

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS:—
 Craft Masonry 571
 Scotland 573
 Knights Templar 573
 Red Cross of Constantine..... 573
 The Urban Club 574
 Bro. H. Sechohm in Siberia..... 575
 The "Freemason:" a Lecture 575
 OBITUARY:—
 Bro. Thomas Routledge 575
 Royal Masonic Institution for Girls 575
 Masonic and General Tidings 577
 Our Royal Grand Master in India..... 578
 The Report of the Special Committee of the Boys' School 578
 Masonic Calumny 579
 Masonic Libraries 579
 The Comparative Cost of the Girls' School 579
 The Girls' School 579
 CORRESPONDENCE:—
 The Order of the Temple 579
 Past Masters 580
 The Lodge of Truth, No. 1458..... 580
 Election of Provincial Grand Master 580
 Lodge of Truth, Bombay 580
 Royal Masonic Institution for Boys 580
 York Masonry 580
 Lodge Jewels 580
 Consecration of the Leopold Lodge, No. 1571 581
 Consecration of a Chapter at Wells 581
 Masonic Orphan School, Dublin 581
 Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution..... 581
 The Red Cross 582
 Masonic Meetings for next week 582
 Advertisements i. ii. iii. iv. v. vi. vii. viii.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

DOMATIC LODGE (No. 177).—This large lodge held one of its most interesting and important meetings of the year, on the 10th inst., at Anderton's Hotel. We say "interesting and important" as the election night of a lodge is both interesting to the Craft, as the lodge gives to it, for good or ill, another ruler; and important to the lodge, as for a year it commits itself to the government of one of its members, who, too, will represent it on all occasions among the other rulers in Grand Lodge. That the lodge was fully alive to the importance of the occasion was shown by the very large attendance, nearly 100 members being present and more than two-thirds of the members recorded their votes. Bro. George Everett, the W.M., occupied his chair, and commenced his work by going through the ceremony of raising in a manner worthy of a lodge of this character. A touching event of the evening was that the father performed this ceremony in respect to his own son, Bro. G. L. Everett, to whom was given a privilege which must endure to him the Craft until his latest hour. We should be afraid to say how many brethren had this degree bestowed, but so many as to necessitate the ceremony being repeated again and again. Everything is done on a big scale in the Domatic, hence it was necessary to do the same in regard to the ceremony of passing, for no less than nine names were down for this degree. Fortunately for the lodge there was no initiation, not that no names were on the paper, but the candidates did not show in time, and therefore the lodge proceeded to that work of the evening which would govern directly the coming year—the election of Master. The ballot was taken, and Bro. Treadwell, the Senior Warden, was elected by exactly the same numbers as the W.M. who then faced him, showing that the members are faithful to the principle of electing a Senior Warden who is considered worthy of the "highest honour the lodge has it in its power to bestow upon any of its members." Bro. Willing, the Junior Warden up to this night, is evidently a great favourite, and his energetic service as acting Secretary, as well as the instruction he is always able and willing to impart, would bring to the minds of his brethren the idea that there could be no mistake, as regards work, in having so well informed a brother at the top of the tree, instead of near the top; but the brother did not support these views, for he went to his Secretarial duties, leaving his chair in the hands of an able brother. Bro. Joseph Smith was elected again as Treasurer, and it came out in the course of the speeches that Bro. Smith (whose other titles it is unnecessary to give) had been upwards of 36 years in the lodge, which statement was greeted warmly, and hopes were expressed—and there is every hope of their fulfilment—that Bro. Treas. Smith would be in the same condition of excellent health when the like period should again have passed. The proposal to present the retiring W.M. with the P.M.'s jewel, set before the lodge by Bros. J. Smith and F. Kent, was adopted unanimously, and very many kind things were said of him in regard to the success which had attended his year, and the perfect manner in which he had performed his work. It was then proposed to present the W.M. with a "scroll" on parchment, but the W.M. said he was content with the honour he had already received. It was then proposed by the W.M. elect, seconded by the Senior Deacon, Bro. Palmer, to present the W.M. with the cost of the Installation jewel, and it was put to the lodge that more respect could be felt for a jewel which was presented than for one which was paid for by the wearer. The sentiment was loudly applauded, but the strange question was raised as to the "legality" of the lodge paying for the jewel, the speaker saying, indeed, that no one elected could be a Steward without paying for the jewel—(when the fact is that the payment for the jewel was not asked for until a month after the installation), and the W.M. raised a laugh by saying that the brethren seemed desirous to overwhelm him—a fact which was, perhaps, owing to the weather—declining, at the same time to be reimbursed the cost of representing the lodge on the occasion. The lodge being closed, the members adjourned to an excellent banquet, and no fewer than nineteen visitors were present. After the cloths were cleared away the W.M. proposed the usual loyal toasts, and in giving the toast of "Past and Present Grand Officers," he pointed to the fact that the

