

THE Freemason.

REPORTS OF THE GRAND LODGES ARE NOW PUBLISHED WITH THE SPECIAL SANCTION OF

SIR ROBERT MICHAEL SHAW-STEWART Bart., M.W. Grand Master Mason of Scotland; the Right Hon. the EARL OF ROSSLYN, the M.W. Past Grand Master for Scotland; and the Grand Masters of many Foreign Grand Lodges.

Vol. 7, No. 288.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1874.

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

[PRICE 2d.

Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WIDOW OF THE LATE W. BRO. J. R. STEBBING, P.G.D (ENGLAND) AND D. PROV. G.M.

PRESIDENT.—The Right Worshipful W. W. B. BEECH, M.P., Provincial Grand Master.

At a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, recently held at Landport, it was unanimously resolved that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of raising a fund, to provide a suitable memorial to our late deeply-lamented Bro. Stebbing.

In pursuance of the foregoing resolution, a meeting was held at Southampton, which was largely attended, when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

“That the Lcdges and Chapters of the Province and Freemasons generally be solicited to subscribe to a fund, to be appropriated as the Committee shall determine, for the benefit of the Widow of our late lamented Bro. J. R. Stebbing, whose circumstances at the time of his decease render this appeal absolutely necessary.”

“That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to each Lodge and Chapter in the Province, inviting their co-operation, as well as that of Brethren and Companions generally, in obtaining subscriptions to the fund.”

“That a circular stating the circumstances be also transmitted to all other Lodges and Chapters in England.”

The name of the late Bro. J. R. Stebbing is so well known in all Masonic circles that it seems unnecessary to set forth at length his long and valuable services. For many years he was a constant attendant at Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, assisting the interests of the Brethren and Companions. He was Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes in 1861, 1862 and 1863, and also an active member of the Building Committee of the present Freemasons' Hall, London.

He was rarely absent from the elections in the various Charities, giving his valuable aid to the poor and distressed amongst the brethren and their relatives, contributing from his means to the advancement of those charities, in which he had qualified as Vice-Patron of the Boys' School, Life Governor of the Girls' School, and Life Governor of the Benevolent Institution; and it is sincerely hoped that the Widow of one who was so actively engaged for the benefit of others (herself a Life-Governor of the Boys' School) should be placed in circumstances which will assist her in her present unexpected bereavement.

Subscriptions in aid of this fund may be transmitted to the Treasurer, Aldermoor House, near Southampton; or to his bankers, Messrs. Maddison, Atherly, Hankinson, and Darwin, Southampton.

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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

SOUTHALL.—Acacia Lodge (No. 1309).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, August 22nd, at the Prince Alfred Hotel, Southall. Bro. Frederick Walters, P.G.P., Middlesex, P.M., and Secretary, opened the lodge. He in his usual good style, passed Bro. Upstone to the second degree, and raised Bros. Joseph Boyce and David Steinhauer 1326 to the third degree. Bro. E. W. Richardson, W.M., presented Bro. R. Limpus, P.P.G. Organist Middlesex, J.W. and W.M. elect, for Installation, and he was duly installed as the W.M. of the lodge. He appointed as his officers, Bros. C. A. Ferrier, S.W.; C. G. Rushworth, J.W.; E. Sillifant, P.P.G.J.D. Middlesex, P.M., Treasurer; F. Walters, P.G.P. Middlesex, P.M., Secretary; J. H. Webster, S.D.; J. W. George, J.D.; E. W. Collins, I.G.; A. E. J. Budgett, M.C.; R. P. Tebb, W.S.; W. Y. Laing, P.M., Tyler. A vote of thanks (and the same to be entered on the minutes was unanimously accorded to Bro. F. Walters, P.G.P. Middlesex, P.M. and Secretary (the father of the lodge), for his excellent, correct, and impressive working of the installation ceremony, also for his valuable services rendered to the lodge as its Secretary. The bye laws underwent a careful revision, and the day of meeting was altered to the fourth Tuesday (original day in the Warrant) of the months of January, April, July and October. Several gentlemen were proposed for initiation. The lodge was closed. A good banquet followed. There were present besides those already named, Bros. C. Horsley, P.P.G. Reg. Middlesex, P.M.; Isaac Boyce, and others. Amongst the visitors were noticed, Bros. W. Smeed P.P.G.J.W., Middlesex; E. W. Lott, P.P.G.J.W., Jersey; A. Greatrex, P.M. and Treas. 22.

PRINCE LEOPOLD LODGE (No. 1445).—On Thursday, 3rd September, the installation meeting of the above lodge was held at Bro. G. Townsend's, "Lord Stanley," Sandringham-road, Kingsland. The lodge has been established only twelve months, but from the progress it has made during that time, has fully justified the reasons for its establishment, contained in its petition for a warrant, that there was room for another lodge in the neighbourhood where it was proposed to be held. It was started under very favourable auspices, and had the support of several prominent Freemasons, among whom were no less distinguished, Past & Grand Officers than Bros. Joshua Nunn, and John Braddick Monckton. By the exertions of these, among other brethren, the warrant was obtained from the Past Grand Master, the Marquis of Ripon, and in September of last year it was consecrated. During the succeeding year, it made considerable progress, and the joining members and initiates have become very numerous. At the first anniversary, which was held on the 3rd inst., this was announced, and, as will be seen from the following report, the limit, placed by the bye-laws, on the brethren entering at the first scale of fees was reached. The working of the lodge during its existence has, we were informed, been everything that could be desired, and under the presidency of the first W.M., Bro. Howe, an excellent example has been set to the whole roll of lodges. In the working and the

general conduct of business nothing has been omitted, which could tend to give the lodge weight or the Order influence. The proceedings of Thursday week, were in perfect keeping with the former instances of perfection and regularity, and the numerous brethren, who altogether mustered nearly sixty, openly admitted that the lodge was a credit to the Marquis of Ripon's authority. The lodge met at 4 o'clock, and was immediately opened by Bro. W. T. Howe, W.M., who was supported by his officers, members of the lodge, and visitors. Of the last, there were present in the course of the evening the following:—Bros. J. B. Monckton, P.G.D., President Board of General Purposes; John Hervey, Grand Sec.; H. G. Buss, G. Treas., Middlesex; W. Monckton, Prov. G.S.D. Kent; J. Terry, Prov. G.D.C. Herts.; R. Shackell, Prov. G. Pur. Hants.; E. P. Barlow, P.M. 15; Grime, P.M. 381; Stean, P.M. 212; Koch, P.M. 820; Mortlock, P.M. 186; Stephens, P.M. 1365; Frank, P.M. 212; Cunningham, P.M. 754; Massey, (Freemason) P.M. 619; Langridge, W.M. 874; Ashburner, W.M. 1278; Newbold, S.D. 1012; Preston, D.C. 1471; Grist, Marquis of Ripon; Fellowes, Lion and Lamb, 192; Robinson, 65; Daley, 3; J. Green, J.W. 27; Wilson, 567; Larvon, 1365; Byfield, 1381; Moxon, 1298; Millen, 1349; and J. Badkim, 1365; After the usual preliminaries, Bro. Howe raised Bro. John Henry Vollum, and afterwards installed Bro. Frank Green, on presentation made to him for that purpose, in the W.M. chair. The brethren below that degree having been readmitted to the lodge, and the customary salutes having been given, Bro. Green invested his officers for the year as follows:—Bro. W. H. Myeis, W.M. 820, S.W.; Bro. F. Wilkins, J.W.; Bro. F. T. Howe, I.P.M., Treasurer; Bro. James Pinder, Secretary; Bro. W. F. Stevenson, S.D.; Bro. J. E. Simms, I.G.; Bro. J. Clark, D.C.; Bro. S. L. Green, W.S.; Bro. T. E. Goddard, W.S.; and Bro. Gilchrist, T. Bro. Howe then completed the ceremony with the delivery of the three addresses. Immediately afterwards, three candidates for initiation being in attendance, Bro. Green, W.M., commenced his duties, and initiated with great impressiveness and fluency Mr. F. Creed, Mr. J. C. Preston, and Mr. George Mowl into the threshold mysteries of Freemasonry. This ceremony completed, another interesting ceremony was performed, which was the presentation of two P.M. jewels, one to Bro. Howe, the I.P.M., and the other to Bro. Austin, who had acted as P.M., while Bro. Howe occupied the chair of the Lodge; and also a handsome engrossed vellum, framed and glazed, to Bro. Howe, recording his services to the lodge while he was W.M. In presenting these the W.M. said, Bro. P.M. Howe, one of the most pleasing and gratifying duties which could devolve upon me on behalf of the members of the Prince Leopold Lodge is what I am now commissioned to perform—to present you with this P.M. jewel; but before presenting it I will read the inscription on it. I feel that the addition of any words of my own to those I have just read would be altogether superfluous and uncalled for; but I may just observe that I do but express the sentiments of every member of the Prince Leopold Lodge when I say that we are confident that the jewel you have so worthily won you will no less worthily wear. May it remind you, for many years, of twelve months of hard labour, but labour which gained you the regard and esteem of everyone with whom you are connected. We wish to accompany that jewel with this testimonial, the written record of our fraternal regard; and we are confident that this slight recognition of our appreciation of the valuable services which you have rendered to the lodge will be as acceptable to you as if it had taken the form of a costly presentation of plate. May it find a place in your house, Bro. Howe, many years, and may it there testify to your children's children the regard in which you are held. Bro. Howe: Brethren, your handsome gifts, and the very kind things you, W.M., have said of me have so taken me by surprise and robbed me of language that I feel quite at a loss for words, but let me assure you, brethren, that I shall never wear this jewel without thinking of

the present occasion, and the kind friends who made me these gifts. As to the extra token of your regard for me, believe me, I shall ever value it as one of the greatest of my treasures. I pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may bestow on each of you in your turn as happy a year of office as I have had. The W.M. again rose, and in presenting a Past Master's jewel to Bro. Austin, who had acted as P.M. during the year, said: Bro. Austin, it is a somewhat singular privilege to have the pleasure of presenting two Past Masters' jewels on the same occasion, but on behalf of the members of the Prince Leopold Lodge, I now present you with this jewel. I can only add the name of Bro. Thomas Austin has long been a household word among Freemasons, and it is a name as highly esteemed as is widely known, and the members, one and all, of the Prince Leopold Lodge can only wish you health, long life and happiness to wear that jewel. Bro. Austin said: W. Master and brethren, I thank you very sincerely for this kind mark of your respect. I shall always esteem it as one of the happiest Masonic years that I have ever enjoyed. I thank you very sincerely. The W.M. said it was now his duty to refer to the position of the lodge, and to call the brethren's attention to a necessary alteration of the lodge fees, as authorised by the bye-laws, according to bye-law No. 19, when the members of the lodge reached the number of 30, the initiating and joining fees were to be raised. The number now exceeded 30, and he would therefore move the stipulated raising of those two fees. This having been seconded, was carried nem. con. The W.M. proposed that Bro. J. B. Monckton, P.G.S.D., be elected an honorary member of the lodge and referred to the great services he had rendered in securing the warrant for the lodge: He was sure that there was no name they would receive with greater pleasure on their books. Bro. Howe, I.P.M., seconded the motion, and said that in conjunction with Bro. Joshua Nunn, Bro. J. B. Monckton took an active part in obtaining the warrant. The motion was carried unanimously, and Bro. Monckton acknowledged the compliment. Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, after acting in lodge four hours and a half, adjourned to a splendid banquet, provided and personally superintended by Bro. G. Townsend, the proprietor of the Lord Stanley. At the conclusion of the repast the toasts were proposed as usual, The W.M., in proposing "The Prince of Wales, the Earl of Carnarvon, and the rest of the Grand Officers," said, in consequence of what took place at Grand Lodge last evening and with which you are no doubt all now familiar. I have to refrain to-night from the pleasure of giving "the Health of the Marquis of Ripon" as our own M.W.G.M. The circumstances connected with his withdrawal from the lodge are not for me nor you to enter upon. Suffice it for me to say that he has sent in his resignation, which has been accepted by Grand Lodge. We are therefore without a Grand Master, but in H.R.H., the Prince of Wales we have one who has ever shown, since he became connected with the institution, the greatest interest in the welfare and progress of the Craft. I need not remind you here of the great and increasing influence which Freemasonry now exercises throughout this country, nor of the high office which H.R.H. has filled in the Craft. Perhaps if we look a little in the future, we may recognise a still higher office which he may be called upon to fill. That he will fill it with honour to himself, and benefit to the Craft we may all be well assured. With regard to the Earl of Carnarvon, I regret I have to apologise to you on behalf of our Secretary, because on account of excess of modesty on his part, he forgot to send his lordship an invitation to be here to-night, if he had, no doubt his lordship would have been here, and would have shown what a thoroughly good Mason he is. Under those somewhat melancholy circumstances therefore, we have the more reason to congratulate ourselves that owing to the rash temerity and never failing confidence of our worthy brother Past Master, we have secured the presence here this evening of several of the Grand Officers, and although it would be, I know, an unbecoming on my part—not to say invidious

