold under which his lordship was at present suffering, but he trusted he would soon be better. (Applause.) No one can feel more grateful than I do for the honour conferred on this lodge by the large assemblage of brethren who have honoured us with their presence to-night. It is therefore fitting that at this early period of the evening the toast should be given of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. (Applause.) There the most celebrated members of the Craft have from an early period of the history of the country been assembled together to consider the interests and promote the objects of Freemasonry, and they have, I venture to say, accumulated a larger amount of independent spirit and intelligence than in any similar convocation in our land. (Applause.) I am sure that I carry along with me the conviction of every one present when I say that, at this moment, some of the ablest men in Scotland are members of the Grand Lodge, while those who are at present its office-bearers are as much honoured beyond its pale as by those who are privileged to step within and enjoy that happy communion and fellowship by which the meetings of its associated brothers are characterised. (Applause.) It would be quite

useless for me to traverse the series of those distinguished names—connected as they are, not only with the Institution we all hold so dear, but with so many important associations which bring them into connection with the general public. In such a gathering as ours nothing could be more superfluous. I shall therefore pass from those general considerations suggested by the first portion of my toast to that specific one by which it is closed. But before doing so perhaps you and the brethren present will allow me to congratulate the Grand Lodge of Scotland in having got your consent to continue in the chair, which you so ably fill, and to the entire satisfaction of all Freemasons. (Applause.) As I expect to have the pleasure of being at your banquet on Thursday first, with a large deputation from this lodge, I shall not say more there-
anent at present. The Grand Lodge of Scotland is pre-eminently fortunate in having for its Master, a nobleman who is the representative descendant of a great and illustrious family famous for the part its members have played in the political and social development of their country throughout the annals of Scottish story from a very early time. (Applause.) The Earls of Rosslyn have attracted the historians by the exhibition of a prowess equal to that of their bravest aristocratic compeers. The days of Chivalry, in the proper sense of the term, have now gone by, but there is still ample scope for that manliness and ability which should always accompany high birth both in the promotion of those schemes of popular improvement and practical amelioration which the march of general enlightenment has now made much more imperative than ever. (Applause.) Regarding, as I do, the Fraternity of Freemasons as having been through all times the leaders of free thought and the determined foes of oppression, I have no hesitation in saying that the way in which they direct their councils are worthy of the highest honour as brethren and men. When, therefore, I ask you to connect with the toast the name of the distinguished nobleman who occupies the highest position in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and has so highly honoured us with his presence and kindness to-night, I know that your response will be no less hearty than unanimous, and that with the enthusiasm which all true Masons feel for the Grand Lodge and our much-esteemed Grand Master, the Earl of Rosslyn, you will now drink to the prosperity of the one and the happiness and long life of the other. (Loud applause.) [The toast was drunk with full Masonic honours.]

Bro. McCormick having sung "The Grand Lodge above,"

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master rose amid enthusiastic applause, and said: Right Worshipful Sir, Wardens, and Brethren, after listening to the very beautiful song which has just been sung, which has afforded me so much profit and pleasure, I hardly know how I can speak to a matter-of-fact toast, like the present. It is, however, a great satisfaction to me to be present on this occasion. (Applause.) Meetings of that kind were precious occasions, as it gave evidence of increased prosperity. It showed that the lodge was a pillar of support upon which a Grand Master could reckon. Many of the neutral world had termed the Freemasons a socialistic body, but he could safely say it was one of the most loyal bodies in the world. (Applause.) On all occasions I have experienced the most unflinching loyalty from the Celtic Lodge, and also from all other lodges. (Applause.) As you all know the present satisfactory state of the Grand Lodge, it will be interesting for you also to know how stood the Grand Lodge fifty years ago. We all had our shortcomings, but the comparison which I am going to make also show that we also had our congratulations. In 1821 the number of Masons reported to Grand Lodge as having seen the light was 823, and in the year 1870, 3,000. (Applause.) That was a gratifying fact, and showed a steady increase. Since 1821, 226 charters had been granted, and during the past ten years 100 new lodges had been opened. In 1821 there were 297 lodges at home and 14 abroad. In 1871, 399 at home and 108 abroad.

In 1821 they had 21 Provincial Grand Masters at home and abroad, and in 1871, 31 at home and 14 abroad. (Applause.) I am quite sure such a statement must be gratifying to you. Masonry has had its ups and downs during the past fifty years, and I hope Bro. M'Cormick's observations regarding the Masonic schools in Ireland will induce us to do likewise. If such things can be done in Ireland, I can see no reason why they should not be done in Scotland. So lamentably behind have we been with these institutions that we ought to hang our heads with shame. Brethren, assist me to put an end to this state of things. (Applause.) I am sure there is no want of charity and benevolence among all the brethren, and I do sincerely hope, before long this state of things will be effectually remedied. The Grand Master concluded, amid loud applause, by thanking the brethren for the honour they had done him.

Bro. J. Dundas Grant proposed "The Past Grand Masters and Office-bearers of the Grand Lodge." He said: It is a pleasing task for me to propose this toast, as the annals of the Grand Lodge showed that the office-bearers included those noblemen who were illustrious in the annals of the country, and also illustrious in the annals of Masonry. (Applause.) Amongst them was Past G. Master the Earl of Dalhousie—(applause)—a brother and nobleman of whom every one was proud. For a great many years he had done, his utmost in the cause of education and for the progress of the realm, and had played no unimportant part in the destinies of the country. I beg to couple the toast with the name of Bro. Whyte-Melville, Past Grand Master, who was one of the most industrious of those who had occupied the position of Grand Master. I am sure you will drink it with the utmost cordiality. (Applause.) [The toast was drunk with all the honours.]

The orchestra having performed "Auld Robin Grey,"

Bro. Whyte-Melville rose, amid applause, to reply. He said: Grand Master, Right Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren, I beg to return you, in name of the Past Grand Masters and office-bearers, our sincere thanks for the manner in which you have received the toast, and I can assure you I feel very grateful in being allowed to be present at this jubilee ceremony. There are now very few Past Grand Masters alive in Scotland, which may be attributed to their very long tenure of office. The Duke of Athole was twenty-one years in office. There are, at present, five Past Grand Masters, and I beg, in their name, to thank you again most cordially for the very kind manner in which you have received the toast. I think three years' tenure of office long enough, as it brought into office many able and distinguished men, as witness our present Grand Master. (Loud applause.) I will cordially support the scheme he is about to bring before the Grand Lodge. In conclusion, I beg to congratulate the R.W.M. for being so fortunate as to possess the chair on so auspicious an occasion.

The Grand Master again rose, and proposed "Prosperity to the Celtic Lodge, and the Health of the Right Worshipful Master," amid loud applause. He said: Right Worshipful Master and Brethren, I am sure you will consider this the toast of the evening. I am also quite sure that, although you are about to drink your own good health, which is to celebrate this auspicious occasion, it is not everybody to whom the good fortune falls to possess the chair of a lodge on the occasion of a jubilee, and if anything could tend more than another to promote the success of this happy meeting, it is to see you occupying the chair yourself, Right Worshipful Sir. (Applause.) When a lodge has completed fifty years of its existence, there is something brought to mind—it is, How has the time passed? We find ourselves, on reflection, in the position of a man who is taking a journey, and thinks it time to turn round and survey the beauty of the scenery through which he has passed. (Cheers.) You may gladly look back, and view the scenery passed by you, for there is no disgraceful mark upon it; you have passed the time most profitably and successfully. Let me give you a few

notes of what this lodge has gone through during that time. There is one peculiar episode connected with the past, and that is, that the first individual who was made in this lodge is still alive. (Applause) And to show that the lodge was a lodge of good fellows, special mention is made of him in your minutes; not only was he a respectable man, but he retailed Highland whisky. (Laughter and applause.) There could be no better certificate as to the quality of his whisky. (Laughter.) I also find that the lodge was noted for good living and good dressing, for I find £50 entered for each dress, sash, and apron. In the Masonic business of the lodge, I find my worthy grandfather, the Earl of Rosslyn, took a prominent part, for he and the Duke of Argyle were the Past Grand Masters present on several occasions. It was most agreeable to look back on the past, for all the transactions of the lodge redounded to its credit and good name. The worthy brother your Right Worshipful Master has been since the year 1848 a member of Grand Lodge, and for a quarter of a century a Celt. As to the advantage of such gatherings as these, I think they are priceless. These meetings are the social spirit of Masonry, and a credit to the Craft. I hope many other celebrations such as this will take place, and may other lodges point to so brilliant a role of fame as the Celtic. (Loud applause.)

The toast having been received with all the honours, the following song, composed for the occasion by Bro. Alexander MacLagan, was sung by Bro. Councillor Wormald:—

SUCCESS TO OUR BRAVE CELTIC MEN.

Time—"Will ye no come back again?"

Hail! brother Craftsmen, great and free
Come crown our glorious "Jubilee!"
Come let us toast with, three times three,
"Success to our brave Celtic men!"
Success to our brave Celtic men!
Success to our brave Celtic men!
Come let us toast, with three times three,
"Success to our brave Celtic men!"

They still are faithful, heart and hand,
Still true to fame, and native land,
To guard her honours, great and grand,
So dear to our brave Celtic men!
So dear to our brave Celtic men!
So dear to our brave Celtic men!
To guard her honours, great and grand,
So dear to our brave Celtic men!

When standing on Masonic ground
Let no unworthy spot be found
Let friendship, truth, and love abound,
To crown our gallant Celtic men!
To crown our gallant Celtic men!
To crown our gallant Celtic men!
Let friendship, truth, and love abound,
To crown our gallant Celtic men!

We hail this night a chieftain here,
Brave Rosslyn! to his country dear!
We'll toast his health, with cheer on cheer,
Like Masons and true Celtic men!
Like Masons and true Celtic men!
Like Masons and true Celtic men!
We'll toast his health, with cheer on cheer,
Like Masons and true Celtic men!

Lo! fifty years by seal and sign,
We prove our Origin Divine!
May our Great Light for ever shine!
Success to our brave Celtic men!
Success to our brave Celtic men!
Success to our brave Celtic men!
May our Great Light for ever shine!
Success to our brave Celtic men!

The Right Worshipful Master Bro. Kinnear returned thanks for the toast which the Grand Master had given. He said: This is a proud night for the Celtic, especially when they find so many eminent brethren present assisting to celebrate so important an event in our history. During the past fifty years the number of members initiated in this lodge has been 1,408 and the number affiliated 700, which made a total of 2,108 (applause), or an average of forty-two per year. The number of Masters have been twenty-five including myself. As the Grand Master is labouring under a severe cold, and will soon have to leave us, I will not take up the time of this meeting. I beg, Most Worshipful Grand Master, to return you my most sincere thanks, and also to the members of Grand Lodge for their presence on this occasion.

Bro. Mann, S.G.W., proposed "The Provincial Grand Masters." He said: In the first place, will you allow me to observe that I am delighted with this meeting, and I consider great credit is due to the Celts who made the arrangements. (Applause.) I am also delighted to know its prosperity, and to learn the gratifying fact that through this lodge 1,400 men had seen the light and 700 affiliated from other lodges. It was interesting to look back into the roll of Prov. Grand Masters, as it shows that the sons take up the Craft of their fathers. We have two present, one of them the oldest and the other the youngest Prov. G.M. Without taking up more time, I propose the toast, and I leave it to Bros. White-Melville and Hope which of them will reply.

The toast having received all the honours, Bro. Hope, in a few appropriate remarks, returned thanks for the honour done to him.

Bro. J. Whyte-Melville proposed "The Past Masters and Office-bearers of the Celtic Lodge," which was received with applause. He said: I believe I am selected for this toast in consequence of being one of the oldest living members of the lodge, and consequently able to speak of the Past Masters. I hold a list of them, and I find that out of the twenty-four who have passed the chair, eleven have gone to the Grand Lodge above. I need not dwell on the efficient and able manner in which the affairs of this lodge have been hitherto conducted, but will simply couple the toast with the name of Bro. Hay. (Applause.)