Domatic had three P. Grand Officers in the P.M. ranks, and Bro. P.M. Adams responded. Bro. J. Smith, in the absence of the I.P.M., Bro. F. Kent, C.C., who was absent from the banquet on account of the illness of a relative, proposed the toast of "The W.M.," and in doing so said that the brethren would, by toasting Brother Everett, be giving honour where honour was due. If Bro. Everett had not been of a modest disposition he would have been W.M. years before, but he would not take upon himself the office until he was competent for the duty, and when he was competent and stood forward for the office, the lodge elected him, and the members had had no reason to repent of the choice they had made, for the way in which he had performed these ceremonies presented a model for any following W.M. to follow. There were following in the steps of Bro. Everett many worthy brethren; but the lodge would always look back with pleasure on the year of office of the brother who was then retiring. In all the thirty-six years which had passed since he himself had been a member there had only been one member whose Mastership was looked back upon with regret, and this fact showed that the members exercised the greatest discretion in electing to this post. The toast was drunk with all honours, and Bro. Walls sang an old melody with excellent taste and feeling. The W.M., in responding, thanked the Treasurer for the kind way in which he had submitted the toast, and the brethren for the manner in which they had received it. He said that when he undertook the office he had full need of assistance, and this was cheerfully given to him by the Past Masters and his officers, all of whom he thanked warmly for the help which had enabled him to pass through his year of office with comparative ease. Referring to the kind things said of him in lodge, he said he believed that there had been a general understanding for them to pour down kindness on him—a kindness which he was sure was sincere. He then proposed the toast of "The Past Masters." Bro. Walford responded. The W.M. then proposed "The Visitors," and said he hoped the nineteen present would accept the cordial welcome of the lodge, but, he said, when a lodge sat down 110 strong it was impossible to give any special attention to the visitors. He called upon Bro. While, W.M. of 228 (representing the "Freemason") to respond, and he, on behalf of the visitors, expressed the perfect satisfaction with which everything, both before and behind the curtain, had given to himself and his 18 visiting brethren. The W.M., in proposing the toast of "The W.M. Elect," expressed the satisfaction which the election of Bro. Treadwell in regular order had given to him. Bro. Treadwell, in responding, said that he was proud of the position to which he had been elected, and that he should follow in the steps of those who had gone before him by preferring a step higher each officer in the lodge. The Treasurer and Secretary were next toasted, and the former responded, saying that he could testify to the excellence of the work carried out by Bro. Willing, who got in the money in a most successful manner, and it was to be hoped that next year would see Bro. Willing standing before them as W.M. elect. The toast of "The Officers," given by the W.M., brought the merits of every brother thus distinguished to the front, and each answered for himself—Bros. Palmer, S.D.; Buscal, J.D.; George Clarke, I.G.; White, Steward; and Spinks, Assistant Steward. "The Tyler's" toast brought the proceedings to a close at 10 o'clock, and then those who cared to stay enjoyed themselves with song and recitation, Bros. Walls, Palmer, Jones, W.M., and other brethren contributing to the harmony.

STAR LODGE (No. 1275).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, on Friday, Dec. 3rd. Present: Bros. J. J. Limebeer, W.M.; H. J. Green, S.W.; R. W. Williams, J.W.; Rev. G. R. P. Colles, Chaplain; J. Smith, P.G.P., P.M., Treas.; F. Walters, P.P.G.P. Midx., P.M., Sec.; C. W. Williams, S.D.; W. Kipps, I.G.; E. W. Chetwynd, D.C.; J. Gilbert, P.G.T. Midx., Tyler; P.M.'s Bros. Waugh, P.G.P.; H. Keeble, P.M. Visitors: Bros. Graham, P.M. 700; F. B. Williams, 162; H. Nell, 1326; Raiman, 205. The minutes of the meeting held in September were read and confirmed. The W.M., Bro. J. J. Limebeer, passed Bro. C. Marr to the Second Degree. Some propositions were received for initiations and joinings. The usual banquet followed.