—proceeding to attempt in their presence to expatiate upon their merits individually and separately, at the same time I may, on behalf of the Leopold Lodge, assure them how deeply sensible we are of the honour they confer upon this lodge by their presence here this evening. Our Bro. J. B. Monckton, whom I am happy to congratulate on his being a member of the Prince Leopold Lodge, is one who has been so long a time connected with Freemasonry and the Grand Lodge, that he is now one of the highest officers in the lodge, and he fills a post which it is an honour for every member of the Craft to aspire to. I believe he is at the head of the Board of General Purposes, which exercises the greatest possible influence upon the Craft generally, throughout the country. Our Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary, we have seen here before, and have been welcomed on previous occasions, but I am sure we shall receive none the less cordial a welcome on this occasion. I may say of him he is one of those who the more we see the more we want to see. Having said so much, I will, on behalf of the members of the Prince Leopold Lodge, thank our brother Grand Officers for being here this evening. The toast having been enthusiastically received, Bro. J. B. Monckton said:—A remark had often been made, but he had never felt its force more than he did at that moment, that it was easy to propose a toast, but difficult to respond to it; if, in his case, the difficulty had been increased by the over kind way in which the W.M. had spoken of the Grand Officers and the many things he had said in their and his own favour, he would, perhaps, get out of his difficulty by changing the venue and saying as little as possible of himself, and as much as possible of the W.M. Not very long ago they had talked together of Freemasonry, and the W.M. had asked him what he thought of his (the W.M.'s) going into the Craft. He told the W.M. what he sincerely thought—that if ever there was a man who ought to be a Freemason it was he. The W.M. did join Freemasonry, and what the brethren had seen that night, whether they were old Masons or young Masons, justified him (Bro. Monckton) in saying he defied them to be able to show that they had ever seen a Master installed into the chair do his work better than—he doubted whether they had seen it done as well as—the W.M. had done it that evening. The W.M. had told him beforehand, with a certain amount of modesty which he hardly knew what to make of, that he was going to perform the ceremony of initiation, but that he did not know whether his style of doing it would agree with that of the Emulation Lodge of Instruction. He (Bro. Monckton) could not see where the difference lay; in fact, he had never seen anything more completely, admirably, or masonically done, and could not conceive how it could be if the W.M. had been one of the preceptors of the Emulation (hear, hear). For the rest, he thought it only fair to say, as a good old Mason, that not only did the W.M. do well, but the subordinate officers did well, which was a very important point indeed. Masters often worked well, but a Warden, Deacon, or the Inner Guard made a mess of every thing. But in the Prince Leopold Lodge he had just seen the work done by every one in a clean, neat, businesslike, workmanlike manner. He congratulated the brethren who were instrumental in producing this result, and he felt it due to these brethren to pay this little tribute to the exertions of both the W.M. and his officers. Thanking the brethren for the toast, and also for his election as a member of the lodge, he was proud to recollect the very small share he had in assisting to get the warrant, but he was much more proud to see that the tree he had been slightly instrumental in planting had grown to be so capacious as this lodge had done (cheers). There were then loud cries for the Grand Secretary, which being persisted in, Bro. John Hervey said:—I appear to be pressed into the service, but I think it is rather an unfair manner, because it is always understood that when a Grand Officer returns thanks for a toast his answer is final, and that no other should bore the lodge by a speech, but if I may say one or two words, I congratulate the lodge on its having progressed, and express the gratification I myself feel on seeing that it has pro-

gressed, in the manner it has in one short twelve-month. We met here only last year at this time for the purpose of consecrating this lodge. It was then a small twig, as it has been termed. I certainly was pleased and gratified at consecrating the lodge; I was pleased to think of, and to augur its future—to fancy, “in my mind’s eye,” that it would become a great tree in time, and to hope under the presidency of the then W.M. that it could not fail of success. Now I come here on its first anniversary; I see a gathering round this room that any old lodge in the Craft would be proud of. I see round the table not only old Masons, but I see a party of young Masons, many that I am totally unacquainted with, many that though now I am totally unacquainted with; at any rate I may look forward at some future period to be better known to; and I congratulate Bro. Howe, your I.P.M., upon the success which has crowned his exertions. I do therefore think I may fairly congratulate myself on the growth of this young twig, and which—well, I was going to say, which I had planted here. I congratulate myself, inasmuch as it is always a gratification to be associated with a society which from a small beginning takes large dimensions, and shows that by its intrinsic worth and merit it has grown to the size it now is. I will not weary you further, but I will say that it has afforded me very great satisfaction to be here to-night. I told Bro. Howe that nothing should prevent my being here. I determined nothing should prevent my being here to see what you had done, to congratulate the lodge on the success it has achieved, and to congratulate myself on having been the first, if I may so term it, I cannot say originator of the lodge, but at any rate the one who brought the lodge into existence, and to see it as it is now, flourishing, prosperous, and as I hope it will be for many years to come, carrying on the work of Freemasonry as our Bro. Monckton has told you, in an admirable manner. Bro. Howe, I.P.M., proposed “The Health of the W.M.,” and said he had had the pleasure of enjoying his friendship for many years. He also had had the honour of introducing him into Freemasonry, and could assure the brethren that he had watched with sincere pleasure the interest he had taken in that noble institution, and in all that concerned the Prince Leopold Lodge. The W.M. really assisted in laying its foundation stone; he had continued to help in its erection and he had now climbed to the top of the ladder to see that the roof was safe. He (Bro. Howe) could not pass by the present opportunity without congratulating the members of the lodge on placing its direction in the hands of so able and proficient a brother as Bro. Green. He knew he would do his duty as W.M. with honour and dignity, for he had the qualifications which were necessary for the highly important office. When at the end of his year of office they came to take stock (to use his own commercial phrase) of his work, he thought they would be able to say, in all sincerity, that the W.M. had discharged his duties to the advantage of the Order, and to his own lasting credit. The W.M. said: it would be impossible for me to return my thanks in anything like adequate language. I shall therefore compress the few words I have to say into as small a compass as possible. I can only assure you I am fully sensible of the compliment you have paid me, and the kind and cordial manner in which you have responded to the toast of my health. I can only assure you that I am deeply sensible of the responsibility I have undertaken, in conjunction with my officers. I am also deeply sensible that I shall fall far short of the requirements of a possessor of this chair. At the same time I can assure you my utmost efforts will be given to the duties connected with the office. It will be my highest pride and ambition to be able to hand over to my successor the warrant of the Prince Leopold Lodge in the same unsullied manner in which it has come into my hands. I can only hope that this night is somewhat of a promise of the future, and if I can struggle through my year of office with satisfaction to the officers and members of the lodge, I shall feel to have done so with credit to myself. Their approbation will be all that I shall seek for. Secure of that, I shall be secure

of what I strongly desire. I shall simply tell you, perhaps, in addition that I shall do all in my power not only to maintain the efficiency of the lodge but its dignity. I trust that I may at all events be excused for saying that much. Those who have been connected with the lodge during the last twelve months know I shall not make a tyrannical Master. But at the same time, I have such a high appreciation, not of what is due to myself, but what is due to the chair, to the office to which it has been your pleasure at the present time to appoint me, and with that feeling I trust you will allow me to repeat what I have already said, it will be my object to maintain the dignity of the chair. With the dignity of the chair, of course I couple the dignity of the lodge. Without the one, the other cannot proceed. Brethren, I beg to thank you very much for the kind manner in which you have responded to the toast of my health. The W.M. next proposed “The Visitors.” He said were it not that for the last twelve months, I have worn that jewel which is the emblem of equality, I should be almost tempted to describe the next toast as the toast of the evening, for I am sure that there is nothing that affords the members of the Prince Leopold Lodge a greater amount of satisfaction and gratification than having the pleasure of welcoming their visitors on such occasions as the present, and I hope that we may upon this occasion be permitted to indulge in a certain, if not a considerable amount of pride at seeing assembled around our board this evening, such a goodly array not only of visitors, but of what you may term the very luminaries of Freemasonry. We have here, brethren, not only several officers from Grand Lodge, but such a list of visitors as may well fill the bosom of any Master of a lodge with the utmost possible amount of pride. I may perhaps first of all be allowed to depart somewhat from the usual order of proceeding, so far as to ask your indulgence while I express my own personal and individual thanks to those kind friends and brethren, who have travelled so many hundreds of miles, as they have done, in order to support me on the present occasion. I may perhaps be permitted to refer in the first instance to my good brother, Walter Monckton, who has come I cannot say how many hundreds of miles from the very wilds of Western Kent. Well you laugh, brethren, but I can assure you that until the last few months there was no railway nearer to Bro. Monckton’s house than some nine miles, and he had to collect his most unnatural material and to send his most ungodly manufacture long distances before he could get it conveyed to a proper market. But I am happy to inform you that his untiring energy, and the London, Chatham and Dover Railway between them (laughter,) they have now managed to get a line within a very short distance of his house, and therefore it is as much due to the London Chatham and Dover Railway, as it is to anything else that we have been able to secure his presence here this evening. I also see near me, Bro. Grime, I.P.M. of a lodge in Lancashire, and Bro. Newbold, who have travelled all night in order to see the light of day here. I cannot express to them the deep sense that I entertain, myself, of their fraternal regard in travelling so far in order to be present here. I cannot pass over our Bro. Langridge, Master of Tunbridge Wells Lodge; and I must mention, with your permission, one of my very oldest friends, one who if I can look back through the vista of the past, I was going to say, to that time when I first came to London unknown, a poor boy from school, without a friend, without one to whom I was known in this vast metropolis, but Providence led me, through one friend whom I had, to make the acquaintance of Bro. James Davy. I am sure it is a source of the very greatest gratification, that having known him through all these years, I should have the pleasure of mentioning his name here to night, and of assuring him in his presence, how delighted I am to see him. I feel I trespass very considerably on your time, but on such an occasion as this, I am sure you will pardon reflections of this nature. There are numbers of brethren here to whom I should like to tender my unfeigned thanks for their presence, but I know they will, with me, look at the clock and accept the will for the deed,

though I do not mention them personally. There is one whom I am proud to see, and whom I must not pass over without mentioning. He is a friend of not so many years standing, but not the less a very valued friend indeed; I refer to Bro. Past Master Stephens. He was one who first took me by the hand on initiation. I do not know that he took me round the lodge, but he was the first to take me by the hand. As I said before, I have trespassed very considerably on your time. I know you will very kindly pardon it. I will not delay longer or occupy more of your time, but simply conclude by asking you to rise and drink with me "The Health of our Visitors this Evening." Bro. Walter Monckton responded, and added his testimony to that already given of the excellent working of the lodge, as a proof of which he adduced the instance of the first W.M. of this lodge installing his successor. Several other toasts were proposed, and the "Tyler's Toast," brought the proceedings to a close, and the brethren then separated. The evening was enlivened with some very good singing, and Bro. Shelford, the Organist of the lodge, accompanied the vocalists, with considerable ability, on the pianoforte.

