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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

NEPTUNE LODGE (No. 22).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, on Thursday, the 25th ult. The business consisted in the raising of Bros. Newton, Roberts, and Jolliffe. Captain Matthew Webb, of swimming notoriety, after being proposed and unanimously elected, was duly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry by Bro. Eames, W.M. Bro. A. Partridge, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. Wilcox re-elected Treasurer. A Past Master's jewel was unanimously voted to Bro. Eames for the valuable services rendered by him during his year of office. Banquet followed.

WILLIAM PRESTON LODGE (No. 766).—The installation meeting of this celebrated "Banner Lodge" (No. 766) was held on Thursday, the 25th ult., at the Cannon-street Hotel, and the proceedings, which were of the most pleasant character, were attended by some brilliant ornaments of the Craft. Bro. Augustus Braun, whose Mastership was that evening to draw to a close, opened the lodge in the three degrees, assisted by Bros. John Pringle, W.M. elect, as S.W.; W. Mansfield Newton, J.W.; P.M. George Newman, I.P.M.; P.M. Worrell, P.M. Kain, P.M. Dr. Whiteman, and P.M. Abbott. There were also present many visitors, among whom were Bros. Albert, P.G.P.; G. Abbott, P.M. 192; Charles Horsley; Eve, P.G.S.W. of Hants; Tribble, No. 1287; Dr. Barringer, P.G.S. of Herts; G. V. Lucu, A. G. Francis, P.G.S.D. Surrey; J. C. Dowsing, 108; C. Pugsley, 179; Donald W. King, P.M. 12; Dr. Wm. Carpenter, P.M. of the Urban and Shakespeare Lodges; H. H. Dyne, 396; Edward Drew, Benham, W.M. 1339; and While, W.M. United Strength, No. 228 ("Freemason"). The first business was, after the confirmation of the minutes, in the Primary Degree, and then the W.M. conferred the degree of M.M. upon a foreign nobleman who had been regularly initiated and passed in the lodge. The name of our noble brother cannot be given for particular reasons associated with the law under which the Order lies in the country to whose ruler the newly-raised brother is subject. Bro. W. J. Collins and our foreign brother having been taken separately through the first part of the ceremony, were taken together through the concluding part, and the W.M., notwithstanding a serious feverish cold, performed that beautiful degree with fine effect. In order to relieve the W.M. after his arduous labours, and to leave the new W.M. free for the evening, P.M. Worrell performed the initiation of Mr. J. A. S. Matthews. The W.M. again took the chair, and Bro. Pringle having been presented, Bro. Braun proceeded with the installation in pure "Emulation" working, with the exception of the last address, which, though a little deviation, was worth listening to, especially as given by Bro. Braun with vivacity and excellent elocution. The new W.M. appointed Bro. W. Mansfield Newton as S.W., evidently thus giving the lodge another efficient W.M.; W. E. Newton, as J.W.; S. D. Ewins, as S.D.; Cutmore, as J.D.; Kidman, as I.G.; Drake, as D.C.; and P.M. Newman, amid general applause, as Steward. The I.P.M., Bro. Braun, was then presented with a beautiful Past Master's jewel, manufactured by Bro. G. Kenning, and the words of the W.M. in presenting it, as well as the applause of the brethren at the presentation, testified to the high merits of the retiring W.M., and the high estimation in which he is held. The lodge being closed, the brethren partook of an excellently served banquet. The W.M. proposed the loyal toasts, and in giving "The Health of His Royal Highness the Grand Master," wished him a speedy and safe return to his native country. Bro. Albert returned thanks for "The Officers of Grand Lodge," and said that Grand Lodge was proud to have such an excellent lodg as the William Preston under its charters. The I.P.M., in proposing the toast of "The W.M.," expressed his pleasure at seeing Bro. Pringle rewarded by the brethren for his unflagging industry by being elected to the eminent position of W.M., and he expressed the fervent hope that their W.M. might have good health to carry out the duties of his station. The toast was duly honoured, and the W.M., in reply, expressed his acknowledgements for the honour bestowed upon him, and to his I.P.M. for the instruction always afforded to him. Bro. Worrell, in an excellent and

eloquent speech, proposed "The Health of the Installing Master," reminding the brethren of the perfection and eloquence with which he had performed the ceremony, and, amid cheers, speaking of the fact that the I.P.M. had installed his successor as a proud feature in the history of the William Preston Lodge, as Bro. Braun had thereby followed the example of the late Masters, and had set an example to those who came after. Like a Lord Mayor, the Master of a lodge held his office only for a year, but while the Lord Mayor, on passing his chair, sunk into the position of an ordinary alderman, the W.M. of a lodge, on passing his chair, however, rose into the high dignity of P.M., and as P.M., now they greeted Bro. Braun. The toast was drunk with all honours, and Bro. Braun, in reply, said the expression of satisfaction which they had given him was a great reward for his struggle against a serious illness to discharge his duty, and he warmly thanked the brethren for the generous treatment they had always accorded to him. "The Initiate" was then toasted with the usual honours, and he, in reply, expressed the hope that he might not only be a "good Mason," but in time become a "great Mason." Bro. P.M. Newman then proposed an unusual toast, that of "The Junior M.M.'s"—those who had been raised that evening. His reason for proposing the toast, he said, was that the brethren might take formal leave of their good brother who had been described to them as a "foreign nobleman," and of whose patinality or name nothing could be said out of the lodge. In the course of his speech Bro. Newman gave the distinguished brother to understand that the William Preston Lodge would not forget him, and that if he returned to this country they should always be glad to greet him. "The Foreign Brother," in reply thanked the brethren for the kindness they had always shown him, and said that when a year had passed he hoped they would see him again, for it was his intention to return for the purpose of being exalted. He looked with confidence to the time when the government of his country would look with a less "green eye" upon the Craft, and to his being able to be one of the first to introduce into his native land the noble precepts of Freemasonry. At the conclusion of a very able speech (an outline of which cannot be given for obvious reasons), the brother thanked Bros. Newman, Newton, and the I.P.M. To the toast of "The Visitors," Bro. Charles Horsley made a long and eloquent speech, and expressed his delight with all he had witnessed there that evening. Bro. Eve also responded, and, speaking from his experience of the lodge, said he was greatly rejoiced to see it flourishing so well. To the toast of "The P.M.'s," Bros. Whiteman, Worrell, Kain, Abbott, Jerrett, Miller, and Newman responded. The W.M. then proposed "The Press," saying that without a paper like the "Freemason" the members of the Craft would be at a great disadvantage, for they would not generally know what was being done in the Craft, and especially in regard to the charities, without which the Craft would be of no benefit to the world. The toast was coupled with the name of Bro. While, representing the "Freemason," and he, in reply, said his profession was highly honoured by having present an officer of Grand Lodge who was an amateur reporter, and had actually applied for a report of a speech, which Bro. While, amid much laughter, said he should not give, for he did not care about trusting to the discretion of amateurs. He referred to the connection of the William Preston Lodge with literature in the name it held, and, pointing to the presence of those eminent representatives of literature, science, and the arts, Bros. Carpenter, Donald King, and Barringer, he said the William Preston was following worthily in the footsteps of him whose name it bore, and the "Freemason" was proud as a journal to represent a Craft which had so appreciative a lodge. Bro. Mansfield Newton responded to the toast of "The Officers," and after a lively speech by Bro. Dr. Barringer the proceedings ended with "The Tyler's" toast. The banner of the Master, it should be stated, bore the legend. It was supplied by Bro. Kenning.

PECKHAM LODGE (No. 1475).—On Thursday, the 25th ult., an emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. John Thos. Dalby, supported by Bro. Watkins, the I.P.M.; Bro. Canton, S.W.; Bro. G. Duck, J.W.; Bro. W. G. Warren, P.M., Treas.; Bro. W. E. Gompertz, P.M., Sec., and about forty brethren and several visitors. The agenda paper was heavy, comprising work in each of the three degrees, which the W.M. performed in an able manner. Several gentlemen were proposed for initiation. The W.M. informed the brethren it was his intention to serve as Steward at the forthcoming Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons. Bro. Gompertz, P.M. and Sec., gave notice that at the next regular meeting he should move that £10 from the lodge funds be placed on the Master's list, which was then sent round the lodge, and a considerable sum collected as the private subscription of the brethren. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the dining hall, where dinner was prepared. The usual toasts were proposed by the W.M. Bro. Watkins, the I.P.M., proposed "The Master's Health" in very feeling terms, congratulating him on the improved status of the lodge. The W.M. thanked the brethren for their co-operation with him in all that concerned the welfare of the lodge. Bro. Warren, Treas., said, as one of the founders, he felt proud of the success that had attended the lodge, and hoped he should, with the other founders in turn, at some time or other, be permitted to fill the chair. He would not wish to do so or press his claims if it were at all likely to interfere with the harmony of the lodge; but he hoped the brethren would concede to the founders the honour of enrolling their names as Past Masters of the lodge. Bro. Gompertz, P.M. and Sec., congratulated the W.M. that it should have fallen to his lot to preside over the lodge during this very eventful period of its history, and that we had been so successful in disconnecting Masonry from tavern influence. The teachings of our ceremonies were far too serious and solemn to be performed with

decency and decorum when exposed to the jeers and derisive banter of the uninitiated, who, from the want of proper privacy in the tavern, have seen or heard sufficient, without knowing the symbolic meaning of what they may have heard or seen, to burlesque our time-honoured and beneficent institution. The best thanks of all who desired to uphold the character of Masonry were due to those worthy brothers by whose zeal and perseverance this peaceful home had been reared, and may it long continue a successful monument. He was happy also to tell the W.M. that there were 55 members on the roll of the lodge, and that all demands to this date were paid; and the Treasurer held a balance of over £50, which had been that evening augmented by £24, so that their present position, for a lodge not yet completed its second year, may fairly be considered as prosperous. He, like their brother Treasurer, would certainly like to change the duties of Secretary for the honours of the chair. It might be thought by some of the junior members that the Secretary's duties ended in the lodge, but he could assure them that that was the smallest part of his work; he was in constant communication with the Master and corresponding on all matters of detail in the interest and working of the lodge, and providing for the comfort and successful performance of all the minutiae connected with it; but still, while he had their confidence and respect he was content to give them his best services. The toast of "The Initiates" was responded to by all three. In responding to the very cordial manner in which the W.M. proposed the toast of "The Visitors," each expressed himself highly pleased with the work in the lodge and the bountiful manner they had been entertained at its social board, and several expressed a desire to become joining members of the lodge. The Tyler's toast brought the meeting to an end. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Norris, 177; A. Wilkins, of the St. Paul's Lodge, Boston, U.S.A.; Hooper, 879; Smith, 1257; Garner, 075; Cank, 1056; C. B. Cheese, 869; Sinclair, and others.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT LODGE (No. 1524).—The November meeting of this lodge was held on the 25th ult., when there were present Bros. W. H. Lee, W.M.; Thos. C. Chapman, S.W.; H. Lister, J.W.; B. Meyer, Treas.; N. Green, Sec.; J. B. Shackleton, S.D.; James Symes, J.D.; R. Philp, as I.G.; Gilchrist, Tyler. Among the members present were Bros. W. H. Brand, Meyer, Johnson, Dallas, Alford, Brasted, and Harding. The business of the evening commenced with the raising of Bro. F. A. Kelly, passing of Bro. Varney, and initiation of Mr. Moon, the charge in the First Degree being most impressively rendered by the W.M. The lodge then proceeded to ballot for the W.M. for the ensuing year, when Bro. Thos. Chapman, S.W., was unanimously elected to that office. Bro. B. Meyer was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Gilchrist, Tyler. Propositions were received for the next meeting. It was then proposed, seconded, and unanimously carried, that Bro. W. H. Lee, the most respected W.M., should be presented with a Past Master's jewel in recognition of the very valuable services rendered by him during his year of office. Bro. Lee then offered to represent the lodge as Steward at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The lodge was then closed. The brethren shortly afterwards sat down to a slight repast. The usual toasts followed. That of "The W.M. Elect" was neatly responded to by Bro. Chapman. Bro. Shead, 1366, responded for "The Visitors." The toast of "The Masonic Charities," given by the W.M. in most appropriate terms, was very ably responded to by Bro. Shackleton. After a little harmony, the brethren separated.

MIDDLETON.—Imperial George Lodge (No. 78).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, November 25th, at the Assheton Arms Hotel. The lodge was opened at 6 p.m. promptly by Bro. W. H. Kershaw, W.M. The Secretary, Bro. Forrester Fothergill, having read the minutes of the last meeting, they were duly confirmed. Referring to the minutes, we may here mention that with, the assistance (at all times so willingly given) of our Bro. Forrester Fothergill, we hope in a future issue to publish a brief but interesting "History of the Imperial George Lodge," its minutes being preserved intact for upwards of a century. The minutes confirmed, the brethren then proceeded to ballot for, as a joining member, Bro. Iiff (Lodge of Truth, 1458, Manchester) proposed by Bro. Bradbury, J.W. The ballot being investigated by the W.M., his election was declared to be unanimous. The remaining business on the circular was to elect the W.M. and Treas. for the ensuing year; also to appoint Auditors and elect Tyler. David Reid, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, he being such an excellent worker, and, like his predecessor, well-qualified to keep up the fire of "True Masonry" in the lodge. Bro. Heywood, P.M., was then re-elected Treas. Bros. Lees, Millhouse, and Newton were appointed Auditors, the two first-named by the members of the lodge, and the latter by the W.M. Bro. John Kent was re-elected Tyler; he is a brother esteemed by all, and has tyled the lodge for the past ten years. His Masonic qualities are as lofty as his stature, which is considerably above the average. By command of the W.M., Bro. Kent was summoned into lodge, and informed of his re-election, and after having thanked the brethren in his usual quaint manner, he returned to his post of O.G. Mr. Moses Mills was proposed. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren retired from labour to refreshment, so ably provided by mine hostess, Mrs. Harrison. The cloth having been withdrawn, the usual toasts were given and responded to, interspersed with harmony from the Middleton and Manchester brethren.

LEICESTER.—John of Gaunt (No. 523).—This lodge held its third regular meeting of the season on Thursday, Nov. 18th, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. J. T. Thorp, supported by the following officers, brethren, and visitors:—S. S. Partridge, I.P.M.; T. A. Wykes, J.W.; W. B. Smith, P.M., Treasurer; R. Taylor, Secretary; W. C. Shout, S.D.; G. Odell, J.D.; C. John-

son, Organist; A. Sargeant and J. F. Smith, Stewards; G. H. Hodges, G. Toller, jun., F. J. Baines, Past Masters; J. M. Quin, W. H. Church, T. Worthington, E. W. Potter, T. R. Pickering. The visitors were Dr. G. Clifton, P.M.; H. F. Bobart, P.M.; J. Smith, P.M.; A. Palmer, P.M.; E. Mason, S. Knight, W. Waters, J. Ewing, J. Mac Allister, C. Buss, J. H. Hodge, C. Manton, R. Clark, jun. The lodge was opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Mr. Arthur Shallot Dale, a candidate for initiation, was unanimously elected by ballot. Bros. Potter and Pickering were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons. Mr. James Mitchel Padmore, elected at a former meeting, and Mr. Arthur Shallot Dale were regularly initiated by the W.M., Bro. Thorp, the musical portion efficiently rendered by Bro. Johnson, P.M., Organist. Pursuant to notice of motion, the Treasurer was authorized to pay the balance of £5 11s. 6d. due to Stewards. Bro. Wykes, J.W., having tendered an apology from Bro. Tertius Rowlett, S.W., on account of family bereavement, the Secretary was instructed, as an expression of sympathy, to record on the minutes the melancholy cause of same. Moved by the W.M. and seconded by Bro. Taylor, Secretary. "That the thanks of the lodge be accorded to Bro. MacAllister, S.W. 279, for his services as acting Secretary for the previous two months, during Bro. Taylor's absence abroad. The brethren repaired to supper. It being exactly five years that evening since the W.M. first saw "The Light" he in proposing the health of the candidates, and in assuring them the more they studied to make themselves Masters of our arcane science, the more pleasure they would feel in seeking Masonic knowledge, trusted that their career might be as prosperous, successful, and enjoyable as his own. The evening was, as usual enlivened by some excellent instrumental and vocal music, and passed only too quickly.

BEDFORD.—Stuart Lodge (No. 540).—The installation of the W.M. (Capt. E. R. Green, J.P.) of this important lodge was held on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, in their lodge-room, at the Swan Hotel. The lodge having been exceedingly well worked through the three degrees, an unusually large board of Installed Masters was formed, and the W.M. elect duly installed by the late I.P.M. Billson, to whom W.M. Lester gave way. The charges were impressively delivered by P.M. Prior, M.D., coroner for the borough. The newly-installed W.M. chose and invested as his officers Bros. Colonel William Stuart, Past S.G.W., J.P., High Sheriff of the County, S.W.; Capt. De Vismes, J.W.; Rev. C. Brereton, B.C.L., Rector of St. Mary's and Rural Dean, Chaplain; Alderman Sergeant, P.M., Treas.; Prior, M.D., Coroner, P.M., Sec.; Captain Colbourn, S.D.; J. Cookson, J.D.; Alderman Bull, J.P., P.M., Steward; Coombes, M.R.C.S., I.G.; G. Reynolds, Tyler. Other P.M.'s attending were Bros. Capt. Polhill-Turner, M.P., J.P., Deputy Lieutenant; Mark Whyley, Coroner of the County, and Clerk of the Peace; Capt. Nash, J. Trapp, J. Fisher, A. Cookson, Cuthbert, Piper, M.A. In addition, there were many other brethren present, amongst whom we noticed the ex-Mayor of Bedford, and Alderman Hurst, J.P., F.S.S. The visitors included Bros. Rev. G. H. Moncton Russell, M.A., 214, P.Prov. G.C. Warwickshire; Rev. William Tebbs, M.A., P.M. 285, P. Prov. G. Chaplain Somerset; S. Ballard, P.M. Prov. Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire; Rev. Adams, B.A., 475; Rev. R. Fawssett Ward, 1304; J. Seagrave, M.A., P.C. 540; Haselgrove, W.M. 475, with his Wardens and several brethren; the W.M. 1470, and his Wardens; also many brethren of 228, 442, 373, 1410; and others. Work being over, the brethren adjourned for refreshment, when a splendid banquet was served by Bro. W. Wicks. It is almost needless to add that all the toasts were happily proposed, enthusiastically received, and heartily responded to. We trust that a wish expressed by certain brethren, for the building of a Masonic hall for this large and rapidly increasing lodge, may be speedily carried into effect; and we cannot conclude without a parting wish to see work as thoroughly well done and as amply rewarded by such a pleasant period of refreshment as was enjoyed on Wednesday last by the brethren and visitors of the Stuart Lodge.

BARNES.—Rose of Denmark Lodge (No. 975).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the White Hart, Barnes, on Friday, the 19th ult. Present: Bros. G. J. Edmonds, W.M.; E. W. Clarke, S.W.; W. H. Lee, J.W.; C. A. Smith, P.M. and Treas.; R. W. Little, Prov. S.G.W. Middlesex, Sec.; G. T. Noyce, P.M.; H. Potter, P.M.; J. H. Tyler, P.M.; H. O. Hinton, P.M.; Phillips, S.D.; Wigglesworth, J.D.; Garnar, I.G.; and a large muster of the brethren. Visitors:—J. Dalby, W.M. 1475; D. Rose, P.M. 75; D. Hinton, P.M. 360; J. D. Kennedy, P.M. 820; C. H. Watkins, P.M. 1475; J. Bate-man, S.W. 820; A. Allworth, S.W. 1261; T. Chapman, S.W. 1524; W. C. Caxton, S.W. 1475; T. Weaver, J.W. 820; J. Welch, 3; E. H. Winslow, 857; E. Cobbett, 1293; H. Vickery, 1475; T. Stevens, 1475; and F. Merly. The lodge having been opened, the business of the evening was commenced by raising Bros. Childs and Harrison to the Third Degree, the work being efficiently performed by the W.M. The W.M. then proceeded to install Bro. E. W. Clarke, the W.M. elect into the chair, according to ancient custom, the ceremony being correctly and impressively performed. The newly-installed W.M. then invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Edmonds, I.P.M.; Lee, (W.M. 1524) S.W.; Phillips, J.W.; Smith, P.M., Treasurer; Little, Prov. G.S.W. Middlesex, Secretary; Wigglesworth, S.D.; Garnar, J.D.; Riches, I.G.; and Gilbert, T. The usual addresses were then delivered in a manner that elicited the warm applause of all present. The W.M. then proceeded to initiate Messrs. Revill, Crane, Masters, and Percheron into Freemasonry, and from the very excellent manner in which he performed the ceremony satisfied the brethren that he is well skilled in the noble science and well able to discharge the duties of the chair. The lodge

having been closed the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet served under the personal superintendence of Bro. T. T. Wilcox. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. "The Health of the I.P.M., Bro. Edmonds, was proposed by the W.M., who took that opportunity of presenting him with a Past Master's jewel which had been voted by the lodge at the previous meeting. Bro. Edmonds, P.M., responded in suitable terms. Bro. Revill responded for "The Initiates;" Bro. Rose, P.M. 73, for "The Visitors;" Bro. Little, P.M. for "The P.M.'s;" and Bro. Lee for "The Officers." The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

HAMPTON COURT.—Burdett Lodge (No. 1293).—On Saturday, the 27th ult., this lodge held an emergency meeting at the Mitre Hotel. Present: Bros. Frederick Keily, the W.M.; D. W. Pearce, S.W. and W.M. elect; J. W. Berrie, J.W.; R. W. Little, Prov. G.S.W., Treasurer; H. G. Buss, Prov. G. Treasurer, Secretary; Southwell, S.D.; Sindell, I.G.; Dr. Clayton Palmer, Cobbett, Sadler, Gordon, and others. The visitors were Bros. W. Hammond, P.P.S.G.D.; G. P. Gillard, 657; B. H. H. Birchill, P.M. 795, P.P.G.S.B., and others. The lodge was summoned for the special purpose of initiating three gentlemen into the Order, but two of them were unavoidably compelled to forego this opportunity, and the only one that attended was Mr. Charles H. Brookfield, the candidate of the W.M. The chair was taken by Bro. Keily at half-past three, and the business at once proceeded with by the reading of the summons calling the emergency. The ballot having been taken, Mr. Brookfield was unanimously elected, introduced in due form, and initiated; the ceremony being performed by the W.M. in a most perfect and masterly style. This being an extraordinary meeting there was no lodge banquet, but the brethren partook, at their own expense, of an excellent dinner provided by Bro. Sadler, after which the usual toasts were given and responded to. Bro. Little, Prov. S.G.W., responding for "The Prov. Grand Officers." "The Health of the W.M." was proposed and most heartily received, as also that of "The Master elect, Bro. David W. Pearce, and were duly responded to by both those brethren. Bro. Buss returned thanks for the rest of the officers of the lodge. The candidate and the visitors, each and all, were complimented by the W.M., and they severally replied, and expressed the great satisfaction they had experienced at the admirable way in which the lodge was worked, and their thanks for the hearty reception they had individually experienced. After a most enjoyable evening, enlivened by a few very good songs, the brethren separated at an early hour. The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Colonel Burdett, sent a message to the W.M., regretting that he was unavoidably compelled to be absent on this occasion.