THE GREAT CITY LODGE (No. 1426).—The regular meeting of The Great City Lodge, No. 1426, was held on Saturday, December 11th, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, and was very numerous attended by members and visitors. The visitors were Bros. Boyd, P.G.P.; Little, Secretary of the Girls' School; G. Simpson, 405, Scotch Constitution; A. Ebbatt, 463; R. Allison, 186; C. P. McKay, 726; W. Marden, 205; P. F. Porsway, 1260; Swallow, W.M. 1563; E. White, S.W. 1563; J. Yolland, 1385; W. Morgan, 1385; J. R. Pitt, 463; Walton, 1445. The W.M., (Bro. J. Hamilton Townend), presided; Seex, S.W.; Stannay, J.W.; Moody, Sec.; Blockie, S.D.; Catchpole, J.D.; Hamer, D.C.; Hook, Org. The lodge was opened at three o'clock, Bro. Headon, I.P.M., taking the chair until the arrival of the W.M. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, the lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees, and Bros. Wright, Wynne, Cadot and Everett were raised to the Sublime Degree. The W.M. then very kindly and courteously resigned the chair to Bro. Henry Thompson, P.M., who, in an impressive manner, raised his son, Bro. W. G. Thompson (whom he had initiated and passed) and Bro. Bertram to the Degree of M.M., and gave the concluding portion of the ceremony to the other candidates for the Sublime Degree. The W.M. then resumed the chair, and passed Bros. Powell, Keith, Frith, Luggar and Hudd to the Second Degree, and afterwards initiated Messrs. Shore, Julius J. Wyler, Robert Lawson, and John March Ginders into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. On the motion of Bro. Moody, the Secretary, it was agreed that from the 1st of

January next the initiation fee shall be raised to ten guineas. Several propositions for initiation were made, and the lodge was closed after upwards of five hours of continuous working, and the brethren retired to a supper, which was exceedingly well served under the superintendence of Bro. Lord, the manager of the hotel. On the withdrawal of the cloth, the W.M. expressed his intention to carry out a most laudable principle he has inaugurated in this lodge, and that is the avoidance of long speeches in proposing the usual and formal toasts, and it is to be hoped that so good an example will not only form one of the "distinguishing characteristics" of this lodge, but be imitated by others, so that those who wish it may be enabled to reach their homes in good time, and thus save those who desire to do so the appearance of discourtesy in quitting the table before the usual complimentary toasts have been given and responded to. "The Queen and the Craft," and "The Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master," having been duly honoured, Bro. Boyd, P.G. Purst., responded for "The Grand Officers," stating how gratified he had been at the working of the lodge, and that he had never seen better. He was at the consecration of it, he was glad to see the progress it had made, and he wished it the highest amount of prosperity. Bro. Headon, I.P.M., in a few well chosen sentences proposed "The Health of the W. Master," after which Bro. Hook, the Organist of the lodge, sung with great taste, "The Anchor's Weighed." The W. Master said while it was his wish to say as little as possible, he was greatly obliged to the brethren for their hearty response to the toast Bro. Headon had proposed. He was also obliged to them for the fraternal feeling which existed in the lodge, and which had always been shown to him since he entered it, and which, he trusted, would never depart from it, and that they would all do their best not only to promote happiness amongst themselves, but amongst those who might come after them. He then gave "The Past Masters of the Lodge," for which Bros. Stevens and Headon very briefly replied. The W.M. next gave "The Visitors," saying that The Great City Lodge gave them a hearty welcome. Bro. Little, Secretary of the Girls' School, in responding, thanked the brethren for their hospitality and congratulated them on the success which had attended the lodge in the past two years, for it was now placed on a solid foundation which could never be disturbed, and must be a source of satisfaction to all who would follow in the chair. This was a lodge that any one might feel proud to belong to, and having been present at its consecration, he must offer his congratulations on the enormous success which had been achieved in the City of London. Bro. Swallow, W.M. of the City of Westminster Lodge (recently consecrated), returned thanks for the invitation given to the officers of the lodge to visit that one in the City of London, and he was sorry that he could only bring one with him. He took it as a very kind act to give them the invitation, and in return he begged to invite all the officers of The Great City Lodge to visit them on the second Thursday in January, and they would then give them a fraternal welcome. Some other visitors responded. "The Initiates" and other toasts were proposed and responded to, and the proceedings were brought to a close at 11 o'clock.