HALLIFORD.—*Thames Valley Lodge* (No. 1460).—The second regular meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, 5th inst., at the Ship Hotel, Halliford, near Shepperton, Middlesex, Bro. Colonel James Peters, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bro. P. E. H. Brette, D.D., S.W.; and Bro. Lieut. C. B. Elliott, R.N.R., J.W. The lodge having fully digested and passed the by-laws, the following brethren were unanimously elected joining members:—Bro. J. G. Marsh, P.P.G. Purst., Middlesex; Bros. J. Llewellyn Jones, 657; W. T. Howe, P.M., 1445; and W. Smale, 192. The W.M. then invested the remainder of his officers as follows:—Bros. Wm. Paas, P.M. 28, Treas.; J. G. Marsh, P.M. 28 and 192, P.P.G. Purst., Sec.; J. Llewellyn Jones, S.D.; W. T. Howe, J.D.; W. Smale, I.G.; P. R. Hobson, D.C.; and W. Le Hunte Doyle, Steward. Bro. Woodstock was elected the Tyler of the lodge. The lodge having been duly closed, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, at which the esteemed and first W.M. (Bro. Colonel James Peters) presided, Bro. the Rev. Dr. Brette and Bro. C. B. Elliott, Wardens, filling their respective positions. The W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts with much zest, particularly that of Bro. Colonel Francis Burdett, Provincial Grand Master of the Province, and the Grand Officers, which was responded to by Bro. Dr. Brette, P.G. Chaplain, and Bro. Marsh, P.P.G.P. The W.M. then gave "The Health of the Visitors," which was acknowledged by Bro. Charles Vernon Lockwood, Lodge 478, and P.G.D. Oxford, in a neat speech. "The Officers" and the "Tyler's Toast" concluded a most successful meeting of this new lodge, which promises to be amongst the foremost in the province.

Scotland.

CONSECRATION OF LODGE ST. VINCENT, 553.

The Masonic brethren in the West-end of Glasgow, who have long complained of the want of a lodge convenient to their homes, which should at the same time reflect credit on the Craft, and the portion of the city in which it should be located, have at length got over their difficulties, architectural and Masonic, and on Thursday, September 2nd, a new hall and a new lodge, were dedicated to the spread of Masonry. This interesting ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. F. A. Barrow, D.P.G.M. and G.S.D., who, in the absence of the P.G.M., Bro. W. M. Nelson, presided. The Prov. Grand Lodge was opened by the following officers, Bros. Barrow, P.G.M.; Baird, D.P.G.M.; T. Halket, P.G.S.W.; W. Phillips, P.G.J.W.; A. McTaggart, M.A., P.G.S.; J. Walker, P.G.T.; J. Fletcher, P.G.S.D.; J. Balfour, P.G.D.C.; T. Fraser, P.G.M.; J. Miller, P.G.D. of Music; and T. Hardie, P.G.I.G. The lodge room is a spacious hall, with folding doors in the centre, fit for the entrance of a procession, as on this occasion, while there are small but convenient ante-rooms opening on each side. The hall was temporarily decorated, having only been in the possession of the lodge for eight days, but when

the brethren had assembled and the new officers had taken their places, with the handsome clothing supplied by Bro. Kenning, the effect was very good. The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, and the ceremonies commenced, the acting P.G.M., said, in consequence of the absence of both the Prov. G. Chaplains he would, rather unexpectedly, have to give the Oration himself, but seeing that for the last seven years, he had practically been at the head of the Masonic Order in the West of Scotland, he trusted he should be able to get through the task. He then briefly but eloquently traced the rise of Masonry, from the first rudiments of our forefathers till we got to the magnificent Temple of Solomon, and the introduction of Free or Speculative Masonry, stating that, while quite willing to uphold the present order of things, he considered the Master's Degree as only an innovation, and personally would prefer to see the old Order of Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Actual Superintendents. The Provincial Grand Lodge then perambulated the lodge, Bro. Phillips, the J.W., presenting the corn; again going round the lodge, Bro. Halket presented the wine; and on the third circuit, Bro. Baird, as D.P.G.M., presented the oil. As soon as the consecration was completed, Bro. Barrow proceeded to instal the following brethren as the first officers of the Lodge St. Vincent, 553, Bros. R. McDugal, R.W.M.; M. Stark, D.M.; Thos. Walker, S.M.; Bastow, S.W.; Hamilton, J.W.; McClelland, T.; Halley, Secretary; Fletcher, S.D.; Best, J.D.; Neil Curry, I.G.; and Richard Lindsey, Tyler. Bro. McDugal thanked the D.P.G.M. and the rest of the P.G. Officers for their attendance, and promised that nothing should ever be done by him to make them regret the opening of this lodge. The choral part of the ceremony, on which so much depends, was most ably sustained by Bro. James Miller, P.M. 413, P.G.D. of M., who presided at the harmonium, and Bros. Gilchrist, Taggart, Dimslee, and Robertson. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed, and Bro. McDugal proceeded to open his own lodge, when applications were presented from fifteen gentlemen, and the lodge being unanimous in their favour, and they being all in attendance, were at once admitted, Bro. R. Stevens, of 419, acting as Principal Deacon, assisted by other visitors present. At the request of the R.W.M., his Deputy, Bro. Slack, then initiated these fifteen gentlemen in a style that proved that St. Vincent's Master has put the right man into office as his Deputy. He afterwards affiliated the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge as members of St. Vincent's. After an extraordinary amount of labour the lodge was called to refreshment. The toast list was gone into, the R.W.M. giving "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince of Wales, the Patron of Scotch Masonry," "The Three Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Wales," was replied to by Bro. Barrow, the acting D.G.M., in his capacity of G.S.D. Bro. A. McTaggart, M.A., P.G.S., responded for the Provincial Grand Lodge in a very felicitous speech. Bro. Barrow, D.P.G.M., then gave "Prosperity to St. Vincent's Lodge, 553." In the course of his remarks, he said that, ten years ago, when he was residing in that district, he had tried to raise a lodge there, but, owing to the want of a proper place to meet in, he did not succeed, and he hoped their very successful opening would be the augury of still greater success; but they must look more to the quality of the materials for the building of the temple than the quantity. Their first stones appeared to be of good quality, but they must bear in mind that, although now a member of the lodge, still he should shortly have to visit it officially, and he hoped the P.G.S. would be able to report that, though the youngest they were the best working lodge in the Province. The R.W.M. in replying, said they would endeavour to profit by the advice of the D.P.G.M., and in order to secure good materials they had resolved to raise the fees above those of most of the lodges in the province. Bro. R. Stevens proposed "The Health of the Fifteen Initiates." Six of the brethren suitably acknowledged the compliment. The S.W. gave "The Visitors," which was responded to by Bro. Hardie, 3½. The J.W. gave "The Brethren who have assisted in the formation of the

Lodge," replied to Bro. Baird, of 3½, P.G.S.W., who promised to still do all in his power to ensure its success. Bro. H. J. Shields, 33°, of New York, replied to the toast of "Freemasonry all over the World." The next on the list was "Bro. Stark, D.M.," proposed by Bro. Best. The Master said he could not allow this to pass without informing the brethren that not only had they been indebted to Bro. Stark for the work to-night, but he had been working day and night for the past week, in order to secure the success that had to-night accompanied the opening of their hall, as well as the lodge. Bro. Stark said while grateful to the lodge for their good opinion, he felt that an apology was due to the candidates for having as far as possible curtailed the ceremony of their initiation. But he would promise them that when they came up for the second degree, he would take care that they had not a similar ground of complaint. "The Masonic Press," was then given, Bro. Wheeler acknowledged the compliment on behalf of *The Freemason*, and *Masonic Magazine*. The R.W.M. then gave "The P.M. of 354, who has so ably presided at the Harmonium." Bro. A. Arrick Smith, said it was always a pleasure to him to give his services to any lodge in the province. Bro. Stevens proposed "The Senior and Junior Wardens;" Bros. Bastow and Hamilton replied. "Happy to meet and sorry to part," was then given by the Chair, and the lodge was closed.

GLASGOW.—*Thistle and Rose Lodge* (No. 73) met on Tuesday, the 1st inst., at the Masonic Hall, Buchanan-street, G. Weston, R.W.M., in the chair; G. McDonald, I.P.M.; T. Stewart, D.M.; Wm. Walton, T.; K. Richard, Sec.; A. McLeod, S.W.; and J. Murray, as J.W. The lodge having been duly opened and the minutes read and confirmed, an application for admission was made, and the lodge being unanimous in favour of the candidate, Bro. W. B. Patterson, at the request of the R.W.M., initiated him in a very careful manner. The lodge having being raised, Bro. G. W. Wheeler passed a brother to the Second Degree.

GLASGOW.—*Caledonian Railway Lodge* (No. 354) met at 213, Buchanan-street, on Wednesday, 2nd inst., Bro. James Shaw in the chair, assisted by Bro. Buchanan, D.M.; A. Smith, I.P.M.; T. Stallford, S.W.; A. Sanderson, as J.W.; and W. B. Dunn, Secretary. The work consisted of an initiation by the R.W.M., which was worked in his best manner. The S.W. then proposed that Bro. G. W. Wheeler, of 73, who had often wrought for them, should be affiliated as an honorary member. The R.W.M. having seconded this, Bro. Wheeler was obligated, and then, at the request of the lodge, worked the Third Degree, Bro. A. A. Smith presiding at the harmonium, and thus adding to the solemnity of the ceremony. The lodge was then placed in the hands of the J.W. Bro. H. J. Shields, 33°, spoke to the sentiment of "Universal Freemasonry," detailing his experience in many parts of the globe. In replying for "The Visitors," Bro. Wm. Bell, of 3½, said how gratified he had been with the working, and Bro. J. Bannerman S.W. 73, expressed the pleasure he had felt in being present, and also thanked them for the honour they had conferred on his lodge by making his fellow office-bearer, Bro. Wheeler, an honorary member.

GLASGOW.—*Union and Crown Lodge* (No. 103) met on Monday, 31st ult., at 170, Buchanan-street, Bro. A. M. Wright presiding, and working the First Degree. Bro. W. B. Paterson then passed two brethren to the degree of Fellow Craft, after which Bro. Bain, P.M., raised a brother to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The lodge was then closed in ancient form.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Colds, Coughs, Shortness of Breath.—These corrective remedies are infallible for these pectoral complaints, which, neglected often end in Asthma, Bronchitis or Consumption. The Ointment well rubbed upon the chest and back, penetrating the skin, is carried directly to the lungs, whence it expels all impurities. All the blood in the body constantly passes through the lungs, and there all noxious particles tending to produce disease can be quickly, thoroughly and permanently neutralised, rendered harmless, or ejected from the system. In influenza and all chest complaints early curative measures are imperiously demanded. One day's delay may cause a protracted illness, one week's neglect may consign the diseased to destruction.—ADVT.

Mark Masonry.