The toast having been drunk with all the honours,

Bro. A. Hay, Grand Jeweller, in reply, said: It is with no ordinary feelings of pleasure that on this, the jubilee night of our mother lodge, on the part of the other Past Masters and myself, I have to return our heartfelt thanks for the honour which has just been conferred upon us, an honour all the more enhanced by having our healths proposed by such a valued friend as Past Grand Master Bro. Whyte-Melville, and by the kind terms in which he has spoken of that body of office-bearers to which we are proud to belong. Although comparatively a young lodge, the Celtic can lay claim to having done some little service to the state since its institution, fifty years ago, both as regards the number of brethren it has enrolled under its banner, and the high position it has all along maintained among the lodges in the metropolitan district. There are now, alas! few of the brethren alive who took an active part in the consecrating of the lodge; but we still hear old members of other lodges speak with enthusiasm of the gorgeous appearance the Celts made, in their Highland costume, when George IV. visited Scotland in 1822, and with what pride they marched up the rugged steps of the Calton-hill, headed by their bagpipes, to assist in laying the foundation-stone of the national monument there. (Applause.) Fifty years have passed since our first Master, Brother Ferney, opened his lodge, and during that period the Cabinets of the world have deliberated, and with what results? Kingdoms, and dynasties, and institutions have been rent asunder, or have tottered to their fall, and many of them are but rising to fall again. Fifty years have rolled past in Masonry too, and the Grand Lodges of the world have deliberated, and in glorious unity, they are proving by ever-recurring centenaries and jubilees such as this, that our foundations are stronger than those of adamant, and that the zenith of our power shall only have been touched when there are no more votaries to kneel at her shrine—when, in a word, "Man to man, the wide world o'er, shall brothers be." (Applause.) As a lodge, the Celtic can also claim to having proved itself an energetic and faithful adherent to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and on all occasions when summoned to rally round our chiefs—though not, as in days of yore, in answer to the fiery cross, amid the mountains and glens of our native land, to win perishable glory at the dagger's point, and leave desolation where we found peace—but, in more civilized days, to lay the foundation-stones of edifices and temples destined for the improvement, embellishment, and philanthropy of our native country, and to

consecrate institutions, not intended for the extension of narrow-minded creeds, but for the promotion of those glorious principles, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, throughout the world. On such occasions the Celts have ne'er been wanting, when the muster-roll was called we have ever been ready to girt ourselves for the fray, and our greatest ambition has always been to support our Grand Masters in such a manner as would bring no discredit on the Craft. (Cheers.) And now, Most Worshipful Sir, on this the night of our jubilee, we who have held its helm in days gone by rejoice that we have been privileged to be present at the re-launching of the good ship Celtic on what we trust will prove another prosperous and happy voyage, and of wafting it onwards and upwards to still higher honours than it has ever yet attained. We rejoice that the rallying-cry of the Celts should have been answered by the large attendance by which you are this night supported; we rejoice to see brethren like Lord James Murray, General Darby-Griffith, and others, though not members of the lodge, coming from far distances to do us honor; we rejoice to see the Grand Lodge itself, led, so to speak, by that veteran of the Craft and our faithful friend, Brother John Whyte-Melville; but, above all, we rejoice that we have this evening among us one of the most eloquent, one of the most hospitable and deservedly popular Grand Masters that ever filled the Masonic throne of Scotland. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

After a solo upon the flute by Bro. Poyser,

The Master asked permission to depart from the programme, as the Grand Master wished to retire. He therefore called upon

Major-General Darby-Griffith, who rose and proposed "The Countess of Rosslyn and the ladies," for whom the Grand Master replied in a felicitous manner.

Bro. Councillor Wormald proposed "Freemasonry all over the World." He said: Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Masters, and Brethren, after the eloquent addresses to which you have already listened at this auspicious and joyous jubilee of our Celtic Lodge, I cannot expect that any poor words of mine will interest you. But whatever may be lacking in the speech, is fully compensated for in the toast, and for it I claim a bumper from all true loyal Masons. The toast embodies within itself a fact and a compliment. It contains a fact; viz., that Freemasonry exists all over the world. Now "facts are chieftains that winna ding, and canna be disputed," and my toast is the simple announcement of a fact known to all our Craft, and which defies contradiction. Wherever the light of civilisation has dawned, there Freemasonry has taken root, and brought forth its fruit; and wherever the culture of civilisation has been deepest and most thorough, there the fruit of Freemasonry has been most abundant and beneficent. (Applause.) But my toast contains a compliment, as well as a fact. "Freemasonry all over the world," is the highest tribute of respect that could possibly be paid to the principles of Freemasonry. A falsehood, a sham, or a delusion may, and do, sometimes succeed within certain restricted limits of space and time, but sooner or later the bubble bursts, and the lie, the sham, and the delusion, with their respective prophets—

Go down to the dull earth from which they sprung, Unwept, unhonoured, and unsung.

(Applause.) But this is in no sense true of our beloved Freemasonry. Coming down to us through the misty ages of the past—a past which reaches well nigh back to the limit of the chronicled history of the world, it still lives in the midst of us, and is as fresh and young and vigorous on this evening of our Celtic jubilee, as when Solomon laid the foundation of the Temple at Jerusalem. (Cheers.) We are thus constrained to ask: What is it that gives Freemasonry the power of perpetuating and diffusing itself in perennial bloom and freshness—not only renewing its youth, but multiplying its offspring like the eagle? Is it the happy social feeling and harmony, the *bonhomie* and good-fellowship, the jollity and fun, which are the

invariable characteristics of our festive gatherings? I answer, No; though these things, in this iron age, this work-a-day world of incessant toil and feverish excitement, are not only not to be despised, but rather welcomed. A larger infusion of the social element of our Craft amongst all classes of society would make lives longer as well as happier. But the real secret of the perpetuity and diffusion of Freemasonry is to be found in the divine origin of our principles, and whatever is divine is suited to all ages, all peoples, all climes, all circumstances. These principles are Truth, Justice, and Brotherhood. (Applause.) First, Truth. Freemasonry requires of all her members an unswerving allegiance to truth—eternal, unchangeable truth. Not a truth that is external to us, but truth within us, manifesting itself in deed as well as word. It is required of all us that our plans and schemes, and ambitions, and acquirements should all be adjusted by the square of truth. Justice is the next fundamental principle of our Craft; it is required of us that we be just to ourselves, just to our families, just to our friends, just to our neighbours, just to our country, just to humanity. All our deeds and words, thoughts and feelings, must be brought to the test of the plumb-line of justice, or we are bastards and aliens from the commonwealth of Masonry. Brotherhood is the third and last, but not least, of the trinity of our fundamental principles. This I regard as the crowning principle of our Craft—the chief cornerstone of our noble superstructure. The brotherhood of Freemasonry is not a mere sentimental notion, but a living active principle, which brings together and binds together the sovereign and the subject, the peer and the peasant, the ruler and those who are ruled, the master and workman, the teacher and the taught. Nor is our Freemasonry a mere recognition of the rights of brotherhood; it also acknowledges the claims of brotherhood. Thus ever diffusing charity to the destitute, comfort to the disconsolate, sympathy to the bereaved, hope to the desponding, and joy to the broken-hearted:—

The quality of mercy is not strained,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath; it is twice bless'd—
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes;
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown.

(Applause.) Or as St. Paul has described it:—"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things: charity never faileth." (Applause.) These, brethren, are the principles, and these the fruits of Freemasonry all over the world. Need we wonder, then, that our late brother, Robert Burns, should have concluded the grandest song he ever wrote, with a prayer for the universal diffusion of our principles, in the ever-memorable and stirring words:—

Then let us pray that come what may,
As come it will for a' that,
When man to man, the whole world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that.

The toast was drunk with all the honours.

A duet having been performed by Bros. Bridgman and Hope,

The R.W.M. rose and proposed "The Right Worshipful Masters of the metropolitan lodges," and briefly alluded to the gratification he felt in seeing so many present to assist him in celebrating their jubilee.

Bro. Abbott R.W.M. of Mary's Chapel, No. 1, in elegant terms replied on behalf of himself and the other R.W. Masters present, and took occasion to congratulate the Celtic Lodge on the great success which had attended their jubilee festival.

The R.W.M. then proposed "Visiting brethren from a distance," which was responded to by Lord James Murray.

A number of complimentary toasts having been given, the R.W.M. proposed "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again," and the proceedings of a very happy evening terminated.

GRAND MASONIC BANQUET AT ALEXANDRIA, DUMBARTONSHIRE.

The seventh anniversary of the Alexandria and Bonhill St. Andrew's Royal Arch Lodge, No. 321, was celebrated on Friday week, by a grand banquet and ball, in the Public Hall, Alexandria, Dumbartonshire, which was most tastefully decorated with evergreens, flowers, &c., while conspicuously displayed were various of the mottoes and signs emblematical of, and peculiar to, the Masonic Fraternity. Shortly after eight o'clock the guests took their seats at the tables groaning under a load of all that was good and dainty, and once praise had been engaged in and a blessing asked, forks and knives were smartly handled, and the company "fell to" as only "merry Masons" and their friends can. The supper was indeed first-rate, and timely and admirably served, which fact called forth the unqualified praise of the large assemblage, not to speak of the credit which redounded to the enterprising purveyor Mr. James Bardsley.

The chair was worthily occupied by Bro. James Mushet, R.W.M. of the lodge; the duties of croupier being able discharged by Bro. William Graham, P.M. After supper,

The Chairman said: I have now, according to the programme, to make a few remarks preliminary to the business of the evening, and first I would say we would be very ungrateful if we did not acknowledge that the banquet to-night was really a dainty dish fit to be set before a king. It is said to the typical of the Englishman that, after having eaten and drunk, his soul begins to lift itself up and he bursts forth in a speech. We are more homely in Scotland; we simply say, "when the bags are fu' the pipes get up." (Laughter.) As a general rule, however, few succeed in this kind of dinner or supper speech-making, and I am afraid I will not be an exception to the general rule. No doubt the sight of such a numerous company is very cheering, and should make one almost feel happy in itself, as it is a sure evidence of the continued prosperity of our lodge, and I have to congratulate you on the very gay and happy appearance of this meeting. This, I believe, is the seventh anniversary of our lodge, and each year seems to surpass its predecessor in a more flourishing turn-out. (Applause.) Your chairman was afraid last year that our Masonic tree may have attained its greatest growth as regards our success in a locality so limited as this, but I am stronger of opinion, and the more I study Freemasonry I am the more convinced that Masons have only to act up to their glorious lights to cause it to take deeper root and grow still larger and larger so that not to be a Freemason will be a term of reproach as marking out the man unworthy of the fraternal regards of a brother. (Loud cheers.) The statistics which I have received from your Secretary are very encouraging. Throughout the past year we have had twenty-five meetings and have added twenty-nine members; twenty-four to the Fraternity and five affiliated, thus increasing our roll to 270. Last year it stood 241; and after an expenditure of £27 4s. 1d. we have still at our credit a balance of £79 18s. 5d., being an increase to our reserve fund of £9 after defraying all expenses. (Loud cheers.) There has been nothing very striking in the history of Masonry, especially of a local interest, during the last year, excepting its continued and growing prosperity and the increased hold it has obtained on the minds of the people, among the best or greatest of the land as well as the highest in rank, from royalty downwards. The earnest desire exhibited to cement by Masonic charity the different ranks of the people on a more equal footing is a far better sign of the progress of the times than the mere addition of numbers. Bro. A. O. Ewing last anniversary said: "But after all what availed the ordinary branches of education unless the people could be imbued with those high and holy principles which were the distinguishing feature of the Masonic Fraternity." At the present time, when our Legislature and the public generally are full of the subject of education, it may be well to remember that Freemasonry plays a not unimportant part among the many teachers of mankind; and that it advances