SOUTHALL.—Acacia Lodge (No. 1309).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, 23rd ult., at the Prince Alfred Hotel. There were present: Bros. Charles Horsley, P.P.G.R. Middlesex, P.M., W.M.; Charles Anderson Ferrier, S.W.; Charles George Rushworth, J.W.; J. W. George, S.D.; Robert Palmer Tebb, D.C.; H. E. A. D'Arcy, W.S.; Henry Cutness, Tyler; J. Davies, Rev. T. W. Cave, E. Madders, J. W. J. Hughes, J. Sutcliff, W. Sjöberg, A. Ranger, &c. Visitors: Bros. Wm. Wiles, W.M. 173; T. Herman, 264. Bro. C. Horsley, W.M., presided, and was well supported by his officers. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, September 28th, were read and unanimously confirmed. The ballots for initiation were in each case declared to be unanimous in favour of admission. Mr. A. Ranger was initiated. Bro. J. Sutcliff, was passed. Bro. Sjöberg was raised, all the work being well done. Some candidates were proposed for initiation. The lodge was closed. Bro. Rev. Thos. Cave Wells was appointed Secretary, Bro. H. Kenward, Sec., having resigned in consequence of ill health. A banquet followed.

FELTHAM.—Elliot Lodge (No. 1567).—A lodge of emergency, being the first meeting of this, the youngest lodge in the Province of Middlesex, was held on Thursday, the 25th ult., under the most favourable auspices, at the Railway Hotel, Feltham. Amongst the brethren present were:—Bros. J. Mason, W.M.; F. Green, S.W.; W. Dunham, J.W.; J. Nichols, S.D.; J. Ireton, J.D.; S. L. Green, D.C., acting as I.G.; Howe, P.G. Steward (Treasurer); J. Elliott, Secretary; T. W. Clarke, W.S.; Harris, Pemberton, Nichols, and others; W. Bro. Cottebrune, P.G. Pursuivant, acting as P.M. The lodge was opened in the First Degree, and the W.M. immediately proceeded to business, the first on the notice being to ballot for the brethren who were proposed at the installation meeting as joining members. The ballot was then taken for the four gentlemen named in the summons for initiation, which was in each case unanimous. The W.M. then proceeded with the ceremony of initiation in a most solemn and impressive manner, which he performed not only to the satisfaction, but we may add admiration of the brethren present, and after his admirable working we can only re-echo the sentiments expressed by the R. W. Prov. G.M., Col. Burdett, that we congratulate the lodge on having such a W.M. After several propositions for new members had been received, the lodge was closed in the usual manner, and the brethren sat down to refreshment, after partaking of which the usual toasts were given and responded to in truly Masonic manner. Bro. Howe, as Treasurer to the lodge informed the brethren that while he should at all times like to see them enjoy themselves at the festive board, yet they must not forget the W.M. was anxious to take up as large a list as he possibly could for the Girls' School, for which institution he was standing as Steward, to which appeal several of the brethren heartily responded, and over twenty guineas was put down as a start on the list, several intimating their intention of doing more before the festival, and the Treasurer hoped the lodge itself would be able, if not on

the first occasion to qualify as a Vice President, to at least vote a good sum towards it, as he was pleased to inform the brethren that the lodge was really in the happy position of being out of debt, and having funds in hand on this their first meeting, which was not often the case after incurring the heavy expenses they all knew were attendant on starting a new lodge. The enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the singing of some of the brethren and especially by the recitations of Bro. F. Green, the S.W., one of which was entitled the "Gift of the Gab" and met with rapturous applause. Bro. Austin responded to "The Health of the Initiates," thanking the members for having elected them members of the Craft, and expressing their intention of working zealously as Masons; and assuring the W.M. how deeply they were impressed with the ceremony through which they had passed. The officers responded individually, stating that it was their intention of carrying out their respective duties to the best of their ability. The S.W. trusted that in a short time the words of the W.M. would be verified, that this lodge should stand A 1 in the province. The Tyler's toast, brought this very pleasant evening to a close.

Mark Masonry.

LEICESTER.—Fowke Lodge (No. 19).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Thursday, 25th November, and was attended by the R.W. Bro. W. Kelly, P. Prov. G.M.M.; Bros. G. Toller, jun., W.M.; J. M. McAllister, I.P.M.; S. S. Partridge, A. M. Duff, and W. Weare, P.M.'s; C. Stretton, S.W.; W. Sculthorpe, J.W., and many other officers and members of the lodge. The only visitor was Bro. T. Worthington, 30. Of the four candidates for advancement only Bro. C. J. McBride put in an appearance, and he was duly advanced to the Degree of Mark Master. The W.M. afterwards gave the lecture on the Tracing Board of the degree for the first time in this lodge. Some discussion ensued as to the propriety of inviting the Grand Master to hold the next moveable Grand Lodge at Leicester, and it was at length unanimously resolved to do so, the members doubtless being influenced in their determination by a recollection of the great success which attended the former visit of Grand Lodge in 1870, and the advantage which accrued to this lodge therefrom. The lodge was shortly afterwards closed, and the members adjourned to refreshment.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Lodge (Time Immemorial).—An ordinary meeting was held at the Masonic Hall on Thursday, November 25th. Present: Bros. John Dutton, W.M.; Dr. Hopkins, P.M. and Past G.J.W., Chaplain; Moutrie, as S.W.; Carey, J.W.; Cater, Sec.; James Dutton, Treas.; Braham, as M.O.; Rubie, S.O.; Cater, J.O.; Mitchell, as J.D.; Major Preston, I.G.; Slater, Tyler; Mann, Murliss, and others. Dr. Hopkins acted as S.D. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read and confirmed, Bros. Brown, Brooke, Radway and Howse, after a favourable ballot, were introduced and duly advanced to the Degree of M.M.M. by the W.M. The lecture, which was to have been given by the Chaplain, was deferred owing to the lateness of the hour. Several matters of interest only to the members were discussed and settled, and the lodge was closed at 10 o'clock.

Red Cross of Constantine.

ORIGINAL OR PREMIER CONCLAVE OF ENGLAND.—The November meeting of the above conclave was held on Monday last, at the Café Royal, under the presidentship of Sir Knight Thomas Burdett Yeoman, M.P.S. We also noticed Sir Knights Colonel Burdett, R. W. Little, P.M.W.S., Grand Treasurer; Colonel Peters, Angelo J. Lewis, P.M.W.S.; H. C. Le-vander, P.M.W.S.; J. T. Moss, P.M.W.S.; Hubbard, P.M.W.S.; J. G. Marsh, P.M.W.S.; J. Cubitt, P.M. W.S.; George Kenning, P.M.W.S.; Rev. P.M. Holden, Rev. — Vaughan, Howe, Mason, Boyd, Hill, Thomas, Dubois, and R. G. Hall. The minutes of the last assembly of the conclave were read and confirmed. Sir Knight Robert Wentworth Little then installed the following brethren into the Order:—Bros. George Townsend, P.M. 820; Frank Green, P.M. 1445; S. L. Green, 1445; Joshua Nunn, P.M. 134; J. M. Stedwell, P.M. 7; E. J. Dodd, 127; F. D. R. Copestick, 869. A committee was then appointed to carry out the arrangements for a complimentary dinner to the Right Hon. the Lord Skelmersdale, P.G.V. It was also proposed and carried that non-dining members be permitted to commute their annual dues of half-a-guinea on payment of five guineas as a life subscription. Sir Knight the Right Hon. the Earl of Jersey, P.G.S.G., was proposed and seconded as a re-joining member.

Scotland.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. John (No. 32).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place in their own unique little hall, 213, Buchanan-street, on the 16th ult. Bro. W. Bell, the R.W.M., presided, and was ably supported by Bros. D. M. Nelson, D.M.; T. Fletcher, I.P.M.; D. Horne, J.W.; R. B. Dalziel, Treas.; T. J. Smithe, James McMillan, and others. Among the visitors, who were in large numbers, we noticed J. B. Macnair, R.W.M. 332; J. F. Mitchell, R.W.M. 102; A. C. Paterson, 102; J. Taylor, 27; A. A. Smith, P.M. 354; Seth Dory, 102; J. C. Shand, 102; T. Barnett, 553; J. Douglas, 354; G. B. Adams, 360 ("Freemason?"), and others. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed. Mr. Thos. Gavans received the E.A. Degree, Bro. J. B. Macnair, R.W.M. of Lodge Union, 332, performing

the ceremony with his usual ability. The R.W.M. then called the attention of the members of the lodge to the position of the sufferers from the late fire in Bridgeton, and proposed that a sum of five guineas be voted from the funds of the lodge for their relief, which was unanimously carried. A subscription sheet was also passed round the lodge, which procured an extra sum of £8 10s., making in all the sum of £13 15s., raised that night. And in order that the absent members of the lodge might have an opportunity of contributing, a committee was appointed to wait upon them for their subscriptions, which we have no doubt will be both numerous and liberal.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Thistle and Rose (No. 73).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place in the hall, 170, Buchanan-street, on the 16th ult. Bro. Geo. McDonald, the much-respected R.W.M., took the chair, and opened the lodge with the assistance of his office-bearers, Bro. W. Macgregor in the S.W. chair; Bro. John H. Hanbidge in that of J.W.; J. Bannerman, D.M.; G. W. Wheeler, Chaplain; W. D. Hay, S.D.; and others. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was raised to the Sublime Degree, which was conferred upon Bro. J. Wright, the R.W.M., officiating. The lodge was then reduced to the E.A., and the nomination of office-bearers for the next year proceeded with, the result of which was as follows: R.W.M., Bro. G. McDonald; S.W., Bro. A. McLeod; J.W., Bro. J. H. Hanbidge; Treas., A. S. Ampleford; Sec., R. Richards; S.D., W. Kay; J.D., J. Yulle; Chaplain, G. W. Wheeler; P.G.S., Jas. McQueen; S.S., J. Kinnard; J.S., G. McDonald; Dir. of Cers., W. McFarlane; B. B., Andrew Young; Std. B., A. McMurray; Sword B., W. Smith; I.G., B. Levey; O.G., B. Kay. The nomination appeared to give great satisfaction to the members.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Thistle (No. 87).—The regular fortnightly meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 30, Hope-street, on Tuesday evening, 16th ult., Bro. J. W. Burns, R.W.M., in the chair, and was supported by Bros. John Miller, I.P.M.; James Love, S.M.; James Booth, S.W.; William Wilson, J.W.; Archd. McPhee, Interim Sec.; John McLachlan, J.D.; Samuel McPhee, P.G.S.; I. G. Ritchie, S.S.B., &c., with a very large attendance of members and visiting brethren present, including Bros. Thomas B. Bell, 3½; David Proudfoot, 3½; Alex. Callen, 116; Robert Reid, 204; John Stewart, 360; John Adams, 360; Joseph C. Campbell, 553. The lodge was opened on the First or E.A. Degree, and the minutes of last meeting were read and adopted. The Auditors' report for the past year was then read and unanimously adopted. Said report showed that the lodge is in a healthy and prosperous condition, and reflects credit on the respective office-bearers. At this juncture the I.G. informed the R.W.M. that Bro. James Wallace, P.M. 360, wished to be admitted into the lodge. The R.W.M. immediately stated to the brethren that he could not, in justice to himself, as Master of the lodge, admit Bro. Wallace, seeing that the letter he received some time ago from the P.G.L. of Glasgow, suspending him (Bro. Wallace) had not as yet been countermanded by the P.G.L. He had nothing personally to say against Bro. Wallace, but on these grounds he was sorry he could not admit him. The brethren unanimously concurred in this decision. The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year then took place, when the following brethren were duly elected, viz.: Bros. James Booth, R.W.M.; J. W. Burns, I.P.M.; William Wilson, D.M.; John Ritchie, S.M.; Walter Stewart, S.W.; Robert Bair, J.W.; Thomas Paton, Treas.; Archd. McPhee, Sec.; John McLachlan, S.D.; James Cossar, J.D.; Samuel McPhee, P.G.S.; John Miller, S.S.; John Fife, J.S.; W. Pollock, S.S.B.; Robertson, J.S.B.; Andrew Coventry, Chaplain; S. Gunning, I.G.; and James Sinclair, Tyler. The foregoing office-bearers were then installed into their respective offices, the ceremony of installation being performed by Bro. J. W. Burns, I.P.M., in an able manner. The lodge was then transferred to refreshment, and placed under the care of the J.W., Bro. Booth, the Master (newly-elected) in the chair. The usual toasts were given and responded to. "The P.G. Lodge of Glasgow" was proposed from the chair, and coupled with the name of Bro. J. W. Burns, who made a suitable reply. After spending a short time in song and sentiment, the lodge was retransferred, and closed in due and proper form.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Mark (No. 102).—The installation of office-bearers of this lodge elected for the ensuing year took place in their hall, 213, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on Monday evening, the 22nd ult. The retiring R.W.M., Bro. James F. Mitchell, presided, supported on the dais by Bros. Alex. McDonald, P.M.; Lindsay Gray, D.M.; Alex. Clark, 102; John Baird, P.M. 3½; A. M. Wright, R.W.M. 103; W. J. E. Dobson, R.W.M. 571; and A. Arrick Smith, P.M. 354. The lodge having been opened on the First Degree, Bro. A. C. Paterson, acting Secretary, read the minutes of two previous meetings, which were approved of and passed. The Chairman then said that before commencing the business of the evening he had to propose that honorary affiliation to the lodge be conferred upon Bros. John Baird and W. J. E. Dobson, which being unanimously agreed to, they were affiliated accordingly, together with Bro. Arrick Smith (upon whom it had been agreed at a previous meeting to bestow the same compliment), the R.W.M. officiating. Bros. Baird and Dobson having returned thanks for the honour done them, the business of installation was proceeded with, in so far as regarded the office-bearers present. Prior to commencing, however, the chairman read a letter of apology for absence from the R.W.M. elect, in which the latter stated that he had unfortunately sprained his ankle, and was laid up; and his medical attendant would not allow him to go out as yet. He trusted, however, that nothing would prevent him from being present at next meeting. The following is the new list of office-bearers, with exception of the D.M., who has yet to be appointed by the Master, and the Chaplain, also yet to be appointed:—

R.W.M., James O. Smith; I.P.M., J. F. Mitchell; S.M., T. Kerr; S. W., J. Renton; J.W., J. Thomson; Treasurer, A. C. Paterson; Secretary, John Monteath; S.D., Hugh McMillan; J.D., Jno. Leckie; B.B., Thos. Halket; D. of Ceremonies, D. H. Miller; D. of Music, D. J. Forfar; Prov. G.V. Steward, N. N. Currie; Sen. Steward, Seth Dory; I.G., George Littlejohn; Tyler, J. Burton Hardie. After the installation proceedings the lodge adjourned for a short time to refreshment, at which, after the usual preliminary toasts, the Chairman gave that of "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow," coupled with the name of its S.M., Bro. John Baird. In the course of replying to the compliment, Bro. Baird announced to the brethren that Bro. F. A. Barrow, Prov. G. Depute Master, had sent in his resignation of office, which he (Bro. Baird) must say he thought was the worst stroke that had befallen the P.G.L. for a long time. Thereafter the Chairman proposed the toast of "Lodge St. Mark," coupled with the health of one of their trustees, Bro. Alexander Clark, who was about to depart on a visit to the Holy Land. They all wished him good health, with a happy and pleasant voyage, and safe return; and when he came back they would ask him to give them a lecture on his travels. The toast was pledged with Masonic enthusiasm, and duly acknowledged by Bro. Clark, who in so doing stated that it was 25 years since he was made a member of that lodge and 20 years since he had last visited it. It was true, he said that, he was one of the trustees on their property in that building. Their property was a very valuable one, and he had no doubt it would yield them a very good reversion, and he would give them every assistance he could in having it secured for the benefit of the lodge. In replying to the toast of "The Past Masters of 102" Bro. McDonald also took occasion to refer to the question of the lodge property, distinctly repudiating on his own behalf any design of taking advantage of the terms of the deed, and emphatically avowing that the property must, as was intended, be that of the lodge. After one or two other toasts the lodge was recalled to labour; when, on the motion of the Chairman, the sum of five guineas was voted from the lodge funds in aid of the sufferers from the recent great fire at Bridgeton. There being no other business, the lodge was then closed in due and ancient form.

PARTICK.—Lodge St. Mary's (No. 117).—The regular monthly meeting of this prosperous lodge was held on Wednesday evening, the 17th ult., in St. Mary's Hall, Partick, the business before the meeting being the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year. Bro. Andrew Brunton, I.P.M., occupied the chair, supported on the dais by Bros. W. Wylie, R.W.M.; Thomas Granger, P.M.; John Bain, D.M.; John M. Wylie, Treas.; John Maitland, Sec.; and Alfred Laurence, Chaplain; David Peacock, S.W.; Andrew Agnew, J.W.; David Forrest, S.D.; John McSwan, J.D.; W. Borland; James Donaldson, &c., and a very large and respectable attendance of members and visiting brethren. Among the latter were Bros. William Rule, Lodge Westland, Kilwinning, Hokitika, N.Z., No. 467 (S.C.); William Richmond, 362; Robert Nicol, 419; John McClure, 343; James Barton, 543; and Ferguson, 543 ("Freemason"). The Secretary read the minutes of last regular and two emergency meetings, which were approved of. The auditors then gave a statement of the income and expenditure of the past year, which was very satisfactory, the income being over £370. It may be mentioned that about £24 10s. was given towards charitable purposes during the past year. The election of office-bearers then took place, when the following brethren were duly elected:—W. Wylie, R.W.M.; Andrew Brunton, P.M.; John Bain, D.M.; James Donaldson, S.M.; David Peacock, S.W.; Andrew Agnew, J.W.; Rev. — Loftus, Chaplain; Alfred Laurence, Sec.; J. W. Wylie, Treas.; John McSwan, S.D.; Thomas Wallace, J.D.; Thomas Miller, S.B.; John Calderwood, S.S.; John Boyd, J.S.; David McFarlane, I.G.; and James Bruce, Tyler. The office-bearers were then installed by Bro. Andrew Brunton, P.M., in a most efficient manner.

GREENOCK.—Lodge St. John (No. 175).—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 16th ult. Bro. Alex. M'Master, R.W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Urie, D.M.; James Rodger, Treas.; W. Wright, jun., Sec.; J. M. Pollock, S.W.; J. M'Quarrie, J.W.; John Fleming, S. D.; and J. Mitchell, J.D. The lodge having been opened in due and ancient form, three candidates were initiated, the ceremony being performed by the Master and his officers. The business of the evening having been disposed of, the R.W.M., in proposing "The Health of Sir Michael Robert Shaw-Stewart, Bart., M.W. Grand Master Mason of Scotland," made reference to the very narrow escape that honoured and respected brother had in the late very severe gale in the Bay of Biscay, while proceeding in his yacht to the Mediterranean, and expressed the great joy they all felt that so valuable a life had been spared. He moved that a letter be sent from the brethren of the lodge to Sir Michael, congratulating him on his escape. The motion and remarks of the R.W.M. were received with the greatest enthusiasm. The election of office-bearers for the lodge took place on the 25th ult., a report of which will appear in our next. During the year now drawing to a close no fewer than 120 names have been added to the membership of the lodge, thereby affording evidence of the popularity of the R.W.M. and his office-bearers. It is well known that the success of any lodge depends a good deal on the popularity of the Master and the indefatigability of the Secretary and other officers, and we are proud to be able to report that if Scotland were sought through it would be difficult to find men more devoted to the interests of the Craft, or who carried out the duties they undertook with more anxiety that they should be well performed.

The annual general meeting of this lodge was held on the 25th ult., in St. John's Hall, Cathcart-street, Bro. Alex. M'Master, R.W.M., presiding. The following

brethren were elected office-bearers for the ensuing session and duly installed into their respective offices, viz.:—Alex. M'Master, R.W.M.; Robert Urie, D.M.; Charles Grey, P.M.; Donald Anderson, O.M.; Duncan M'Intyre, S.W.; Thomas Napier Douglas, J.W.; Wm. Wright, jun., Secretary; James Rodger, Treasurer; James Scott, S.D.; James M'Bryde, J.D.; John Fleming, 1st S.S.; David Anderson, 2nd S.S.; James C. Mitchell, 1st J.S.; Edward Roberts, 2nd J.S.; Stephenson Stewart, I.G.; Alex. Cruden, Tyler. The annual statement of the income and expenditure of the lodge was read and gave much satisfaction, showing the lodge to be in a most flourishing condition. A hearty vote of thanks was awarded to the retiring officebearers, and to the Depute Master for his valuable assistance during the past session. The meeting, which was of the most cordial description, was largely attended by the brethren.