ST. MARK'S LODGE (No. 1).—This lodge met on Tuesday, the 1st inst., at Masons' Hall, Basinghall-street, Bro. George Kenning, W.M., in the Chair. Bros. T. B. Yeoman, S.W., and George Newman, as J.W., in their respective chairs. Bro. Jelenger E. Symons, Lieut. R.N., Lodge 142, was advanced to this degree. It being the meeting for the installation of the new Master, Bro. H. C. Levander, M.A., and P.M., occupied the chair as Installing Master, assisted by the Rev. W. B. Church, M.A., and Bro. T. Burdett Yeoman, S.W. and Master Elect, was installed W.M. in the most able manner. The new W.M. then invested his officers as follows—Bros. T. E. Edmands, S.W.; Rev. P. E. H. Brette, D.D., J.W.; Charles Horsley, M.O.; E. H. Thiellay, S.O.; H. A. Dubois, J.O.; Rev. W. B. Church, M.A. P.G. Chaplain, Chaplain; H. C. Levander, M.A., Treas.; R. W. Little, P.M., G.M.O., Sec.; Rev. P.M. Holden, M.A., Reg. of Marks; George Newman, S.D.; W. E. Newton, J.D.; Wm. Stephens, I.G.; H. Parker, Organist; J. Gilbert, Tyler; Col. Francis Burdett, Prov. Grand Master for Middlesex and Surrey; J. G. Marsh, P.M., P.G.S. Works; Bro. F. Walters, P.M., P.G.S.D.; and other brethren being present. The business before the lodge having been concluded, the brethren retired to a sumptuous repast, prepared by Bro. Gosden, which was ably presided over by the W. Bro. T. Burdett Yeoman, W.M., and a most agreeable evening was the result. During the evening, a handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. J. G. Marsh, P.M., and P.G.T. Supt. of Works, for his services in the chair as W.M. during the year he presided.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE GRAND MASTER.

FROM THE "TIMES."

Some singular proceedings, which we reported on Thursday, at the Grand Lodge of Freemasons will have prepared our readers for a strange announcement. The Marquis of Ripon was, till Wednesday, Grand Master of the Freemasons of England. The offices of the Brotherhood are fanciful, but they are none the less positions of honour and of some social importance. That of Grand Master is, of course, the highest of all, and Lord Ripon had held it for three years with great satisfaction to the Craft and credit to himself. The Lodge met on Wednesday for the transaction of current business, when they were startled by the announcement that the Grand Master had resigned. In a brief letter, which states no reasons, Lord Ripon says that he finds himself unable any longer to discharge the duties of Grand Master, and that he is consequently compelled to resign. The Craft are reported to have received the announcement with dismay, and it may well have perplexed them. What should induce the Marquis of Ripon thus to withdraw, without apparent reason, from a position of dignity and influence, if not of real importance? How many of our readers can have surmised the strange answer? Lord Ripon has become a Roman Catholic! It is notorious that the Freemasons are under the especial ban of the Church of Rome. That Church tolerates no secret society, except that of the Jesuits; and the first sacrifice which would be demanded of a convert like Lord Ripon would be his withdrawal from the Craft. As the first pledge of his new obedience he has to abandon his honourable position in the Brotherhood, and to renounce a harmless and kindly association in which he might for years have held the foremost place. It was justly said that the reasons must have been overwhelming which could induce him to take so unwelcome a step, and they arise from nothing less than the important change in his religious convictions which we have stated.

Lord Ripon, it must be owned, is no ordinary convert. He has held high office in the State, and he was at one time deemed capable of the highest positions in public life. He is in the prime of life—in his forty-seventh year—and though he had in some respects disappointed

seems sometimes attractive to the unquestioned expectation, a considerable career might still have been before him. As Viscount Goderich he entered Parliament more than twenty years ago as a pronounced Radical, and then cherished that tendency to a speculative Socialism which possessors of great wealth. It is such a pleasant romance for a man who knows that in the ordinary course of things he will be the undisputed possessor of fifty thousand a year to imagine himself on a level with ordinary mortals! A little experience of life, however, dissipates this romantic tendency and Lord Ripon soon settled down into a sober Liberal, exemplary in his submission to the control of his successive leaders. After serving as Under-Secretary for the War Department and for India under the late Lord Herbert and Sir George Lewis, he was in 1863, as Lord De Grey, appointed Secretary of State for War. He held the office nearly three years, and in 1866, on the retirement of Lord Halifax, became Secretary of State for India. In Mr. Gladstone's Ministry of 1868 he held the dignified office of Lord President of the Council. Mr. Forster, who served as Vice-President, has often spoken handsomely of the work of his official chief; but the Lord President was chiefly conspicuous as head of the Joint High Commission by whom the Treaty of Washington was negotiated, and who arranged the terms under which the dispute respecting the Alabama was submitted to Arbitration. There is much to which exception must be taken in those negotiations; but the selection of Lord De Grey for so important a duty sufficiently indicates the favourable opinion which his colleagues were disposed to entertain of his capacity. His services in this character were, at all events, deemed worthy of some special recognition, and he was advanced to the dignity of a Marquis. His selection to preside over the Freemasons is an evidence of the social consideration which he commands, and his great wealth renders him an important member of the party to which he belongs, and of any association to which he may attach himself. He is, in short, one of the leading noblemen of England, who has discharged high political functions, and might have been called on to discharge them again. His sympathies have, at least in action, been given to the party of progress and enlightenment, and he would have been regarded until yesterday as a valuable member of the Liberal Party. This is the man who, in the full strength of his powers, has renounced his mental and moral freedom, and has submitted himself to the guidance of the Roman Catholic Priesthood. The first impression which will be produced on his friends and the public will be one of profound regret that such a career should have been thwarted, and that so much valuable influence is henceforth to be misused. Lord Ripon, we dare say, will still adhere to the party in whose service he has won his honours and his Marquisate. But a statesman who becomes a convert to Roman Catholicism forfeits at once the confidence of the English people. Such a step involves a complete abandonment of any claim to political or even social influence in the nation at large, and can only be regarded as betraying an irreparable weakness of character. To become a Roman Catholic and remain a thorough Englishman are—it cannot be disguised—almost incompatible conditions. We do not for a moment doubt that men who have been born and brought up in the Roman Catholic Faith may retain their creed as a harmless and colourless element in their opinions. But when a man in the prime of life abandons the Faith of Protestantism for that of Rome his mind must necessarily have undergone what to Englishmen can only seem a fatal demoralization. We submit to many things if we are born to them, which we would never endure if they were imposed on us for the first time. But that a statesman, a man who has had twenty years' experience of the world, who has held high official posts in England, and has been a prominent diplomatist, should submit himself to the yoke of the Roman Catholic Priesthood can only be due to some fatal obliquity of temperament. The principles of English life and of the Roman Catholic religion are very difficult to reconcile, and when a man delibe-

rately becomes a Roman Catholic he must be held to accept distinctly the principles of his new creed.

What, it will be asked, can be the causes which have been sufficiently powerful to induce a man of such experience and ability thus to abandon his moral independence? Lord Ripon has made no statement of his reasons, and it is impossible to be sure of the influences which have finally misled him. But it is, no doubt, the most conspicuous illustration yet furnished of the force of some temptations which at the present day Roman Catholicism holds out even to intelligent minds. There are men who enter with enthusiasm at the outset of life into the speculations and visions of modern discovery, who are intoxicated by their novelty and attracted by their promises. But they discover after a while that they are being led into regions they had never contemplated, and they are startled at finding that they must be content with many tentative conclusions. They were laudably ambitious to undertake the mountainous ascent which was proposed to them, but they become alarmed when they suddenly find themselves in mid air on the face of some difficult slope. In this perplexity a guide appears, who offers, not indeed, to gratify their original ambition, but to assure them of the safety they fear they have forfeited; and to commit themselves to his hands appears, at all events, the least of the risks open to them. They close their eyes, abandon all individual enterprise, and submit to be led, on the sole condition that they shall be guaranteed ultimate security. It is not a dignified or lofty type of mind, but it is too common a one. Minds may, in fact, be divided into those which can and those which cannot stand alone, and there is a large class who are born to be governed, mentally and morally. If they happen to fall under healthy government, all is well; but if not, if they get loosed from their old moorings and find themselves drifting; they are at the mercy of the first pilot who will jump on board and seize the helm. It is the strength of the Roman Catholic Clergy that they are always ready to undertake this responsibility, but it is not every day that they find so good a ship drifting as the Marquis of Ripon. It is a melancholy spectacle; but it indicates a weakness which is not an English characteristic, and, though we may grudge to the Roman Catholic Clergy Lord Ripon's wealth and such social influence as he may retain, we may be sure that the material advantages he may bring to them will be their only acquisition. Fountains Abbey passes once more into Roman Catholic hands, but it is not the defection of a stray peer which will undermine the steady devotion of the English mind to a free and independent career of religious and political development.

FREEMASONRY IN SCOTLAND.

How is it that in Scotland, the reputed cradle of the Craft, Freemasonry has not attained the status and repute among the social institutions that it has in England, Ireland, America, and the Continent? The question is often asked, but seems never to have been satisfactorily answered.

In some countries Freemasonry is, or has been, suppressed and persecuted by intolerant or jealous governments, but in Scotland, it seems to suffer from too much toleration, both within and without. This dictum will, I know, appear a strange one to advance in these days of unlimited freedom, and whose would support it must needs utter some unpalatable, though none the less wholesome truths.

I am not of those who would make a money test *per se*, the standard of a man's respectability, nor am I, on the other hand, a believer in the old aphorism that, "money is the root of all evil." I take a middle course, and while admitting that a man may be eminently respectable and of good moral character, although even in poverty, I contend that money is, in a greater or lesser degree, indispensable to the carrying on of all combined efforts for the advancement of good works, and more particularly to the work which Freemasons are taught to consider as their peculiar province,—practical charity. The want

of means, then, is in this respect, a want of vitality, and an obvious clog upon healthy action, and it is clear, that to bring individuals into an institution, who are either unable or unwilling to do something for the promotion of the objects of the institution, says very little for the wisdom of their sponsors, and is a fatal thing for the institution itself. This suggests, then, the prime evil from which the Craft in Scotland appears to be suffering, and if a tree is to be judged of by its fruit, it is abundantly evident that Freemasonry in Scotland is *too cheap*.

This prime evil bring other evils in its train. What is cheaply had, is cheaply held, and under the absurdly low minimum fee permitted by the laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, many, very many, are admitted to the Order who have no desire, no intention, beyond the gratification of their curiosity, or their mere love of social intercourse, and in regard of whom Freemasonry may apply to itself the consolation to be obtained from this quotation "blessed are they that expect nothing for they shall not be disappointed." Thus also the grandeur and dignity inherent in all the ceremonials of Freemasonry, are sadly marred, if not even reduced to the level of burlesque in the hands of men, who either have not the ability to understand and work them as they ought to be understood and worked, or who fail to appreciate their teachings.

Again, in not one out of every ten lodges in Scotland, is there such a thing as an annual subscription levied, and in many cases where provision is made for such, so little do the members care for the objects of Freemasonry that they either fail or refuse to pay them. Indeed, I have known of cases in which the rights of membership have been deliberately forfeited in preference to paying a fee. The annual fees of membership, where they do exist, are, in correspondence with the fees for initiation, &c., miserably inadequate to any useful purpose, and the lodges in which it amounts to 10s. a year, and is regularly paid, may be easily counted on the digits. In such circumstances the majority of lodges are dependent upon the initiation fees for their support, and what wonder that they are frequently induced to forget the dignity of the Order, in getting up emergent meetings to suit the convenience of some wished-for candidate, and in being in too great a hurry to snatch the fees, such as they are, to be very searching in their enquiries as to the character of their candidates. Hence it is that not only is Scotland itself, but England and Ireland also, plagued, by begging Masons on the tramp, hailing from Scotch lodges, until the term "Scotch Mason" has become a bye word and a reproach, and stinks in the nostrils of our brethren in sister countries.

It would be unjust to ignore the fact, that many small acts of charity are done amongst us which do not find their way to the public notice. In some lodges a certain proportion of the fees go to form a benevolent fund, and some Prov. Grand Lodges have benevolent funds, subscribed to by the daughter lodges, but these cases are the exception, and the sums dispensed are trifling, ranging from a few shillings to perhaps a couple of pounds, and as a necessary consequence, there is no system in it; indeed the only real good ever done, is done through the personal exertions of individuals without reference to any organized fund. I am nearly forgetting that there is a Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund, out of which sometimes as much as £5 is dispensed at one time. The operations on that fund appear however to be rather restricted, so far as charity is concerned, as I find the total amount dispensed from it for the nineteen months ending 30th Nov., 1873, was £450 to 109 applicants, or about £4 4s. each, besides the handsome sum of £11 or about 3s. per week dispensed in casual charity. Indeed the principal use of this Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund seems to be to keep the Grand Lodge itself out of the Bankruptcy Court, £3,650 out of a total of £4,039 being at present sunk in the debts of that august body.