claims as a mortal Institution, which ought to be more widely acknowledged and understood. "Light for the mind" is the burden of the cry of our time; illuminate the dismal abodes of ignorance, and send the torch of wisdom into the darkest recesses of men's heart. It is the mission of every true Mason to assist in dispelling the clouds of ignorance and error; it is his duty to aid the development of reason and truth, and to foster the growth of learning. (Applause.) An uneducated man can have but little sympathy with ceremonies and allegories, which must be carefully studied before they can be understood and properly valued. It is like leading a blind man into a well-cultivated garden—every nook and corner of which is filled with different varieties of variegated leaf, and gorgeously tinted flower, and exquisitely beautiful form—and expecting that he can admire the various colours or appreciate the lovely shades which are everywhere around him. Freemasonry draws men so firmly together that the very word itself has become a household one for strong loving attachment, and is founded on the purest principles of truth, honour, and virtue. (Cheers.) That it stands the test of actual practice between man and man has often been experienced, and often referred to. In war men have owed their lives in it; in sickness they have received attendance and care; in desolate countries they have been rescued and assisted. It has been recorded in the late war between the Germans and French that the unlifted arm has been arrested when prepared to take a foeman's life—that wounded soldiers lying on the ground, and still in the deadly struggle, have had their passions lulled and brotherly emotion kindled by a single sign or word—and also that some of the wounded soldiers found the tenderest nursing from those who had been their bitterest enemies. Well may it be said—and said truly—behold these Masons! how they love one another! (Cheers.) Masonry, too, is above sectarian divisions and political factions, and may it long continue to know among its members no distinction of creed, person, or party, but that it preserve its place as a noble, lofty, and pure ground, where we may all try to make ourselves wiser and better, as well as do the same to others. To help us in our course we have a light to guide us, in sight of which no Mason can lose his way. I think it was a certain Baron Alderson who, when asked how long a sermon should be, replied, "Twenty minutes, with a leaning to the side of mercy." I think the Chairman's remarks should not extend to a fourth of that time, and perhaps I should best carry out the idea by sitting down at once; but I should like before doing so to say a word or two to the ladies, who have so generously honoured us with their most gracious presence. (Cheers.) I am afraid many of you ladies have had some little fear of your husbands, brothers, or lovers perhaps, becoming Freemasons, as if some mysterious power would henceforth wrap their hearts and affections from your gaze, for which it would be utterly hopeless to seek a means to unveil. You may cease having the slightest fear or doubt upon the matter. There are more mysterious tales told about Masons than they themselves know of. I tell you truly, and on the word of a Mason, that the guiding principle of our Order is the very air ye yourselves breathe—love. In a Freemason your friend or relation has found a brother, who will not scruple to put forth a brother's love to warn him by any impending danger, to assist him in warding it off, and generally to stand shoulder to shoulder as brethren should to resist the attacks sometimes made by an unfeeling and heartless world. Wherever the principles of our beloved Order are carried out, and men act up to their profession, their actions are like the rays of the glorious Ruler of day, diffusing light and warmth to all around, and dissipating and dispelling the selfish coldness of human beings, and the hateful bigotry of sect and party. (Cheers.) Freemasons are one in heart as well as in sign and word—reverencing the Word of their common Father, who has said, "Love thy neighbour as thyself." But it is often asked, why so much mystery and guardedness and exclusiveness about it? Let me tell you, then, the secret—

and I would advise every Mason present also to give good heed to it—the secret is this, "Seek and ye shall find." There is no more mystery in it than in your Bible, beyond such tokens as are necessary to prevent us being imposed upon by strangers, there is nothing in masonry opposed to the Bible, nor is there anything prejudicial to the religion of any man. If a man acts up to the spirit of Masonry, he must of necessity become a better citizen, a better husband and father, a better man altogether; and, ladies, will you allow me to say what I am certain you will not object to, he will become a more devoted, ardent, constant and true lover. (Cheers.)

The Chairman then gave the first toast on the programme, "The Queen and Craft."

The next part of the proceedings was of a very pleasant nature, being the presentation of various handsome articles to the retiring W.M. In making the presentation,

The Chairman said: I have now to propose for your acceptance the health of the retiring Worshipful Master, Bro. Wm. Graham. I cannot speak in too high terms of his Masonic enthusiasm and industry in the discharge of the Mastership for the last two years, as well as his eminent services in discharging the onerous duties of Secretaryship for a considerable time previous. The results of his labours have tended much to the honour and prosperity of the lodge, which, of course, is a high gratification to all its sons. I would not be doing justice to Bro. Graham were I to characterise him as one who had merely done his duty, however arduous that might be; but he has done much more, as many of you can testify to the handsome way in which he has given his time and services wherever or whenever good could be done. (Loud cheers.) No. 321 felt this and recognised it, and their desire was to testify in some appropriate manner their sense of his worth and services; and I am happy to say they easily found the means to do so, each brother being more anxious than his neighbour to give. It was not a case of grumbling subscription, or of giving because it could not well be helped, but each felt it to be a pleasure to have the opportunity. We have three testimonials, which I hope Bro. Graham will consider worthy of his acceptance, and of which I will now ask his acceptance. The first is the handsome timepiece standing on the platform, the second, this beautiful Master's jewel, and the third, a gold Albert and locket. May you long be spared worthily to use them. (Cheers.) Let me say in conclusion that I am proud that it has fallen to my lot to be the presenter of these testimonials, for no one more highly appreciates the services of Bro. Graham. I again give you success and health to Bro. Graham, and may he always meet his friends on the level and part on the square. (Cheers.)

Bro. Graham acknowledged the gifts as follows: Mr. Chairman, ladies, and brethren, my feelings at the present moment, arising from your kindness, can be more easily imagined than described. Every circumstance connected with these beautiful and valuable articles, presented by Bro. Mushet in such flattering terms, tends to raise them far above the level of my conception. The thought of such reward was as foreign on my part as the movement has been successful on yours. The position I had the honour of filling for the last two years and the other offices I have occupied, the performance of the duties connected with them was to me but a labour of love. (Applause.) The Institution whose aim is the advancement morally and intellectually of its members, and which is further calculated to enforce the duties of brotherly love and charity, and to imprint on the memory the noblest principles that can adorn the human mind, such an Institution may well command the undivided attention of its office-bearers. (Cheers.) For this I have laboured; but your appreciation of my services is immeasurably too high; however, I cannot but feel more profoundly the honour it has pleased you to confer. To every subscriber to these beautiful articles I pour out my heart of thanks; but when this is done and the cup replaced, a few drops, like the tears of speechless love, will trickle back to rest at the bottom, and there sparkle till the hour that terminates my

earthly career shall have arrived. (Loud applause.) In retiring from the position of R.W.M. of this lodge, may the laurels with which you have been pleased to crown me so stimulate me not only to continue to act faithfully for every good cause, but to go on to much more and much better. (Cheers.) Brethren, I again tender you my warmest thanks for these tokens of your appreciation and esteem, which I highly value, and to the committee for their labour in the matter. (Cheers.)

The Croupier now said: Mr. Chairman, ladies, and brethren, the toast which the Committee has given me to propose is one that requires no eulogium by way of recommending it to you for an enthusiastic response. It is "The three Grand Lodges—England, Ireland, and Scotland." (Cheers.) Every brother will agree with me in saying that each in their several countries have important duties to perform. In the past, by their due observance of the interests of the Craft, and promulgating and practising every principle that would tend to elevate our noble Fraternity, they have raised the status of our Craft far above anything in the annals of Freemasonry. I therefore ask you, Mr. Chairman and brethren, to join me in the toast, and wishing that we may long have such men at the head of our glorious Order; and long may they protect the ancient landmarks, and further the interests of Masonry, and may they always have good and honest brethren to honour and support them. He begged to couple the name of Bro. James Wallace, a member of the Grand Lodge Committee, with the toast. (Loud cheering.)

Bro. Wallace acknowledged the toast in a few general observations.

The Chairman now called for a bumper in honour of their Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Smollett. He said: Bro. Alex. Smollett is so well known I may say to every inhabitant of the Vale for his characteristic Masonic deportment, that I am certain it is not in the least necessary to preface the toast with any remarks of mine. As love begets love, so Bro. Smollett's warm and kindly charity makes him beloved by all. Were it necessary I could easily bear testimonial to his fervour and constancy of heart, his spotless truth and honesty of purpose, but such testimony is altogether unneeded. I know I shall best consult the feelings of all by simply expressing the hope, which I believe is the hearty wish of every one present, that Bro. Smollett may long be permitted, before his removal to the Grand Lodge above, to perform his duties as a Christian, a gentleman, and a Mason. (Cheers.)

Bro. J. M'Kinnon gave "The Ladies" in an eloquent and humorous speech.

Bro. Wm. Graham suitably replied.

Bro. J. Wilkie gave "The Visiting Brethren," which was duly honoured, and acknowledged by Bro. Ross of No. 18.

A right hearty vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Mushet for his admirable conduct in the chair, and the company retired for a short time to allow of the hall being cleared for the dance.

EDINBURGH.—Funeral Lodge.—The "Roman Eagle" Lodge, No. 160, met on Thursday evening, 7th inst., in the lodge-room, Iona Hotel, Nicolson-street, Edinburgh, for the purpose of holding a funeral lodge as a tribute to the memory of their late Right Worshipful Master, Bro. James Paterson, who died on the 26th ult. From the high esteem in which the deceased Master was deservedly held by the brethren, and the fact that he was the builder of some of the very best buildings in Scotland in stone work, such as the Edinburgh Savings Bank, General Post Office, the Tower, Portobello, &c., &c., and was a very large employer of labour, the attendance was unusually large. The service was ably conducted by the Past Master Bro. Thos. Cairns, M.D., to whom a cordial vote of thanks was given at the close.

ALLOA.—The annual meeting of the Alloa St. John's Lodge, No. 69, was held in the lodge-room, Royal Oak Hotel, on Monday evening last, when the following office-bearers were elected: Bro. William Brown, R.W.M.; Alexander Kirk, S.W.; John M'Ansh, J.W.; Andrew Alice, Treas.; John Johnston, Sec.; James Whitehead, B.B.; John M'Gregor, P.M.; Thomas Stirling, D.M.; Rev. Alex. Bryson, Chap.; Peter Brotherton, Surgeon; Andrew Black, Custodian of Jewels; David Sneddon, Medal-bearer; James Fairlie, Edinburgh, Proxy Master; David Wotherspoon, Tyler.

NOTICE.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATHS.

STAMP—On the 9th inst., at Alnwick, aged 51, Br. John Ostens Stamp, of Alnwick Lodge, No. 1167.

TEPPER—On the 10th inst., at his residence, 24, Notting Hill-square, aged 54 years, Bro. Jabez Tepper, W.M. of the Grand Stewards' Lodge.

YOUNG—On the 12th inst., aged 54 years, Bro. William Young, P.G.S.B.

Answers to Correspondents.

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

J.W.—An officer of a lodge, no matter what his Masonic rank in another capacity may be, should be invested with the *blue* collar and silver jewel of his office. If he chooses to wear also the collar of a Provincial Grand Officer, just as some brethren do in Grand Lodge, *under* the blue collar, it is a matter of taste, but to our fancy seems somewhat ridiculous.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1871.

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

H.R.H. the PRINCE of WALES.

AT the moment we write, the spirit of our illustrious brother the Prince of Wales is hovering upon the brink of that awful river which every heir of mortality must cross before he can attain the Promised Land. Hoping almost against hope, the English nation—nay, the civilised world—has watched the Titanic struggle between the forces of nature and the spectral might of death, with a prayerful confidence that Heaven would be pleased to spare a life so precious to many and so dear at all. Even now, in the very crisis of the Royal sufferer's fate, the wishes of thousands seem to vanish their fears, although nought but the miraculous interposition of Providence can to all human ken avert the dreaded doom.