CAMPSIE.—Lodge St. John Caledonian (No. 195).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held in their lodge room (Lennox Arms Hotel, Campsie), on Wednesday evening, 24th ult. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. Dr. Wilson, R.W.M., the chair was occupied by Bro. John Stewart, P.M., now residing in Glasgow. The principal business of the meeting was the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, the result of which was as follows:—Bros. John Fiddes, R.W.M.; Dr. Wilson, I.P.M.; Robert Torrance, D.M.; Andrew Hosie, S.M.; William Gray, S.W.; Andrew Brown, J.W.; Francis Paterson, Treas.; James Martin, Sec.; William Reid, Chaplain; James Ewing, S.D.; R. Hosie, J.D.; Dr. Allan Marshall, Architect; James Boyd, B.B.; James Stirling, S.S.; James Young, J.S.; David Robertson, I.G.; and Alexander Lindsay, Tyler.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Star (No. 219) held their regular meeting in their lodge room, 12, Trongate, on the 22nd ult. The meeting was largely attended by the members, and a more than usual number of visiting brethren were present. Bro. J. Morgan, R.W.M., took the chair, and was supported by Bros. J. Martin, D.M.; W. Henderson, S.M.; J. Gaith, S.W.; J. Horn, J.W. B. Stewart, Treas.; J. Crawford, Sec.; and others. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, Messrs. Geo. Westcott and Geo. Forrest were introduced as candidates, and received the First Degree, the R.W.M. officiating. Bro. J. Duthie then read the report of the committee appointed to take the inventory of the lodge property, &c., which was satisfactory. Bro. Alston submitted the auditors' report, which also gave satisfaction. The election of office-bearers for the next year was then proceeded with, and the following was the result:—J. Morgan, R.W.M.; Jasper Martin, D.M.; W. Andrews, S.M.; J. Horn, S.W.; D. Mearns, J.W.; B. Smart, Treas.; F. Dow, Sec.; R. Watson, Chap.; J. Brown, S.D.; D. Taylor, J.D.; J. Laurence, B.B.; J. Park, S.S.; Charles Stirling, J.S.; W. Jameson, Director of Music; J. Harper, Std. B.; P. McDonald, P.G.S.; D. Miller, M.C.; Archd. McNicoll, Architect; W. Elliot, Jeweller; W. J. Elliot, I.G.; Pearson, O.G. These office-bearers being all present, the installation was commenced by Bro. Joseph Wilson, P.M., installing the R.W.M., D.M., and S.M., after which Bro. Morgan, the R.W.M., installed the remaining office-bearers. The carefulness and precision which he displayed in performing this important duty were much admired by all present. The lodge was then called to harmony. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and followed by a song from Bro. Jameson. The R.W.M. then gave "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow," coupled with Bro. Bain, P.M. 103, and B.B. P.G.L. Bro. Campbell followed with an excellent song. Bro. Bain replied in brief and choice language. The R.W.M. then said he had now a very pleasant and important duty to perform; it was to ask their much respected P.M., Bro. Wilson, to accept from the members of the lodge a small testimony of the high esteem and regard in which they hold him. The presentation took the form of a very handsome marble timepiece and a P.M.'s jewel. On attaching the jewel to Bro. Wilson's breast, he assured him that the pleasure it gave was very great indeed, and wished him long life to wear it. The following inscription was on the timepiece:—"Presented along with a P.M.'s jewel by the members of Lodge Star, No. 219, to Bro. Joseph Wilson, P.M., as a token of fraternal affection and esteem, 22nd Nov., 1875." Bro. Wilson, in a speech, characterised by great good taste and feeling, returned thanks for the handsome testimonial, and the honour they had done him. Bro. McEwing then enlivened the proceedings by a song. The toast of "The Last Laid Stones" was then given from the chair, and replied to by the young brothers. Bro. Duthie then gave a short reading, "The Village Post," which was much appreciated. After a short time spent in harmony the lodge was closed, and all seemed well pleased with the night's proceedings.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Union (No. 332).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on the 16th ult., in the hall, 170, Buchanan-street. The R.W.M., Bro. J. B. Macnair, presided, supported by D. McKirdy, S.W.; Murray, J.W.; Fash, S.D.; Apporsen, J.D.; J. McInnes, Sec.; R. Mitchell, P.M.; J. Laird, Treas.; Wm. Bell, R.W.M. 3½; J. McInnes, S.W. 408; J. Booth, S.W. 87; and others. The lodge was opened. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. The result of the nomination of office-bearers for the next year, which took place at last meeting, was read. The R.W.M. then intimated that he had received notice that they could not have possession of the hall where they now met longer than next May. A committee was thereupon appointed to secure other premises to meet in, and report to the members at next meeting. The annual re-union of the members of the lodge was then taken up, and it was agreed to take the form of a supper and ball. A committee was then appointed to carry it out, and due notice would be given to the members when their arrangements were completed.

RUTHERGLEN.—Lodge St. John's Operative (No. 347).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their new Masonic Hall, Cathcart-street, Rutherglen, on Friday evening, 26th ult., Bro. John Cunningham, R.W.M., presiding; John Murdoch, S.W.; Thos. Alston, J.W., &c. The business before the meeting was the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, when the following brethren were duly elected, viz.: David Smart, R.W.M.; John Cunningham, I.P.M.; Matthew Abbott, D.M.; Thos. Muir, S.M.; John Murdoch, S.W.; Thomas Alston, J.W.; Alexander Warnock, Sec.; William Gardner, Treas.; William Young, S.D.; Alex. Robertson, J.D. Thomas Smith, P.G.S.; James Nichol, S.S.; Robert Hastie, J.S.; Andrew Pearson, Chaplain; James Downie, B.B.; Peter M. Ross, I.G.; and John Cairns, Tyler.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Caledonian Railway (No. 354) held their regular meeting in the Commercial Lodge Hall, 30, Hope-street, on the 17th ult. The R.W.M., Bro. Jas. Shaw, took the chair at seven o'clock, and opened the lodge for the dispatch of business. He was well supported by Bros. D. Buchanan, D.M.; A. A. Smith, P.M.; A. B. Ferguson, S.W.; Jas. Harley, J.W.; J. D. Colquhoun, Treas.; W. R. Dann, Sec.; J. Miller, P.M. 87; and others. After the reading of the minutes, which were passed, Bros. John Wright and George Anderson were entrusted. The election of office-bearers for the next year was proceeded with, and the following was the result:—James Shaw, R.W.M.; D. Buchanan, D.M.; W. H. Caldwell, S.M.; A. B. Ferguson, S.W.; John Harley, J.W.; D. K. Colquhoun, Treas.; R. A. McLean, Sec.; Leitch, S.D.; James Harley, J.D.; J. Shaw, S.S.; C. McKenzie, Jeweller; J. Douglas, B.B.; J. Allison, Std. B.; J. Coutts, Director of Music; Colin More, Director of Ceremonies; W. Dickie, B.B.; J. Pool, I.G.; J. Minnoch, O.G.; Read and Douglass, Auditors; McDonald, Reid, Dougall, D. K. Spiers, and R. Weatherspoon, General Committee; the R.W.M., S.W., and J.W., with Bros. Reed and Dougal, Benevolent Committee; the R.W.M., S.W., and J.W., with Bros. More and Ferguson, Clothing Committee. The R.W.M. then submitted the names of Bros. J. Johnston, 738, E.C., and J. Stewart, 360, for honorary affiliation into the lodge, which was agreed to, and performed by Bro. A. A. Smith, P.M. A sum of two pounds was then granted from the funds of the lodge to the fund, for relief of the sufferers at the recent fire at Bridgeton. At the instance of Bro. C. McKenzie a very animated and instructive discussion took place as to the actual position of honorary members and their privileges, which ended in a committee being appointed to examine into the matter, and report to the lodge at the next regular meeting. Three brethren were entrusted with it, Bro. Miller, P.M. 87, officiating.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Clair (No. 362).—The regular fortnightly meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, 25, Robertson-street, on Monday evening, the 22nd ult., Bro. William J. Hogg, R.W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. George Thallon, I.P.M.; Robert Glass, D.M.; Adam Rutherford, S.W.; Colin Galletly, J.W.; W. Pascoe, Treas.; George Fraser, Sec.; J. Brock, S.D., &c. There was a large turn out of the members, and a great number of visiting brethren, among whom were Bros. Robert S. Lyall, 4; John Knight, 73; Thomas Lawrie, 87; John McWaters, 17; W. Mitchell, 114; Allan Stevenson, 114; John Callen, 116; Thomas Gordon, 237; and W. Ferguson, 543 ("Freemason.") The lodge was opened on the Entered Apprentice Degree, and the Secretary read the minutes of last meeting, which were approved of. The Treasurer then read the financial statement of the lodge for the past year, which showed that the lodge is in a very satisfactory position. The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year then took place, when the following brethren were duly elected, viz.: Bros. William J. Hogg, R.W.M.; George Thallon, I.P.M.; Robert Glass, D.M.; William Dobbie, S.M.; Adam Rutherford, S.W.; Colin Galletly, J.W.; George Fraser, Sec.; William Pascoe, Treas.; Alex. Bowie, Chaplain; William Galbraith, S.D.; Mark Fox, J.D.; John Richardson, B.B.; David Pinto, P.G.S.; Robert McBroom, S.S.; Robert Leadbetter, J.S.; James Robertson, S.B.; Arch. Taylor, Org.; E. S. May, I.G.; and Thomas Warnock, Tyler. The brethren were then installed into their respective offices, Bro. G. Thallon, P.M., officiating in a very impressive manner. The first business brought forward by the newly-elected office-bearers was a motion to grant a sum of money towards the Bridgeton Fire Relief Fund. The motion was unanimously agreed to, and £4 4s. was voted towards the said fund as a first donation. The lodge was then transferred to refreshment, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. The R.W.M. proposed the P.G.L. of Glasgow, coupled with the name of Bro. G. Thallon, P.G.J.D. Bro. Thallon suitably replied. The "Visiting Brethren" were proposed and heartily received; the toast was coupled with the name of Bro. Wm. Ferguson, 543 ("Freemason"), who replied at some length. After spending some time in song and sentiment harmoniously together, the lodge was recalled to labour, and closed in due and ancient form by the R.W.M.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Clyde (No. 408).—The third annual festival of this lodge was held on Thursday evening, the 18th ult., in the Assembly Rooms, Bath-street, the large hall of which was profusely and tastefully decorated for the occasion with flags, banners, &c. Bro. Wm. Harper, R.W.M. of the lodge, presided, supported on the right and left by Bros. Duncan Downie, P.M.; J. S. Black, S.M.; Thomas Gordon, D.M.; James Stewart, Treas.; D. S. Mitchell, Sec.; Andrew Strathern, Chap.; Rev. R. Thomson, John Cunningham, R.W.M. No. 347; John Buchanan, John Clare, John Crosbie, &c. The general attendance of brethren, with their wives, sweethearts, children, and friends, filled the hall to overflowing. After tea the chairman delivered a brief address, in which he referred to the antiquity of Masonry, to its spread in our island from the ancient City of York, in England, and the an-

cient burgh of Kilwinning, as centres, respectively; and to its progress among us up to the present day, when the Prince of Wales was Grand Master Mason of England. He (the speaker) had great hopes that there would yet be more said about, and yet further progress made in Freemasonry among us, and especially that in Scotland we should by-and-by have such benevolent institutions as existed elsewhere, as schools for the education of the orphan or fatherless children of brethren, &c. In the course of his remarks the chairman took occasion to state that the Lodge Clyde was founded in 1860, since which time they had made in all 750 members, or at the rate of about 43 annually. At a later period in the evening the Rev. Robt. Thomson shortly addressed the meeting, giving some interesting reminiscences of his trip to the Continent and up the Mediterranean last year. The earlier portion of the evening was mainly occupied by an excellent concert, at which the artistes were Miss Marian Vallance, the greatly popular ballad vocalist; Mr. Jas. Ritchie, basso; Mr. George Clarence, tenor; and—a host in himself—Bro. James Houston, the perennial Scottish humorist, on whose each appearance the hall rang with uncontrollable laughter. Moreover, in lieu of an address by Bro. Blair, who was unavoidably absent, Mr. Max Gregor, the well known lecturer of the Kibble Art Palace, favoured the company with a recitation of that much admired morceau, "Little Jim." Immediately after the concert the hall was cleared for dancing, and an assembly concluded the proceedings of unquestionably the most successful of the Lodge Clyde festivals.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Athole (No. 413).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, the 23rd ult., in the Masonic Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, Bro. John Wallace, R.W.M., presiding; Colin McKenzie, S.W.; Daniel Leeds, J.W., and the other office-bearers in their respective places. The business before the meeting was the nomination of office-bearers for the ensuing year, and the following brethren were duly nominated. For R.W.M., J. L. Louttit; D.M., Walter Neilson; S.M., John Baikie; S.W., D. Leeds; J.W., A. Holms; Treas., Peter Agnew; Sec., Robert Graham; S.D., George Gourlay and William Robertson; J.D., William Grindlay; Chaplain, George Burnett; P.G. Steward, W. O'Brien; Stewards, D. Carmichael, John Harrower, George Pearson, and William Grindlay; I.G., W. Lockie; Tyler, Robert Gardner.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Glasgow (No. 441).—A meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 22, Struthers-street, Calton, on Friday night, the 26th ult. Business—Presentation to Bro. W. H. Jackson, I.P.M. The chair was occupied by Bro. Hugh Tulloch, R.W.M.; Bro. Sergt. James Wood, Senior Warden; and Peter McInnery, Junior Warden. The R.W.M. was supported on the dais by Bros. W. H. Jackson, I.P.M.; John Campbell, R.W.M. 128; James A. Goldie, Sec.; William Ferguson, 543 (Freemason). There were also present John Nagle, S.D.; John Booth, I.G.; John Mason (R.W.M. elect); Geo. Christie, Joseph Howat, John Brown, John Crosbie, William Findlay, J.W. 275; John Horn, Sec. 275; Andrew Clark, 275; Hugh Matheson, 275; Robert Jack, 128; James Thomson, 321; Wm. Mitchell, 347; and Andrew Crawford, Tyler, &c. The lodge having been duly constituted was transferred to refreshment, and placed under the care of the J.W., the R.W.M. proposed in succession the following toasts, which were enthusiastically responded to, viz.: "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince of Wales and other Members of the Royal Family," "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," "The Three Grand Lodges," "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow." Bro. J. Campbell, R.W.M. 128, replied. The R.W.M. then proposed the toast of the evening, "The Health and Prosperity of Bro. W. H. Jackson, I.P.M." In the course of an able address, the chairman said it gave him much pleasure in proposing the toast. Bro. Jackson had served the Lodge Glasgow faithfully as R.W.M. for two years, and the members considered it their duty to recognise his services by presenting him with a token of esteem for the able manner he conducted the affairs of the lodge during his term of office. The chairman then said,—Brother Jackson, the happy task is mine to present you, in the name of the members of the Lodge Glasgow, No. 441, with this handsome drawing-room (bronze) clock with two side ornaments, all under glass shades, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Bro. W. H. Jackson, P.M., by the brethren of Lodge Glasgow (441) as a token of respect, esteem, and appreciation of services rendered as R.W.M. during 1873-74. 26th Nov., 1875." Take it, Bro. Jackson, not for its intrinsic value, but as a memento of our regard for you; and as I believe you are about to take a partner for life, may many blessings attend you both. The toast was drunk with all the honours. Bro. Jackson made a feeling reply, thanking the brethren for the valuable presentation he had just received. He said—R.W. Sir, you mentioned the fact to me about three years ago, that it was a difficult task to reply on receiving a presentation on an occasion of this kind. I laughed at the idea; but, brethren, you have placed me in the position tonight that I feel inadequate to reply in suitable terms for the honour you have done me; but rest assured that I will at all times do my utmost to promote the interests of Freemasonry in general and this lodge in particular. "The Visiting Brethren" was proposed by the S.W. Bro. Campbell, R.W.M. 128, and Anderson, 103, replied. "The Lodge Glasgow" (441) was proposed by Bro. Jackson, P.M., in a very able style. Bro. Tulloch, R.W.M., replied. Bro. John Campbell, R.W.M. 128, proposed "The Masonic Press," which he did very efficiently, and pointed out that it was a great pity that the Masonic Press was not supported to a larger extent in Scotland. In England and America it was supported by every Freemason, and he trusted that it would also be better patronised in Scotland. He had much pleasure in coupling the toast with the name of Bro. Wm. Ferguson. Bro. Ferguson replied on behalf

of the "Freemason." Songs were sung during the evening by a number of the brethren, who heartily enjoyed themselves till 11 p.m., when "The Tyler's" toast was drunk. The lodge was called to labour, and closed in proper form.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Andrew's (No. 465).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, Garngad-road, on the 18th ult. The R.W.M., Bro. D. Price, took the chair prompt at 7.30 p.m., supported by Bros. James McLeish, S.M.; James Clark, S.W.; G. B. Davidson, J.W.; W. Campbell, Secretary; J. Morton, S.D.; and other office-bearers. Among the visiting brethren were Bros. William Phillips, R.W.M. 556; John McKechnie, Treasurer 556; Alexander Taylor, 87; and others. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. Bros. Cochrine, Davidson, and Blair were passed, Bro. Phillips, R.W.M. 556, officiating. The nomination of office-bearers for the next year was proceeded with. For R.W.M., Bros. D. Reid and D. Gilchrist; D.M., J. Fife, J. Clark, and J. McLeish; S.M., J. Mills, Hughes, and J. McLeish; S.W., G. B. Davidson and J. Jones; J.W., James Morton and Chambers; Treasurer, R. Donaldson; Secretary, W. Campbell; Chaplain, W. H. E. Bradshaw; S.D., J. Anderson and Charles Gibb; J.D., D. Anderson; Architect, D. Calderwood; B.B., D. McMaster; P.G.S., John McDonald; S.S., A. Clelland and J. Rodgers; J. Sts., J. Morrison, A. Leitch, W. Ferguson, and P. Ramsay; Standard Bearer, Andrew Heron; Sword Bearer, Charles McDonald; Jeweller, R. Maxwell; Director of Music, J. Caldwell; Director of Ceremonies, A. Ferguson, and T. L. Wright; I.G., P. Douglas; Tyler, P. Johnston; Auditors, J. Rodger and J. Fyfe. The subject of honorary membership was then brought up, and a most interesting and lively conversation took place, the R.W.M. and Bros. Annand and Phillips speaking at considerable length on the subject, which then dropped. A request from the R.W.M. of Lodge Busby St. John, No. 458, to do them the favour of conferring the M.M. Degree on two members of that lodge was then read and agreed to, and Bros. Stewart and Walker (St. John's Busby, 458), along with Bros. W. Davidson, J. Cochrine, and Blair, of the Lodge St. Andrew, 465, received the Third Degree, the R.W.M. officiating.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Vincent (No. 553).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, Kent Road, on Thursday evening, the 18th inst., Bro. J.R. McDougall, R.W.M., in the chair; Bro. A. C. Hunter, S.W.; and Bro. John Best, J.D., acting J.W. There was a fair attendance of members and a few visiting brethren present, among whom were Bros. G. W. Wheeler, 73, and W. Ferguson, 543 ("Freemason.") The business before the meeting (according to advertisement) was that of passing. The Secretary (Bro. Halley) read the minutes of previous meetings, which were not adopted till 11 p.m. consequently the working of the Second Degree was deferred until the next meeting.

MARYHILL.—Lodge Maryhill (No. 510).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Main-street, Maryhill, on Wednesday evening, 10th ult., Brother John Lockhart, R.W.M., in the chair, supported by Brothers John McKay, D.M.; Alexander Nevey, S.M.; Hugh Niven, P.M.; Matthew Carey, S.W.; Donald McLachlan, J.W.; James Kay, S.D.; John Govan, Treasurer; P. F. Cragie, Secretary; and others. There was a large attendance of members and a number of visiting brethren present. The Secretary read the minutes of last meeting, which were adopted. Two gentlemen previously proposed were then balloted for and accepted, viz., Corporal William Lynn and Mr. William Murray, and those gentlemen being present, were then admitted and received the E.A. Degree at the hands of Bro. Matthew Carey, S.W. Brother Sergeant J. Drew, 389, E.C., was obligated by Brother William Ferguson, R.W.M. 543, an affiliated member of the lodge. The R.W.M. then stated the next business before the meeting was the nomination of office-bearers for the coming year, and the following brethren were duly nominated, viz., Bros. John McKay, R.W.M.; John Lockhart, I.P.M.; Alexander Nevey, D.M.; Sergeant Matthew Carey, S.M.; Donald McLachlan, S.W.; James Kay, J.W.; John Govan, Treasurer; P. F. Cragie, Secretary; Matthew Hart, S.D.; John Kirk, J.D.; Rev. W. S. Shanks, Chaplain; D. McNaughton, Architect; George Finister, Jeweller; Alexander McFarlane, B.B.; Corporal Heathcote, Director of Music; William Aitken, S.S.; Joseph Clark, Inner Guard; and Daniel Brogan, Tyler. The Festival Committee appointed at last meeting reported progress, and said the festival would take place on St. John's-night, or as near the 27th December as possible, to suit the convenience of the members. There being no further business, the lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Marie Stuart (No. 541).—The fortnightly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, the 8th ult., in the Masonic Hall, Prince of Wales Terrace, Crosshill, Bro. Julius Brodè, R.W.M., in the chair; Bros. John Fraser, acting S.W.; R. A. Buchanan, acting J.W.; the other office-bearers and a number of brethren present. The Secretary read the minutes of last regular and one emergency meeting, which were adopted. An application was then read from a gentleman for admission into the Order, and to become a member of this lodge, which was favourably received, and being forward was admitted, and received the E.A. Degree at the hands of Bro. Brodè, R.W.M. A brother was then affiliated a joining member of the lodge. The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was then duly performed, after which they were installed with office by Bro. Julius Brodè, I.P.M., viz.: Bros. W. McG. Mason, R.W.M.; William Gillies, D.M.; Samuel

Findlater, S.M.; John Fraser, S.W.; Andrew Hillcoat, J.W.; Robt. A. Buchanan, Treas.; Robert Walker, jun., Sec.; Robert Walker, sen., Chaplain; James Murray, S.D.; Charles Rattray, J.D.; Thomas Fyfe, D.C.; William Schobb, Dir. M.; Robert Inglis, P.S.; John Thomson, I.G.; James Minnoch, Tyler. This brought the business to a close. The lodge was then closed in ancient form.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Clydesdale (No. 556).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, the 15th ult., in their hall, 106, Rose-Street, S.S., Bro. Wm. Phillips, R.W.M., in the chair, supported by the following office bearers:—Bros. J. Russell, D.M.; John McNaught, S.M.; J. B. McNaught, S.W.; John Howie, J.W.; John McKechnie, Treas.; G. B. Vuill, Sec.; J. Phillips, B.B., and others. There was a full attendance of members, and a number of visiting brethren present, including Bros. James Shaw, R.W.M. 354; G. C. H. McNaught, I.P.M. 275; David Ronald, S.W. 275; Wm. Findlay, J.W. 275; John Horn, Sec. 275; Wm. Ferguson, R.W.M. 543 ("Freemason"); D. Hodge, 202; J. Watt, jun., 219, and others. The lodge was opened on the E.A. Degree, and the Secretary read minutes of last meeting, which were adopted. Eight gentlemen were admitted into the First Degree of Freemasonry by Bro. Ferguson, viz., Messrs. William Dick, Williams Reynolds, James Campbell, Robert Gardner, John Gardner, William Hart, Andrew Gillespie, and Walter Gow. The lodge was closed in due form by the R.W.M.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Dramatic (No. 571).—The bi-monthly meeting of this lodge was held in St. Mark's Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, at 3 o'clock, on the 17th inst. A letter from the R.W.M. was read, which explained that it was impossible for him to be with them. The S.W., Bro. H. W. Jackman, was placed in the chair, and was supported by Bros. Houston, D.M.; Hardie, (acting) S.W.; B. Sivewright, J.W.; D. Campbell, Secretary; Miller, P.M. 87; J. H. Burns, P.M. 87; William Phillips, R.W.M. 556; J. M. Oliver, S.W. 360; W. Bisland, J.W. 408; Peter Brownlee, S.D. 3½; and others. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Thomas Goodsire was initiated, Bro. Miller P.M. 87, officiating. Bros. Weir, Leslie, and Goodsire were passed, Bro. Phillips (R.W.M. 556) officiating; when Bros. W. Forsyth, Thomas Goodsire, and L. Mitchell were raised by Bro. J. M. Oliver, S.W. 360.

GLASGOW.—Chapter Govandale (No. 117).—The regular meeting of this chapter was held in the chapter rooms, Portland-buildings, Govan, on the 25th ult. Present: Comps. R. Muir, Z.; J. Sutherland, H.; J. Miller, N.; R. Allan, S.E.; C. McKenzie, Chapter 50; J. Davis, 69; G. B. Adams ("Freemason") &c. The principal part of the business transacted was that of fixing an annual test fee of 2s. 6d. and making arrangements to procure new clothing, &c., for the use of the chapter. A short lecture on the Mark Degree was given by Comp. McKenzie. The chapter was then closed in due form.