There are many men in the Craft in Scotland, both able and willing to make Freemasonry there something more than it is, if they would only put their shoulders to the wheel, and I am certain that there are many others who could easily be

brought to take a more broad and comprehensive view of their duties as Freemasons, were they placed under a wholesome system, and it is to these two classes I address my arguments in the present paper, viz:—Raise the Grand Lodge minimum to at least £3 3s. In daughter lodges insist upon an annual subscription to correspond, and to be paid regularly by all recognized members. Let every Master and member of a lodge exercise due care and caution in their admissions, and rigorously use the right of excluding in all cases, where the results of their enquiry are not satisfactory. Let emergent meetings and the conferring of degrees at others than the intervals laid down by the laws of the Grand Lodge be vetoed, excepting under special permission from the Grand Lodge. These things done systematically the inert mass of dead matter, which at present oppresses the body politic and obstructs healthy growth would soon be quickened into life or would fall away altogether.

We have in Scotland, a saying, pithy though slightly vulgar, that "its an ill bird that fouls its ain nest," and probably, some of my brethren in Scotland may be tempted to apply that saying to me; if so, I shall sincerely regret it. I know I have spoken fearlessly, because I feel strongly, but I have "nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice," and if I have exposed a sore, it is with a view to its cure. I earnestly wish to be in sympathy with all who honestly and sincerely desire to place our Order in Scotland upon a higher platform than it occupies at present, and although they may not agree with me exactly as to the means to be adopted to that end, I ask them to remember that it is not in the multiplication of lodges, nor the increase of membership that our strength lies, but rather in the beauty of our work and the wisdom of our rulers; and that in these days, when we are attacked from without, however ignorant and unmeaning those attacks may be, it behoves us to put our house in order and to have something to show as the results of our organization.

In conclusion, I cannot do better than quote the words of our Past Grand Master, Earl of Rosslyn, addressed to the Grand Lodge Committee on a memorable occasion, viz.—"I hope you will do your best to make Freemasonry appear not merely a mysterious collection of phrases and no action, but a positive good that will be understood by the outer world—that will redound to the credit of Scotland, as well as to the credit of ourselves, as Masons. (Cheers.) Let us be able to point to our schools and to our orphanages, and to say that we had so much money which we have spent, and have so much money that we are spending, in the benefit of our fellow creatures. (Loud Applause.) If you help me in this, I assure you that you will make me a happy man; and you will only be helping me to put Masonry on that pinnacle which I and I am sure the whole of you would wish to see it."

SCOTICUS MASONICUS.

CHIT-CHAT ABOUT FREEMASONRY,
FROM THE "TIMES."

It is not yet known whether the Prince of Wales will accept or refuse the Grand Mastership. But on his return the deputation nominated by Grand Lodge last Wednesday will wait upon him to ask his acceptance of the office. If he should consent to take it—and it is generally expected that he will—a Pro-Grand Master will no doubt be appointed, as is usually the case whenever Royalty is on the throne of the English Freemasons. Lord Carnarvon, the present Deputy Grand Master, will, it is expected, be appointed to the office, and the Duke of St. Albans or the Earl of Shrewsbury to the Deputy Grand Mastership. The other officers in Grand Lodge will remain as they are now, except that the Prince of Wales might introduce his brother, the Duke of Connaught, as Past Grand Master, in place of himself. If the Prince of Wales should not accept the Grand Mastership, he will hold that office by virtue of his position as Past Grand Master, till Grand Lodge can be called for the nomination, election, and installation. In this case, Lord Carnarvon would be unanimously elected, as he is very

popular among Freemasons. The Marquis of Ripon, as it is understood that he entirely withdraws from all Masonry, will, of course, resign his Provincial Grand Mastership of West Yorkshire and his Grand First Principalship in Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Freemasons. This latter office is always held by the Grand Master for the time being, but the Prince of Wales is not a Royal Arch Freemason, though if he accepts the Grand Mastership there will be no difficulty in exalting him to that branch of the Craft. The three principal Chairs in Grand Chapter are now held by the Marquis of Ripon, Lord Carnarvon, and Lord de Tabley; but if the Prince of Wales refused the Grand Mastership, and Lord Carnarvon were elected in the Marquis of Ripon's stead, he would take the First Principal's Chair, leaving either Lord de Tabley to be promoted to the second, and the third to be filled, or some other Freemason to be appointed to the second chair.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The General Committee of the Masonic Boys School met on Saturday last at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Henry Browse, V.P., presided. The other brethren present were H. C. Levander, Thomas W. White, Jesse Turner, Hyde Pullen, Collard Montrie, Richard Spencer, F. Adlard, H. Massey (*Freemason*), and F. Binckes, Secretary.

A letter was read from the Marquis of Ripon, concerning Bro. Cluff's bequest, and regretting that his lordship could not meet Bro. Binckes and Little on the subject. Another letter was read from his lordship, authorising the alteration of the day for holding the anniversary festival of the Boys' School from the second Wednesday in March to the last Wednesday in June. The Committee deferred the consideration of Bro. Cluff's bequest till counsel's advice had been taken, and afterwards resolved that the annual festival should be held on the last Wednesday in June. Bro. Binckes announced that the Earl of Carnarvon, Deputy Grand Master, had, on Friday evening, most readily and cheerfully consented to take the chair at the next festival, which will be held on the 30th of June, 1875. General regret and astonishment were expressed at the Marquis of Ripon's retirement from the office of M.W.G.M., but at the same time no doubt was entertained that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales would accept it. The Committee, having sat an hour, adjourned.

Bro. William Worrell, W.M. 766, P.M. 1339, M.E.Z. 766, and W.M. Mark Lodge 104, has been appointed Secretary to the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum.

We regret to have to record the death of the son of our able Bro. D.M. Lyon, who perished with the ship "Mohawk," of Troon, supposed to have foundered in a cyclone between the American continent and the Bermuda Islands early in February last, on his voyage from Pensacola (Gulf of Florida) to the Clyde.

HONORARY DISTINCTION.—Bro. R. Woolf, F.S.A., of Malvern, Worcestershire, has received the French decoration of the Bronze Cross, for honorary services in the cause of the sick and wounded during the Franco-Prussian War.

SALE OF ARTISTIC JEWELLERY, &c.—Amongst the metropolitan jewellers of the highest class, the name of Mr. Richard Green, of 82, Strand, has long maintained a pre-eminence, which has been fairly gained by the beauty and artistic merits of his workmanship and originality of design. Purchasers have now an excellent opportunity of becoming possessors of some of these beautiful goods; the premises adjoining Mr. Green's are about to be rebuilt, and therefore he has resolved to sell off his admirable stock at the great reduction of 20 per cent. In addition to the stock of bracelets, brooches, rings, necklaces, necklets, &c., there is a large stock of plated goods, consisting of tea-services, centre-pieces, claret jugs, and inkstands, upon which the same great reduction will be made,

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Answers to Correspondents.

All Communications, Advertisements, &c., intended for insertion in the Number of the following Saturday, must reach the Office not later than 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening.

Bro. MAGNUS OHREN, much thanked. The detailed account of Swanscombe will appear next week.

Bro. Owen R. Ellis. Report arrived too late for insertion, will appear next week.

The following stand over:—Reports of Lodges 1275, 1263, 51, and Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset. Lodge 360, S.C.; Consecration of a New Lodge at Kilsyth, and a communication from H.M.G.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

DEATH.

LYON.—At sea, in the ship "Mohawk," supposed to have foundered in February last, on the voyage from Pensacola, to the Clyde, David Murray, eldest son of Bro. D. Murray Lyon.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1874.

OUR LATE GRAND MASTER.

The week which has elapsed since the announcement of the resignation by the Marquis of Ripon of his high office of Grand Master of English Freemasonry, has only tended to make us feel more intensely the fact itself, and to increase the regret with which we first received the intelligence, which it was our unwelcome duty on Saturday to announce to the Craft dispersed throughout the world. At the time all were stunned by the suddenness of the resignation, and no one could profess to understand, or even to surmise a reason for a step in itself apparently inexplicable. The *Times*, in a remarkable leader of Saturday, professes to give the only explanation, an explanation which if it be correct, must be received by our entire Order with equal surprise and regret. It is this— "Lord Ripon has become a Roman Catholic!" It is notorious that the Freemasons are under the especial ban of the Church of Rome. That Church tolerates no secret society, except that of the Jesuits; and the first sacrifice which would be demanded of a convert like Lord Ripon would be his withdrawal from the Craft. As the first pledge of his new obedience he has to abandon his honourable position in the brotherhood, and to renounce a harmless and kindly association, in which he might for years have held the foremost place. It was justly said that the reasons must have been overwhelming which could induce him to take so unwelcome a step, and they arise from nothing less than the important change in his religious convictions which we have stated." The article from which this sad extract is taken, and which is printed in another column, is a very remarkable one, and deserves attentive perusal, and it puts the case alike temperately and unanswerably. But while we feel how great will be the grief of Freemasons on every account for this melancholy and ominous announcement, as a sad proof, if proof be needed, of the antagonistic and irreconcilable tendencies of the Church of Rome to all freedom of action and all liberty of thought, we feel, that justice requires of us a few words of grateful tribute to the services of our late valued Grand Master. Freemasons are always just, and we must not allow the overpowering emotions of painful surprise and regret, to make

us forget the respect due to conscientious convictions on the one hand, or to erase from our memories what we owe as Freemasons to our late distinguished chief, on the other. Those of us who know Lord Ripon the best, and love him the most, are perfectly well aware that he always acts conscientiously, and therefore we feel that, though we may deplore the sacrifice he has made, we are bound to give him the utmost credit for honesty of purpose and uprightness of intention. Many reasons combine, we venture to think, irrespective of the real cause of Lord Ripon's resignation, to render that resignation to our Order a deeply regretted reality. Subsequently to the death of our good and favoured old Grand Master, Lord Zetland, our Order had, as it were, gladly accepted with an unanimity seldom before witnessed and were peaceably labouring under the most flourishing and effective régime of a most popular Grand Master. For Lord Ripon had been from the first, a most zealous Mason, and had been emphatically always a working Mason. He had not sought the light of Masonry, as some do apparently for the prestige it may impart, or the honour it may confer, but he threw himself from the outset amongst his brother Masons, was never so happy, as we have often heard him say, as when he found himself amongst them, and gained rapidly, alike by his earnestness and assiduity, the character of a good workman, an eloquent speaker, and a true brother. In West Yorkshire, where his earliest Masonic work was done, he earned the golden opinions of all, not only by that zeal for our Order, and his love for Freemasonry, and his appreciation of our principles which he evinced on all occasions, but by those many excellences of the mind and heart, which won him so many sincere friends, which remarkably characterized his Mastership in the Lodge of Truth, Huddersfield, and rendered him ever so welcome a visitor, and so valued a brother, amongst the energetic lodges of West Yorkshire. When Lord Mexborough passed away, a well known Mason of the old school, and endowed, as many Yorkshire brethren well remember, with many genial qualities, there was but one wish in West Yorkshire, that his successor should be our distinguished brother, Lord De Grey, as he was then called. How he ruled over that great province we need not recount to-day; its acts best illustrate, we think, his active and beneficent sway; but sure we are of this, that in no province of England, are the true principles of Freemasonry better realized and developed, than in that flourishing and populous district, lately under the personal guidance of Lord Ripon, and his zealous Deputy, Bro. Bentley Shaw. From what we know of the brethren of West Yorkshire, we feel certain that nothing will cause them greater grief or regret, than to be separated, as we fear the Church of Rome will compel them to be, from their loved and honoured Provincial Grand Master. Many an earnest Freemason in Yorkshire and elsewhere, will not be induced to think more kindly of a religious body, which in an age of toleration and liberty requires such an act of self-abnegation, and demands so painful a sacrifice. It is unneces-