Sadness, indeed, fills our heart as we pen these words, and most heartily do we join in the universal prayer that our noble and genial Past Grand Master may be yet restored to "the affectionate regard of his brethren in Freemasonry," to use the touching language of Lord Ripon's motion of condolence at the last Grand Lodge. It seems but yesterday that the Prince took his high place in the Parliament of the Craft; it seems but yesterday we hailed his Masonic advent with cordial cheers, and welcomed him as a brother of the mystic tie. Initiated by a King who bears the repute of being one of the best Masons in the world, our Royal brother had an early and a convincing proof that the Masonic Institution is not hostile to monarchical principles, or to established forms of government, and we all know how deeply this lesson was imprinted on the heart of the Prince of Wales. We all remember how frankly and unmistakeably he bore testimony to the excellent precepts of Freemasonry, and to the loyalty of its members, in a speech at a recent meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. And, now, when the shadows gather around his brow, when the gloom of approaching death seems to envelope his faculties, no Mason can fail to recall how zealously the Prince bestirred himself in our service, how eloquently he pleaded for the orphans in our midst, and how his kindly, generous bearing had captivated every faithful Masonic heart. At this solemn moment, let us, however, also recall the lessons of the Craft; let us take to heart the sublime doctrines unfolded in the Master Masons' degree, concerning which we wrote in these columns but a few weeks ago. Beyond this transitory life extends the boundless vista of an everlasting existence. As we then said, "the true Mason does not descend to the grave to contemplate;" his gaze is fixed upon the Arbitrator of Life, who can raise us to an immortality of peace and glory. Let this belief console us, if the last great summons has really reached our beloved brother and Prince. He will but have gone to a region of "more light," for which the dying poet sighed; to a region where mystery ceases, and where the vain speculations of science fade before the revelations of supreme wisdom. Let us be ready to say, in the affecting language of the divine:—"Low lies the head that was once crowned with honour. Silent is the tongue to whose accents we surrendered up the soul, and to whose language of friendship and affection we wished to listen for ever. Beamless is the eye, and closed in night, which looked serenity, and sweetness, and love. The face that was to us as the face of an angel, is mangled and deformed. The heart that glowed with the purest fire, and beat with the best affections, is now become a clod of the valley. But shall it always be so? If a man die, shall he live again? Have the wise and the worthy, the pious and the pure, the generous and the just, the great and the good—the excellent ones of the earth who, from age to age, have shone

brighter than the stars of heaven—withdrawn into the shade of annihilation, and set in darkness to rise no more? No; while the dust returns to the earth as it was, the spirit shall return unto God, who gave it."

SO MOTE IT BE.

We rejoice to be enabled to state, on indisputable authority, that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is now decidedly better, and that his condition gives much less anxiety to his physicians.

The following official bulletins were issued on Thursday:—

Sandringham, Dec. 14, 1.0 a.m.
His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales continues to be less restless.

(Signed) WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.
WILLIAM GULL, M.D.
JOHN LOWE, M.D.

Sandringham, Dec. 14, 8 a.m.
His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has slept quietly at intervals during the night.

There is some abatement of the gravity of the symptoms.

(Signed) WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.
WILLIAM GULL, M.D.
JOHN LOWE, M.D.

Sandringham, Dec. 14, Noon.
His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has passed a tranquil morning.

The gain during the night is maintained.

(Signed) WILLIAM JENNER, M.D.
WILLIAM GULL, M.D.
JOHN LOWE, M.D.

(FROM THE COURT NEWSMAN.)

Sandringham, Dec. 13.
The Queen continues in health, notwithstanding her Majesty's great anxiety.

The Princess of Wales, although worn by constant watching, anxiety, and distress, keeps well.

At the meeting of the Lodge of Joppa, held at the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, last Monday, great interest was shown in the favorable telegram received of the health of the Prince of Wales. The Chaplain called on the brethren to stand up, to join him in a prayer for the recovery of the Past Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the brethren solemnly joined in a most fervent prayer. The whole ceremony was worthy of the Lodge of Joppa. May other lodges imitate their prayer for the same object.

In consequence of the dangerous illness of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales (who had condescended to become a Member), the consecration of the Royal Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1362, has been postponed for the present.

THE Most Hon. the Marquis of Ripon, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M., has consented to preside at the anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls on Wednesday, 8th May next.

At the last Grand Lodge, the M.W. Grand Master nominated Bros. Brackstone Baker, P.G.D., J. Nunn, P.G.S.B., and F. Bennoch, as a committee to recommend the division and distribution of the £500 voted for the relief of the sufferers by the Chicago and prairie conflagrations.

THE brethren of Cornwall have resolved to present to the R.W. the G.M. of that province, Bro. Augustus Smith, of Tresco Abbey, Scilly, a handsome, framed, life-size Portrait of himself in full Masonic clothing, and that the presentation shall take place at the next meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

LIBERTY versus LICENCE.

UNDER ordinary circumstances, we should pass over, with deserved contempt, the utterances of Bro. Matthew Cooke upon any question affecting Freemasonry; but, in the interests of truth and justice, we are compelled—although with loathing and disgust—to analyse the mass of verbiage, yclept his “speech” at the last Quarterly Communication.

In the first place, we confess to a feeling of astonishment at the extraordinary and preposterous doctrine propounded by Bro. Cooke: that a Mason ought to be allowed to talk libel in Grand Lodge with perfect impunity, so far as Masonic jurisdiction is concerned. And we are still more amazed to find that this atrocious opinion was not only not at once repelled with horror and indignation, but heard with complacency, and even endorsed with approval, by two or three brethren who certainly ought to know better. It is unnecessary to do otherwise than recall to the memories of our readers that Bro. Cooke made charges in Grand Lodge which affected the honour and reputation of every official employed in the Grand Secretary's department; and it is equally unnecessary to dwell upon the fact, that *not one charge of venality or corruption* was substantiated against those officials. The only allegation respecting which there was any basis of truth, referred to an occurrence which, from even a straight-laced point of view, represents nothing more than an error of judgment, or want of caution, on the part of the brother implicated. This will be apparent from the following statement of the facts. The “meeting” of the “unrecognised degree,” upon which so much stress has been laid, consisted of three persons, who, without any preconcerted arrangement, and simply acting under the exigency of the moment, entered the Coffee Room, or Library, connected with the premises at Freemasons' Hall. This meeting was held between five and six o'clock in the evening; there was no formality used, nor were any of the parties present attired in “unrecognised” paraphernalia. There was nothing, in fact, to shock the sensibilities of the tutelary deity popularly supposed to guard the purity of the building. The offence consisted in handing over a ritual of one of the chivalric grades to a distinguished Mason, Bro. Samuel B. Harman, the Mayor of Toronto, after requiring him to pledge the usual vow of secrecy—the chivalric grade in question being considered a *honorarium* for Masonic services, and its meetings being expressly permitted by the Articles of Union adopted by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813, which are still in force.

But there is another phase of this question, to which we desire to direct special attention. Bro. Cooke distinctly asserted that the officers of Grand Lodge, “*on their own account*, formulate, tabulate, and send abroad other degrees.” How does this agree with the facts elicited? No *employé* in the Grand Secretary's office has ever

received one shilling “*on his own account*,” nor, in the particular instance cited, was any charge whatever made to Bro. Harman for the grade conferred upon him. If it could have been proved, in the slightest degree, that any one of our officers made a market of the unrecognised degrees for his own special profit, we should join in the just outcry of indignation which such conduct would provoke; but when it is found that the very reverse is the case, we say that Bro. Cooke's charges have failed as signally and disgracefully upon this point as in the grosser allegations he so unscrupulously made.

What, then, is to be said of such a man, when he raises a bulwark of “privilege” to escape the just punishment of his unmasonic deeds? Nay, more, when he sets himself up as a champion of “freedom of speech,” and a defender of the right to abuse and defame? We say deliberately, that, but for the tacit encouragement this man has received from brethren whose intolerance of “unrecognised degrees” reconciles them to strange alliances, the Craft would not have been burdened much longer with the membership of Matthew Cooke. Allowing, even, that a trumpety charge had been proved against one official, how is it that no member of Grand Lodge commented upon the utter groundlessness of the charges against other officers? How is it that, except in the manly and eloquent speech of Bro. Philbrick, no voice of censure was uplifted against the slanderer? “Freedom of speech” imperilled, indeed! We say that men's characters and reputations are imperilled, while such a man is permitted to pursue his noisome path unchecked and unpunished. The “liberty of Masons” compromised, forsooth, because men whose honour is impeached endeavour to obtain justice! Never were more preposterous doctrines broached to an intelligent Masonic assembly; never were sophisms more shamelessly veiled in the disguise of candour and truth. There is not, we believe, one member of the Craft in London who imagines that Cooke's charges were made in the interests of Freemasonry; nay more, we feel convinced there are few who are not persuaded that their origin may be traced to some personal animus. Even if it were otherwise, every true man in the Craft would strenuously decline the proffered services of an obscure pamphleteer as the champion of genuine Freemasonry. The language recently used by this individual, in a sheet which he had the temerity to circulate even at the last Grand Lodge, is sufficient to reveal his intellectual and moral calibre to every decent mind, for, verily, out of his own mouth he stands condemned.

We trust, however, that we shall not again have occasion to refer in these columns either to him or to the person who, contrary to every canon of good taste—leaving honour out of the question—furnished him with the scanty information upon which he erected a gigantic superstructure

of fallacy and misrepresentation. Although we feel it our duty as a journalist to uphold what we conceive to be right and just, it is with sincere satisfaction we relinquish the contemplation of a subject with which we are heartily disgusted, and of which, we assert, every honest man may well feel ashamed.

We regret having been unable to insert the following able speech of Bro. Philbrick, at Grand Lodge, in our last impression:—

Bro. Philbrick, W.M. of No. 18, rose and said: As one of the Board of General Purposes who attended the investigation, I wish to say one word, with the permission of Grand Lodge, and am quite satisfied of this, that no member of that Board would desire for one moment to curtail the fullest liberty of speech in this Grand Lodge—(hear, hear)—but I hold, for one, that that liberty of speech has certain responsibilities, and that, if any brother makes charges of a grave and serious nature in this Grand Lodge, where he has a right to make them, he ought to weigh well before he impugns the character or the conduct of any individual. Charges ought not to be lightly made, or upon insufficient grounds, and every brother who makes them has a right to bear, if these charges fail him, the obloquy which a brother ought to bear who makes an utterly false and ungrounded statement. It is all very well for Bro. Matthew Cooke to represent that he stands as the champion of liberty of speech. Allow me to say that so far as any proceedings in Grand Lodge are concerned, no allegation that he made, or sentence that dropped from his lips, was the subject of any charge against him, or investigation against him, by the Board of General Purposes. The Board, I venture to say, and say without fear of contradiction, never thought of arraigning Bro. Cooke before them on a charge of any word he uttered in Grand Lodge, and it is utterly misleading Grand Lodge to suggest anything of the kind. What we investigated was this—that which we understood you, in your wisdom, had referred to us as a more convenient tribunal to investigate charges against individuals than a numerous assemblage like this—we understood that certain individuals had been pointed at, that certain practices had been denounced; and, in the presence of Bro. Cooke, who was present all the time, and in the presence of every individual whose conduct was impugned and questioned, every person who was a witness before us, in the fullest and most open way that could have been done in any court of justice in the country, those charges were deliberately investigated, one by one, and no witness left that room without being asked by a brother, “Can you inform us of any such malpractices pointed at by Bro. Cooke, or any shadow of foundation for them?” And, except in the matter in which we find that a charge was proved against one of the officers, there was not a shadow of foundation for any charge (Great cheering). We believe the board deserves your confidence, but we had the assistance of the Grand Registrar, whose great experience in judicial procedure renders him a most desirable assistant in such enquiries; we had Bro. Horace Lloyd, one of Her Majesty's counsel, whose experience is well known by those who know him, and I venture to say that a more plain statement or a fuller enquiry never took place; and it is with feelings, I confess, of something like indignation I heard it said that “the Report is the Report of the President of the Board watered down by the Grand Secretary.” Can you endure such words? I tell you, from motives of delicacy when the room was cleared, the Grand Secretary, of his own will, left the room, in order that the board might be utterly unfettered in their deliberations about which we were concerned. And I tell you further, brethren, that in the whole conduct of that enquiry there was not a question—although Bro. Cooke said there were over a hundred, while only thirteen were put—the questions were put to the clerks, and the questions

travelled into things utterly unconnected with the charge, wide of the charge; the main charge of corruption was founded on this: Did not you, after a festival was over, in the concert room—did not you hear one brother say to another brother this?—What had happened in the evening. The person whose name was mentioned, positively, and in the most solemn and clear manner denied the specific question, although they were tested in the strongest possible way. I venture to say, on that board we were unanimous; there was not the shadow of a difference of opinion among us. I venture to say that the conclusion we arrived at was the conclusion any one would have arrived at, and which if before any jury of the country would have been endorsed. I apologise for having detained you so long. ("No, no.") I feel it my duty as taking part in that investigation, to explain to you honestly and straightforwardly what had happened; and when I hear matters represented as they have been, I do not think it right to let that pass unchallenged and unquestioned; and although we all understand that in a body of Masons, each individual brother may claim liberty of speech, still that liberty ought not to be allowed to degenerate into licence. If the things are investigated and they turn out to be without foundation, without basis, the brother charging must bear the blame which attaches to those who impugn other's conduct lightly; and I for one do not envy the man who having brought charges he cannot substantiate, would make himself to be a martyr in the cause of liberty, and strive to elicit your sympathy on his behalf. (Great applause.)