GLASGOW.—Chapter Cathedral (No. 67) held their regular meeting in the chapter rooms, 22, Struthers-street, on the 23rd ult., Comp. J. Duthie, M.E.Z., presided; Comps. Purdee, H.; G. W. Wheeler, acting J.; Bisland, 1st Soj.; Merser, 2nd Soj.; Dicker, 3rd Soj.; J. Wover, Treas.; J. M. E. Goldie, S.E.; and others. The meeting was well attended, and the work got through was the Mark, Excellent, and R.A. Degrees, all of which were performed in the usual able style of this chapter. The brothers who received the degrees were Bro. Jasper Martin, Lodge Star, and Bro. T. H. Wright, Lodge Clydesdale. Arrangements were then entered into about the annual supper, a committee being appointed to see it carried out. The chapter was then closed in due form.

CONSECRATION OF A NEW LODGE IN LIVERPOOL.

The ceremony of consecration of the Prince Arthur Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, No. 1570, took place on Wednesday, the 24th day of November, at the Masonic Rooms, 80, North Hill-street, Toxteth-park, Liverpool. There was a large gathering of brethren at the business portion of the proceedings. Bro. R. Wylie, P. Prov. G.S.D., P. Prov. G.D.C. of West Lancashire, who had been appointed by Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M., P.G.M.W.L., to perform the interesting ceremony of consecration, took the chair at three o'clock, and appointed the following as his officers:—Bros. W. C. Deeley, P.G.J.W., as P.M.; E. Pierpoint, P. Prov. G.S.D., S.W.; J. W. Turley, P.G.J.D., J.W.; Dr. J. K. Smith, P.G. Reg., Sec.; J. Pemberton, P.G.S., S.D.; S. E. Ibbs, P. Prov. G.S.B., J.D.; B. B. Marson, P.M. 1356, I.G.; J. M. Morgan, P.G.C., Chaplain; and J. Skeaf, P.G.O. Org. The other brethren present during the afternoon were Bros. H. S. Alpass, P.G. Sec. West Lancashire, the W.M. designate of the new lodge; T. Evans, P.M. 1356, the S.W. designate; A. Morrison, 594, the J.W. designate; T. Armstrong, P.G. Treas, G. Green, 1356; E. O. C. Rothwell, P.M. 1356; D. A. Crook, J. McKune, P.M. 216; A. Stephens, P. Prov. G.J.D. Cheshire; J. Cliffe, C. Costegan, J.D. 1356; H. Williams, P.M. 249; J. Croxton, 249; J. Kenwright, T. Nickson, 1356; J. Horner, 1356; R.

W. Gow, 823; T. Horne, S.W. 1356; R. Roberts, 1356; T. Howell, S. Hikins, A. Hodgkins, 241; J. H. Gregory, 667; E. Friend, P.P.G.J.D. Cheshire; R. Douglas; T. H. Arden, 1264; A. Davies, P.M. 1264; H. Worthington, 594; G. H. Thomas, 594; J. Queen, 1505; J. Muir, 823; P. Ball, P.G. Tyler; W. G. Veale, Organist. 249; J. Wood, Treas. 1093; C. Haswell, 203; W. S. Vines, P.M. 220; Jos. Jones, Sec. 1356; J. D. Crawford; W.M. 680; J. Kannair, 229; Joseph Bell, W.M. 1356; J. W. Johnson, 1356; T. Grey, 1276; W. Jones, 823; J. Lawson, 1473; E. H. Bryson, 823; R. Ing, P.M. 594; T. Bryant, P.M. 203; J. Archdeacon, 667; W. Hiles, 1299; H. J. Atkinson, 1505; P. M. Larsen, P.M. 494, &c.

The consecrating officer having addressed the brethren, called upon the acting Secretary to read the petition and warrant of the Prince Arthur Lodge, the following being the names attached thereto:—Bros. H. S. Alpass, as first W.M.; T. Evans, as first S.W.; Archibald Morrison as first J.W.; S. Hikins, Sec.; R. Roberts, S.D.; H. Worthington, J.D., and R. Douglas, I.G. The consecration was then proceeded with, and the P.G. Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. J. M. Morgan, delivered an appropriate and eloquent oration, which he had specially prepared for the occasion. The various elements in the consecration were borne by Bros. Dr. Smith, H. Williams, W. A. Clayton, J. McKune, and the Rev. J. Morgan. Bro. Skeaf ably presided at the harmonium, and his splendid musical consecration service was very effectively rendered by Bros. Haswell, Queen, Atkinson, and Muir.

The consecration having been concluded, the Presiding Officer proceeded to install Bro. Horace S. Alpass, P.G. Sec., in the chair of K.S., the ancient charges being read by Bro. Dr. J. K. Smith, P.G. Reg. After the usual P.M.'s lodge had been held and the brethren below the rank of Installed Masters had been re-admitted and had saluted the first W.M. of the new lodge, the following were appointed by him as his officers:—Bros. T. Evans, S.W.; A. Morrison, J.W.; S. Hikins, Sec.; R. Roberts, S.D.; H. Worthington, J.D.; and R. Douglas, I.G. Bro. J. Ireland was unanimously elected Treasurer; and Bro. P. M. Larsen, was also unanimously elected Tyler. There were two propositions for initiation and 17 for joining.

The brethren subsequently banqueted under the presidency of the W.M., there being upwards of 30 present. "The Queen," and "H.R.H. Bro. Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," "The Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," were given by the W.M., and in proposing the second he referred to the fact that the first thing which Bro. Prince Arthur did on arriving at Gibraltar was to visit a Masonic lodge. "The Earl of Carnarvon, Pro G.M.," and "The Rt. Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W.D.G.M." were also given from the chair, and the W.M. referred especially to the capabilities of the Pro G.M. to preside with honour and dignity at the head of the Craft during the G.M.'s absence in India. With regard to Lord Skelmersdale, the W.M. said that as director of the Province of West Lancashire he had the good of Freemasonry at heart; his official duties alone kept him from visiting all the lodges under his rule. Bro. W. A. Clayton gave "The Hon. F. Stanley, D.P.G.M.," and the Officers of the Prov. G. Lodge," which was acknowledged by Bro. J.W. Turley, P.G.J.D. In proposing "The Consecrating Officers," the W.M. thanked Bro. R. Wylie for the admirable manner in which he had performed the ceremony that day. Bro. Wylie, in reply, thanked Bro. Alpass for his kind remarks, and expressed the great pleasure it had given him to be selected by the P.G.M. to do the work, as there were many other brethren who were quite as able and willing to have done the work. "Prosperity to the Prince Arthur Lodge, No. 1570," was given by Bro. R. Wylie, and acknowledged by Bro. T. Evans. Bro. Deeley, P.G.J.W., gave "The Worshipful Master," who, in replying, said he felt it indeed a great honour to have been elected the first to fill the chair in that lodge, but he felt he had accepted no ordinary responsibility. He counselled the brethren to be very careful in their

conduct, and strongly urged the claims of charity on their consideration. "The Officers of the Lodge" was responded to by Bro. A. Morrison, J.W., and the other officers. Bro. Dr. Smith gave "The Charities, the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, &c.," which was acknowledged by Bro. Wylie. "The Visitors," (coupled with the name of Bro. Dr. Crawford), "The Musical Brethren," and "To all Poor and Distressed Masons," were the remaining toasts on the list.

TEMPLARS, UNITARIANS, AND FREEMASONS.

On Wednesday evening, the 24th ult., these three classes of persons were made the subject of an interesting lecture by Dr. Hunter, of the Literary and Philosophical Association, to a large and respectable audience assembled at Hetling House, Bath.

The chair was occupied by the Rev. W. Odgers, who introduced the lecturer with a humorous speculation on the manner in which the subject was to be treated, and anticipated, among other hypotheses, that the mode of discussion would perhaps be alphabetical—analytically, biographically, chronologically, didactically, ethnologically, facetiously, geographically, historically, ingenuously, knowingly, learnedly, perhaps methodically; at all events, it might be narratively, not offensively, philosophically, not querulously, rationally, statistically, theologically, not uncharitably, but veraciously, and at all events wittily and wisely.

Dr. Hunter said he had first written his lecture and then selected the title. To conceive a title and write up to it would be like writing your epitaph in youth and suiting your whole life to the phrases employed. As to the composite nature of the title, it was pre-destined from the beginning of the world. The almanacks had warned them of extraordinary conjunctions, and what could he do but yield to fate? Unlike the German, French and Irish, or even the Scotch, the English had no genius for secret societies, and might pass in or out of every country without any man thinking it worth while to ask them a question, and they were rather proud of their insignificance. In fact, in politics an Englishman sat upon the ground and need fear no fall. In a recent syllabus, or index of Papal edicts, it appeared that among things forbidden in the Catholic Church were socialism, communism, clandestine societies, Freemasonry, Bible societies, and clerico-literary societies, all of which were repeatedly condemned in various encyclical letters issued between 1846 and 1863. Freemasonry and all clandestine societies were reprobated by the Pope, and all their votaries excommunicated. The present Pope was the author of all these condemnations of Freemasonry, and he happened to be a Freemason. Excommunication was not visited upon those who imprisoned the Popes and warred against the Holy See, it was reserved for some few offences, nearly all of which consisted of some error of dogmatic religion. Englishmen agreed however that, as usual, there was no accounting for foreigners. It was quite another thing when Fenians blew up houses in London, and a distinguished nobleman and experienced Liberal politician, the head of English Freemasonry, became a Roman Catholic, and as a necessary consequence was compelled to abandon Freemasonry, which had been for a great many years a chief interest of his life. What he knew of Masons was all in their favour as a benevolent society, but it was the opinion of the experts of police that Englishmen were not admitted to a knowledge of the real objects of the order, and that although noblemen and princes might be called Grand Grands and Noble Grands, they were merely marionettes whose strings were pulled by a secret council sitting somewhere in Germany. Quoting from the "Mores Catholicæ," Dr. Hunter said it was believed that the only part the rich man bore in the order was analogous to that of the ass who bore the Bacchanalian mysteries. He did not know whether the Pope's excommunication of Masonry arose from his knowledge of its principles, but he dismissed as repugnant to common sense the idea that it was condemned because it was secret. One writer had said that the benevolent branch

of the order was strongly discountenanced on the continent, and that the whole machinery was maintained for the purpose of gaining a bloody revenge for the death of one Jacques de Molay, who was unjustly put to death by Philip le Bel, King of France, and whose chief offence seems to have been a denial of the deity of Christ. He did not take this view of the thing; still, it was well to know something of the subject, and to review and arrange what they did know. It was very natural for the Pope and King to war against those who they were informed had vowed their destruction, but it did not require much logic to discriminate between a determination to avenge the merciless death of a friend and a continuous sympathy with that friend's denial of the cardinal principle of Catholicity. Dr Hunter now proceeded to sketch the early history of the Order of Knights Templar till the year 1307. At that time the designs for the conquest of Palestine had failed, and the King of France, Phillip IV., in conjunction with Pope Clement V., whose election he had obtained, appeared to have resolved on their overthrow, and after a short interval the Grand Master and 37 knights were executed upon charges of infidelity, denial of the divinity of Christ, and various other crimes. According to the police the secret of the Freemasons was no less than this—that on the death of De Molay a small number of Templars who escaped from France swore vengeance on the King of France and Pope of Rome, in perpetuity; in Scotland and other ends of the earth it was said they formed a Liberal and democratic conspiracy, which they veiled under form of an ancient trades union, and it was to them that Europe owed, in 1789, 1793, 1848, 1859, 1870, the humiliation of the Popes and the scattering of the Bourbons. The lecturer diverged for a short time to consider the denial of the Divinity of Christ, which was the chief crime of the Templars, and compared the heterodox thesis of Abelard on the Trinity, which illustrated the Triune Deity, by stating that it resembled a syllogism, of which the Father was the Major proposition, the Son the minor, and the Holy Ghost the conclusion, to the orthodox dogma of St. Bernard, in which the Divinity was compared to the human understanding, as consisting of memory, intelligence, and will. At the time the Templar organisation is said to have been reviving in the Hebrides the Rosicrucians sprung up in Germany, and during the 14th century certain literary societies in Italy were persecuted on the same grounds as the Templars. It is now stated, in order to convince the world of the danger in which it stands from the unsatisfied revenge of the Order, that there are 5000 lodges of Freemasons, with 8,000,000 members, of whom several hundred thousands are conspirators. It is alleged that only in the highest orders is the soul of Masonry divulged, and then to avenge the death of Jacques de Molay, "Philosophic Judge, Grand Commander Unknown," is held forth as the object of all the symbolism the Mason has before witnessed. Such an absurd amount of hatred still attaches to the very name of Templar that the veto of the Pope has been placed on a teetotal organisation recently started, and although the Worthy Grand Chief Templar and Worthy Grand Secretary have waited on Cardinal Manning with reference to the subject, they were unable to get the ban removed, and were told that the difficulties in the way of removing the disabilities are insuperable. Charles I. of England once threatened the president of the Society of the Rosy Cross with execution, and Frederick the Great of Prussia stated to Count Darenberg that the Freemasons "established a religious sect in their lodges." Prince Philip of Orleans was also a Freemason. After deprecating the idea of consistent revenge set forth by the foreign theorists on the subject, Dr. Hunter asked, "Is there any political importance in Freemasonry? I am inclined to think not." He said, "What say you? I do not claim to do more than report to you on this subject. But if this story is true and we must draw a moral, it shall not be pointed against the Roman Church, from whom we derive all our Christianity, nor against the Freemasons, whom I believe to be practised in general virtues. The moral shall be 'Cave Canem,' 'Beware of the Dog.' If a man of ecclesiastic or Bourbonist turn of mind cannot keep his hands from

heretics he may get a bite. He may go on well and hearty for years and yet live in fear, and possibly die a miserable death."

The Rev. J. Wright proposed the thanks of the meeting to Dr. Hunter for his suggestive and interesting lecture. He thought there was great probability in the assertion against the Templars, that they discussed religion amongst themselves with much freer views than the Catholic Church allowed, for their position was likely to give rise to speculation. Whether this speculation continued among the Freemasons he was not qualified to say, but he thought the story of their political tendency was one of the bugbears the continental police found necessary to their existence.

The Chairman asked the Rev. Brooke Harford, from Manchester, who is about to remove to Chicago, to address the meeting.

Mr. Harford was not quite sure the Templars were such immaculate martyrs as had been represented in the lecture, but all must have felt that the death they endured would wipe out the shame of even worse things than philosophic idleness. He thought also that the continental Freemasons were parties to political machinations. It was remarkable that in America, the country to which he was going, and which was apparently the freest country in the world, there were more secret societies than in any other land.

Dr. Hopkins, who announced himself as a Freemason of nearly 30 years' standing, complimented the lecturer on his interesting production, evidently prepared with much care, and wished emphatically to state that in England Freemasonry was not in any way hostile to any party whatever, but a society banded together with the object of doing good. It was their especial care to admit none among them knowingly unless, after considerable investigation, they believed their characters to be such as approved themselves to all right-thinking men. Only those were admitted who professed a belief in an Almighty Creator and Preserver, and in a future state. He stated that, believing the lecturer not to belong to the Order, he had felt considerable curiosity as to how he would treat the subject, and fearing that he might make an unfavourable attack upon it, he had come prepared to refute any hostile remarks, if necessary, and had requested several other members of the Craft to accompany him with that view. He was happy to find that such was not the case, and therefore contented himself with but few remarks, adding that the lateness of the hour prevented him from alluding to several points in the lecture on which he should otherwise have ventured to offer a few comments, in regard to which, however, his position manifestly required him to exercise considerable reservation. He concluded by assuring the audience that in England discussions on politics and religion in Freemasons' lodges are strictly forbidden by the Constitutions of the Fraternity.

Mr. Edmund White said that although he was a Mason of 50 years' standing, and had filled every attainable grade, from mortar boy upwards, he had learned particulars respecting Freemasonry that evening which it had afforded him great pleasure to hear expressed in the terms Dr. Hunter had employed, but which were totally at variance with his own experience and information. He had also had experience of modern Templarism, which was a benevolent Christian order, whose members were obliged to venerate the cross and practise other rites which it was impossible for him to particularise in a meeting not composed of Masons. He had much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks.

The resolution having been carried, the meeting separated.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. Whitaker, whose Almanack is so widely known, is about to publish a Weekly Penny Journal for popular reading. By providing a really interesting magazine, in which high-class fiction will form a considerable portion, and, by making the work thoroughly attractive, he hopes in some measure to counteract the influence now unhappily exercised by criminal and unwholesome literature, especially upon young readers.—"Academy."

GAS superseded in day time, and daylight reflected in dark rooms. Health, comfort, and economy promoted, by adopting Chappuis' Patent Daylight Reflectors.—Manufactory, 69, Fleet-street, London.

INTERESTING PRESENTATION IN LIVERPOOL.

The last meeting of the companions of the Mariners' Chapter, No. 249, which took place on the 18th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Liverpool, was specially interesting, as the opportunity was taken of presenting Comp. Wm. Doyle, P.Z. of the chapter, with his portrait (to be hung up in the Masonic Hall) as well as a very handsome jewel, to indicate the high esteem in which he is deservedly held by all his companions. The compliment was well earned, as Comp. Doyle has always shown his readiness to assist in every branch of Masonry, and he has further established his popularity by invariable urbanity, kindness, and generosity. The chapter was opened by Comps. H. Pearson, M.E.Z.; Hugh Williams, P.P.G.S.B. W.L., P.Z. 580, acting as H.; P. B. Gee being in the chair of J.; and amongst the others present were Comps. Wm. Doyle, P.Z.; A. Davies, S.E.; the Rev. P. Hains, S.N.; J. E. Jackson, P.S.; J. Wood, Treas.; W. H. Ball, Janitor; H. Firth, J. Croston, J. Hughes, R. Douglas, J. H. Gregory, E. T. Jones, P. Robbie, A. Cutter, J. Kerrison, W. Curtis, J. Frazer, E. Carter, E. Arkwright, W. P. Jennings, R. Carter, J. Griffiths, J. Norminton, J. Archdeacon, M. Davies, J. Bewhill, T. Ellis, W. Brittain, J. E. Grant, C. Leighton, W. H. Shakespeare, and W. Firth. The visitors included Comps. H. Williams, P.Z. 580; J. Thornton, P.Z. 673, M.E.Z. 1182; H. Burrows, 673; A. C. Wylie, 1264; R. R. Martin, H. 1094; G. Musker, 673; J. Carlender, and T. Smyth, 673; R. C. Yelland, S.N. 1094; and J. Cramer, 203. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for two candidates, who were duly elected. As they were in attendance, they were afterwards prepared, admitted, and exalted by the M.E.Z. Comp. J. E. Jackson, P.S., did his work in a remarkably able and masterly manner, eliciting the admiration of the large gathering of companions. Comp. Pearson, M.E.Z., in a very telling speech, in the name of the companions of the Mariners' Chapter, presented Comp. W. Doyle, the Immediate Past Principal, with a very neat P.Z. jewel, as a small acknowledgment of the valuable services he had rendered to the chapter, and the great pains he had taken in personally introducing so many good and valuable companions into the chapter during his year of office as M.E.Z., so that the "Mariners' Chapter" was now one of the largest in the province. Comp. Doyle responded in feeling and appropriate terms. After various propositions for exaltation had been made, and hearty good wishes expressed by visitors for the Z., the chapter was closed in due form. The companions then retired to the banquetting room, where an excellent supper was provided. After the usual toasts had been given and responded to, the M.E.Z. rose, and in a highly complimentary address presented Comp. W. Doyle, P.Z., with a large and valuable portrait of himself in oil, in handsome gilt frame, surmounted and surrounded by Masonic emblems. The portrait was executed by the eminent firm of "Vandyke and Brown" (Bro. Richard Brown, and Co., sole proprietors), and reflected the highest credit upon the well-known artists, who have a world-wide reputation. Bro. the Rev. Philip Hains, S.N., also spoke in highly eulogistic terms of the many valuable qualities possessed by Comp. Doyle. In acknowledging the splendid presentation, Comp. Doyle, who seemed much affected, said—Most E. and Companions,—I rise with much pleasure, but a great amount of difficulty, to respond to the honour you have just done me. With difficulty, well knowing how incapable I am of finding words to thank you sufficiently for the great honour you have done me this evening in presenting me with this magnificent work of art. I know that I am expected to say a few words; but, companions, you little know the effort it requires. It has caused me to review my Masonic life, when some 15 years ago I became a Mason, and shortly afterwards was made I.G., and how I thought I should like to become W.M. of the lodge in course of time. My companions, after passing through several offices, it pleased the brethren to unanimously place me in the chair. I thought then that it was impossible for me ever to receive any more favours, when after three years it pleased them a second time to elect me. From that time honours have been bestowed upon me in all directions, amongst them Prov. G. Deacon of West Lancashire, Constable of the Prov. of Lancashire in the Knight Templars, and the very high position of Third Principal of Prov. G. Chapter of W.L. sufficient honours, my companions, to flatter the most vain of men; but, to crown all, you have thought me worthy of a portrait—an honour that a king might be proud of, more especially when I am sure it is accompanied with such good and kind feeling, as I am sure it is, from every member of this chapter. Thanking you, M.E. for the very flattering manner you were pleased to speak of me, and you, most worthy Chaplain, for your kindness and good wishes, allow me to add that I trust, when time with me shall be no more, that those who may look on this picture, which will live long after I am gone, will think of me at least with kindness. Companions, once more from my heart I thank you.

The three chiefs, the officers, the newly-exalted, and the visitors were afterwards toasted, and the harmonious proceedings closed at an early hour.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Much watchfulness must be exercised as winter advances, and the earliest evidences of ill-health must be immediately checked or removed; or a slight illness may result in a serious malady. Relaxed and Sore Throat, Diphtheria, Quinsey, Throat Cough, Chronic Cough, Bronchitis, and most other pulmonary affections, will be relieved by rubbing this cooling Ointment into the skin as near as practicable to the seat of mischief. This treatment, so simple and effective, is admirably adapted for the removal of these diseases during infancy and youth. Old Asthmatic Invalids will derive marvellous relief from the use of Holloway's remedies, which have brought round many such sufferers, and re-established health after every other means had signally failed.—ADVT.

LAYING THE MEMORIAL STONE OF THE ACADEMY AT KILMARNOCK.