sary for us to dilate upon Lord Ripon's public services, for they have been many and conspicuous; he has in fact, served the State as well as he has served Freemasonry, and the high title he now enjoys, is alike a proof of the public appreciation, and of his sovereign's approval. When, as we said before, Lord Zetland resigned on account of failing health, and the Marquis of Ripon was unanimously hailed as Grand Master, this admirable selection of Grand Lodge was greeted with the approbation of the entire Order, with a warmth and satisfaction seldom equalled and never exceeded. And since that time, as year has followed year, under Lord Ripon's firm and temperate administration, everything has gone well with us. He himself has presided over the deliberations of the great assembly of the Craft both with dignity and ability, and his rule of English Freemasonry has been marked from first to last by a firm maintenance of our landmarks, and yet a scrupulous regard for the rights of Grand Lodge. He has most truly given to our contented and prosperous Craft the highest satisfaction as an impartial administrator of his high office, and has offered to them, amid their present well-being, the happy prospect of many after years of peaceful progress, and unity, and concord. No cloud, so far, has dimmed our horizon, to darken our pathway, or alarm us with forebodings of some coming gloom. Never has English Freemasonry witnessed before such a spectacle of universal tranquility and contentment, of material prosperity, and of universal development. No one, moreover, who has perused the minutes of our Grand Lodge, or has taken part in its proceedings, but must have been struck with the high tone on all points of Masonic teaching, or duty, or toleration, which characterised so remarkably always Lord Ripon's addresses and decisions, "*ex cathedra*." His was truly an impartial rule, calm, firm, equable, and consistent, upholding with dignified earnestness the prerogatives of the Grand Master, and yet never losing sight of for one moment the unchanged privileges of Grand Lodge, or the inalienable right of Freemasons, under the wise provisions of our Book of Constitutions. The government of our exalted brother was indeed a purely constitutional government of Freemasonry, alike "*de facto*" and "*de jure*." And yet to-day we have only sorrowfully to record the premature and unforeseen close of his Masonic administration of the Grand Master's office, and the abrupt termination of so much good promise and such admitted efficiency. Despite much regret, both on personal and public grounds, that such a step should have been deemed needful, and that such a sacrifice should be required, we yet feel bound to record in the pages of *The Freemason* alike our fraternal grief, and our fraternal gratitude. For the memories of Lord Ripon's Grand Mastership, and of our exalted brother personally, will long linger, we do not hesitate to say, among the happiest traditions of our Order. We shall recall in years to come, what an example he set to all Freemasons amongst us, old or young, by his zeal and love for Freemasonry, and though, alas! he now has left our Order, apparently under the claims of imperious proscription, yet amid obloquies very many, and assailants not a few,

even too, amid the childish and shameless persecution of the Church of Rome, some of us may gladly recollect, that, Freemasonry has had in our generation no truer advocate, no warmer admirer, and no more zealous friend, than our distinguished brother and late Grand Master, the Marquis of Ripon.

MR. KERR'S ATTACK UPON FREEMASONRY.

We have before us Mr. Kerr's pamphlet "*The Principles and Practices of Secret Societies opposed to Scripture and to Reason*," by the Rev. James Kerr, of Greenock, which we see has reached a second edition. We have perused it carefully and we must say at the outset that we have never read before so confused and illogical a compilation. As an attack upon Freemasonry it is absolutely puerile and harmless, contains nothing new as regards his complaints of our Order, is simply a "hash" of worthless authorities and may safely be left to the buttermilk and the trunkmaker, though it is ushered into the world with the "imprimatur" and approval of the "United Reformed Synods of Edinburgh and Glasgow." As Mr. Kerr is so fond of quoting texts of Scripture, we would respectfully remind him of one which talks about "blind leaders of the blind." For as the pamphlet has received the special thanks of the United Synod, we can only suppose they have little other profitable work to attend to, or they must be very hard up for something to talk about. A large part of the pamphlet consists of an attack on the Good Templars, on the Orangemen, and on the High Grades, or what are termed the Christian Degrees, so those portions of the pamphlet we leave unnoticed, to be answered in due season by those whom they concern, and simply confine ourselves to the defence of pure Freemasonry as we hold it and understand it. One little amusing fact we may notice ere we pass on, which is this, that Mr. Kerr's attack on the Orange lodges is based mainly on this, that these infatuated men, "*proh pudor*," actually recognize, and profess to uphold the "prelatic" Church of England. This little touch of a modern Reformed Presbyterian's nature is quite delicious. Mr. Kerr makes a violent assault on Freemasonry, which commences at page 18, and ends at page 36, and quotes from two professed authorities, the one being "*The Light of Masonry*," published at Dayton, Ohio, U.S., the other "*The Master Mason, &c.*" by Thomas Wilson, a Deserter from the Banners of Freemasonry," published, we are sorry to see, by Page and Gray, Saltmarket, Glasgow. "*Mackey's Lexicon*," Mr. Kerr tells us, has also been consulted, as well as "a number of other works," and "no substantial difference could be detected." And here we must beg to be permitted to remark, that, Mr. Kerr seems to have both a strange idea of the meaning of words, and of the intense importance of veracity in such statements as these, especially when made by a professed minister of religion. Mackey especially tells us at page 650 of his invaluable Lexicon, "Much of the ritual is esoteric, and not being permitted to be committed to writing is communicated only by oral instruction."

Mr. Kerr has therefore not been able to find in "Mackey," at any rate, any agreement or difference with the quotations given us from Mr. Thomas Wilson's publication. It seems a great pity that Mr. Kerr cannot see how important an element is truth in all such discussions. But, then, when we note that he complacently gives, as the illustration of his argument, some excerpts from Mr. Wilson's publication, and which he has greedily swallowed, like a "veritable gobemouche," as truly representing our Masonic ritual, from the work, too, of a person, on his own admission, be he real or imaginary, self perjured, we can only feel how very lax are Mr. Kerr's notions both of honour and morality. He dogmatically goes on to say "let no Christian dare to affirm that he can never rid himself of such an oath rashly taken" (that is the "obligation" given by Mr. Wilson) "and binding himself to things so unlawful." "Oaths are never binding," he continues most authoritatively, "when the fulfilment is unlawful." Dreadful sophistry! It would be amusing, were it not sad, to see a Jesuit professor and a Reformed Presbyterian, standing on the same low level, though curiously enough, it is not the first time in history, that "extremes" thus "meet," or that the Roman Church and the Presbyterian Kirk, have so to say, made common cause in promulgating the most baneful of all maxims, "the end justifies the means," in asserting the lawfulness of persecution, and in assailing us poor Freemasons. Here, as we see, Mr. Kerr with that peculiar absence of logic which distinguishes him, makes a "petitio principii," assumes that the "obligation" is unlawful, "per se," and then says practically "you should not keep it, you may break it," and offers the sanction of religion for such a proceeding. We need hardly now tell our readers, that when Mr. Kerr asserts that secret societies are opposed to scripture and to reason, the scripture he quotes from has nothing to do with the question, and the reason is certainly not "pure reason," but emphatically his own. We wish we could think that Mr. Kerr had seriously studied the difficult question he gives so ready an opinion upon, but our honest belief is, that the pamphlet is purely "sensational" in itself, and reflects little credit either on his scrupulousness as regards the authorities he uses, or of his charity towards his brethren. To our minds, it is only another striking example of credulity and intolerance combined. What is it that renders Freemasonry so distasteful both to the zealous Romanist on the one hand, and the stern Presbyterian on the other? Mr. Kerr seeks to give an answer to this query, from his Presbyterian point of view alone (for the good man would be horrified, we fancy, really to find himself with a Catholic ally), in five allegations. First he says Freemasonry is irreverent in its treatment of the Bible. Secondly, he alleges that Freemasonry is a rival to the Church (he means the Reformed Presbyterian Body), making itself a "saving" institution. Thirdly, he affirms that Freemasonry forms a spurious relationship between men, and commits positive injustice towards those who are non-Masons. Fourthly, Mr. Kerr declares that Freemasonry profanes the "Ordinance of the Oath." Fifthly, Mr. Kerr

solemnly announces that Freemasonry refuses admission to women. Serious charges, Master Shallow! but let us look into them:—In the first place we utterly deny that there is the slightest foundation for so shameful and unjust an accusation against our Order, that it treats God's Word irreverently; on the contrary, we affirm most conscientiously, after the experience of many years, that nowhere does the Inspired Volume receive more reverential treatment than it does in a Freemasons' Lodge and from Freemasons. Would that all professedly Christian teachers and expounders treated it as reverently. Mr. Kerr quotes in proof of his assertion, the Masonic use of two texts of Scripture, innocently adapted as they are, and as adaptations, necessarily purely "ad rem." But Mr. Kerr forgets that, while he charges us Freemasons with a very harmless adaptation of Holy Scripture, he has himself parodied, and offensively parodied, for his own purpose two other texts of Scripture, which have not and could not have the slightest bearing on Freemasonry and secret societies. II. In the next place, as regards "rivalry with the Reformed Presbyterians," we can only reply at once, Freemasonry would emphatically disclaim any such "soft impeachment," the more so, as Mr. Kerr's idea is a pure chimera, and founded on utter ignorance of our true tenets. For we do not hold that Freemasonry is a "saving institution," as Mr. Kerr calls it, or even "a religion," though we look upon Freemasonry as a handmaid to religion, and whatever some enthusiastic brethren have said or written, the Order never has held, nor does it hold such views to-day. As regards the alleged Masonic baptism which Mr. Kerr quotes as an illustration, we give it up at once; it is a hurtful excrescence upon Freemasonry; though in use, we believe, and regret to believe, both in some continental countries and in America, it has never, so far as we are aware, received the slightest countenance under our three Grand Lodges. III. In Mr. Kerr's third allegation, he argues that Freemasonry forms a spurious relationship among men, and commits positive injustice to non-Masons. He quotes a supposed rule of a Royal Arch degree somewhere, of "promoting a companion Royal Arch Mason's political preferment in preference to another of equal qualifications." This is so palpably absurd on the face of it, that, we wonder Mr. Kerr, a canny Scotchman as no doubt he is, has allowed himself to be gammoned by such trash. There is no such rule in Royal Arch Masonry, and Freemasonry has no more to do with political questions than it has with religious controversies. We fancy we have seen the same rubbish before, and that it is one of the lies published against our American brethren at the time of the Morgan persecution. It is, indeed, a great pity that Mr. Kerr should be so very credulous, and should have evidently taken such little pains to obtain correct information before he wrote so diffusely and so verbosely on a subject of which he clearly understands nothing at all. IV. In his fourth objection Mr. Kerr states that Freemasonry profanes "the ordinance of the oath." We challenge Mr. Kerr's premise. We are, it is true, a secret society, and we have an "obligation;" but Freemasonry is recognised

by the State as a secret society, yet as perfectly harmless, and what the laws specially permit, cannot be illegal. We certainly are not bound to take Mr. Kerr's view, or the reformed Presbyterian Synod's view, of what constitutes an unlawful oath. Such views may have force for a reformed Presbyterian, but they have none for us, or indeed for any one else. V. And, lastly, Mr. Kerr objects that we do not receive women. Well, we do not, and that is the truth, and for once Mr. Kerr is correct, and charming as women are, as Burns sang so well of old, and as our Masonic poetry declares,

"No mortal can more
The Ladies adore,
Than a Free and an Accepted Mason,"

Yet we are inclined to think that, despite Mr. Kerr's thunder, we shall not receive them just yet. Do not our readers begin to breathe a little, after such a long-winded article, and after the dreadful assault is over? We are greatly amused, we confess, with Mr. Kerr's commendation of a past or incipient Presbyterian persecution of Freemasons in America, just as if the "gude mon" would like to see the same at "Auld Reekie," or in the city of the ever famous "Baillie Nicol Jarvie." But we fancy our friends over the border are a little too long-headed to mind either Roman Catholic interdicts or Presbyterian condemnations. We believe, on the contrary, that all such "cursings," synodical or ecclesiastical, like Balaam's of old, turn to blessings. Freemasonry cares nothing for Papal rescripts, or Presbyterian anathemas, but marches on her way calm and composed, trusting and tolerant, knowing the justice of her cause, the purity of her intentions, and believing that she symbolizes, in her imperfect embodiment even now, a future and happier hour of universal brotherhood, and peaceful unity for mankind.