Obituary.

BRO. WILLIAM YOUNG, P.G.S.B.

The grim shade, under the influence of which a whole people has so long been sitting in agonising suspense, relieved or intensified as its gloom became more or less obscure, has extended its withering effect into private circles none the less than usual, and with accustomed impartiality, while more prominently hovering over the object of national sympathy, has not spared those nearly and dearly regarded in humbler spheres. In our own limited Body, death has recently been busy, and many have been called away, whose continuance amongst us we had every right—humanly speaking—to calculate upon for a long time to come. In no instance has the utter fallacy of earthly confidence been more painfully illustrated than in the lamented death of the respected brother whose name heads this notice. Bro. Young attended the meeting of the Committee of the Boys' School on Saturday, 2nd inst., in the full enjoyment of his accustomed health and spirits, and by members of his family it was remarked that he never appeared better, in every respect, than on the following day. On Monday, 4th, towards the afternoon, he felt chilled and depressed, retired to rest at night, and was not seen again in public. Ague and influenza had attacked him, and while no serious effects were apprehended, erysipelas supervened in the head, and on Thursday his condition was such as to attract serious attention. All that medical skill could do was ineffectual, and, though aided by fine constitutional power, the patient succumbed at half-past nine on the morning of Tuesday, the 12th.

The loss sustained will be widely and severely felt by a large circle of friends—within and without the Order—to whom Bro. Young had endeared himself by an unostentatious exercise of the best qualities that can adorn humanity. Perfection is not claimed for our deceased brother—as, of course, it could not be for any one; but if kindness of disposition, a desire to be useful,

practical generosity—combined with large-hearted liberality, zeal, and determination, and an utter lack of selfishness—go any way towards the composition of what would be esteemed in a man and a friend, these, and many other good qualities, were found in an eminent degree in him whose loss is now mourned, and to whom this hasty and imperfect tribute is paid.

Bro. William Young was initiated at the age of 29, in the Enoch Lodge, No. 11, on 10th March, 1847. Joined the Peace and Harmony Lodge, No. 60, in 1855, from which he was nominated as Grand Steward in 1856-7, and was appointed Grand Sword-bearer in Grand Lodge in 1864. He was W.M. of the Enoch Lodge in 1853, and of the Peace and Harmony Lodge in 1858. Was exalted in the Old King's Arms R.A. Chapter, No. 30, in October, 1849. Was a founder of the Enoch Chapter, No. 11, May, 1852, of which he was Z. in 1856. Was a Vice-President of the Boys' School, a Life Governor of the Girls' School, and of both branches of the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. Was an active member of the various committees of all the Institutions, and a punctual attendant at the Finance and other committees of Grand Lodge, and at the Board of General Purposes. Of him it may be truly said, that his work was before him, and diligently he wrought therein. "Whatsoever his hand found to do, he did it with his might," but everything was done unaffectedly, from an honest motive to discharge efficiently every duty he undertook. Few amongst us, in the course of an active career, can be said to have made so few enemies, or to have formed so many friendships. The former must forgive and forget at once; those numbered in the latter can never cease to remember. At the age of 54, Bro. Young has been summoned from his large sphere of usefulness. His remains will be interred at Highgate Cemetery, on Monday next, at 12.30 o'clock p.m., and it is expected a considerable number of his friends will be then and there assembled to pay their last sad tribute of respect to one whom in life they loved so well.

BRO. JABEZ TEPPER.

We regret having to announce the death of this well-known brother, who expired at his residence, 24, Notting Hill Square, on the 10th instant, aged 54 years. Bro. Tepper was initiated into the Craft in the Tuscan Lodge, No. 14, on the 26th November, 1850, and in due course passed the chair of that ancient lodge. He also served as a Grand Steward in 1867-8, and became a member of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, of which he was the W.M. at the time of his decease. Bro. Tepper was likewise a member of the Board of General Purposes for a brief period. In the Order of Knights Templar our deceased brother held the honourable post of Grand Treasurer, a position which he filled with great credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of the Order. Bro. Tepper was, we understand, a nephew of the celebrated artist Turner, and inherited some of that great man's magnificent pictures, now destined, beyond doubt, to the hammer, as the deceased has left no near relatives.

BRO. JOHN OSTENS STAMP.

This esteemed brother—one of the earliest members of, and a regular attendant at, Lodge Alnwick, No. 1167—departed this life on the 9th inst., at Alnwick, aged 51. Although he held no office, the respect in which he was held was shown by the

attendance, without any formal summons, of the principal officers and many of the brethren at the cemetery, where the last offices were paid to a good neighbour and a beloved brother.

Original Correspondence.

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

THE PURPLE IN THE PROVINCES.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Although you have very properly closed your columns against any further correspondence on the local subject of "the Purple in West Lancashire," as writers, on both sides, have unfortunately indulged in gross personalities, entirely subversive of "that love and harmony which should ever characterise Freemasons," still a few remarks on the subject of Provincial Grand Lodge appointments generally may, perhaps, not be deemed out of place.

From a somewhat extended experience on the subject, I am led to the conclusion, that whilst, on the one hand, *in very small provinces*, an annual or very frequent change of officers (I do not necessarily mean of offices) is to be deprecated, as tending to lower the value of the purple, in the eyes of the brethren, by rendering it of too easy attainment; on the other hand, both in the Provincial Grand Lodges and Grand Lodge itself, every *duly-qualified* brother ought to possess *in practice*, as he does *in principle*, an equal *right* to obtain the honours of the purple, although, as we well know, *selection* must necessarily be resorted to, and only a very few of those entitled to office can obtain it. It therefore becomes all the more necessary that as few *duly-qualified* brethren should be debarred from the privilege they are entitled to as possible.

In a neighbouring province, with which I was formerly well acquainted, it long was (I know not if it still is) the custom to change the Prov. G. Wardens only once in about seven years, and the other Prov. G. officers were also annually re-appointed, some for even longer, and others for the same or shorter periods, so that it was a rare event for any infusion of fresh blood to take place. The natural consequence was, that instead of the Prov. Grand Lodge being, as it ought constitutionally to be, a *representative body*, it became (at least as far as the officers were concerned), as it were, a *close corporation*, where those who were *in*, felt that they had vested rights in their offices, and their object became to keep every one else *out*—a state of things, if we are to believe some of your correspondents, apparently analagous to that unfortunately existing in West Lancashire at the present time. The province to which I refer had then five lodges, two of which have since become extinct, is it too much to suppose, in part, owing to the above cause? Let us see what was the effect of the system on these lodges as regarded the Grand Wardenships alone, and of course it applies at least equally to the other offices. I am not sure that the Junior Warden did not succeed his colleague in the higher office, but taking it that *both* Wardenships became vacant at the end of seven years, during that period there would be, each year, five W.M.'s of lodges who would become legally, and, it is also to be assumed, by personal merit, qualified to be appointed to one of those Wardenships. Under the most favourable circumstances of an annual change of those officers, only two out of the five could possibly attain that rank, but by the system

pursued no less than thirty-five P.M.'s would be actually excluded from the honour to which they had by service in the chair a right to aspire, merely that it might be monopolised by two brethren, possibly not a whit better qualified than themselves. It is not surprising that jealousies and quarrels among the brethren were of no unfrequent occurrence in the province. I sincerely trust that that is now all changed, and that a better state of things exists.

Whilst every province must doubtless be conducted more or less according to local circumstances, the arrangements now in force in the province of which I am an old officer (that of Leicestershire and Rutland), as gradually modified and improved by the experience of the past, might, I think, be advantageously adopted in such provinces as West Lancashire, both to the pleasure of the ruler and the profit of the brethren under his sway. Formerly, when this province consisted of three lodges only, one of which (No. 50, Hinckley) was in abeyance, the appointments in the Prov. Grand Lodge remained unchanged, occasionally, for three years, and it was customary for those appointed to go from the lowest to the higher offices in rotation. When, however, the lodges became more numerous and prosperous (there are now eight flourishing lodges), it became the practice to make fresh appointments to all the offices (except, of course, those of Treasurer, Secretary, and occasionally Director of Ceremonies) every year, in some instances (where P.M.'s) the brethren being promoted to higher offices, in others retiring for a year or two to make way for other brethren equally qualified with themselves. At the same time, as a rule, the office of Registrar was restricted to brethren of one of the legal professions, being P.M.'s, that of Supt. of Works to architects or builders, and that of Sword-bearer to naval or military brethren.

When the present P.G.M. was appointed, after having previously had the management of the province, for some fourteen or fifteen years, as Deputy G. Master, he expressed his desire, *without relinquishing any part of the prerogatives of his office*, to make the Prov. Grand Lodge a more thoroughly representative body than it had previously been; and for this purpose he adopted the custom of allowing, each year, six of the lodges, in rotation, the privilege of nominating for his approval one of their members to represent their Lodge as a Grand Steward, and from them, as a rule, are subsequently taken all those appointed to the purple. So that, indirectly, all the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge are originally selected by the brethren of the various private lodges. In addition, each year a certain number of appointments, ranging from one to four, according to the number of its members, are appropriated to each lodge in the province, so that no lodge is ever unrepresented among the officers.

As the system in force in this province has been found to work very satisfactorily and harmoniously, I have been led (at greater length than I had intended) to trespass upon your space with this communication, in the hope that the adoption of it, or a modification of it, might be useful in some other provinces, and especially that it might, if adopted, be the means of allaying those heartburnings and personal animosities now unhappily existing in West Lancashire, and which, if not removed, must be destructive of the best interests of Masonry in the province.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
A PAST PROV. G. SECRETARY.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ZETLAND.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR AND BROTHER,—I have waited most patiently for a long time to hear the result of the application to lodges and individual brethren, to subscribe towards a Fund for decayed Masons, as a fitting and deserved testimonial of our esteemed Past Grand Master. Surely the subscribers should be informed of the amount contributed, and are entitled to receive a printed statement of accounts, and the list of subscribers? It would be pleasant for all connected with so excellent a movement to have a memorial of the event, just as when a similar testimony of the appreciation of the Craft was presented to H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex.

I hope, Bro. Editor, that ere long we shall have such a list of subscribers sent to all the subscribing lodges and brethren, and beg to subscribe myself,

Your occasional Correspondent,
333°

PEACE! PEACE!

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR,—In the interests of true Freemasonry, allow me to claim your influence, in bringing about an "Act of Oblivion," and a General Amnesty.

No matter how great the provocation—how irritating the insult—it is not too late to suppress *personal* feelings, and to consider only the benefit of the Craft in general.

Napoleon—with all his faults, a keen observer of human nature, said, "Build a golden bridge for a beaten foe."

Let us not press each other too hard, on *this* or *that* point, or claim, too rigidly, redress of wrongs, or apology for insult. *These* are the result of personal feeling, and I wish that nothing but the good of the Craft, and its harmony, may be uppermost in our thoughts. All other considerations are petty, when we consider discord and scandal increasing amongst us.

I say, earnestly, make peace before it is too late, otherwise the fabric of Masonry may be undermined, by extraneous influences, taking advantage of our disunion.

OLIVE BRANCH.

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—There was a "great cry and little wool" in last Grand Lodge respecting the alleged desecration of the Coffee Room at Freemasons' Hall, because two or three brethren, members of an old chivalric Order, met therein as private gentlemen, for a few minutes, on one occasion, a long time ago; while, on the Friday following, the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar actually met in the "Zetland" Room at the Hall—one of the very rooms set apart especially for the Craft—with all their banners, trumpets, red crosses, and arches of steel, notwithstanding the oft-preached "sanctity" of the premises! Knowing, as I do, that the Templars are as good, if not better, Craft Masons than many who denounce their Masonic status, I merely mention this to show that, in certain quarters, there is a manifest lack of that much-to-be-prized virtue,

CONSISTENCY.

[We are pleased to be enabled to state that not one of the officials in the Grand Secretary's department has ever been connected with the spurious Rite of Memphis, or with any other rite or degree which has been at any time authoritatively denounced by the Grand Lodge of England. This contradiction is rendered necessary, in order to remove the erroneous impressions which were conveyed in the remarks of a certain speaker at the last Quarterly Communication.—ED. F.]