In accordance with previous arrangements the memorial stone of the New Academy Public School was, on Saturday afternoon, the 20th ult., laid with Masonic honours, in the presence of several thousand spectators. The brethren met in the Corn Exchange Hall and Butter Market, and, having been formed in order, marched along King-street and St. Marnock-street to North Hamilton-street. There were deputations from the following lodges:—Mother Kilwinning, 0; St. John, Glasgow, 3½; St. John, Kilmarnock, 22; Navigation, Troon, 86; St. Marnock, Kilmarnock, 126; Thistle, Stewarton, 127; St. John, Kilwinning, Beith, 157; Thistle and Rose, Stewarton, 167; St. Mary's, Mauchline, 179; St. Clement's, Riccarton, 202; St. Peter's, Galston, 331; Neptune, Ardrossan, 442; St. John, Catrin, 497; Burns, St. Mary, Halford, 505; Clydesdale, Glasgow, 556; and Dramatic, Glasgow, 571. There were also present and assisting R. W. Cochran Patrick, Trearner, D.P.G.M.; W. Ralston Patrick, Sub-Pro G.M.; J. G. Halket, P.S.P.G.M.; D. Murray Lyon, P.S.G.W.; John McKay, acting Prov. G.J.W.; Rev. Alex. Inglis, Kilmaurs, P.G. Chaplain; Robert Wylie, J.P., Prov. G.S.; and John Whinton, P.G.T. All the preparations being complete, Provost Sturrock presented Bro. C. Patrick with a handsome silver trowel, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. R. W. Cochran Patrick, Esq., of Woodside, D.P.G.M., on the occasion of the laying of the memorial stone of Kilmarnock Academy Public School with Masonic honours on the 20th November, 1875." The usual ceremony of applying the plummet, level, and square, and pouring the wine and oil, and inserting a bottle with various papers and documents, was then gone through, and the Grand Chaplain, the Rev. Bro. Inglis, offered an appropriate and impressive prayer. The Grand Master then, amid three cheers, declared the memorial stone duly and properly laid.

Bro. Patrick then gave a short address. Seventy years ago the provost and magistrates of Kilmarnock, assisted by the Masons, laid the foundation stone of the old Academy. More than two generations have passed since that time, and the School Board, assisted by the Masons have met and assisted in laying the foundation stone of a larger, more commodious, and handsome building. It was right and proper that Masons as a body should be present on such an occasion, as one of their great objects as a body was to make men better. And on no occasion did they come with more alacrity than to promote education. Time was when Scotchmen were found to fill any situation where honesty and integrity were required to fill them, and it is so still. For this they were doubtless much indebted to their peculiar national character, but more so to the system of education which prevailed, and which was the glory of the country. Circumstances have now greatly changed. The population was now gathered in great centres, and there was a fear lest the national character should deteriorate. Hence the necessity of better and more extended means of education, and so the Education Act was passed. By its operation we find large numbers of buildings similar to the one they were now in being erected to provide elementary education for the young. It must be very gratifying to the School Board of Kilmarnock to know that now there were 750 more children receiving education than there were two years ago. Bro. Patrick then urged the need for the establishment throughout the country not only of elementary but of secondary schools, where our youths could be trained to pass into our universities, and where a higher intellectual training could be given than in ordinary public schools. He was sure there was in the country vast numbers who, if properly trained, would be able to sift truth, and be able to guide in a right direction that popular opinion which ruled the country. He was glad the Board had appointed a gentleman who would be a finished teacher of the young, and he hoped their successors in office would see to it that the higher branches of education would not suffer,

and the Academy Public School would raise and send out men who would prove a credit to the town and to Scotland. (Applause.)

Mr. James Blackwood, convenor of the Building Committee, in thanking the D.P.G.M. for coming to take part in the proceedings, expressed the hope that the Kilmarnock New Academy would excel the old one, and that in time it would be the great centre of education in Ayrshire. The proceedings then terminated, and the procession marched backed to the town, when the lodges separated.

The members of the School Board, the Town Council, and the members of the P.G.L. afterwards dined in the George Hotel. In the unavoidable absence of ex Provost Dickie, Mr. James Blackwood occupied the chair, and Provost Sturrock officiated as Croupier. After dinner and the usual loyal and constitutional toasts, "The Health of Bro. C. Patrick, D.P.G.M." was given by the Chairman.

Bro. Patrick, in his reply, again urged the necessity for establishing secondary schools throughout the country, and the founding of bursaries to assist the clever sons of working-class men. There was no fear of such education ever injuring the country or the men in it, as they had Christian truths and Christian doctrines to guide them, and to enable them at all times to separate truth from error and humbug. "Success to the New Academy" was proposed by the Croupier, and replied to by Mr. Logan. Mr. Shaw proposed "The School Board," which was replied to by the Chairman. Other toasts were given and replied to, and the meeting broke up.

CONSECRATION OF THE ST. NINIAN LODGE AT NAIRN, N.B.

The Masons of Nairn and neighbourhood assembled together at two o'clock on Friday, the 19th ult., for the purpose of consecrating a lodge, which was dedicated to the patron saint of the town, viz., St. Ninian. The consecrating brother was Bro. J. Davidson, P.G.C. of Banffshire, who is held in the highest esteem by all the brethren in the Highlands. The ceremony, which was performed in the most impressive manner, elicited the warmest expressions of approbation from the brethren present. The consecrating brother was well supported by Bro. W.M.'s Guyere, Harris, Mackenzie, Mackintosh, Simpson, and others. Bro. T. B. Pegler, first Principal of the St. Andrew's Chapter (the oldest) of Banff, then delivered a very eloquent and masterly oration on the great principles of Freemasonry, which was much approved by the brethren present. Bro. Davidson then proceeded to instal Bro. T. B. Pegler, of 52, 92, 339, 837 lodges, the latter (Marquis of Ripon) being his mother lodge. His election met with the heartiest approbation from all present, and it is only just to add that few if any brother has done so much to perfect himself in all our ceremonies during his residence of 47 years in the Highlands. His Ripon brethren may be justly proud of their young son, for all the honours he has received he justly merits. Bros. Morrison and Simpson were appointed Wardens; Mackintosh, Treasurer; Howard Harris, Secretary, who with the W.M. have done much towards establishing this lodge. At the conclusion, 10 gentlemen were proposed for initiation, and Bro. Davidson, P.G.C.; Wm. Guyere, of Kingussie; and Bro. C. Pegler, of 52, 304, 837, 1036, and 555, were elected honorary members, the latter having exercised his good offices in assisting in the formation of the lodge. The brethren adjourned for dinner to the Havelock Hotel, presided over most ably by the W.M. elect. After the usual loyal toasts, Bro. Howard Harris proposed "Success to the St. Ninian Lodge," and gave a history of the ancient lodge, going back to 1608. In a minute book of that date it is stated that the two previous minute books are in the possession of Bro. ———. Deputy Master Mackenzie then proposed "The W.M.'s Health," ably supported by Bro. Davidson, who said that he had known the W.M. since he first came amongst them, and had watched his advancement in Masonic knowledge with much interest, and he could assure the brethren of 555 that the choice

they had made that day would afford them every opportunity of being second to none in the Highlands. The toast was received with Masonic and real Highland honours. Other appropriate toasts then followed, including "The Health of Bro. C. Pegler of Leeds," father of the W.M., who is a most liberal, kind-hearted brother, ready to help those in need. The brethren retired at 11 o'clock upon Forbes Mackenzie's name being introduced.

Reviews.

"THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2ND CHRISTIAN EPOCH."

We do not ordinarily review books of religious teaching in the "Freemason," but we confess we have been so much struck with this little work that we cannot forbear saying a few words about it.

The writer is anonymous, but calls himself a "Christian." We do not exactly know to what special denomination he belongs. He is apparently a "nondescript," and also—we say it very kindly and respectfully—a little "off the nut." The truth is, that his work is nothing but a reproduction of "Fourierism," with a peculiar colouring of a very peculiar Christianity indeed. His aim is apparently to revive the theories of that amiable, and probably well-intentioned, but mistaken visionary, "Fourier," and to reproduce his "Utopia," which is not and could not be an Utopia at all, but only a complication of benevolent aspirations and impossible contrivances.

Indeed, the whole theory of Fourier becomes grotesque from its almost puerile absurdity of detail, its incongruous arrangements, and its hopeless proposals of alteration and revolution of social existence.

The world may have many anomalies, inconsistencies and inequalities, no doubt it has many wrongs to redress, and many reforms to witness in the tone and system of society generally; but, we are sure of this, that among the many chimeras of the world, and of reformers, few have been so idle as those of the benevolent but mistaken Fourier.

This work has two parts—one religious, the other social.

The religious is very painful to read; the social is, as we have said, an expanded Fourierism, and perfectly unpractical and impracticable. A more hopeless effort of the human brain, a more unreal chirograph of the human pen we have never perused. It is indeed "chaos" from beginning to end. The only one page in the book we agree with is the last, and which we commend to the notice of many now-a-days who will force their painful platitudes and weary and dreary essays on an ungrateful public. "The writer of this little book having now accomplished the mission . . . entrusted to him will write no more, and henceforth will remain unknown, . . . will keep his mouth shut, and lay aside his pen. Therefore, should any one say he has again written, or has said so, believe it not, but consider the teller of the untruth an impostor, and make the teller amenable to the criminal law."

How many unprofitable writers might well imitate the example of this shrinking and self-denying author? Indeed, Praed, in one of his witty couplets, even gives the same advice, though in a different way, to the softer sex, to which we yield our bachelor assent to-day:—

"I wish some girls that I could name
Were half as silent as their pictures."

W.

MUSIC.—We have much pleasure in calling attention to the advantages afforded by the London Organ School and International College of Music, Estab'd. 1865; Patron, His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury; Principal, the Rev. Scotson Clark, Mus. B. Established for the purpose of encouraging music in all its branches. The board of Professors include the Rev. the Principal, George S. Löhn Esq., 1st prize, Leipsig Conservatory; John Cheshire, Esq., (Harp), Herr A. Lummer, (Violin), late Professor Leipsig Conservatory; W. Pettit Esq., Principal Violoncello, Old Philharmonic Society; Hamilton Clark, Esq., Mus. B., ex-Organist, Queen's College, Oxford, and others; assisted by competent Professors. The numerous advantages are fully expressed in a detailed prospectus, obtainable on application at the central office, 13, Vigo-street, W. The fees for instruction are extremely moderate. We heartily commend the college, and wish it the success it deserves.

TO OUR READERS.

The *Freemason* is a sixteen-page weekly newspaper, price 2d. It is published every Friday morning, and contains the most important and useful information relating to Freemasonry in every degree. Annual subscription in the United Kingdom, Post free, 10/. Brethren in foreign parts, wishing to have this newspaper sent them regularly from the office of publication, should, in sending their remittances, add to the 2d. per week the postage on 20z. newspapers.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The *Freemason* has a large circulation in all parts of the Globe, its advantages as an advertising medium can therefore scarcely be overrated.

For terms, position, &c., apply to
GEORGE KENNING, 198, Fleet-st.

Answers to Correspondents.

All Communications, Advertisements, &c., intended for insertion in the Number of the following Saturday, must reach the Office not later than 12 o'clock on Wednesday morning.

Careful attention will be paid to all MSS. entrusted to the Editor, but he cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by stamped directed covers.

1446.—The name of the writer of this communication must be given in confidence to the editor, previous to its publication.

The following communications stand over:—

“Fair Play;” “The Last Lodge of Benevolence;” “Bro. Findel;” “Coloured Lodges in America;” “Lupus, H.L.A.;” “London Masonic Club;” “The Girls’ School.”

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The City Diary, 1876, Collingwood.
Discrepancies of Freemasonry by Dr. Oliver. Hogg, & Co., Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska.

“The ‘Graphic’ Christmas Number.”
“Proceedings of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge for 1873; also for 1874.”

“A Letter from Jervis Hayden to Judge Simms.”
“A Letter to Bro. Findel.”

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DEC. 4, 1875.

OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO INDIA.

Since leaving Madras His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been to Beypore, and reached Colombo on the 1st of December. He landed at 4 p.m. that day, and was very well received. He was much pleased with everything. He was to leave for Kandy on the 2nd; the next three days were to be quiet; and he was to go to Tuticorin on the 8th.

COMPARATIVE COST OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

We print elsewhere a letter from Bro. C. Pegler, of Leeds, on this subject, and which, as it does not happily turn on the late personal controversy, we admit readily into our pages. We feel sure that our Boys' School will not suffer from any fair discussion, but rather gain in every way. We also deem it right to call attention to Bro. Pegler's letter, because it is practically the revival of the question, which was settled so far back as 1869, in the Province of West Yorkshire, to which Bro. Pegler belongs. Bro. Pegler has not read, or at any-rate remembered the special report of the Charity Committee, October, 28th, 1868, which is signed A. F. A. Woodford and R. A. Nelson, and which specially dealt, and dealt exhaustively with the important question of “comparative cost.” Before then we notice Bro. C. Pegler's letter, we think it well to reproduce the passages of that report which treated on the “comparative cost.” “As questions have arisen from time to time relative to the cost of the boys in the school, the committee think it right to say a few words on that head. The cost of the boys per head to the close of 1867 for actual domestic and educational expenditure, including office expenses and the education of boys out of the school, amounted to £36 12s. 2½d., including office expenses, rates and taxes, and all expenditure, to £46 15s. 1d., or £1 2s. 1d. less than in 1866. No doubt this seems at first sight a large amount, but on analysis it is susceptible of satisfactory explanation. The Freemasons' Boys' School is made up of very different classes of society, and requires therefore a higher standard alike in clothing, food, and education, than is given to the orphans of merely eleemosynary institutions,

or boys of any one particular class. It must always also be borne in mind that the object of the Boys' School is not to make our boys charity boys, or to reduce them to the level of a pauper institution, but to give them the same education they would have had had God spared the lives of their parents, so as to fit them for the social position they were destined, humanly speaking, to fill. And we must always keep this before us when we consider the cost of the education given in the Boys' School, or compare it with that of any other. A careful analysis of the Boys' School per head, with that of several of the London institutions of somewhat of a kindred nature, gives the following result:—The expenditure per head is in excess of such schools as the Commercial Travellers', Warehousemen and Clerks', British Orphan, City Freemasons' Orphan School, St. Anne's, London Orphan—but is equal to that of the Clergy Orphan, and less than that of the Royal Medical Benevolent. The much larger numbers in almost all the schools will in every case account for the difference in expenditure. For instance, the office expenses in the Boys' are larger per head than all the other schools, simply because of the limited number of boys. Whereas in the London Orphan, with 145 girls and 290 boys, the office expenses are £3 12s. 3½d. per head, or in round numbers £1,520; in the Commercial Travellers' with 125 boys and 60 girls, in all 191, £7 7s. 5d. per head, in round numbers £1,400; in the Clergy Orphan, with 14 girls and 96 boys, in all 179, £4 4s. 8½d., in round numbers £751. Our Boys' School is £9 1s. 10½d. per head, in all £909 9s. 9d. for 104 boys. If the number of boys could be increased to 150, and eventually to 200, this expenditure would not be increased in the aggregate, and would show a reduction per head of from four to five pounds! As regards clothing, the expenditure of the boys is larger per head than all the charities mentioned. We give the boys two suits of good clothing a year, an extra pair of trousers, and linen and underclothing in great liberality. This is unusual in other schools, but has tended much to the health of the boys. As regards food—we give the boys of the best, and the consequence is an infirmary always empty, and a school of healthy, active, and happy lads, of whom their medical man says, they are both a pleasure and a marvel. As it may interest the Provincial Grand Lodge to know what is the amount per head spent in food by the other charities, the committee append a tabular statement, and if an average is taken of these eight schools it will appear to be £13 14s. 6d., or £1 2s. 4½d. in excess of what is paid in the Boys' School—£12 12s. 2½d. per head.”

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Cost of Food per head.
London Orphan.....	145	290	425	£10 8 4½
Warehousemen & Clerks	76	36	112	12 0 20
Clergy Orphan.....	96	83	179	17 2 5½
British Orphan.....	106	61	175	15 12 2
R. Medical Benevolent...	200	—	200	19 3 11
Commercial Travellers...	125	66	191	10 10 7¾
St. Anne's.....	332	—	322	10 11 11¼
Freemasons' Orphan.....	—	—	127	13 5 9”

Such was the argument, fairly stated, in 1868, and we do not fancy that much change if any is required for 1875, except a slight readjustment of figures more or less. It might be very interesting if Bro. Binckes could ascertain how far the published reports of 1874 of the institutions mentioned in 1868, still keep proportionally the same normal amount of expenditure per head. We believe that the position taken up by the West Yorkshire Charity Committee of 1868, is a true representation of statistical facts, and the best answer to any hasty or fallacious assumptions. With regard to the institutions mentioned by Bro. C. Pegler, two remarks necessarily occur to all who have studied the great question involved in all its bearings for years. With regard to the Provincial Schools cited, Bro. C. Pegler must add, as he himself knows well, at least 35 per cent for the different cost as between London and Provincial living, and as regards the London schools, it must be seen what is the actual class of boys educated therein, and what is the real system of education and maintenance before any satisfactory comparison can fairly be made. In the Boys' School, the clothing and food are arranged on the advice of the medical officer, and we have yet to learn that they are either extravagant or unusual.

Bro. Pegler says authoritatively that the cost per head is £20 too much; but we must beg to observe that he apparently has no ground for his statements, except his own personal opinion. He assumes that the expense is £51 per head. That involves the question of the extraordinary expenditure; but supposing even that he could reduce the items for food and clothing, which we greatly doubt, that is only a saving of £7 out of his £20, which we venture to think a very questionable and arbitrary calculation. Even if you add special expenditure, the amount is only raised to a little over £47, not £51, as Bro. Pegler has it. We may add that the actual number of boys is 177, not 156; that without office expenses, the amount is £37 13s. 11½d., which has been reduced to £36 9s. 11d., and with the office expenses, it will now be £46 12s. 11d. Bro. Pegler includes the extraordinary expenditure; we do not, as it varies from year to year. We shall await Bro. Binckes' notice of the letter with much interest, and in the meantime we earnestly invite all our brethren to suspend their judgment, to hear carefully both sides, and above all, not to be hastily led away by questionable statements, or to endorse utterly untenable propositions—propositions very damaging, perhaps, to the present progress and future welfare of the Boys' School.

LODGE REPORTS.

We are sometimes taken to task for our lodge reports, which no doubt take up much space, and seem at the best to have but little in them. We are told that we are making a mistake, that we are keeping out better matter, that the reading we thus supply is neither wholesome, interesting, nor intellectual. And no doubt a good deal may be said upon this topic, and we do not pretend to deny that there is not even more than a “scintilla” of truth, in such complaints and animadversions. But there is also another side to the question. The “Freemason” is purely a Masonic journal, intended for Freemasons, and devoted to Freemasonry. Hence its staple must be Masonic intelligence, and Masonic intelligence alone. And by the word intelligence we do not understand merely the item of daily or weekly news, in “rebus latomcis,” for they will not supply a journal with more than a column, but we comprehend in the term all that appertains to lodge life, and work, and proceedings amongst us—the outer evidences of the inner teaching, of Freemasonry. And as the life of Freemasonry is made up of lodge work and lodge reports, it is an inevitable necessity that we publish in our columns the accounts of the meetings and the speeches of our Order. Now, though it may be true that these meetings may be somewhat commonplace, and the speeches not A 1 either in tone or intellectual power, yet their report interests some few subscribers, and it is this weekly résumé of lodge work that finds a large and ever increasing circle of readers. And we will say this, in addition. We read most of the Masonic periodicals now “out,” and we do not find that the absence of lodge reports makes a journal read better, or renders it more intellectual, or assures it a larger circle of readers. On the contrary, we have noted that those journals flourish most which give the truest records of present Masonic life amongst us in carefully compiled accounts of lodge work and refreshment hours; and that those journals which either neglect this subject, or reduce it to meaningless abbreviations, whatever their other excellences may be, invariably come to grief. We have considered the subject well over, and have determined to adhere to our old arrangements and system. That very often lodge reports and speeches may be curtailed we apprehend is indubitable; that repetitive and tautologous expressions may be judiciously excised we admit, that all references to the ritual may be expunged we freely concede; but when we have said this we have said all. It is impossible to condense or shorten materially a lodge report of Masonic speeches without taking out the spirit of the entire narrative, and so we prefer to let our brethren speak for themselves, except when common sense, or propriety, or constitutional law, happily seldom called into requisition, demand suppression or alteration. Some brethren might wish for a larger amount of what

may be termed didactic Masonry, of esoteric teaching. But we do not find that such writing takes with the generality of our readers, and we feel persuaded that our publisher's course has been from the beginning, and still is, a wise one, and the only correct one, to give to a large and increasing clientèle, as good an account, hebdomadally, as he can, of Masonic life amongst us at the present hour, superadding those necessary leading articles, those items of intelligence, and judicious selections of passing Masonic literature, which tend to give variety to the crowded pages of the "Freemason," and make it alike readable and welcome wherever it goes, a true exponent of the actual wants, and wishes, and feelings, and fancies of our universal Craft.

MASONIC LITTLENESSES.

It has been said that everybody has his little-nesses, and that no one is a "hero to his valet de chambre." Even we Freemasons are not above the frailty and littlenesses of humanity, and such being admittedly the case, we think it well didactically to impress this little fact on the attention of our many readers to-day. Now there are two especial forms of these Masonic little-nesses of ours, to tell of no others which greatly affect us as journalists, and to which we feel compelled to allude, though, we trust, in all good humour, and we are sure in a truly Masonic spirit. One is the readiness of a correspondent to take offence because his special contribution is not put in immediately, or because he sees something which he does not like. Now, we venture to ask our many kind friends and good readers, why do they as Freemasons so deal with us poor Masonic journalists? They do not for one moment think of doing so with a profane paper, or, in technical phraseology, that is, the "Times," or "Standard," or "Bell's Life," or the "Saturday Review." Why should they then do so with the humbler "Freemason?" They must see many things in all and each they do not like, but in that case they do not quarrel with "their bread and butter." But no sooner do they notice some trifling matter in the "Freemason," which they think they may complain of or find fault with, than, hey presto! comes a letter of complaint, or of notice of non-subscription any longer. Now, we think that this is not quite fair to us, and we must beg to call attention to such, as we deem them, Masonic little-nesses. That the "Freemason" has been conducted, and is conducted, with the greatest care and circumspection is, we think, evident to all; that occasional errors may be exhibited we do not for one moment deny—indeed, we rather affirm that such slips, either of pen or type, are necessarily to be expected. But on the whole we are quite prepared to challenge a comparison with any other contemporary journal, and we must beg therefore all our friends and correspondents to make for us the same needful allowances they make so readily for other newspapers. Mistakes will occur in the best regulated families, and printers' errors are often many and peculiarly trying to the helpless writer, but, such as they are, they are a call for Masonic consideration and patience rather than for anything else. A correspondent can always, as a general rule, have his contribution inserted. He must have a little patience sometimes, alike with publisher and editor, and it is not fair to visit on their devoted heads what is alike inevitable and unavoidable often is merely a temporary delay, or the admission of what had better perhaps not have appeared. There is an amusing story told of a brother who met the publisher of a journal and said to him, "I have stopped the paper." "Dear me," said the publisher, "come to the office." When he got there he said to the kindly brother, "you must be mistaken, the paper is going on as usual." "Oh!" said the other, "I mean I have stopped my paper." That, replied the publisher, is altogether another pair of shoes." When the irate swell of old days said to Hoby, the boot-maker, "Mr. Hoby, I shall withdraw my custom," "Thomas," said Hoby immediately, "put up the shutters, Captain Jones withdraws his custom." And in the same way we sometimes smile, when for some little petty trifle not worth mentioning, we receive the announcement, "I shall not subscribe to the 'Freema-

son' any longer." At this period of the year, when

This good year is growing old,
The fogs are heavy, and the weather cold,

and when all tells us of another closing cycle of time, we are also naturally reminded of another trifling but amiable littleness of many of our worthy confreres. We all remember that agreeable gentleman in "Nicholas Nickleby" who liked to leave little accounts owing; and just at this moment we have a vivid appreciation of the fact that we have a good many petty accounts owing for the "Freemason." Many brethren seem sometimes to forget that the weekly publication of the "Freemason" costs money, that somebody must pay for it, that printers, and reporters, and writers have to be subsidized. But they don't like to be asked for "little accounts." We none of us do, and often when the demand for a year's subscription is made, there comes back a P.O. Order, with the magic and fraternal word "discontinue." Now, we hope all will take well what we have now ventured to intimate, as we have spoken in all geniality of feeling and all fraternal goodwill. We feel almost as regards some good friends of ours, whose amiable weaknesses we deplore (as much as we deplore any thing in this queer world), like the two Irishmen mentioned in the following paragraph. "Mike, have you settled that affair with Lewis yet? "Yes, he kicked me off the step last week, and since that he has stopped bothering me." Verbum sat sapienti.