Original Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for, or even as approving of the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.—Ed.]

MASONIC RECEPTION AT PLYMOUTH AND THE MILITARY BROTHERN.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The exclusion of our military brethren from the grand Masonic procession which took place in Plymouth during the recent visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has created so much feeling among the Masonic brethren of the three towns, that I should esteem it a favour if you will grant me space for a few words upon the subject. I have read with very great pleasure the article which appears in last week's *Freemason*. It is one with which the majority of Masons in this neighbourhood deeply sympathise, because they still feel, in spite of what has been said to the contrary, that our military brethren have been most unfairly treated, and that their exclusion from the procession was a deliberate act, and not the result either of a mistake or misunderstanding. This is not a mere hap-hazard statement, nor the outcome of the annoyance which the brethren in question might naturally feel under the circumstances, but it is based upon valid and substantial grounds, of which probably, a great deal more will yet be heard. Your correspondent "Soldier Brother" is not far wrong when he throws the responsibility of what you are charitably pleased to call an error, upon the Masonic authorities, that is to say, upon the Masonic Committee, on whom devolved the carrying out of the arrangements connected with the procession,

Let us see for a moment what are the facts of the case, and it will not be difficult, I think, to trace the source of the "error," so called. Some weeks before the procession took place, and long before the arrangements were matured, it was vaguely rumoured that the military brethren would be prohibited from taking part in the proceedings, but the statement was looked upon as so absurd, that little notice was taken of it. But bye-and-bye it gained ground, and at last there came a definite statement from the Committee, that the Queen's Regulations prohibited soldiers from joining in "party or political" processions, and that the Major General Commanding could not relax them on this occasion. From the military authorities themselves no such order, so far as I am aware, was issued at all, but our soldier brethren acted upon the dictum of the Committee, and refrained from taking any part in the procession. But they naturally felt extremely sore upon the matter, and, refusing to believe that the Major-General Commanding was responsible for what occurred, Bro. the Rev. G. Oxley Oxland, W.M. of Metham Lodge, 1205, three-fourths of the members of which are service men, on their behalf asked for further information at the Prov. Grand Lodge meeting of Devon, which was held at Stonehouse, on the afternoon of the same day. Bro. Colonel Elliot in his reply, distinctly threw the entire responsibility on the Major-General Commanding, who, he said was bound by the Queen's Regulations, and could not allow military men to take part in a "party or political" procession.

But was this so? Is it probable? We can only judge from the surrounding circumstances. In the first place, can it be seriously contended that this was in any sense whatever, a party or political demonstration? In the second place, how can the General's order, excluding military men from the procession, be reconciled with the presence, in the procession, of two military bands in full military uniform? What is the inference to be drawn from this? Why, sir, that the General was never consulted at all on the matter, and that in the absence of further explanation, the Committee must rest under the stigma of having adopted a course of action which, as you have very properly put it, is a blunder, opposed to the true principles of Freemasonry. In a few weeks, sir, we are to have another Masonic demonstration, on the occasion of the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to lay the memorial stone of a new wing to the Royal British Female Orphan Asylum, at Stoke, but in the meantime, let us sincerely hope that the present misunderstanding may be thoroughly cleared up, and that the success of the forthcoming demonstration may not be marred by a repetition of such an unfortunate blunder as that which has left behind it so much unpleasant feeling amongst a class of brethren who are a credit and an honour to the Masonic Order.

I am, Yours fraternally,
C.M., 1205.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In answer to your short "leader" and the various letters in *The Freemason* of to-day, permit me to say, that as a committee, we left the military part of the programme in the hands of our Brother Colonel Elliott (P.Prov.S.G.W. of Devon), and his report was adverse to the claims of our military brethren to walk in uniform. We were told as a committee by Bro. Elliott that non-commissioned officers would not be allowed to walk in the procession in uniform, and so we had no option in the matter. Doubtless, our good brother will kindly furnish you with his authority, so that we all may know why they were thus excluded from the procession, much to the regret of every member who took part in the imposing ceremony, and certainly at variance with all preceding processions in which I have had the honour to take part.

It resolved itself entirely into a question of military rules and regulations, or Bro. Colonel Elliott wrongly interpreted them, or the General to whom the brethren applied ought not to have refused permission to the military brethren who desired to attend in uniform.

Our "Soldier Freemasons" who have written

on the subject have done well to ventilate the grievance, and you have also done well by drawing attention to the matter. Let the question now be authoritatively decided, and let Bro. Colonel Elliott mention to whom he applied for permission, and who it was that refused him. I am bound to state that, as a committee, we were entirely guided by Colonel Elliott, and I feel sure he had full authority from the "powers that be" for the course he pursued.

Yours fraternally

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

Truro, September 5, 1874.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In the correspondence you have published relative to this matter, one point seems to have escaped notice—viz., although the Major-General commanding the western district prohibited non-commissioned officers from joining in the procession in uniform, yet they were permitted to attend the lodge at which the Prince of Wales presided. I entered the Guildhall at the same moment that a non-com. entered in uniform and Masonic clothing, there may have been many others present, but not being in a good situation, I am unable to state.

I cannot agree with "Leo" that the route was not well kept by the police. I consider their conduct was admirable. I noticed an ugly rush was being made by a large body of spectators near St. Andrew's Church, but the police with great tact immediately prevented them from breaking in on the procession. I did not experience the slightest commotion amongst the thousands of spectators.

Yours fraternally,

J. STROUD SHORT, P.M., 1443.

ROYAL BRETHREN.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will you oblige some of your brethren and friends, by information on the following question, which is left by us for your decision, viz:—How many of Her Majesty's sons belong to the Masonic Order?

Do they all belong to it? If so, when was the Duke of Edinburgh initiated, &c.

Yours fraternally,

M., W., & L.

[Three of the sons of Her Majesty the Queen are members of our Order. Our Royal Brother the Prince of Wales, Prince Arthur the Duke of Connaught, and Prince Leopold. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh is not yet a Freemason.—Ed.]

FREEMASONS AND GOOD TEMPLARS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

M.M. is drawing back from the terms of his original enquiry, which were, whether a Good Templar could be present at Masonic banquets, as such. The two last words contained the whole gist of the matter, but he omits them in his reply in your last number.

It matters not what tenets a brother may hold, so long as he conforms to our obligations, but M.M. must surely perceive that, for a Good Templar, even though he be a brother, to enter a lodge or attend a banquet, "as such" (i.e., as a Good Templar) would be to infringe upon our fundamental constitutions.

As I stated in my first letter, the language of his enquiry can bear no other interpretation than that which I have put upon it.

Apologising for again troubling you. I am Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

KEYSTONE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Referring to the letter in your last issue signed M.M., the previous correspondence on the subject, in my opinion there cannot be the slightest question as to whether a Good Templar may be a Freemason or attend the banquet of the Craft. The regulations for admittance of members are exceedingly liberal, and freedom of

opinion is allowed to all, except on certain fundamental doctrines, and Good Templarism cannot be one of these exceptions.

If, therefore, a Good Templar is qualified in other respects, one fact of his belonging to that Order would not prevent him becoming a Freemason, and as to his presence at the banquets, so long as he does not press his own opinions respecting the use of stimulants upon the brethren, he has as much right there as anyone else.

For more than two years I have been an abstainer, though I have not signed any pledge, and during that time I have regularly attended both lodges and banquets, as well as Provincial Grand Banquets, both in this province, and also in other provinces, but have never found any difficulty, or had any unpleasant remark made to me in consequence of my drinking the healths in water. If those round me do not agree with my opinions their good feeling prevents their saying anything that would be likely to interfere with my enjoyment, and I have no doubt "Good Templar" will find this his experience. So far as the Book of Constitutions is concerned, I think it would puzzle anyone to find a paragraph that would prevent a Good Templar from attending lodge or banquet, that is, of course, supposing him to be a Freemason.

Yours fraternally,

M.J.M.

FREEMASONRY IN NEW ZEALAND.

The annual installation of officers in the Westland Pacific Royal Arch Chapter of Freemasons, No. 1229, E.C., took place at the Masonic Hall, Hokitika, last evening. The ceremony was most impressively conducted throughout by Past Principal Lazar, who installed the following companions in their respective offices, viz:—J. Bevan, Z.; J. Hudson, H.; F. Eistelder, J.; W. Ramsey, Scribe E.; C. Hill, Scribe N.; T. Bramwell, P.S.; M. Pollock, Treasurer; G. Benning and R. Fergusson, A.S.; G. Epping, Janitor. A large number of members of the Order were present, including the three Principals of the Kilwinning Chapter, E.C., and a number of visiting companions. At the conclusion of the ceremony, all present retired to Host Hudson's, where a most pleasant hour was spent, and the fullest gratification was expressed at the appointments to the several offices under the able superintendence of First Principal Bevan, who is surpassed only in Masonic knowledge and experience by Installing Principal, who may be termed the father of Freemasonry, not only on the West Coast, but likewise of New Zealand.

STAR LODGE OF INSTRUCTION (1275).—The fifth Anniversary Banquet of this flourishing lodge will be held at the lodge house, the Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, on Friday, the 2nd October. Tickets, 4s. each, may be obtained of the Stewards on any of the previous lodge meetings.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The "*Freemason*" of May 10th and 17th, 1873, and April 11th, 1874 (numbers 218, 219, and 266) being out of print, the publisher will be glad to receive copies from brethren who may have them. Stamps will be sent on receipt.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, September 18, 1874.

The Editor will be glad to receive notice from Secretaries of Craft Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Mark Lodges, Preceptories, Conclaves, &c., of any change in place or time of meeting.

Saturday, September 12.

Lodge 1361, United Service, Greyhound, Richmond.
" 1446, Mount Edgecumbe, Swan Tavern, Battersea.
Mark Lodge 144, Grosvenor, Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi.
Manchester Lodge of Instruction (179), Yorkshire Grey,
77, London-street, Fitzroy-square, at 8; Bro. H. Ash,
Preceptor.
Lily Lodge of Instruction (820), Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, Surrey.
Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby,
New Cross-road, at 7; Bro. C. G. Dilley, Preceptor.

Monday, September 14.

Lodge 1366, Highgate, Gatehouse Hotel, Highgate.
 Prince Leopold Lodge of Instruction (1445), Lord Stanley Tavern, Sandringham-road, Kingsland, at 7; Bro. T. Austin, Preceptor.
 Strong Man Lodge of Instruction (45), Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell, at 8; Bro. Beckett, Preceptor.
 Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (174), Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Station, at 7.
 Camden Lodge of Instruction (704), Adclaide 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. Gutheil, Preceptor.
 British Oak Lodge of Instruction (813), Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile-end, at 7 for 8.
 St. James's Union Lodge of Instruction (180), Horse and Groom Tavern, Winsley-street (opposite the Pantheon), Oxford-street, at 8; Bro. J. R. Stacey, Preceptor.
 Wellington Lodge of Instruction, White Swan Tavern, Deptford, at 8; Bro. C. G. Dille, P.M. 1155, Preceptor.
 West Kent Lodge of Improvement (1297), St. Saviour's College, Stansted-road, Forest-hill, at 7.30; Bro. H. W. Lindus, Preceptor.
 Metropolitan Mark Lodge of Instruction, Coach and Horses Hotel, 323, Strand, at 8.