(To the Editor of The Freemason.)

SIR AND BROTHER,—Bro. Matthew Cooke, in a paper he endeavoured to distribute within the precincts of Grand Lodge on Wednesday week,

refers to one of his patrons, whom he styles "an ignoramus," because, in a letter of sixty-seven words, he made thirteen "child-like" errors of autography. Pray, let me ask Bro. Cooke by what term he qualifies his own blunders? He writes about "*veniality*" and corruption, does he (the teacher) not know that *venial* means excusable, pardonable, but that *venal* means mercenary? This is not a typographical error, for, in the same article, he again writes "*venial* transgressions."

Let Bro. Cooke learn English himself!

Yours fraternally,

WOOLWICH.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. DR. LORY MARSH.

The annual dinner of the Lodge of Instruction, of the Masonic Fraternity of Nottingham, took place on the 30th ult., at the Black Boy Hotel, the proceedings deriving their highest interest from the presentation of an address to Bro. Dr. Lory Marsh, the founder of the lodge, on his resignation of the office of President. S. R. P. Shilton, Esq., who is distinguished by his zeal in all movements affecting the Order, occupied the chair, and there were also present: Bros. J. Comyn (vice-chairman), T. Danks, J. C. Nixon, H. A. Attenborough, J. Hack, R. Fitzhugh, M. Vowles, J. Hall, J. Maxwell, B. H. Cockayne, C. B. Truman, C. C. Wragg, J. Wills, J. Widdowson, Dr. Varley, Gilbert, Maltby, J. T. Mayfield, A. Fletcher, R. Morris, Watson, S. Collinson, J. Simpson, Dr. J. Thompson, jun., J. Elmore, and others. The dinner was followed by the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, proposed in felicitous language from the chair. These were followed by the presentation, and in the course of a singularly able speech the chairman reviewed the history of the lodge, and dwelt with much force upon the indebtedness of the brotherhood to Bro. Dr. Lory Marsh for his fidelity and attachment to their interests. In the midst of busy and responsible professional duties, said the chairman, he had always done his utmost to advance the well-being of the Craft, and his example in that respect could not be too widely imitated or too gratefully remembered. In conclusion, he presented the address, which was superbly illustrated by Bro. S. Collinson, and which was couched in the following terms:—

To Bro. J. C. Lory Marsh, P.M., P.Z., P.P.S.G.W.

Dear Sir and Brother,—We cannot allow you to relinquish your active connection with the Masonic body of Nottingham without expressing in some permanent, if unostentatious form, our deep appreciation of your claims upon our esteem. To your zealous attachment to the noble principles of the brotherhood, and to your increasing anxiety to carry those principles into practical effect, we owe the establishment of the Lodge of Instruction, which has more than realized even your hopes in its usefulness and success. We are happy in knowing that the fidelity and love for the brotherhood which you have ever shown are not exceptional, but we think it right to testify in this manner to an unaffected recognition on our part of your worth and devotion as a Mason, your attainments as a scholar, your public spirit as a citizen, and your accomplishments as a gentleman, whilst living and working amongst us.

We are, Sir and Brother,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

EDWARD PEAT, W.M. 47.

E. H. H. VERNON, W.M. 402.

B. H. COCKAYNE, W.M. 411.

JOHN MAXWELL, P.M. 506.

JOSEPH THOMPSON, jun., Hon. Sec.

November 30, 1871.

Bro. Dr. Lory Marsh, on rising, was received with cordial cheers, which were sustained for some time. He said that he was so far overcome with conflicting emotions that he feared he should but imperfectly express the sentiments with which he received that beautiful address. He could assure them that an undertone of genuine sorrow entered into the feeling of pleasure that so largely occupied his mind—sorrow that possibly many faces which at that moment gladdened his heart might in the course of things greet him no more; pleasure, that it had been given to him to attract so much of kindness and regard, of warm approval during his connection with them. For nearly twenty years he had been the recipient of countless proofs of attach-

ment, of welcome acts of thoughtfulness and consideration, from the Fraternity, among whom he counted many of the most cherished and the most honoured of all the friends of his life. In severing that connection he felt that he was creating a deep blank in his own life; that he was separating himself from that which had long been a solace and a guide to him—the harmony, affection, and mutual confidence and esteem of the lodge it had been his privilege to establish. Were that moment one in which he could use conventional phrases, he might be tempted to say that it was the proudest of his life; but such language would but ill interpret his feelings. He could not help saying that it was a bitter moment, because it showed him how much he would lose in parting from a body of gentlemen from whom he had experienced nothing but sympathy and true friendship. He could not tell them how much he appreciated the address with which they had too generously rewarded what little he had been able to accomplish, for it would be the highest recommendation which he could take the brethren elsewhere. Bro. Dr. Marsh then went on to allude to various matters of interest, and concluded a speech—which, for grace of expression and depth of feeling, was greatly admired—by giving “The health of the Chairman.”

Bro. Shilton responded in a very earnest and impressive manner. Several other toasts were proposed, Bro. J. Thompson, jun., responded for “The Committee,” proposed by Bro. Attenborough, and Bro. T. Danks for “The Visitors,” proposed by the Vice-Chairman. The proceedings altogether were of the most gratifying interest.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. JOHN FRENCH.

On Monday, November 11th, the buyers and travellers of Messrs. Allan and French, 157 Cheapside, City, presented Bro. John French with a very handsome black marble timepiece and two bronzes, the one an exquisite Corregio and the other a fine Salvator Rosa, as a substantial proof of the esteem in which he is held by his employees. The wording of the memorial card which bore the following inscription, speaks for itself:—

“We, the undersigned heads of departments and representatives of the house of Allan and French, most respectfully offer to John French, Esq., the accompanying, trusting it will be accepted in the same spirit in which it is presented, not for its intrinsic value, but as a simple token of esteem and respect, as an appreciation of his earnest endeavours to promote to the utmost of his power the comfort and interest of those in his employ, and in recognition of his having by his business qualities, steadfastness of purpose, genial manner, and kindly disposition, rendered the attainment of his present position a matter of sincere congratulation on the part of all who have had the pleasure of working with him.”

(Here follow the various signatures.)

Bro. John French entered the house of James Allan in the year 1845, subsequently Mr. Badger, so well known in the city as one of the leading men for many years, at Salomon's Old Change, joined Mr. Allan, and the firm was then carried on under the title of Allan and Badger, until 1867. In 1867, on Mr. Badger's retirement, Bro. John French was made junior partner, and the firm is now Allen and French, proving that there are chances of obtaining good positions in the city still left to men who like Bro. French possess the necessary energy.

SMALL-POX, FEVERS, AND SKIN DISEASES.—The predisposition to is prevented by Lamplough's Pyretic Saline. Vitalising and invigorating, its effects are remarkable in their cure and prevention. Take it as directed. Sold by chemists and the maker, H. Lamplough, 113, Holborn-hill.—[Advt.]

Reports of Masonic Meetings.

THE CRAFT.

METROPOLITAN.

Perfect Ashlar Lodge, No. 1178.—At the Gregorian Arms' Tavern, Bermondsey, on Thursday, the 7th instant, this lodge held its regular meeting. Bros. G. J. Grace, W.M.; J. W. Dudley, S.W.; J. H. Harmsworth, J.W.; F. H. Ebsworth, P.M.; Treas.; F. Walters, P.M., Sec.; T. W. Cox, J.D.; C. Deakin, I.G.; J. W. Avery, P.M., W.S.; J. Rouse, D.C.; J. Green, P.M.; W. May, J. A. Axtell, G. Free, J. Walter, J. R. Johnson, J. G. Tanyer, G. Mabbs, P. Fry, T. Jones, A. Lewis, and others, were present. The visitors were Bro. C. Rayden (73) and T. Neville (S.W. 765). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. J. R. Johnson was, ballot being taken, declared to be unanimously elected. Messrs. Jonas Walter and John Richard Johnson were duly initiated into Freemasonry, the work being well rendered. Some propositions for initiations were then given for next lodge meeting, and the lodge was closed. Banquet followed, when the usual toasts were given. A five-guinea Past Master's jewel was presented, from the lodge funds, to Bro. J. Green, P.M., for his services as W.M. during his past year of office.

Lodge of Asaph, No. 1319.—The regular monthly meeting of this immensely-popular and successful lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, W.C., on the 4th inst. Present: Bros. E. Stanton Jones, I.P.M.; C. Coote, P.M., W.M.; J. M. Chamberlin, P.M., S.W.; J. Weaver, P.M., P.G.O. Middlesex, J.W.; Edward Frewin, S.D.; W. H. Stephens, D.C.; William A. Tinney, I.G.; Henry J. Tinney, Org.; John Gilbert, Tyler; John Boutwright, Thomas Edgar, Charles Harper (jun.), George Horton, Wm. A. Easton, Henry J. Snelling, Julian Egerton, Joseph Baker, William J. Castell, Joseph Horton, George A. Compton, and Edmund H. Reynolds. Visitor: Bro. G. Pritchard, Whittington Lodge, No. 862. The business consisted in initiating Mr. F. J. Amor, raising Bro. E. H. Reynolds, and electing two members to the Benevolent Fund Committee. The choice fell upon Bros. E. Terry and G. Compton. The W.M., Bro. C. Coote, performed the ceremonies in his well-known impressive manner, and addressed the brethren upon the satisfactory state of the lodge in so short a period, which, although being only a twelvemonth old, has paid for every necessary for the lodge; the expenses for the year amounted to £211 18s. 8d. The receipts were £240 1s., thereby leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £28 2s. 4d. During the year twenty gentlemen have been initiated, and twenty-six brethren joined. Three brethren were made honorary members for their services at the consecration, and the seven founders make a total of fifty-six members. Truly, this is a success, and we wish the Lodge of Asaph every happiness and prosperity.

Highgate Lodge, No. 1366.—An emergency meeting of this young, but flourishing, lodge was held at the Gate House Hotel, Highgate, on the 11th inst. Bro. Terry, W.M., presided, supported by his officers and several of the members. Messrs. W. Hierons, J. H. Hierons, and Robert Danby, jun., were initiated, and Bros. Shaw, Field, and Clout were passed, the work being admirably performed. Bro. Hill, D.C., was appointed Steward for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution festival, and in the course of the evening announced a good round sum as having been contributed. Banquet followed and a most happy evening was spent. Among the visitors were Bros. Sisson, P.M.; Bilby, P.M.; Barnes, Angel, &c.

PROVINCIAL.

CANTERBURY.—United Industrious Lodge, No. 31.—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 7th inst. Present: Bros. P. Higham, W.M. (in the chair); John R. Hall, I.P.M., P.G. Asst. Sec.; Mulford, P.M.; Holtum, P.M.; Coppin, P.M.; W. Davey, S.W.; J. G. Hall, J.W.; R. F. Strand, S.D.; H. M. Biddleston, J.D.; Captain P. Knight, I.G.; John Pout, P.M., Sec.; Sir Lewis Campbell, Bart., of Lodge 365, Nova Scotia, and several other brethren, also attended. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Reuben Bradley passed a satisfactory examination, and was passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then closed down to the first degree, and Mr. George Johnson, having been properly prepared, was initiated by the W.M. into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. Some other business having been transacted, the lodge was closed in due form, with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, passing an hour pleasantly in real social enjoyment.

LEICESTER.—St. John's Lodge, No. 279.—The

regular meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 6th inst. Bro. C. Stretton, W.M., presided, assisted by the following officers and brethren: Bros. E. J. Crow, S.W.; Widdowson, Sec.; J. W. Smith, J.D.; Halford, I.G.; Weare, P.M., Treas.; MacAllister, P.G. Supt. of Works; Statham, Wilkinson, Edwards, H. T. Kirby, C. E. Stretton, Gosling, and Blankley. The visitors were Bros. Sculthorpe, W.M. 523; G. Toller, P.M.; W. B. Smith, P.M.; Baines, J.W.; Partridge, Sec.; and Thorpe, 523; and J. Dawson, 84. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last regular lodge and also of a lodge of emergency, were read and confirmed. Bros. H. T. Kirby and C. E. Stretton were severally raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, the ceremony being performed in an impressive and exemplary manner by Bro. Toller, P.M. 523 and Prov. Grand Secretary. A ballot having been taken, Bro. E. J. Crow, S.W. and P.P.G.O., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Crow, in an appropriate speech, returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him, assuring the brethren he should endeavour to prove himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him. Letters of apology for unavoidable absence were received from the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Kelly, L. A. Clarke, P.M., and Dr. George Pearce, J.W. Letters of resignation were also received from Bros. B. L. Atwood and J. St. T. Clarke, M.D. A candidate having been proposed, and a resolution adopted, deferring the annual festival from St. John's day until the usual meeting on the 3rd of January, the lodge was closed, and the brethren proceeded to refreshment.