CHELMSFORD.—Lodge of Good Fellowship (No. 276).—The installation of Bro. E. Hunt Carter, the W.M. elect for the Lodge of Good Fellowship, took place on Thursday, the 9th inst., at the Shire Hall, the magistrates having, as usual, kindly placed the Grand Jury Room at the disposal of the lodge for this annual ceremony. We may here, perhaps, correct a statement which appeared a week or two since in a contemporary, in reference to the November meeting of the above-named lodge. The nomination of two brethren to fill the chair for the ensuing year was therein detailed, as was also the supposed result of the motion. No "motion" was made, nor could be made, according to the laws of the Craft, and the paragraph in this respect was a mere invention. About 20 of the brethren were eligible for the chair. It was also stated that Bro. J. Burton retired from the office of Treasurer, which he had held for about 20 years; this was correct, but nothing was said, in the paragraph referred to, as to a substantial acknowledgment to the Past Treasurer, which it was unanimously resolved should be awarded him, and a subscription list for which purpose was at once opened and has been heartily responded to, of which more in proper time. With this digression we will now return to the installation, and need only mention the name of W. Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Chaplain, as the Installing Master, to let it at once be known that the ceremony was of the most impressive nature, and was acknowledged as such by the assembled brethren in true Masonic manner. The following amongst other brethren were present:—P.M.'s F. Whitmore, the Rev. F. B. Shepherd, A. Durrant, T. Smee, J. Nicholls, A. C. Veley, A. Goodchild, W. Pullen, E. Robbins, and J. P. Sarel; Bros. Rev. B. S. Barnes, Chaplain and P.M.; J. Burton, Treasurer and P.M.; H. E. Stidolph, S.D.; A. Ginn, J.D.; J. W. Hair, Sec.; D. M. B. Wheeler, I.G.; F. A. Jones, J. Wright Carr, Prov. Grand Secretary; R. W. Shelmerdine, W. H. L. Pattison, Dr. Clarke, W. Tippler, Captain Bannister, E. Shedd, G. W. Pascal, J. P. Lewin, J. H. Peacock, &c., &c. The following visitors also honoured the lodge with their presence:—A. R. Clench (Colchester), J. B. Spence (Dorking), H. J. Moxon (London), A. Clapham (Dunmow), J. T. Weldon (Felsted), and F. Binckes (Secretary of the Boys' School), &c. In the course of the evening Bro. H. E. Stidolph tendered his resignation as S.D. and Organist. The new W.M., Bro. E. Hunt Carter, having been duly installed, proceeded to the appointment of his officers for the year as follows:—E. Robbins, S.W.; D. M. B. Wheeler, J.W.; A. Ginn, S.W.; — Borrodale, J.D.; F. Whitmore, Treasurer; J. Nicholls, Sec.; Rev. B. S. Barnes, Chap.; A. Durrant, D.C.; G. S. Toler, I.G.; T. S. Sarel, O.G.; G. W. Pascall and R. W. Shelmerdine, Stewards. A vote of thanks was

accorded to the magistrates for the use of the Shire Hall. The brethren afterwards adjourned to the White Hart, where an excellent banquet was provided by Bro. Sheldrake. The sum of £38 5s. was subscribed for the Boys' School.

LEICESTER.—St. John's Lodge (No. 279).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Wednesday, December 1st, under the presidency of Bro. J. W. Smith, W.M., supported by the following officers and brethren:—S. S. Partridge, as I.P.M.; J. M. MacAllister, S.W.; G. W. Statham, J.W.; W. Weare, Treas.; C. E. Stretton, Sec.; S. Cleaver, S.D.; J. Ewing, 1391, as J.D.; J. Orlando Law, I.G.; G. Toller, I.P.M. 1560.; J. T. Thorp, W.M. 523; W. B. Smith, P.M. 523; T. Worthington, S.W. 50; E. Mason, S.W. 1391; R. Taylor, Sec. 523; also Bros. I. Hart, J. Farndale, W. E. Buck, J. Jessop, F. Crick, G. Manton, and others. The minutes of the last regular meeting were confirmed. Mr. John Roadknight was initiated, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. Bro. Israel Hart was passed to the Second Degree by Bro. S. S. Partridge, Prov. G. Sec. The W.M. announced that the next business was to elect the W.M. for the ensuing year, and called upon the Secretary to read the list of brethren qualified to serve as W.M., after which the ballot was taken, and resulted in the election of Bro. McAllister, S.W. The name of Malcolm McAllister will be familiar to all readers of Masonic meetings in the province of Leicestershire and Rutland. His Masonic career extends over a period of fifteen years, during which he has held high rank in Provincial Grand Lodge, as well as having been W.M. of the Mark Lodge, No. 19. He has also held every office in Craft lodges, either in Scotland or England. His working of the ceremonies has always been characterised by great exactness and dignity, and as this is combined with courtesy of manner, the brethren anticipate in the coming year a time of harmony and prosperity to St. John's Lodge.