A NEW FREEMASONRY.

Some years ago it was our lot to preach to a friendly Order, on its anniversary, called the "New Delight." An old, and kind, and witty friend of ours walked up in the evening to our quondam home, and said to us, "I hear you have been preaching to the New Delight. Well, the world is old, and I am old, and you are not so young as you were, and as most of the old delights are worn out, I am anxious to learn what this New Delight really is." Somewhat similar will be the anxiety, we think, of our brethren to hear something about a new Freemasonry. "What's the new idea?" says Bro. Jones. "What is it all about?" says Bro. Robinson. "What is there in it?" says Bro. Brown. So we think it well shortly to reply to-day to these fraternal questions. It seems that there is in London a French Bro. Valleton, who has an idea that he has a call apparently to reconstruct Freemasonry, and to regenerate humanity. He is the same brother who made an attack on English Freemasonry some time back, principally apparently on the ground that there were "chaplains" in the lodges, that even "clerical" were admitted into Freemasonry in England. It is sad for us in England to note this absurd dislike of the clerical profession per se, which is patent in many foreign writers and brethren. Indeed, it often reminds us how prejudices may become hatreds, if wrongly persisted in, until they culminate, like as at Paris not long ago, in the destruction of unoffending victims, and the cruel murder of the excellent and virtuous Archbishop Darboy. Well, Bro. Valleton, who is, we believe, an able man scientifically, but whose views are clearly very "prononcés" has invented what he terms "Maçonnerie du Rite Occidental." Our cautious and able Bro. Caubet, in the "Monde Maconique" of September-October, 1875, tells us that he has received the programme of the "Maçonnerie anthropologique du Rite Occidental," "autour lequel se commencement d'agitation fait en Angleterre, et sur le continent." We almost wonder that a cautious Masonic old bird like Bro. Caubet could be taken in by such nonsense. As for anything being known about it in England, we can safely say that nothing is really known beyond some little café near "Lester Squarr." We also can, without hesitation, freely declare that it is not at all likely to meet either the principles, or tastes, or feelings, or views of Englishmen. As a curiosity, we give the programme:—

MACONNERIE DU RITE OCCIDENTAL.
NECESSITE D'UNE NOUVELLE RELIGION OU D'UNE
REFORME MACONNIQUE.
La Francmaçonnerie, Religion anthropologique universelle.
L'Humanisme démocratique et social.

Culte de l'Esprit, de l'Humanité et de l'Univers.
A la Gloire et au Développement du Progrès humain;
A la Gloire de tous Ceux et Celles qui, Illustres ou Obscurs,
Francmaçons ou Profanes, y ont contribué,
y contribuent ou y contribueront généreusement;
A l'Union, à la Fédération des peuples! par le triomphe
définitif du principe des nationalités.
A l'Unification des Races, des Castes, des Classes, des
situations, des professions, des intérêts!
A la Solidarité économique!
A la Paix, au Bonheur du Genre humain!
A l'Association universelle!
Sous les auspices
de l'Utile, du Beau, du Bien et du Vrai,
ainsi que de toutes les Institutions philanthropiques
qui en sont l'expression progressive!
A Tous et à Toutes,
en ce monde,
Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité
Responsabilité et solidarité
par la triple et indivisible formule:
Ordre et Progrés,
Evolution et Réformes,
Conservation et Révolution!
A Tous et à Toutes,
en ce monde,
Double Immortalité et Eternelle responsabilité
d l'Esprit et du Corps.
Au nom de la Religion nouvelle,
La Francmaçonnerie anthropologique universelle
du Rite occidental.
Au nom de la R. s. sphere No 1.
Occi. de l'Humanité.
Zén. d'Europe.
Ph. de Londres.

H. VALLETON.

We have not translated the French, for it is perfectly easy, and our space is limited. We fancy that for most English Freemasons the perusal will be enough, and that they will not be very anxious to hear much more about this new mystico, socialistico, Fourieristico, revolutionistico, democratistico, androgynistico, Freemasonry. How any one can call such a programme Masonic, or suppose that he can enlist adherents under such a banner we will not stop to discuss. We will only add our conviction that all English Freemasons who read this programme will prefer "stare super via antiquas," will recur lovingly and devotedly to the true and better teachings of our good old Anglo-Saxon Craft, which has weathered the storm of many years, which, ever a friend to order, liberty, and peace, is necessarily opposed to revolution, anarchy, and socialism, and upholds "yesterday, to-day, and for ever," its own unchanging principles of freedom, toleration, truth, honour, right, and duty, brotherly love, loyalty, and charity.

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 LIBRARIES.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

It is impossible to over-estimate the advantages to be derived from a well-selected and well-stocked Masonic library. Masonic books having but a circumscribed field, are, of necessity, expensive; and so the student, who frequently possesses more zeal than funds, is beset with difficulties that are apt to cause him to despair of acquiring the desired knowledge, and ultimately drive him into relinquishing the pursuit. In Masonic, as in scientific or philosophical literature, it is not sufficient to read but one or two books, for one work is so based upon another, or written in refutation, that unless the system can be taken entire, and in proper order, the process is unsatisfactory and even dangerous. The Entered Apprentice is charged "to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge;" the Fellow Craft is charged "to extend his researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science;" yet how few opportunities there are of carrying out these objects. We have now nearly 1600 lodges on the roll of the United Grand Lodge of England; we wonder how many lodges have a library connected with them. We could count them on our two hands, we fear. It seems to us a most surprising matter that in many of the large towns in the Midland and Northern counties why the lodges do not unite in the formation of a Masonic library. Let but a few energetic members in a town get together a representative committee, which sets to work quietly, getting a grant from each lodge and donations of Masonic books, or money from individuals, and they will be surprised at the amount of support they will receive. Once get the interest of the brethren aroused to the sense of their loss, once get them to feel the manifold advantages of such a library, and the results (if they are but small at starting) will in time gladden the hearts of the promoters; for the dissemination of the many glorious (yet hidden) beauties of our Order, the purification of the mind consequent upon the study of such ennobling works, the exemplification of the Divine truths embraced in the disquisitions of the Craft, require but the proper channel to arrest the at-

tention of its members, when they must speedily sink deep into the hearts of all true Masons. Let us take the case of a liberal-minded man just received into our Order, with which he is favourably impressed; put within his reach the means of comprehending its principles, he soon passes his expectations and finds himself on a new track, the surroundings of which surprise, delight, and ultimately charm him. By the time that he masters but a moiety it elevates his mind, tones down its asperities, and as a Masonic student he does not merely acquire the fascinating lore of the Craft, but attains a calm, peaceful, and Christian-like philosophy, which attribute helps to make up the sum of life into a pleasurable period.

We would not suggest that every lodge should possess a library, because where there are two or more lodges in a town great advantages are to be gained by joining. We trust, however, whether singly or united, that the day is not far distant when every lodge will have a Masonic library attached to it.

In conclusion, we would remark that in these days of high-pressure matters of this kind are apt to get overlooked by the younger members, and pooh-poohed by the older members, but we would wish to express a sincere hope that our remarks may be carefully weighed and fall on some good ground, for we should feel proud to record some results. Our readers must see that it stands somewhat to the disgrace of a powerful society like ours if it allows such schemes as Masonic libraries to fail for want of funds. The literary ability is (at present) in the hands of so very few members of the Craft that anything that would extend Masonic literature is desirable; for if we once get Masonic readers they would soon develop into thinkers, and ultimately into Masonic writers. More workers in the field we should welcome with delight.

Yours fraternally, S. B. E.

JOINING MEMBERS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The letter of "Enquirer" opens up a subject of great interest to many brothers I know, and to myself in particular. I have frequently heard it argued that initiates have a superior claim to office in the lodge to a joining member. I know that a step-mother will probably have a greater affection for her own children, but, to say the least of it, she is very indiscreet should she allow that affection to cause her to show partiality in her household management. Your correspondent in the instance quoted by him does not say which was the older member of the lodge, the I.P.M. or the J.D., who was made J.W.; if the latter, I do not see any great cause of jealousy. For my own part, as one who anxiously looks forward to attaining the rank of an Installed Master, I am quite willing that all older members of the lodge, irrespective of the time they may have been Masons (if qualified), should have the precedence, but for one to go before me who was initiated after I joined the lodge would be another thing, and I should "ask the reason why." But the whole subject is one of difficulty and delicacy—difficulty from the fact that so many material circumstances may give a peculiarity to any case, and delicacy as it is apt to be an undue interference with the prerogative of the W.M.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

A JOINING MEMBER.

A PAST MASTER.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I notice in the "Freemason" of Nov. 27th a letter signed by Henry Ingham (who styles himself a Past Master), Batley. The purport of his letter does not prompt me to reply so much as the manner in which he assumes the title of Past Master.

As a Past Master, and the Secretary of the Trafalgar Lodge, No. 971, Batley, I beg to state that Bro. H. Ingham has no such rank as P.M., inasmuch as he has not contributed to any Craft Lodge since March 1875.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

JIM SHEARD.

Batley, Nov. 27th.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have read many letters on the management of the Masonic Boys' School, none of which appear to me to meet the object of the writers, nor that of the committee, which is now engaged in investigating the various items of expenditure of that establishment. I am not going to challenge a figure or a word issued by the committee in their annual report, as to their accuracy or otherwise; nor will I for one moment call in question the character, integrity, or devotion of my good Bro. Binckes. I think he is a most earnest, indefatigable Secretary, and that the school owes much of its success to his untiring industry and love of duties.

I will now take the liberty of drawing the attention of the Boys' School Committee to a few facts, which will show to them the rate of expenditure per head in their and other kindred institutions. At page 42 in the Boys' report, the ordinary expenses are stated at £6840; at page 41 a list of extraordinary expenses occur, which I consider nothing more than yearly charges, and must be included with the former, which will make the cost per boy about £51 each.

On examining the Commercial Travellers' School, to which I have subscribed from the foundation, I find that the entire cost per head, including all charges, is £30 4s.; the London Orphan, I am also interested in, costs £31 6s. 3d.; Ackworth School, £31 10s. 6d.; Sidcote, £33 19s. 4d.; Yorkshire Boys, £33 os. od. But to go a little further into these calculations and costs of the various departments,

I have prepared a statement of the above schools, and beg to give them for the information of the committee and subscribers of the Masonic Boys' School.

Number.	Cost per head.		Maintenance.		Clothing.		Masters.		Servants.		Office.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Masonic Boys	156	51 0 0	16 4 0	7 11 6	6 0 0	2 4 0	8 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
London Orphan,	491	31 6 3	12 0 0	3 10 0	4 15 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	0 2 8	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 2 8	0 0 0
Commercial Travellers	228	30 4 0	12 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Ackworth	290	31 10 6	16 0 0	2 4 0	8 10 0	1 7 6	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Sidcote	97	33 19 0	17 18 0	0 0 0	7 4 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Yorkshire Boys!	55	33 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0

Office expenses are included in the Masters' charges at Ackworth and Sidcote.

It will be seen from the above statement that the cost of our boys is £20 os. od. above the London Orphan or Commercial Travellers' Schools.

I know full well that the education given in the above schools is all that is necessary to fit a boy to fill any commercial situation in life. They are well fed, clothed, and can take an equal standard with any school in the kingdom of the same nature. As a life governor of the Boys' School, I feel that the cost per boy should be reduced to at least £36 os. od., thus saving the large sum of £2340, or sufficient to educate sixty more boys than the present number. In offering the above remarks, I am actuated with a sincere desire for the extended usefulness of the institution, and I trust that the facts which I have brought forward will meet with the kind consideration of the House Committee, who have laboured zealously in the administration of its affairs.

I beg to remain, yours fraternally,

CHARLES PEGLER.

THE LODGE OF TRUTH, 1458.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In answer to your correspondent, signing himself "A Junior Member," he is evidently annoyed at my "so called" report of the meeting of the above lodge on November 6th. I am surprised he should doubt the truthfulness of the "so called" report, as I am anxious to observe it on all occasions. If "A Junior Member" will communicate direct with me I will put him in possession of a few facts of which he is not aware. I may here say that a dispensation would have been granted had Bro. Pearson been elected W.M. I quite agree with "A Junior Member" as to the high esteem in which Bro. Pearson is held by the members of 1458, and most deservedly so, and there is no greater admirer of his truly Masonic character than myself. I can only in justice pay the same tribute to Bro. Kent; and now he is W.M. elect, on his occupying the chair of K.S. I wish him a happy and prosperous year.

My "so called" report was not expected to raise a newspaper correspondence, and I do not intend entering upon one, therefore this will conclude the matter so far as I am concerned. If "A Junior Member" feels himself aggrieved, he can get my address from the Secretary of the lodge, and I will then convince him that my "so called" report was not intended to cause any uneasiness or unpleasantness to any member of the lodge.

There are many remarks in a "A Junior Member's" letter that I do not consider Masonic. I am not aware that my "so called" report makes any remark "disparaging" to Bro. Kent; if it does, I am sorry for it, and offer Bro. Kent publicly an apology.

In conclusion, I may frankly say that anything that has emanated from my pen was not intended to cause uneasiness to any member of the lodge.

I shall be glad to hear from your correspondent privately, and I think I can give him a satisfactory answer to all his queries.

By inserting this in your next impression you will oblige, yours faithfully and fraternally,

THE WRITER OF THE "SO CALLED" REPORT.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In your issue of the 20th ult. appears a report of the meeting of Lodge of Truth, 1458, Manchester. This

report, so far as it relates to the election of W.M., is calculated to mislead those not conversant with the circumstance, in consequence of the omission of a very important fact, viz., that Bro. Pearson, if elected, could not have been installed, except under dispensation from the M.W. Grand Master, he being now W.M. of the Wilton, 1077, his year of office not expiring until the first Monday in February. This is why the J.W. was elected, not that he was preferred to Bro. Pearson, who fully merits all that has been said of his abilities as a worker; at the same time the reports which have appeared in your valuable paper during the year is sufficient proof that the W.M. elect is well up in his work, and I have full confidence will be found to possess the other qualifications for the duties of Master. That the result could be a surprise to many is impossible, the J.W. having 17 and the S.W. 3 votes out of 22 members present. I should not have troubled you with these details had I not felt the strong remarks in reference to the junior members unmerited by them, also that they reflect upon the W.M. elect.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,

HENRY SMITH, W.M. 1458.

FREEMASONRY IN ST. PETERSBURG.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In reply to Bro. G.C., I think I may safely say that there is no lodge, either English, French or Russian, in St. Petersburg. Some seven or eight years ago I introduced into Masonry a friend of mine, who was leaving this country to reside at Moscow. I learnt from him, some time after, that although there were Freemasons amongst the citizens, there was no lodge in Moscow, and he was informed that there were no lodges in Russia.

MAGNUS OHREN,

P.P.G. Warden for Surrey.

GRAND LODGE DIPLOMAS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Could you kindly in your next impression inform me, and several brethren interested, if a brother when he receives the M.M. Degree is bound to come to his mother lodge for his diploma and write his signature on the margin in open lodge, or is the lodge bound to send his diploma to his residence and allow him to write his signature on the margin out of lodge room altogether.

By kindly giving information on these questions you will much oblige,

Yours fraternally,

AN INQUIRING M.M.

[As a general rule the diploma is given in open lodge, but we are not sure that there is any law on the subject.—Ed.]

Multum in Parvo; or Masonic Notes and Queries.

RAMSAY AND FREEMASONRY, A.D. 1738.

I have had my attention drawn to the fact that a copy of the curious work I noticed last week occurred for sale in Bro. Spencer's large library; its authorship being ascribed to Ramsay.

I am sorry I failed to notice the work in question at Bro. Spencer's sale, and shall feel much obliged if the purchaser of Lot 3 (in which the book was) on the catalogue will kindly communicate with me, or mention in the pages of the "Freemason" the character of the "Relation Historique et Apologetique," and especially as to the author.

WM. JAMES HUGHAN.

HAMMATT LODGE, EAST BOSTON, U.S.A.

In answer to Bro. Vinal, I have searched the "Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts" for 1875, and find that the Hammatt Lodge, East Boston, has for its Secretary Bro. Samuel L. Fowle (of East Boston), through whom application should be made for the purpose desired. Bro. Vinal's friend surely must know some members of the Hammatt Lodge who can vouch for his respectability, as all would hinge on his character. Added to which, the W.M. and members of the lodge must be consulted, as it is not usual for Grand Lodge in the United States to issue certificates, but the lodges do so.

WM. JAMES HUGHAN.

YORK MASONRY.

I have perused with interest the letters of Bro. Yarker and the Masonic Student as to the degrees recognised by the "Grand Lodge of all England," formerly held at York. Bro. Yarker, in the "Freemason" for Nov. 6th, says that body "never did acknowledge the Mark or any analogous degree; it only recognised the Royal Arch, Knights Templar, and Priestly Order of Melchisedek" (i.e., beyond the Master Mason).

Our brother, the "Masonic Student," writes in the following number to say such an assertion as to the Knights Templar and Priestly Order is new to him and me.

I am quite certain that Bro. Yarker is correct in stating that the Knights Templar Degrees were recognised by the York Grand Lodge, for such was agreed to at a meeting of that body held on the 20th June, 1780, but not before; and a few years later it ceased to exist. At the present day, and in fact at the "Union of 1813," it had not a legal representative in existence—either a lodge or chapter—and so its extinction is complete, though virtually it will never be without a relative to carefully treasure its records whilst the York Lodge continues its most useful and honourable career.

In page 17 of my "Unpublished Records of the Craft" (also page 147, American edition, "Masonic Sketches and Reprints") I give full particulars of the event. The re-

cognition included the three Craft degrees, the Royal Arch and Knights Templar. What authority Bro. Yarker has for the Priestly Order we know not. Bro. Higgins refers in his "Anacalypsis" to certain records of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter which he had from Bro. Blanchford, and presented to H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex. These are now in the archives of the York Lodge, and from them I took my extracts as to the degrees of 1780. Not a word occurs as to the Priestly Order, and I feel confident, from actual examination of all the other minute books, that such a degree was never officially recognised at York.

WM. JAMES HUGHAN.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

(An abridged report of the following appeared last week.)

The monthly meeting of the General Committee of Subscribers to this school was held in the Board-room, Freemasons' Hall, Lieut. Col. Creaton, V.P., in the chair. There were also present Bros. A. H. Tattershall, Thomas Massa, Thomas W. White, L. Ruf, Hyde Pullen, Griffiths Smith, Robt. B. Webster, Walter Wellsman, Wm. Paas, H. M. Levy, H. Massey ("Freemason"); Robert Kenyon, Benjamin Head, H. A. Dubois, Dr. Ramsay, William Jones, A. H. Diaper, and R. Wentworth Little, Secretary.

After the preliminary business of the Committee had been transacted, the Secretary read the schemes which had been submitted to the Special Committee to consider the enlargement of the school building, and announced that the Special Committee had determined to recommend Col. Creaton's suggestion to build a large hall with dormitories capable of accommodating 94 children, to erect a covered way between the old and new building, and to erect larger laundries at the end of the grounds.

The Chairman said that he might now tell the Committee that the Special Committee had considered the different schemes, and had taken a great deal of pains and care in going through them. They had looked into the matter very closely, and having determined on recommending a certain scheme, now asked the General Committee to confirm that, as far as they had the power to confirm it, which was by recommending it to the Special or Quarterly Court. With regard to the cost of the new buildings, the brethren must remember, in the first place, they would have a very large hall, which they had not at the present time at the school, and which they had found very necessary on many occasions. In addition to the hall they would have dormitories and offices. The dormitories, they had heard read, would accommodate 94 extra children—not that they proposed to take 94 more at this time; but there would be the building for them if at any time it was proposed to take them in. There would be an extension of the dining-room; and then it must be remembered that the laundries must be removed whether the building was increased or not, the present laundries being quite insufficient for even the present requirements of the School. The cost of all this would be under £20,000, but everything would be perfect and good. He submitted this scheme to the brethren, but he would be happy to hear any brother who had anything to say upon it.

Bro. Robert Kenyon said he had the honour of submitting to this Special Committee a proposition by letter, and it was very possible that many brethren around the table had not heard this proposition; perhaps Bro. Little would read the letter.

The Chairman told Bro. Kenyon that his letter was read to the Special Committee, and full consideration was given to it. The Committee highly appreciated it, and were very much obliged to Bro. Kenyon for sending it.

Bro. Little then read the letter of Bro. Kenyon, which stated that it was desirable to secure in some healthy locality within about an hour's ride by rail, at a moderate cost, a sufficient number of acres of freehold land to enable the Committee to erect a building with spacious wings. At Sunninghill there were 10½ acres (a portion of which was well-timbered) which could be had for £3500. The building would not cost more than £9000, and there would be a most charming home for the children.

Bro. Dr. Ramsay asked what were the propositions of the other brethren, Bro. J. A. Rucker, and Bro. Raynham Stewart.

Bro. Little replied that Bro. Rucker's proposition was that a site elsewhere should be sought for, and Bro. Stewart's was that the Infirmary be utilised. Both these brethren had withdrawn in favour of Lieut. Col. Creaton's plan. Bro. J. B. Monckton had written about a large building at Richmond, close to the Star and Garter; but it was not thought advisable that the children should be located there.