BERWICK-ON-TWEED.—St. David's Lodge, No. 393.—The usual monthly meeting was held in the lodge-room, Church-street, Berwick-on-Tweed, on Tuesday, the 5th inst. Bro. George Moor, W.M., occupied the chair, and was supported by his Wardens and other office-bearers. There was a large muster of the brethren, and after the usual business had been disposed of, they proceeded to the election of a Master for the ensuing year, when Bro. Chalmers I. Paton, of The Tower, Portobello, was unanimously elected to that office. Bro. C. I. Paton is well known in the Masonic world. He is author of “Freemasonry and its Jurisprudence,” “Freemasonry in Relation to Civil Authority and the Family Circle,” “Origin of Freemasonry,” and many other valuable Masonic works. Bro. J. Richardson was elected Treasurer, and Bro. Farmer Turnbull, Tyler. The installation of the Master will take place on St. John's Day, the 27th instant, when a large and successful meeting is anticipated.

WIRKSWORTH.—Derwent Lodge, No. 884.—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 27th ult. There were present: Bros. W. Webb, W.M.; J. Hindle, as S.W.; C. Parkin, J.W.; B. Street, Treas.; W. L. Hall, Sec.; W. Milligan, S.D.; George Harvey, J.D.; E. Birch, Org.; W. S. Lugg, I.G.; F. Barton, P.M.; J. Stone, P.M.; C. Marshall, J. Bettle, John P. Bradley, William Lennox, William Shaw, A. Roome, H. Tomlinson. Visitors: Bros. W. Clark, P.M. 47; Aug. Bagshaw, P.G. Chap., 1235; W. Adsetts, P.M. 787; William Perkins, 787; C. Oding, 253; J. Bladon, S. Henson, J. C. Holden, and C. Walmsley, 317; G. T. Wright and R. Bennett, 731; J. Burkinshaw and H. Cupitt, 1028; Wm. Greator, 281. After the usual lodge business, Bro. Charles Parkin was presented to the Installing Master, Bro. W. Webb, who rendered the ceremony of installation in a most impressive manner, the effect being greatly increased by the musical arrangements which were introduced. The following officers were invested: Bros. William Milligan, S.W.; C. B. Marshall, J.W.; J. W. Porter, Chap.; Benjamin Street, Treas.; J. Bettle, Sec.; W. S. Lugg, S.D.; W. Lennox, J.D.; J. Hindle, D.C.; E. Birch, Org.; and A. Roome, I.G. After the business of the lodge was concluded, the brethren adjourned to the dining-room, where an excellent dinner was provided and thoroughly enjoyed. After the usual loyal toasts, Bro. Parkin proposed “The Health of the Retiring Master, Bro. Webb,” alluding to the various services rendered by him to the lodge during the two years he had occupied the chair, and concluded by presenting to him a handsome Past Master's jewel which had been subscribed for by the members of the lodge. During the evening the Masonic Charities were discussed, and the W.M. expressed his intention of accepting the office of Steward at the next festival of the Boys' School. The evening passed very pleasantly, and the visitors expressed themselves as delighted with the day's proceedings.

LIVERPOOL.—Neptune Lodge, No. 1264.—The regular and half-yearly meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Friday, the 1st instant, at the Masonic Temple, Hope-street. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. James Taylor, and the minutes of the last regular lodge, also of an emergency meeting, were read and confirmed. Bro. Thomas

Atherton, of this lodge, and Bros. Brewer and Evans' of the Warren Lodge, were passed to the degree of Fellow-Craft. Messrs Kilcoyne and Payne were initiated, the ceremony being worked in a very able and impressive manner by the W.M. We may also say the same of the Senior and Junior Wardens, Bros. P. B. Gee and A. Davies; in fact, the whole of the officers discharged their duty in a manner highly creditable to the lodge, and which speaks well for the Lodge of Instruction in connexion with the Neptune Lodge.—Bro. Healing, P.M. and Treas., being temporarily absent from the room, The W.M. arose and said: Brethren, I have now a very painful and mournful duty to perform. It is but a few months ago that our respected P.M. and Treas., Bro. Healing, had the misfortune to lose an affectionate and devoted wife; that loss was a heavy affliction to him, and also to his children. In that hour of trial he had the most sincere consolation and sympathy of his brethren, and most especially the members of this lodge. Even while the cup of sorrow was yet full, and he still mourned the past, another severe affliction has befallen him since our last meeting—that is, the death of a most amiable, loving, and beloved mother; that parent who watched over him in childhood's days, and in joyous pride saw him rise to manhood, respected, and mourned with him in his recent loss. That parent now also sleeps in the dust; thus adding another pang to his sufferings. Brethren, I know that you have the greatest sympathy with our respected but unfortunate brother.—The brethren present appeared deeply affected, and requested their W.M. to express their profound sorrow and sincere sympathy to Bro. Healing, who at this moment re-entered the room, when the W.M., in most eloquent and sympathetic flow of sorrowing language, expressed to Bro. Healing the deep feelings of sorrow and sympathy of the brethren towards him in this the time of affliction. seemed visibly affected, and sat down unable, through emotion, to reply. A list of the names of the brethren of this lodge was then read who had contributed towards the support of the West Lancashire Institution for the education, &c., of the children of deceased or distressed Freemasons, which showed an amount very creditable to this lodge (£15), to be handed over to that noble institution, proving that Lodge 1264 is determined to maintain its reputation in acts of charity, as well as brotherly love. Other business was now disposed of, and the lodge was closed in due and solemn form, when the brethren, sixty in number, retired to a banquet prepared for them by Bro. Ball in his usual excellent style. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. The toast of "The Visiting Brethren" was responded to by Bros. Pearson (W.M. 249), Larsen (P.M. 594), and Hill (W.M. 724), each of them expressing their pleasure and gratification at the excellent working and conduct of 1264, and concluded with their hearty good wishes for its prosperity. In the toast of "The Newly-Initiated Brethren," the W.M. feelingly addressed both of them on their duty as Freemasons and as citizens of the world. The remaining toasts having been given and responded to, the Tyler's toast brought this harmonious and happy meeting to a close, when the brethren separated in peace and goodwill.

OAKHAM, RUTLAND.—*Valde of Catmoss Lodge, No. 1265.*—A meeting was held at the Agricultural Hall, on the 30th ultimo. There was a large attendance of brethren, and the following visitors: Bros. Orford, P.M. 466, P.P.G.S.W. Norths. and Hunts.; Douglas, P.M. 1130, P.P.G.S.D.; Fast, W.M. 1130, P.P.G. Supt. of Works; Law, Ward, Norton, 466. The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, and Bro. the Rev. William Langley, P.M. 50 and 1130, P.P.G.S.W., having been deputed to officiate as Installing Master for the P.G. Master, Bro. Kelly, whose absence was owing to sudden illness, the S.W., Bro. J. C. Duncombe, P.G.A.D.C. Norths. and Hunts., P.G.J.D. Leicester and Rutland, was presented to him as the W.M.-elect. It is needless to say that Bro. Langley performed this important ceremony in his usual skilful and impressive manner. After the new W.M. had been regularly installed, saluted, and greeted according to ancient custom, he proceeded to invest the officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bros. J. G. Bennett, S.W.; J. Hardy, J.W.; J. M. Kew, S.D.; C. P. Newcome, J.D.; W. Berridge, I.G.; W. C. Crowson and J. Reed, Stewards. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Bro. Langley, the Installing Master, and ordered to be recorded on the minutes. A candidate for initiation at the next meeting was proposed by the W.M., and seconded by Bro. Bailey. Apologies for absence were received from the P.G. Master, Bro. Kelly (through illness); also from the D.P.G. Master Norths. and Hunts., Bro. Inns, and many other brethren, expressing their best and fraternal wishes to the W.M.-elect. The lodge was then closed down in due form by the W.M., and the brethren retired to a sumptuous

banquet at the Crown Hotel, provided in a most liberal manner by Bro. Crowson, the newly-installed W.M. presiding. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, the healths of the P.G.M. and W.M. being most cordially received. "The Visitors" was proposed by the W.M. and responded to by Bros. Orford Douglas, Fast, and Law, and after a number of other toasts, the proceedings, which passed off with great *éclat*, terminated about ten o'clock, owing to the exigencies of trains.

MARKET RASEN.—*Bayon's Lodge, No. 1286.*—The annual meeting took place on Monday, the 4th inst., when Bro. E. E. Jevons, the W.M.-elect, was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year by W. Bro. Watkins, P.M. 297, P.G. Supt. of Works, and he appointed his officers as follows: W. Bro. Atkins, I.P.M.; Bros. Makins, S.W.; the Rev. J. Saunders, J.W.; the Rev. T. P. Holdich, Chap.; W. Bro. Turnour, P.M., P.P.G.S., Treas.; Bros. Strong, S.D.; Cocking, J.D. and Sec.; Henson, I.G.; and Marshall, Tyler. The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the White Hart Hotel, where a sumptuous banquet was prepared, W. Bro. E. E. Jevons, W.M., in the chair. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed, and a most enjoyable evening spent. The various speeches showed a true Masonic spirit amongst the brethren present, and augurs well for a happy year under direction of the W.M.

ROYAL ARCH.

METROPOLITAN.

Victoria Chapter, No. 1056.—This excellent and most prosperous chapter held its convocation at Bro. Gosden's, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, E.C., on Monday, the 4th inst. In the absence of Comp. William Long, M.E.Z., Comp. James Brett, P.Z., A.G.P., presided, supported by Comps. E. Gottheil, H.; Forsyth, J.; Pendlebury, S.E.; Ehnhuus, S.N.; Newman, P.S.; Ferguson, 1st A.S.; J. D. Taylor, 2nd A.S.; and Grant, Janitor. Bros. Charles Challis Taylor, W.M. 141, and John Kennett, S.D. 141, presenting themselves as aspirants to this supreme degree, were exalted accordingly, and in a manner worthy the reputation of the very excellent companion who presided. About forty companions partook of the banquet, which the worthy host knows so well how to provide. Songs by Comps. Brett, Forsyth, Worrell, Thompson, and others, enlivened the entertainment. The usual toasts were given, and the responses were characterised by commendable brevity. The entire harmony which exists among the companions of this chapter, coupled with the agreeable surroundings of the banqueting-room, resulted in a most delightful evening being spent by all present. The chapter was honoured on this occasion by the following visitors: Comps. H. T. Thompson, H. 507; William Warrell, 720; Thos. Price, J. 975; M'Namara, 3; H. F. Stacey, 865.

PROVINCIAL.

NORTHAMPTON.—*Northampton Chapter, No. 360.*—There was a good attendance at this chapter on Thursday, Nov. 30, when the officers for the ensuing year were elected, viz.: Comps. Boémé, M.E.Z.; Dr. Sedgwick, P.G.C. &c., 2nd Principal; Kellett, 3rd Principal; J. V. Stanton, N.; Robinson, E.; Howes, P.S.; Green, 1st A.S.; Jones, 2nd A.S. No other business coming before the chapter, the companions adjourned to refreshment, and an hour or two was spent in a very enjoyable manner.