Tuesday, September 15.

Board of General Purposes, at 3.
 Lodge 30, United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
 " 704, Camden, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town.
 " 857, St. Mark's, Duke of Edinburgh Tavern, Brixton
 " 1441, Ivy, Windsor Castle Hotel, Southwark-bridge-road.
 Chap. 933, Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 Yarkborough Lodge of Instruction (554), Green Dragon Stepney, at 8; Bro. Barnes, P.M., Preceptor.
 Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Palmerston Tavern, Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, at 8; Bro. Larham, Preceptor.
 Faith Lodge of Instruction (141), Refreshment Rooms, Victoria-st., (opposite Westminster Palace Hotel), at 8; Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, Preceptor.
 Prince Fredk. William Lodge of Instruction (753), Lord's Hotel, Lord's Cricket Ground, St. John's-wood, at 8; Bro. F. G. Baker, Preceptor.
 Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction (860), King Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7.30; Bro. Crawley, Preceptor.
 Prosperity Lodge of Instruction (65), 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.
 Constitutional Lodge of Instruction (55), Wheatsheaf Hotel, Hand-court, Holborn, at 7; Bro. J. R. Stacey P.M. 130, Preceptor.
 Percy Lodge of Instruction, Grapes Tavern, Little Windmill-street, W.
 Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; Bro. J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.
 Israel Lodge of Instruction, Rising Sun Tavern, Globe-road, at 7.30.

Wednesday, September 16.

Lodge 87, Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth.
 " 174, Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
 " 700, Nelson, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich.
 " 1044, Wandsworth, Spread Eagle Hotel, New Wandsworth.
 " 1320, Blackheath, Crown Hotel, Blackheath.
 " 1382, Corinthian, George Inn, Cubitt Town.
 Chap. 10, Westminster and Keystone, Freemasons' Hall.
 New Concord Lodge of Instruction, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, at 8.
 Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, Horse and Groom Tavern, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.
 Confidence Lodge of Instruction, White Hart Tavern, Abchurch-lane, at 7.30.
 Peckham Lodge of Instruction, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham, at 8; Bro. David Rose, Preceptor.
 Temperance in the East Lodge of Instruction, George the Fourth, Catherine-street, Poplar.
 Stanhope Lodge of Instruction, Thicket Hotel, Anerley, at 7.30 p.m.; Bro. H. W. Lindus, Preceptor.
 Finsbury Park Lodge of Instruction (1288), Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sisters'-road, N., at 8. Bro. P. Dickinson, Acting Preceptor.
 United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), the Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, Kentish-town, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.
 Southwark Lodge of Instruction, (879), Southwark Park Tavern, Southwark Park, at 8; Bro. Charles William Kent, Preceptor.
 Dalston Lodge of Instruction (975), Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.

Thursday, September 17.

House Committee Girls' School, at 4.
 Lodge 1227, Upton, Spotted Dog Tavern, Upton.
 " 1278, Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park.
 " 1365, Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton.
 Chap. 742, Crystal Palace, Clarendon Hotel, Anerley.
 Fidelity Lodge of Instruction (3), Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Tottenham Court-road, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.

Finsbury Lodge of Instruction, Jolly Anglers' Tavern, Bath-street, City-road; Bro. Stean, Preceptor.
 United Mariners' Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes, Mile-end-road, at 8; Bro. T. J. Barnes, Preceptor.
 Whittington Lodge of Instruction (862), Crown Tavern, Holborn, at 8; Bro. Lewis Alexander, P.M. 138, Preceptor.
 Doric Chapter of Instruction, Three Cranes Tavern, Mile-end-road, at 8; Comp. T. J. Barnes, Preceptor.
 Ebury Lodge of Instruction, Bro. Palmer's, 12, Pensonby-st., Millbank.
 Highgate Lodge of Instruction (1366), Bull and Gate, Kentish-town, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.

Friday, September 18.

House Committee, Boys' School at 4.
 Lodge 975, Rose of Denmark, White Hart Hotel, Barnes.
 K. T. Precep. 43, St. George's, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
 St. George's Lodge of Instruction (140), Globe Tavern, Royal-hill, Greenwich.
 Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-st., Regent-st., at 8.
 Belgrave Lodge of Instruction, (749), Coach and Horses, Strand, at 8; Bro. Pulsford, Preceptor.
 Panmure Lodge of Instruction (720), Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7.30.
 Unions Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, a 7.
 Temperance Lodge of Instruction, Victoria Tavern, Victoria-road, Deptford, at 8.
 Clapton Lodge of Instruction (1365), White Hart, Clapton, at 7.30; Bro. James Brett, P.G.P., &c., Preceptor.
 Royal Standard Lodge of Instruction (1298), the Castle Tavern, Holloway, at 8; Bro. W. F. Rogers, Precep.
 Pythagorean Chapter of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich-road, at 8; Comp. W. West Smith, Preceptor.
 Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, at 7; Bro. Stacey, P.M. 180, Preceptor.
 Westbourne Lodge of Instruction (733), Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, at 8.
 United Pilgrims Lodge of Instruction, Antelope Tavern, Lorn-road, Brixton, at 7.
 St. James's Lodge of Instruction, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-road, Bermondsey, at 8; Bro. Howes, P.M., Preceptor.
 Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar, at 7; Bro. D. S. Potts, Preceptor.
 Doric Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes Tavern, Mile-end-road, at 8.
 Burgoyne Lodge of Instruction, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, N.W., at 8; Bro. P. M. Wuest, Preceptor.
 St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Rose Tavern, Fulham-road, S.W.
 Chigwell Lodge of Instruction, Bald-faced Stag Hotel, Buckhurst-hill, at 8.
 High Cross Lodge of Instruction (754), Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.
 Union Club of Instruction, Windsor Castle, Victoria Station, at 8 p.m.; H. Ash, P.M., Instructor.
 Burdett Coutts Lodge of Instruction (1278), Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 8; Bro. Geo. W. Verry, Preceptor.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND VICINITY.

For the week ending Saturday, September 19, 1874.
 All the Meetings take place at 8 o'clock.

Monday, September 14.

Lodge 102, St. Mark, St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-st
 " 219, Star, 12, Trongate.
 " 362, St. Clair, 25, Robertson-street.
 " 503, St. George, Odd Fellows' Hall, Fielensburgh.
 " 541, Marie Stuart, Watson's Academy, Langside-road, Crosshill.
 St. Mungo Encampment of Knights Templar, 213, Buchanan-st.

Tuesday, September 15.

Lodge 31, St. John, St. John's Hall, Buchanan-st.
 " 73, Thistle and Rose, 170 Buchanan-st.
 " 87, Thistle, 12, Trongate.
 " 437, Govandale, Portland Hall, Govan.

Wednesday, September 16.

Lodge 117, St. Mary, Freemasons' Hall, Partick.
 Chap. 150, St. John, Freemason's Hall, Shettleston.

Thursday, September 17.

Lodge 27, St. Mungo, 213, Buchanan-street.
 " 465, St. Andrew's, Masons' Hall, Gaugad-road.
 " 547, Stewart, Freemasons' Hall, Market-place, Kilsyth.

Friday, September 18.

Lodge 12, Kilwinning, Town-Hall, Greenock.
 " 306, St. Thomas, Larkhall.
 " 321, St. Andrew's, Public Hall, Alexandria.
 " 360, Commercial, 60, Hope-st.
 " 408, Clyde, 170, Buchanan-st.
 " 471, St. John, Stone Inn, Shotts.

Saturday, September 19.

Lodge 524, St. Andrew, East Kilbride.
 " 544, St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall, Bank-street, Coatbridge.

COSMOPOLITAN MASONIC CALENDAR.

The attention of Secretaries, &c., is called to a circular which has been sent to each lodge and chapter, for information as to the place, day and months of meeting. We would urge upon our friends the necessity of an early reply, as no alterations or additions can be made, after Saturday, September 12th.

Ayrshire Masonic Bursary.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire intend to offer a Bursary of not less than £20 annually, tenable for four years, for competition among the SONS OF AYRSHIRE FREEMASONS entering the Arts Classes at Glasgow University in the ensuing session.

Further information will be given by the Rev. Alex. Inglis, Kilmaurs; or Mr. Robert Wylie, Kilwinning—with either of whom applications, with certificates of character and attainments, must be lodged not later than 20th October next. Kilwinning, 15th August, 1874.

Royal British Female Orphan Asylum Masonic Fund.

Dear Sir and Brother,

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH will place the Memorial Stone of the New Wings of this Institution on Wednesday, October 7th.

It is proposed to send tickets of admission to view the Ceremony to all members of the Craft who have contributed 2s. 6d. and upwards, and I should, therefore, feel obliged by your completing the list from your Lodge at your earliest convenience, and forwarding it to me, in order that the necessary accommodation may be provided.

I again venture to repeat, that, as this Fund has now attained proportions which will render it a proud testimonial of Masonic Charity, it is most desirable to obtain the names of as many subscribers as possible, however small may be the individual contributions. To attain this desirable end I ask your cordial assistance.

I remain, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours very truly and fraternally,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN,

Steward to P.G.L., Cornwall.

Truro, August 25th, 1874.

OCTOBER ELECTION, 1874. ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The Vice-Presidents, Life Governors, and Subscribers, desiring to Vote in favour of BEATRICE A. F. NEWMAN No. 4 on the List, are respectfully requested to forward their proxies (after signature) to either Mr. John Bertram, Alexandra Palace, Muswell-hill, N.; Mr. George Newman, 26, Great Winchester-street, E.C.; or Mr. Henry T. Thompson, 85, Palmerston-cuddings, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

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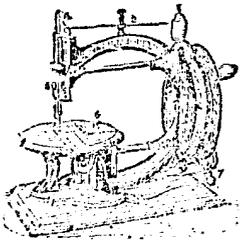
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 - Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; written by Bro. Sewell; composed by Bro. J. Rhodes ... 4/0
 - The Final Toast; written by D. L. Richardson; music by Bro. Edwin J. Crow ... 3/0
 - The E.A. Song; arranged by the late Bro. Parry, of the "Lodge of Antiquity," No. 2... .. 6d.
 - Masonic Harmonia 9/0
 - Masonic Music, compiled for the use of the "Merchant Lodge," No. 241, by Bro. J. H. Younghusband, P.M., P.Z., P.E.C., and P. Prov. J.G.W. West Lancashire
 - The Freemason (Tell me the Sign John); written by George Palmer 3/0
 - Three Times Three; composed by Bro. Harroway, "Royal York Lodge," Brighton 3/c
 - The Shake of the Hand (in G & B flat) composed by John Blockley 3/0
 - The Freemasons' Festival March and Masonic Hymn, by Bro. W. B. Tolputt (Past Master of the "Temple Lodge," No. 816, Folkestone) 3/0
 - The Freemason Quadrilles; inscribed (by permission) to the Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, K.G.; by Bro. Joshua Marshall (P.G.O., West Yorkshire), Solo or Duet 4/0
 - Music for the Ceremony of Advancement to the Mark Degree; composed by Bro. Edwin J. Crow, dedicated to the Grand Master, Bro. Rev. G. Portal 3/0
 - Here's to His Health in a Song; written by J. J. Bealey; composed by J. M. Bentley 4/c
 - Hird's Masonic Quadrille, by C. T. Hird 4/0
 - So Mote it Be, by Bro. Jno. P. Nunn 2/6
 - Masonic Mischief, the new Masonic Song, by G. Grant Men of the Trowel, answer to Masonic Mischief... .. 3/0
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- City of London Arms..... 10ft. by 7ft.
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