Bro. R. Kenyon then said that having written the letter he wished to make a few observations upon it. In the first place he thought it most desirable before a single step was taken, that the brethren should ascertain where they were going to. With respect to Clapham Junction, he did not think that a very desirable site now, and every year they would find it become more unhealthy, as the whole neighbourhood was being surrounded with small houses. This Institution with a large number of children in it, would not thrive well in the midst of small houses. In the next place, carrying out a suggestion that had been made, he thought it desirable to have a junior branch establishment and he thought it should be erected in a healthy locality. He thought they would find it difficult to get the Governors of the Institution to sanction the expenditure of the £20,000 on the proposed extension at Clapham Junction. He knew the difficulty that Bro. Binckes had in getting the Boys' School out of debt; it took year after year in time, and a great expenditure of energy. They must all admit that no one could have shewn a greater amount of energy than Bro. Binckes on behalf of the Boys' School; and yet it took him and everyone else who felt an interest

in the Craft many years to free the Boys' School from debt.

The Chairman said that without wishing to curtail the observations of Bro. Kenyon at all, he might be allowed to say that the Boys' School was struggling and had no money at the time Bro. Kenyon was alluding to; but the Girls' School had money.

Bro. Kenyon said, although he knew they had £40,000 invested, it was perfectly well-known that the intention was to admit more children into the school. It must be remembered they must then provide for them; and was it wise to continue to utilise the present institution until the railway company wanted it? Therefore, he said, having the present institution, all they had to provide for was a certain number more of children say 100 at the outside. It was his own experience that they could erect a building and buy land cheaper; they could erect a building in a proper place capable of accommodating the extra children without going to the expense of £20,000 or anything like it. If they purchased ten acres of freehold land they would have an abundance of space for all time, however large their institution might become. He did not say that in our time we should not be able to educate and clothe more than 300 children at the outside; at all events, we did not propose to do anything of the sort now. We did, however, propose to admit into the school thirty or forty more children than at present. He therefore thought it would be very unwise to launch into an expense of £20,000—probably it might be £25,000—on the present occasion, and it was with very great regret he had to move an amendment to the chairman's proposal. He regretted it. He wished the proposition had been made by some one else than Lieut.-Col. Creaton; for knowing the great interest he always took in the institution he (Bro. Kenyon) felt quite nervous when he got up to propose an amendment. Having, however, advanced a proposition he felt bound to support it, and therefore he moved his amendment. He knew that his amendment could be practically carried out. His amendment was this:—"Resolved that a branch school be established as soon as practicable, and that a committee of five governors be appointed to inspect a freehold estate at Sunning hill, comprising about 10½ acres of land, with a view of purchasing the same, and with a view of erecting necessary schools thereon. That the entire cost of the land and building shall not exceed £10,000." He was quite satisfied in his own mind, if they should purchase this land at a reasonable price, that £7000 could erect a school quite capable of accommodating 60, 70, or 80 children; and not only that, but his proposition was that they should build the centre of the building, and if the whole school were taken down they could then add wings as required. This would not absorb more at present than £9000 or £10,000 at the outside. Then, it must be remembered, they would have a freehold estate in case the railway should want their property. He had seen the railway surveyor, who told him what they had done at Clapham Junction was not half enough. With that expression of opinion before the brethren he left them to judge whether the school would not be pulled down some day or other. His amendment, it would be seen, involved a sum of money much within the limits of Colonel Creaton's. It was only for £12,000.

Bro. Leopold Ruf seconded the amendment.

Bro. H. A. Dubois thought the amendment could not be put to this meeting. All that the Committee had to do was to decide whether they should or should not recommend Colonel Creaton's plan, which had already been accepted by the Special Committee, to the Quarterly Court. An amendment, if moved at all, must be moved at the Quarterly Court.

The Chairman agreed with Bro. Dubois.

Bro. Dubois said this Committee could not send up another resolution to the Quarterly Court, because a committee had been specially appointed to decide upon different schemes, and having decided, they recommended it to the General Committee, who recommended that scheme to the Quarterly Court.

Bro. Kenyon reminded the Committee that at the Quarterly Court he proposed that suggestions might be received from any of the brethren when he supported Bro. Binckes's motion, and that he was told that any suggestions would be accepted.

The Chairman said he remembered that Bro. Kenyon did so; but with Bro. Dubois he thought that any amendment must be made at the Quarterly Court. A Special Committee had been appointed by the Quarterly Court to recommend a scheme to the General Committee, who were to recommend to the Quarterly Court; but at the Quarterly Court it was quite competent for any Governor to move an amendment.

Bro. Kenyon said the reference was to a Special House Committee, not to this General Committee.

The Chairman replied that the Special House Committee was to investigate and to report to this General Committee.

Dr. Ramsay reminded the meeting that they must either accept or reject the recommendation. No motion could be put other than this, excepting moving the previous question.

Bro. Little read the rule of the institution with reference to such a subject, when it was found that the Chairman's ruling was correct.

Bro. Benj. Head then moved the adoption of Lieut.-Col. Creaton's scheme, and its recommendation to the Quarterly Court.

Bro. Dubois seconded it, and it was carried with only two dissentients, Bros. Kenyon and Ruf.

Bro. Kenyon said he should bring his amendment before the Quarterly Court.

The Chairman thought there should be a special court for the purpose. The next regular Quarterly Court was in January, and if the matter was deferred till then the confirmation of what that meeting might do would only take

place in April, and the building operations would thus be driven off to a late period in the season.

The brethren then proceeded with their other business, and placed four children on the list for election in April.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of England was held on Wednesday evening in Freemasons' Hall. There was a very large attendance of brethren, notwithstanding the inclement weather, though many old and familiar faces, especially of those accustomed to sit on the dais, were not present. The Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master, had signified to Grand Secretary his intention of being present, but, owing to an accident, he was unable to attend. A letter of apology was read by Grand Secretary at the commencement of the proceedings announcing the fact, as were also letters of apology for absence from the Grand Junior Warden (Bro. Alderman Stone), and many others. In the absence of the Pro Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Master's chair was taken by Bro. Colonel Lyne, Prov. G.M. of Monmouthshire, who was supported by Major-General Brownrigg, as Deputy-Grand Master, and Bros. R. J. Bagshaw, as Past Grand Master; H. D. Sandeman, Lord Tenterden, as S.G.W.; Capt. Platt as J.W.; Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, Rev. A. B. Fraser, Le Gendre, N. Starkie, P.G.M. E. Lancashire; S. Rawson, C. Hutton Gregory, Rev. S. R. Wigram, J. M. Clabon, A. J. McIntyre, G.C.; Rev. R. J. Simpson, Dr. Hogg, Wilhelm Ganz, J. B. Monckton, W. E. Gumbleton, H. Browse, Joshua Nunn, J. Symonds, Dr. Sedgwick, J. Glaisher, W. Speed, Dr. Erasmus Wilson, Rev. C. J. Martyn, S. May, Thomas W. White, H. Marsh, Sir Albert Woods, Benj. Head, Rev. C. R. Davy, R. J. Spiers, John Boyd, C. A. Cottebrune, Dr. Carpenter, George Everett, Thomas Hargraves, James Terry, Hon.—Jocelyn, Sub. Grand Master of Ireland, E. P. Albert, James Mason, Captain Ridgway, Raynham W. Stewart, Rev. J. Hordern Jukes, Ex-Sheriff Hutton, George Lambert, Griffiths Smith, J.M. Case, P.M.; Wilhelm Kuhe, G. Org.; Thomas Fenn, B. H. Swallow, A. H. Diaper, J. C. Parkinson Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, and E. S. Snell.

Grand Lodge having been formally opened, Bro. Hervey made the above-mentioned announcement as to the absence of the Earl of Carnarvon, and read the letters from the other absent brethren.

The Acting Grand Master then stated that Bro. Alderman Hadley had been appointed to succeed the late Bro. John Savage on the Board of General Purposes. After this announcement,

Bro. J. M. Case, P.G.S., P.M. No. 1, rose, and said that he had the pleasure of having to propose the Most Worshipful the Grand Master for the ensuing year, this being the day for the nomination of Grand Master. After the experience which the Craft had had for some little period, there could be but one opinion as to whom he desired to propose to the brethren, and there could also be but one opinion as to what would be the result of that proposition. There was no doubt that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had so endeared himself to the Craft that anything he (Bro. Case) might say in dilating upon the subject would be out of place. Whilst His Royal Highness was travelling in the East there was but one feeling towards him which existed in the minds of the brethren, that though they wished him a most prosperous and pleasant journey, they looked anxiously forward to his happy return to England, and this was an event which would be hailed with gratification by the Craft generally. Without taking up the time of the brethren unnecessarily, he begged to nominate His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Grand Master for the ensuing year. (Great applause.)

The Acting Grand Master said the next business on the paper was the appointment of a President of the Lodge of Benevolence, and he had therefore to inform the brethren that Bro. John M. Clabon was re-appointed. (Cheers.) He had also to state that the election of the Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents would now, in the ordinary course of events, take place, but as no others than the brethren last elected to the office had been put in nomination no election was necessary, and Bro. Joshua Nunn would again be Senior Vice-President, and Bro. James Brett, Junior Vice-President. (Applause.)

The election of twelve Past Masters to serve on the Lodge of Benevolence next ensued, and scrutineers having been appointed, the brethren proceeded with that business. (After Grand Lodge had been closed, the result of this election was made known to the Acting Grand Master in his private room, it not having been completed while Grand Lodge was in session.) The following is the result: Bros. C. F. Hogard, W. T. Howe, Herbert Dicketts, H. Bartlett, Griffiths Smith, W. Hilton, Samuel Poynter, W. Mann, W. Myers, W. Clifton Crick, William Stephens, and Samuel May.

The Grand Secretary read the report of the Lodge of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which were recommendations for the following grants:—

The widow of a brother of the St. John's Lodge, No. 70, Plymouth	£70 0 0
A brother of the Witham Lodge, No. 297, Lincoln.....	50 0 0
A brother of the Cosmopolitan Lodge, No. 917, London	75 0 0
A brother of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 199, Dover	75 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Lodge of Fidelity, No. 230, Devonport	50 0 0
A brother of the Hertford Lodge, No. 403, Hertford	100 0 0

N.B.—This brother received £10 on account of this grant, but he died on the 1st November.

A brother of the Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25, London	250	0	0
A brother of the Lily Lodge of Richmond, No. 820, Richmond	50	0	0
The widow of a brother of the Lodge St. John of Wapping, No. 1306, Wapping	50	0	0
The widow of a brother of the Hertford Lodge, No. 403, Hertford	100	0	0
A brother of the St. James's Union, Lodge, No. 180, London	50	0	0
The widow of a brother of the Strong Man Lodge, No. 45, London	50	0	0

The grant of £250 was, after considerable discussion, reduced to £100.

"The report of the Board of General Purposes, to the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England:—

"The Board of General Purposes have to report that they have taken into consideration a complaint of two members of the Blackheath Lodge, No. 1320, Blackheath, to the effect that on the 17th day of June last the W.M. elect was installed without the previous confirmation of the minutes. And further, that on the 15th day of July the lodge was opened before the time named in the summons. After a long investigation of the facts of the case and hearing the evidence, the Board decided that the specific charges made were not proved. As however great laxity appeared to have prevailed in recording the minutes of the lodge, the Board admonished the Master to be more careful in future in seeing that the proceedings of the lodge were duly and properly recorded, reminding him that although the Secretary was the proper person to take the minutes, the Master was at all times responsible for their being correctly entered.

(Signed) "JOHN B. MONCKTON, President."

Bro. Monckton, after this report had been taken as read, said, in moving that it be received and entered on the minutes, that he would not take up the time of Grand Lodge in stating the case, as it sufficiently appeared upon the report.

The motion was carried, after having been seconded by Bro. Peter de L. Long.

Grand Registrar brought up the appeal of Bro. Robert Levingstone, of the Lodge Orion in the West, No. 415, Poona, against the decision of the District Grand Master of Bombay, that Bro. Braine was eligible to be elected the Master of Lodge No. 415. In doing so he explained the circumstances of the case. The W.M. of No. 415, when installed, duly appointed his Wardens. At that time another brother, who now claimed to be Master of the lodge, Bro. Braine, was not a member of the lodge, but he was proposed as a joining member. The W.M. elect was placed in the chair, and notice of proposition of Bro. Braine as a joining member was given. At the next meeting he was elected. Being elected, he was placed by the W.M. in the J.W. chair. The J.W., who had been previously appointed, being a military brother, had meantime been appointed to another station, and being obliged to leave Poona, had resigned his Junior Wardenship. At the following election of Master, an objection was made that Bro. Braine, not having been J.W. for twelve months, was not eligible; but this was overruled, and he was elected by a majority of the brethren. Complaint was made to the District Grand Master; but he, probably not having the full facts before him, decided that he was eligible. Now, it was a fundamental principle of the Constitutions that no one could be Master of a lodge who had not served the office of Warden in a regular lodge for a year. This brother had not done so, for he was not even a member of the lodge when the J.W. was appointed. Therefore, with very great deference to the opinion of the District Grand Master, who was a member of his (Bro. McIntyre's) own profession, he must decide that Bro. Braine was not properly qualified to be a W.M. He therefore moved that the appeal be allowed.

The motion was seconded.

Bro. H. D. Sandeman asked whether the brother had served as Warden in another lodge.

Grand Registrar replied that from all that appeared he had not.

Bro. Jas. Mason having made some observations, repeating Grand Registrar's, amid general signs of impatience, the motion was carried.

Grand Secretary next read the following report:—

Report of a special meeting of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 10th day of November, 1875, will be laid before Grand Lodge, and the following proposed alterations of the rules which were then agreed to will, in accordance with the laws of the institution, be submitted for the approval of Grand Lodge, viz.:—

To add to Clause 10, page 10 of the rules and regulations, after the words "Serving the Stewardship," and as a new paragraph, the following:—

"Every Steward at the anniversary festival who shall procure donations or subscriptions to the extent of not less than £50, in addition to his personal donation, shall receive two additional votes at each election, and two further extra votes for every additional sum of not less than £50."

And also to expunge from the same clause the following:—

"If unaccompanied with a personal donation, but by means of his services, not less than £20 shall be paid to the funds, he shall be entitled to one additional vote for every subsequent Stewardship."

That the law as altered now read thus:—

"A Life Governor who has served the office of Steward at the anniversary festival and subscribed £10 or upwards shall, on every occasion of subsequent service of such office, if accompanied with a similar donation, be entitled to four votes; if accompanied with a donation of £5, to

two extra votes. A donor, who has qualified as a Life Governor and afterwards served the office of Steward at the anniversary festival, and qualifies again as a Life Governor, shall be entitled to the same number of votes as if he had paid both at the time of serving the Stewardship.

"Every Steward at the anniversary festival who shall procure donations or subscriptions to the extent of not less than £50, in addition to his personal donation, shall receive two additional votes at each election, and two further extra votes for every additional sum of not less than £50."

Bro. John Symonds, in bringing this matter forward, said that these alterations had been brought before the subscribers of the institution in order that the laws of all the Masonic charitable institutions might be in harmony. At present these proposed privileges were in force in the Boys' and Girls' Schools, and it was thought right that the Benevolent Institution should place its supporters on a similar footing. The alterations were unanimously agreed to by a special meeting of the subscribers. He moved their adoption.

Bro. Bueskstone Baker seconded this motion, said that ever since he had been associated with the Masonic institutions he had endeavoured to carry out harmony in their rules.

Bro. C. Hutton Gregory asked whether this graceful act would be retrospective, and be a reward not for future services only, but for past.

Bro. Symonds did not apprehend that that was the practice; if it was carried out in the other institutions, it ought to be carried out in this institution.

The motion was carried nem. con.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C., moved, "That the sum of one hundred guineas be granted by this Grand Lodge in aid of the Palestine Exploration Fund, with the view of promoting the continued prosecution of the interesting and important work of exploring the ancient landmarks of the Holy Land." It was the duty of every man who brought forward a motion which was not for an exclusively Masonic object to shew cause why the object should have the support of Grand Lodge. He was in this case happily precluded from entering upon such an investigation, inasmuch as years ago Grand Lodge was good enough to make a grant for the very purpose for which he asked it to make a grant to-night. Consequently the principle in this case, he might take it for granted, had been known in Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) He said so in the first place, because he took it for granted that Grand Lodge seven or eight years ago would have been as competent to decide on a matter of principle as Grand Lodge of to-night, and to show how far by its vote it believed the object in question to be one that harmonised with the sympathies and feelings of Freemasons. He did it for this purpose—to show that he would not wish to inflict a speech upon Grand Lodge. Permit him however, to say, that the work which was begun seven or eight years ago had been most successfully and unweariedly carried out up to the present moment by the exploring party, among whom Bro. Lieut. Warren was chief. He (Bro. Simpson) had had the pleasure of hearing from him personally during the present month, and also from Mrs. Fern, the widow of the late Consul at Jerusalem, and for 19 years resident there. They had most satisfactory accounts of the progress made by the exploring party. The very name of this fund would suggest the design for which the fund had been collected, viz., for endeavouring to exhume from that land so full of memory, so deeply interesting to us all, some of the remnants of former days, in order to prove—if nothing else, to show the light which was thrown upon that Holy Volume which we all alike respected and venerated. He was sure also that the fact that the M.W.G.M. had himself been in that land, and taken a deep interest in its concerns, would have something to say for Masonry. But he (Bro. Simpson) proposed this vote because he felt that it was a vote in which every true-hearted Mason must have a deep interest, inasmuch as it was interesting both to them as Masons and as men; and he felt also that in the present case he might have the authority of their Treasurer, who he was very sorry to see was not present that night, for saying that Grand Lodge could afford to meet such a vote. He (Bro. Simpson) was to be seconded by a brother whom he was sure they all exceedingly respected, and he was quite sure one to whom they would more gladly listen; and therefore he should content himself by simply moving the resolution which he had placed in the hands of the brethren.

Bro. Dr. Erasmus Wilson had much pleasure in seconding the proposition which had been put by Bro. Simpson. He believed that the work in which the Palestine Exploration was concerned was one that was deeply interesting to the Craft, and calculated to develop materially the connecting links between it and Masonry, the nature of which we had hardly been able to comprehend at the present time. He would not detract from the eloquence of the speech which had been made by Bro. Simpson, and anything more which might be said on the subject might interfere with the effect which he trusted Bro. Simpson's speech would have upon the brethren.

Bro. Dr. Carpenter moved, as an amendment, the re-jecting of the proposition.

Bro. John Constable, P.M. 185, seconded it.

The amendment was put, and but a few hands were held up for it, whereupon Bro. Constable wished to withdraw from seconding the amendment, but was told by the Acting G. Master, amid derisive laughter, that he was too late.

The motion was put and carried.

Bro. S. L. Tomkins, P.G.D., said that he was commissioned by Grand Treasurer to say that on this, as on other occasions, Grand Treasurer would pay the amount immediately, without waiting for the confirmation of the vote.

Grand Lodge was then closed.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, &c.

The Half-Yearly Communication to Grand Mark Lodge was held at Freemasons' Tavern on Tuesday. Colonel Burdett presided, the Earl of Limerick being unable to attend through the death of the Dowager Countess of Limerick. The following brethren were present:—M.W. Bro. G. R. Portal, M.W.P.G.M.M.M.; R.W. Bro. Hugh D. Sandeman, P.P.G.M. Bengal, as D.G.M.M.M.; Col. Francis Burdett, Pro G.M.M.M. Midx. and Surrey; V.W. Bros. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, P.G.W., as G.S.W.; Captain N.G. Philips, G.J.W.; Major George Barlow, G.M.O.; Thomas Meggy, P.G.M.O., as G.S.O.; John Trotter, G.J.O.; Rev. C. R. Davy, G. Chaplain; Frederick Davison, G. Treas.; H. C. Levander, G. Reg.; F. Binckes, P.G.W., G. Sec.; W. Bros. Samuel Jones, G.S.D.; Thomas Trollope, G. Dir. of Cer.; Thomas Cubitt, G. Sword Bearer; T. S. Mortlock; G. Standard Bearer; Henry Parker, G. Org.; H. W. Binckes, Assistant G. Sec.; J. H. Spencer, G.I.G.; C. T. Speight, G. Tyler; Frank Richardson, G. Steward; George Yaxley, G. Steward; with the following Past Grand Officers:—V.W. Bros. W. E. Gumbleton, P.G.J.W.; Alexander Ridgeway, P.G.J.W.; Rev. J. Hordern Jukes, P.G. Chaplain; R. W. Little, P.G.M.O.; W. Bros. Thomas Hargreaves, P.G.D.; G. Lambert, P.G.D.; Chas. Hammerton, P.G.D.C.; James W. Smith, C. Stretton, and H. Massey ("Freemason"), P.G. Stewards. Provincial Grand Officers: W. Bros. Hyde Pullen, P.M.; Shadwell H. Clerke, P.M., Ireland; R. J. Mure, Prov. G.M.O., Middlesex and Surrey. And the following Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Overseers of Private Lodges:—W. Bros. E. M. Haigh, P.M. Bon. Accord; Edwd. J. Harty, I.G., Bon. Accord; Chas. Pulman, W.M. Panmure, 139; J. R. Pitt, Macdonald Lodge, 104; Thos. Wood, Holmesdale Lodge, 129; W. Scott, Armstrong Lodge, 120, Bengal; John Mapleson, S.D., Panmure, 139; W. Steedman, 139; James Sinclair, 139. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes, Bro. Thomas Hargreaves nominated the Earl of Limerick as Grand Master. He was sure he need not repeat the words which had been used six months ago when the M.W.G.M. was installed in the chair. His zeal for Masonry, more particularly Mark Masonry, was such as to entitle him to the brethren's warmest esteem; and he had therefore great pleasure in nominating his lordship as M.W.G.M.M. for the ensuing year.

Bro. Thomas Mortlock moved the re-election of Bro. F. Davison as Grand Treasurer.

Bro. Gumbleton seconded it, and it was carried unanimously.

Bro. Davison returned his thanks to the brethren for the compliment.

Bro. Binckes read the report of the General Board.

4. Report of the General Board, which includes the following recommendations:—

A.—"That the existing treaty with the Supreme Council 33°, and the Grand Master of the Temple, requires modification in the following sense:—

B.—"That no sentence shall be carried out in the Mark Degree, unless with the unanimous consent of the representatives of the Mark Degree present at the meeting of the Judicial Council (on appeal), two representatives being a quorum.

C.—"That an appeal be in all cases allowed to Grand Lodge.

D.—"That the Grand Stewards' contributions towards expenses of Grand Festival be fixed at two guineas (£2 2s.).

E.—"That the sum of £25 be granted from the Fund of Benevolence to Bro. P That the sum of £5 per annum be granted from the Fund of Benevolence to Mrs. S , widow of the late Bro. J. R. S"

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, before moving resolutions A B and C, said he was happy to inform the brethren that Prince Leopold was advanced as a Mark Mason at Oxford in the previous week. Bro. Portal then entered on the question of the alteration proposed, and said that the opinions he had formerly expressed with regard to the Tripartite Treaty he had seen reason to change. The present alterations he thought would be beneficial.