HANLEY.—*Staffordshire Knot Chapter, No. 418.*—A regular convocation was held at the Mechanics' Institution on Tuesday week, when Bro. Warwick Savage was exalted in due form by Comp. W. H. Hales, M.E.Z., assisted by Comps. Rodgers, as H.; G. Outrim, P.Z., as J.; W. Hall, P.Z., as P.S.; and Comp. J. B. Piercy, S.N. The business also included the installation of Comp. James Rodgers as 1st Principal; Comp. J. C. Daniel, as H.; and Comp. J. S. Crapper, as J.; which ceremony was ably performed by Comp. W. Hall, P.Z.—On Wednesday week a chapter of emergency was held, when the Right Hon. the Earl of Shrewsbury, Prov. Grand Master of Staffordshire, was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry, the ceremony being very ably performed by Comp. G. S. Tudor, P.Z., Grand Superintendent, assisted by Comp. W. H. Hales, P.Z., who delivered the mystic lecture, Comp. J. Rodgers, as H., who delivered the symbolic lecture, and Comp. G. Outrim, P.Z., as J., who delivered the historical lecture—Comp. W. Hall, P.Z., acting as Principal Sojourner, and Comp. J. B. Piercy, S.N. The chapter was then closed in due form, and the companions adjourned to a sumptuous banquet at the Queen's Hotel.

ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE.

Original or Premier Conclave of England.—A

quarterly assembly of this conclave was held at Freemasons' Tavern, on the 4th inst., under the presidency of V.E. Sir Kt. Angelo J. Lewis, M.A., M.P.S., who was supported by E. Sir Kt. George Kenning, V., eighteen members, and the following visitors: V.E. Sir Kts. J. Lewis Thomas, G.A.R., M.P.S. 2; Dr. C. Parker Ward, S.G. 2; and Capt. C. J. Burgess, No. 15. The conclave having been duly opened, ballots were taken for three candidates—one of whom, Bro. H. A. Dubois, S.W. 1326, being in attendance, was then regularly installed a knight of this ancient Order. The resignation of Sir Kt. Boord, S.G., was announced, and received with regret, and the following promotions were made in the offices: Sir Kts. Andrew, S.G.; Moss, J.G.; Sillifant, H.P.; Taylor, P.; Barrett, S.B.; and Yeoman, H. Apologies from absent officers and candidates having been read, the conclave was closed, and the knights companions adjourned to the refectory, where a banquet was served, and another of the harmonious and happy meetings, so characteristic of the Premier Conclave, was enjoyed by all present. The knights showed their loyalty by cordially singing the National Anthem, all upstanding, and the healths of the Queen and the Royal family were greeted with enthusiasm. Sir Kt. H. Parker, G.O., presided at the pianoforte, and ably accompanied several songs, which were very pleasingly rendered by Sir Kts. Dyer, Moss, Marsh, and others.

St. Andrew's Conclave, No. 15.—This conclave met on St. Andrew's Day, at Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, City, under the sceptre of E. Sir Kt. R. Kenyon, M.P.S., who was supported by V.E. Sir Kt. Raynham Stewart, G.P., Past M.P.S., and other knights. Bro. Captain C. J. Burgess, Secretary of the National (Red Cross) Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, was installed a knight, and Sir Kt. Marsh, G.A., was elected an honorary member. A banquet followed the proceedings in conclave.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

PLYMOUTH.—*The Royal Veterans' Encampment, No. 10.*—This encampment assembled at the Huyshe Masonic Temple, on the evening of Wednesday, the 6th inst. Much interest was evinced, not only because it was the appointed time for the selection of the officers of the encampment, but because of the fact that three gentlemen, well known for their high position and zeal in the Craft, locally, presented themselves for installation as Knights Templar, and that the ceremony would be performed by a much-esteemed Sir Knight, whose impressive and correct mode of working is well remembered by the Masonic Knights Templar in this neighbourhood. Accordingly, after the opening of the encampment, under the presidency of Sir Knight Henry Dubosc, the ballot taken, and other preliminaries adjusted, Bros. Harris (the Collector of Inland Revenue in this district), Gover (the indefatigable Secretary of the Devon Committee of Petitions), and Westcott (the publisher of "The Devon and Cornwall Masonic Guide") were introduced, and at the hands of Sir Kt. Rodda, were duly installed Knights Templar in a most solemn and effective manner. The whole of the officers were most perfect in their knowledge of the duties assigned to each. Solemn music added its graceful charm to the occasion, and as perfect ceremonial is the only useful ceremonial to teach the glorious truth so dramatically symbolised in the degree, it was no matter of surprise to hear the candidates declare, at the conclusion of the working, how deeply rivetted on their recollections were the various incidents of a weary pilgrimage. On the finish of the ceremony, Sir Kt. J. Watts, in some well-chosen remarks, expressed the satisfaction of the members of the "Veteran" at seeing Sir Kt. Rodda once more among them, and trusted he would for many years be with them to aid them by his assistance and his counsel. The attention of those present was then forcibly directed by Sir Kt. Watts to the very beautiful paraphernalia, which was used for the first time, adorning the beautiful room in the Huyshe Temple in which they were assembled. In those beautiful and sacred objects were also exhibited the kindly affection and great esteem of the E.C. of the encampment, Sir Kt. Henry Dubosc, who was esteemed wherever known, and whose zeal in the Order was recognised by the clothing and jewels which he wore as an officer in the Grand Conclave of England and Wales, and also of the Grand Conclave of the province of Devon. A hearty and grateful acknowledgment of Sir Kt. Dubosc's kindness was carried by acclamation, to which the E.C. replied in characteristic terms of modest gratification that his presence gave his companions pleasure. The election of the E.C. then followed, and also of other officers; and after devotional exercises, the evening was brought to a happy conclusion. Among those present to witness the ceremony, in addition to those already mentioned, were: Sir Kts. Bird and Rodd, P.E.C.'s; J. J. Clase, Prelate *pro tem.*; Austin, 1st Captain;

Harvey, 2nd Captain; J. Watts, P.E.C., P.P.G.T., Acting Expert; Curteis, Hipley, F. P. Holmes, J. O. Oxland (of "Tancred," Cambridge), Herbert Hearle, Registrar, &c., who all testified to the occasion being one of unalloyed comfort and pleasure.

CONSECRATION OF A MARK LODGE (S.C.) AT MARYPORT.

The Lodge of True Friendship, No. 26 (S.C.), Maryport, having been chartered by the Supreme Chapter of Scotland, Saturday, the 2nd instant, was fixed for the consecration thereof. The lodge was punctually opened at 12.15, by Bro. W. Foster, P.M., P.Z., Prov. G.J.O., and R.W.M.-designate, assisted by the officers. Bros. C. F. Matier, 30°, Dep. Prov. G.M.M., and L. Mackersy, 30°, G.S.E. of Scotland, were then announced, and were saluted by the brethren according to their rank. After the usual preliminaries, in which the brethren signified their assent to the officers named, a beautiful oration on the moral teachings and objects of the Degree was given in a most impressive manner by the Grand Scribe E., and was listened to with deep attention by all. The D. Prov. G.M.M. then proceeded to the consecration, and after the corn, wine, and oil had been carried round, descended from the dais, with the thurible, and after circumambulating the lodge three times, solemnly dedicated and constituted it under the name of the True Friendship Lodge of M.M., No. 26 (S.C.) After the concluding portion of the dedicatory prayer, most impressively given by the Grand Scribe E., Bro. Foster was presented for the benefit of installation to the Dep. P.G.M.M., and the brethren having retired, a Board of Installed Mark Masters was formed, and Bro. Foster placed, with all due formality, in the chair of Adoniram. The brethren having been readmitted, saluted the newly-installed Master, who immediately proceeded to appoint his officers, who were invested and severally addressed by Bro. Matier, who also gave the charges from the West, North, and East to the R.W.M., officers, and brethren. A letter of apology for absence was read from Bro. Thos. Entwisle, R.W. Prov. G.M.M., who was prevented from being present by illness. Bros. Mackersy and Matier were then unanimously elected honorary members of the lodge, and a hearty vote of thanks accorded to them for coming so long a distance to perform the ceremony.

The lodge was then closed in ancient form, with solemn prayer, and the brethren adjourned to banquet at the Freemasons' Arms. After a plain but substantial repast, the usual loyal and formal Masonic toasts followed. "The Supreme Chapter of Scotland" was responded to by the Grand Scribe E., who disclaimed any idea of invading English territory on the part of the S.G.R.A.C. of Scotland, and spoke at some length on the efforts being made to promote a union among the brethren of the Mark Degree, and the various jurisdictions at present ruling it.

Bro. Matier, D. Prov. G.M.M., returned thanks for the Prov. G. Lodge of Lancashire and the Northern Counties, and assured the brethren of the earnest desire which actuated every member of that body to place the Degree on its proper footing. He then proposed "The Health of Bro. Foster, R.W.M.," who responded at some length, and thanked the brethren for placing him in the position he occupied.

The proceedings were somewhat curtailed by the fact that the last train left at seven o'clock,

shortly before which the visitors retired, after expressing their pleasure at the way in which they had been received.

The new Mark Lodge promises to be a great success, and from the great amount of pains taken with the working, certainly deserves to prosper. We regret we are unable to give either a complete list of officers or brethren present.

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.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.—The Supreme Grand Council 33° for the Northern Jurisdiction, United States, met at Boston, Massachusetts, on the 14th November. M.P. and Ill. Bro. J. H. Drummond presided, and delivered his annual address which was a most able and comprehensive document. He reviewed the proceedings of foreign Grand Councils, and warned all true members of the Rite against countenancing the Rite of Memphis as an unclean thing. A number of S.P.R.S. 32° were elected and proclaimed members of the 33°, and the following amendment in the Constitutions was made "The degrees conferred in a Lodge of Perfection, shall not be conferred upon any person unless he is a Master Mason in good standing in the State of his residence." The session closed on the 16th ult.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette*. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Epps's Milky Cocoa (Cocoa and Condensed Milk).—[Advt.]

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A full report of the Manchester Shakspeare Lodge will appear in our next.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending Friday, December 22, 1871.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16.

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. 18.

Lodge 1, Grand Masters, Freemasons' Hall.
" 8, British, Freemasons' Hall.
" 21, Emulation, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
" 58, Felicity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
" 185, Tranquillity,
" 720, Pannure, Balham Hotel, Balham.
" 862, Whittington, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
" 907, Royal Albert, Freemasons' Hall.
" 1201, Eclectic, 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 (150), 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. 19.

Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
Lodge 73, Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
" 95, Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
" 162, Cadogan, Freemasons' Hall.
Chap. 11, Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
" 19, Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
" 167, St. John's,
" 186, Industry, 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. 20.

Lodge of Benevolence, Freemasons' Hall, at 6.
Lodge 30, United Mariners, George Htl., Aldermanbury.
" 140, St. George's, Trafalgar Hotel, Greenwich.
" 174, Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
" 700, Nelson, Masonic Hall, Woolwich.
" 909, Maybury, Freemasons' Hall.
" 1044, New Wandsworth, Spread Eagle Tav., New Wandsworth.
Chap. 217, Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.
United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), 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. Ludus, Preceptor.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21.

House Committee Girls' School.
Lodge 23, Globe, Freemasons' Hall.
" 49, Gilton, Guildhall Coffee House, Gresham-st.
" 169, Temperance, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.
" 179, Manchester, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
" 1139, South Norwood, South Norwood Hall.
" 1287, Great Northern, Great Northern Htl., King's Cross.
Chap. 79, Pythagorean, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
K.T. Encampment, Observance, 21, Bedford-row.

The R.A. Chapter of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor. Ceremony, Illustrations of Banners and Ensigns, and 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. 22.
 House Committee Boys' School.
 United 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 on 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-st., at 8; Bro. W. 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 Coutts 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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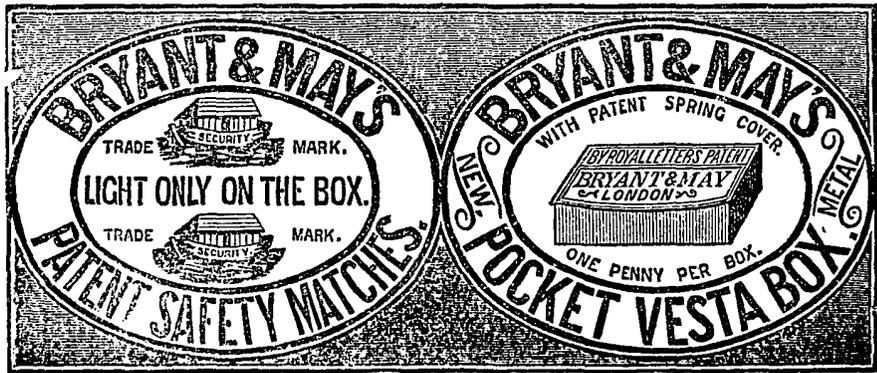
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