Bro. Little, in seconding the motion, was glad to see that there was an intended alteration. On the last occasion when the matter was before the Grand Lodge he felt very deeply on the subject and spoke with some warmth. It was exceedingly gratifying to him to see the change which had come over the minds of the brethren.

After considerable discussion the motion was carried.

Bro. Frank Richardson proposed, and Bro. Clement Stretton seconded, the investment of £200 in Canadian 5 per Cent Bonds.

The motion was carried.

The other motions were then carried.

Bro. F. Davison, G.T., brought up his report for confirmation as follows:—

Balance from last account	£359	7	1
Receipts for six months to 30th Sept., 1875	312	13	6
	672	0	7
Expenditure six months to the same date...	323	1	7
In favour of Grand Lodge	£348	19	0
FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.			
Balance from last account.....	£146	9	6
Donations	134	13	6
Dividends on £400 Bonds.....	19	18	4
Balance in favour of Grand Lodge	£291	1	4

Bro. Hammerton moved, and Bro. Samuel Jones seconded, the reception and adoption of these accounts, which was put and carried unanimously, and Grand Lodge was closed. The brethren afterwards partook of banquet.

GRAND MASONIC DEMONSTRATION AND CONCERT IN LIVERPOOL.

In the annals of Freemasonry in West Lancashire, there probably was never a more striking gathering than that which took place on Tuesday evening, the 23rd November, at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, where a grand Masonic testimonial concert was given to Bro. Joseph Skeaf, P.M. 216, Prov. Grand Organist, in recognition of his many services in connection with the Craft and other orders in Masonry. The compliment was honestly earned by Bro. Skeaf, who during many years past has devoted much time and his talents to help in every way the high standing and progress of Masonry. The spontaneous nature of the manner in which the concert was organised and carried out was reciprocated by the brethren, and the result was eminently creditable to all concerned, as well as most honouring to the brother for whose interests it was intended. The Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool is fairly considered the finest of its kind in the kingdom, and the sight it presented on this occasion was the most picturesque and striking ever witnessed within its walls. Every corner of the vast hall was crowded, and even then there were many who failed to gain admission. It is not very often that Freemasons make a show of their "finery," but on this occasion a dispensation enabled them to wear the clothing, insignia, and jewels of the various orders to which they belonged, thus making the compliment to Bro. Skeaf all the more valuable and interesting. This privilege was taken advantage of to the full extent, and in the boxes and stalls nearly every order of Freemasonry was represented. The Craft, of course, predominated, but there were also represented the Royal Arch, Mark Masonry, Red Cross of Constantine, Rose Croix, and Knight Templars. The concert enjoyed the patronage of Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W.D.G.M. and R.W. Prov. Grand Master; Bro. the Hon. A. F. Stanley, M.P., R.W. Dep. Prov. G.M.; Bro. Sir James Ramsden, P. Prov. G.S.W.; Bro. W. C. Deeley, Prov. G.S.W.; and officers of Provincial Grand Lodge; officers and brethren in West Lancashire and the adjoining provinces. The chairman of committee was Bro. H. S. Alpass, Prov. G. Sec.; the Treasurer, Bro. Dr. J. Kellett Smith, P.M. 249, and P. Prov. G. Reg.; and vice-chairman, Bro. Richard Washington, P.M. 1094. There were no fewer than 60 names on the committee, and the arrangements in connection with the concert could hardly have been better carried out. This satisfactory result is due in a large measure to the excellent working of the committee, special praise being due to Bro. R. Brown, W.M. 241, one of the Secretaries, who was assisted by Bro. Dr. Kisch, 216. Bro. H. E. Hime also deserves favourable recognition in connection with the concert. A helping hand was also given by Bro. W. S. Vines, P.M. 220, who generously gave the profits of the "refreshment" to the concert fund. The artistes included Madame Liebhart, Miss M. Severn, Mr. H. Guy, Bro. Seymour Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. Blagrove, Bro. and Mrs. Skeaf, and the Liverpool Vocalists' Union, under the direction of Bro. Queen. The performances of the "Union" were certainly the most interesting in the programme; and their rendering of the several pieces was marked by all the delicacy and fine vocal effect which have made the members' names so popular. A new setting of "The Wreck of the Hesperus," by Bro. Skeaf, was highly artistic and effective, leading to an encore, when "Comrades in Arms" was rendered with the musical colouring for which the "Union" is famous. Madame Liebhart's most successful effort was in Allen's "Little Bird," which was so crisply and naively rendered as to secure another encore. Miss Severn apparently had a cold, and therefore her efforts were not quite up to the mark. Mrs. Skeaf always sings naturally and without pretence, and her vocal efforts last evening were highly appreciated. Mr. H. Guy sang very artistically, and Mr. and Mrs. Blagrove contributed in no small degree to the success of the concert. Bro. Seymour Smith not only accompanied with fine taste, but gave two buffo songs with an effect which showed he possesses rare talent. His operatic reminiscences displayed much talent, and his imitations of the perturbed father, the silly lovers, and the peculiar orchestral surroundings of the opera showed he has a true sense and appreciation of the ridiculous. In his "Dinner Party" Bro. S. Smith also displayed talents of a high order. Bro. Skeaf, who received quite an ovation, played his fantasia, "The Fisherman," with the finest effect, and was recalled to the platform at its conclusion. The gathering was the most substantial compliment which has been paid to a Liverpool Mason for a long time, and Bro. Skeaf well deserved it. The next Masonic festival meeting of interest in Liverpool will be the annual Masonic ball, at the Town Hall, on the 11th January, in aid of the West Lancashire Educational Institution, when, it is expected, the Mayor and Mayoress of Liverpool will be present.

BOMBAY DOCKS.—The Government of Bombay have accepted, on the recommendation of the Bombay Port Trust, the tender of Messrs. Glover and Co., well known in India as successful contractors, for the construction of the Elphinstone Wet Dock, being the most important of the magnificent series of works in that harbour which have been in progress during the last seventeen years. The present contract for the masonry and dams will amount to about £30,000, but the other portions of the work, including gates and excavations, &c., will probably involve a further expenditure of about half a million sterling. The presence in Bombay of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has been availed of for laying the foundation stone with full Masonic honours. This took place on the 11th ult., and is the most important event in the history of the "Craft" in India. The spectacle on this occasion was one of singular magnificence, not the least striking part of it being the great assemblage of Parsee, Hindoo, and Mahomedan brethren, testifying to the bond of brotherhood between the East and the West.

Masonic and General Tidings.

The Grand Lodge of Texas held its annual session in June; all dues are paid in gold and silver. Four hundred and eighty lodges reported, with a membership of seven thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine. The Grand Lodge is rapidly paying off the debt contracted in building a Masonic Hall at Houston.

The sixty-second annual conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of New York was opened in ample form at ten o'clock a.m., on Oct. 12, in Rochester. There was an unusually large number of officers and representatives present. At the afternoon session the annual elections were held, Past Grand Commander H. Clay Preston presiding.

The Masonic World will be gratified to learn that our Imperial Brother the Prince Rhodocanakis of Scio, was unanimously elected Grand Master of the Freemasons of Greece, for three years (1875 to 1878), and was installed as such at Athens, on the 26th of October. Greece is to be congratulated in having a Grand Lodge presided over by a Prince whose liberality is so well known, and who, as regards ancestry, is second to none in Europe. We may add that the Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Greece, Major Spordion Karaiskaces, is the present Minister of war of Greece.

The Royal Arch Chapter "Stuart," 540, will be consecrated at Bedford on Tuesday, Dec. 14th, at 5 p.m., by Comp. R. Wentworth Little. The first M.E.Z. will be Comp. Colonel William Stuart, of Tempsford Hall, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire.

MADAME TUSSAUD AND SONS' EXHIBITION.—Last week the Princess of Wales and the Queen of Denmark, accompanied by the Hon. Mrs. Stoner, honoured this establishment with a visit.

The death is announced of the Dowager Countess of Limerick, which took place in Upper Brook-street on the 25th ult. Her ladyship was the daughter of Captain Nicholas Horsley, late 96th Regiment, and married in 1842, William Henry Tennyson Percy, second Earl of Limerick, who died in 1866, leaving issue six sons and one daughter.

At Gibraltar His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, attended by Mayor Pickard and other officers, returned the visit of his Excellency Major-General Gabriel de Torres Jurads, Governor of Algieras, on the 17th. The Duke and party proceeded to Algieras in her Majesty's gunboat Express. On arriving there they were received by Captain Baldassano Y. Tapete, commanding the naval forces. The Duke afterwards landed, and was saluted from the fort and from the Guard of Honour of the Guardia Civil. On the arrival at the Governor's house, the Duke was saluted by a section of cavalry, and by a guard of a regiment of reserve, and on entering the Governor's house was received by Major-General Torres, and conducted to the saloon, the royal standard of England being hoisted on the balcony. The Duke of Connaught paid a visit on the 22nd to Captain Adolph Nolting on board the Austro-Hungarian corvette Graf Dandolo, which vessel called here on her way to the Brazils. The Duke afterwards embarked on board his yacht Vega, for Tarifa, on a shooting excursion, and thence proceeds to Tangiers to join in boat hunts arranged by the British Minister Plenipotentiary, Sir John Drummond Hay.

The annual dinner of the Urban Club will be held on Friday, the 10th of December, when Bro. Sir John Bennett will preside.

Bro. Sir Frederick Perkins, M.P., has gone to Italy for the benefit of his health, taking Florence, Venice, Rome, and Naples in his tour.

We are requested to state that the funeral of the late Professor Key will take place at Highgate Cemetery on Monday next, the 6th instant, at twelve o'clock.

Bro. D. H. Stone, Grand Junior Warden, has joined the "Hanover-square Club."

A National Great Priory of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple will be held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Friday, the 10th inst.

Prince Leopold has presented to the Liverpool Free Public Library two copies of "Romeo and Juliet," edited by P. A. Daniel.

The Hon. W. T. Orde Powlett, will be the first M.P.S. of the De La Pole Conclave, No. 132, Hull, and it is believed that his brother-in-law, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, will be one of the first Knights installed.

The Fifteen Sections will be worked in the Mount Edgumbe Lodge of Instruction, at the Harp Tavern, Jermyn-street, by Bro. Govan Macdonald, assisted by fifteen members of the Star of Instruction, on the 15th December.

The Masonic Magazine for this month (December) contains a portrait of Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary.

WIPE YOUR FEET.—The best Cocoa Nut Mats and Matting are made by Treloar & Sons, 69 Ludgate Hill.

We regret to learn that her Grace the Duchess of Manchester met with a serious accident on Wednesday last. Her Grace was returning from Lord Fitzhardinge's decoy pools in a Whitechapel dog-cart, drawn by a pony driven by Miss Chetwynd, when within half a mile of Berkeley Castle they came into collision with a four-wheel conveyance. Miss Chetwynd and her Grace were thrown out of the trap. The former escaped with a dislocated thumb, but her Grace received a severe fracture of her left arm.

The annual festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement took place on Friday, the 26th ult., a report of which unavoidably stands over in consequence of the pressure on our columns.

The meetings of the Beacontree Lodge of Instruction, No. 1228, are now held every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS For the Week ending Friday, December 10, 1875.

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4.**
 General Committee, Boys' School, at 4.
 Lodge 142, St. Thomas's, City Terminus Ho., Cannon-st. Chap. 975, Rose of Denmark, Star and Garter, Kew Bdg.
INSTRUCTION.
 Manchester, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-square.
 Lily, Greyhound, Richmond.
 Star, Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road.
 Sinai Chapter Union Tav., Air-street, Regent-street.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6.
 Lodge 12, Fortitude & Old Cumberland, Ship & Turtle.
 " 25, Robert Burns, F. M. H.
 " 69, Unity, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.
 " 72, Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hot, Fleet-st.
 " 82, United L. of Prudence, Albion H., Aldersgate-st.
 " 144, St. Luke's, M. H., Mason's Avenue.
 " 188, Joppa, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
 " 256, Unions, F. M. H.
 " 1319, Asaph, F. M. H.
 Chap. 91, Regularity, F. M. H.
 " 1056, Victoria, M. H., Masons' Avenue.

- INSTRUCTION.**
 Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., Kingsland.
 Strong Man, Crown Tav., Clerkenwell Green.
 Sincerity, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-street Station.
 Camden, Stanhope Arms, Up. James-st., Camden To.
 Eastern, Royal Hot., Mile-end-road.
 St. James's Union, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
 Wellington, White Swan, Deptford.
 West Kent, St. Saviour's College, Forest-hill
 Perfect Ashlar, Victoria Tav., Lower-rd., Rotherhithe.
 Sydney, White Hart Ho., Church-rd., Upper Norwood.
 Metropolitan, Coach and Horses Hot., 323, Strand.

- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7.**
 Lodge 7, Royal York of Perseverance, F. M. H.
 " 18, Old Dundee, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-st.
 " 101, Temple, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
 " 172, Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.
 " 217, Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
 " 765, St. James's, Bridge House Hotel.
 " 1257, Grosvenor, Caledonian Hot., Fleet-st.
 " 1259, Duke of Edinburgh, C. of G. Hope Tav., E.
 " 1261, Golden Rule, Regent M.H., Air-st., Piccadilly.
 " 1298, R. Standard, Wellington Club, Upper-st, N.
 " 1381, Kennington, Surrey Tav., Kennington Oval.
 " 1383, Friends in Council, 33, Golden-square.
 " 1472, Henley, Three Crowns Hot., Woolwich.
 Chap. 145, Prudent Brethren, F. M. H.
 " 169, Temperance, White Swan, High-st., Deptford.

- INSTRUCTION.**
 Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
 Domatic, Surrey M. H., Camberwell New-road.
 Faith, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-st.
 Prince Fredk. Wm., Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
 Dalhousie, King Edward, Triangle, Hackney.
 Prosperity, Gladstone Tav., Bishopsgate-st. Within.
 St. Marylebone, British Stores Tav., St. John's Wood.
 Constitutional, Wheatsheaf Ho., Hand-court, Holborn.
 Percy, Grapes Tav., Little Windmill-street, W.
 Israel, Rising Sun Tav., Globe-road.
 Royal Arthur, Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea.
 Metropolitan Chapter, St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill.

- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8.**
 Committee, R.M. Boys' School, at 3.
 Lodge 3, Fidelity, F. M. H.
 " 9, Albion, Regent Masonic Hall, Regent-street.
 " 11, Enoch, F. M. H.
 " 13, Union Waterloo, M.H., William-st., Woolwich.
 " 15, Kent, F. M. H.
 " 87, Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth.
 " 147, Justice, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
 " 238, Pilgrim, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
 " 781, Merchant Navy, Silver Tav., Limehouse.
 " 1017, Montefiore, F. M. H.
 " 1260, Hervey, F. M. H.
 " 1305, St. Marylebone, Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood.
 " 1306, St. John of Wapping, Gun Hot., Wapping.
 " 1503, Francis Burdett, Albany Hot., Twickenham
 Rose Croix, Grand Metropolitan, 33, Golden-square.

- INSTRUCTION.**
 Mt. Lebanon, Windsor Cas. Tav., Southwark-bd.-rd.
 Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich.
 New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.
 Royal Union, Horse and Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
 Confidence, White Hart Tav., Abchurch-lane.
 Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham.
 Stanhope, Thicket Hot., Anerley.
 Finsbury Park, Finsbury Pk. Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd.
 Southwark, Southwark Park Tav., Southwark Park.

Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav., Dalston, E.
United Strength, Grafton Arms, Kentish-town.
Mount Edgcombe, 19, Jermyn-street, St James's.
Islington, Crown and Cushion, London Wall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9.

Lodge 19, Royal Athelstan, Terminus Hot., Cannon-st.
206, Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
263, Bank of England, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
534, Polish National, F. M. H.
657, Canonbury, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
879, Southwark, Park Tavern, Southwark Park.
1076, Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks.
1457, Bagshaw, Bald-Faced Stag, Buckhurst Hill.
1558, Duke of Connaught, Surrey Masonic Hall.
Chap. 72, Royal Jubilee, Horns Tav., Kennington.
619, Beadon, M. H., Masons' Avenue.
Mark Lodge 7, Carnarvon, Regent M. H., Regent-st.
K. T. Precep. 117, New Temple, The Inner Temple.

INSTRUCTION.

Egyptian, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-street.
Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, W.
Finsbury Jolly Anglers' Tav., Bath-street, City-road.
United Mariners', Three Cranes Tav., Mile-end-road.
Whittington, Crown Tav., Holborn.
Temperance in the East, Catherine-street, Poplar.
Ebury, 12, Ponsonby-street, Millbank.
Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
The Great City, 111, Cheapside.
High Cross, Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.
Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street.
Marquis of Ripon, Albion Tav., Albion-rd., Dalston.
Doric Chapter, Three Cranes Tav., Mile-end-road.
Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10.

Lodge 134, Ca'edonian, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
157, Bedford, F. M. H.
177, Domatic, Andertons' Hot., Fleet-st.
1275, Star, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
1420, Earl Spencer, New Wandsworth.
Precep. 26, Faith and Fidelity, Terminus Hot, Cannon-st

INSTRUCTION.

Union Waterloo, Thomas-street, Woolwich.
St. George's, Globe Tav., Royal-hill, Greenwich.
Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-street, Regent-street.
Belgrave, Lyceum Tav., 354, Strand.
Unions Emulation (for M.M.'s), Freemasons' Hall.
Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford.
Clapton, White Hart, Clapton.
Stability, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-street.
Metropolitan, Portugal Hot., Fleet-street.
Westbourne, Horse & Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
Metropolitan, Pentonville-road.
United Pilgrims, Surrey M. H., Camberwell New-road.
St. James's, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-rd., Bermondsey.
Duke of Edinburgh, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar.
Doric, Earl Grey Tav., Mile-end-road.
Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, N.W.
St. Luke's, Commercial Tav., King's-road, Chelsea.
Chigwell, Bald-faced Stag Hotel, Buckhurst-hill.
Burdett Coutts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.
Pythagorean Chapter, Prince of Orange, Greenwich-rd.
Royal Standard, Finsbury Park Tav., Holloway.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, December 11, 1875.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6.

Lodge 113, Unanimity, Assembly R., Bull Hot., Preston.
148, Lights, M. R., Warrington.
613, Unity, M. R., Southport.
703, Clifton, Clifton Arms' Hotel, Blackpool.
1045, Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham.
1051, Rowley, M. H., Athenæum, Lancaster.
1264, Neptune, M. H., Liverpool.
1380, Skelmersdale, Queen's Hot., Waterloo.
Chap. 605, De Tabley, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.
Everton L. of I. M. H., Liverpool.
Skelmersdale Red Cross Conclave, M. H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7.

Lodge 673, St. John's, M. H., Liverpool.
897, Loyalty, Flerce Inn, St. Helen's.
980, Hecketts, Grapes Inn, Croston, near Ormirk.
995, Furness, Masonic Temple, Ulverstone.
1256, Fidelity, Bridge Hotel, Poulton-le-Fylde.
1476, Blackpool, Clifton Arms Hotel, Blackpool.
Chap. 203, St. John of Jerusalem, M.H., Liverpool.
Mark Lodge, 161, Walton, St. Laurence's Boys' School.
Merchants' L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8.

Lodge 86, Loyalty, King's Arms, Prescott.
281, Fortitude, Athenæum, Lancaster.
484, Faith, Gerard's Arms, Ashton-le-Willows.
580, Harmony, Wheatsheaf Inn, Ormskirk.
758, Ellesmere, Masonic Hall, Runcorn.
1052, Callender, Public Hall, Rusholme.
1094, Temple, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.
1356, De Grey and Ripon, North Hill-street.
1547, Liverpool, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.
Chap. 673, St. John's, M. H., Liverpool.
Neptune L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9.

Lodge 216, Harmonic, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool
333, R. Preston, Victoria Garrison Hotel, Fulwood.
477, Mersey, 55, Argyle-st., Birkenhead.
786, Croxteth United Service, M. H., Liverpool.
950, Hesketh, Royal Hotel, Dock-st., Fleetwood.
1032, Townley Parker, Howard's Arms.
1035, Prince of Wales, M. H., Kirkdale.
1070, Starkie, Black Horse, Kirkham.
1182, Duke of Edinburgh, M. H., Liverpool.
1213, Bridgwater, Cross Keys Hotel, Eccles.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10.

Lodge 155, Perseverance, M. H., Liverpool.
1289, Rock, Rock Ferry Hotel, Rock Ferry.
Chap. 249, Mariners', M. H., Liverpool.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, December 11, 1875.
All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6.

Lodge 124, Kilwinning, Union Tavern, Ayr.
129, St. Mirren's, St. Mirren's Hall, Paisley.
138, Operative, Blue Bell Hotel, Ayr.
237, St. John, Masonic Arms, Girvan.
332, Union, 170, Buchanan-street.
556, Clydesdale, 106, Rose-street.
Chap. 119, Rosslyn, 25, Robertson-st.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7.

Lodge 33, St. John, 213, Buchanan-street.
68, Doric, 44, Church-street, Port Glasgow.
73, Thistle and Rose, 170, Buchanan-street.
87, Thistle, 30, Hope-street.
173, St. John, M. H., Largs.
233, Hamilton, Spalding's Hotel, Hamilton.
331, St. Peter's, Portland Arms, Galston.
406, St. John Dalziel, M. H., Motherwell.
433, St. Thomas, Eglinton Hall, Dalmellington.
437, Govandale, Portland Arms, Govan.
497, St. John's, Brewery Hall, Catrine.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8.

Lodge 178, Scotia, 170, Buchanan-street.
333, St. George, 213, Buchanan-street.
510, Maryhill, 167, M. H., Maryhill.
Chap. 113, Partick, M. H., Partick.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9.

Lodge 88, New Monkland, Town Hall, Airdrie.
109, St. Marnock's, Crown Hotel, Kilmarnock.
203, St. John's Operative, Olive Hall, Airdrie.
290, Dalry Blair, White Hart Hot., Dalry.
553, St. Vincent, 162, Kent-road.
Chap. 50, Glasgow, 213, Buchanan-st.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10.

Lodge 18, Kilwinning, Mission Hall, Dumbarton.
170, Leven St. John's, Black Bull Inn, Leven.
399, Royal Blues, Commercial Hotel, Kilbirnie.
427, St. Clair, M. H., Cambusnethan.
Chap. 144, St. Rollox, F. M. H., Garngad-road.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11.

Lodge 28, St. John's, Black Bull Inn, Kirkintilloch.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, December 11, 1875.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6.

Lodge 429, St. Kentigern, Royal Hotel, Penicuik.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7.

Lodge 5, Canongate and Leith, 86, Constitution-street.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8.

Lodge 2, Canongate, St. John's Chapel, St. John-st.
Chap. 1, Edinburgh, F. M. H., Writers' Court.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9.

Lodge 8, Journeyman, Blackfriars-st., High-st.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10.

Chap. 83, St. Andrew, F. M. H., George-street.

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