NEWBURY.—Lodge of Hope (No. 574).—One of the most pleasant and prosperous years in the annals of Freemasonry in Newbury closed on Friday, the 10th inst., when Bro. John Bance vacated his position as W.M. of the Lodge of Hope. It is only a few years ago that the members of the Newbury Lodge formed so small a body that their numbers might have been counted on one's fingers, but since then the ancient Order has extended itself rapidly all over the world, and in the Newbury Lodge the number of the brethren has increased from eight or nine to about 50. During Bro. Bance's year of office several initiations have taken place, and at the present moment the lodge occupies a position which places it in the foremost rank in the list of Masonic lodges in the Province of Berks and Bucks, presided over by Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P. On Friday evening, Bro. Wheeler, of the Alfred Lodge, Oxford, was unanimously elected as a joining member; Bro. W. Balding was passed to the Second Degree; and Mr. Jarman, of H.M.'s Excise, was initiated, and took the Degree of E.A. At the conclusion of these ceremonies, which were performed by the Worshipful Master and his officers with much efficiency, the brethren proceeded to the election of the S.W., Bro. W. H. Herbert, of Wyfield Court, Boxford, as W.M. for the ensuing year, which was declared to have been unanimous. Bro. W. Knight subsequently proposed, and Bro. Cosburn seconded, that a P.M.'s jewel be presented to Bro. Bance in recognition of his valuable services as W.M. during the past year. The motion was unanimously carried. Bro. F. G. Hall, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Bance moved that a Past Master's jewel be presented to Bro. Hall, as an acknowledgment of his valued services for many years past, and further that he be elected an honorary member of the lodge. Bro. Biggs, P.M., Provincial Grand Secretary, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. The lodge also voted £5 5s. to the Masonic Benevolent Fund, and £5 5s. to the Widows' Fund. Bro. Dodd was re-elected Tyler. At the close of the lodge business, the brethren, to the number of thirty, partook of a sumptuous supper at the King's Arms Hotel, liberally provided by the retiring W.M., Bro. Bance, who presided, supported by Bros. W. Biggs, P.G.S.; B. Fielder, F. G. Hall, T. Deller, G. Boyer, and A. Burns, P.M.'s; A. Stradling, Geo. J. Cosburn, P.G.S.; G. M. Knight, W. Knight, S. Knight, R. Ravenor, J.W.; S. G. Hunt, G. Glover, F. Lyon, E. Head, J. G. O'Farrell, Stacey, Hattatt, Smith, W. Balding, W. Wilson, W. Wheeler, Jarman, Dodd, and others. The W.M. elect occupied the vice-chair.

WOOLWICH.—Nelson Lodge (No. 700).—The monthly meeting of this lodge took place on Wednesday, 17th November, at Woolwich. Present: Bros. T. Ward, W.M.; S. Goddard, C. Norman, W. Graham, Past Masters; T. Butt, S.W.; F. Waters, J.W.; F. G. Dawson, P.M. and Treasurer; J. Henderson, P.M. and Secretary; A. Woodley, S.D.; J. Warren, J.D.; J. Wilkins, I.G.; E. Hobson, D.C.; B. Norman, O.G. Among the visitors were C. Cameron, 105 (Scotch); H. Pryce, 913; W. Gibson, 1536; P. Cullinan, 1331; E. G. Latham, 1536; and I. C. Jolly, 913. The work before the lodge was the raising of Bros. Saunders, Forme, and Fraser, the passing of Bro. Orford, and a motion by Bro. Dawson, having reference to the adjournment of the lodge for refreshment. Bro. Ward then, in a few chosen sentences, expressed the gratification it afforded all to hear such glowing accounts of our Royal Grand Master's reception by the people of India, and concluded by hoping that he would be spared to return and long rule the Craft, at the head of which he had been so unanimously placed. In proposing the toast of "The W.M.," Bro. P.M. Dawson (in the absence of Bro. Riches, I.P.M.) said he was again pleased of the opportunity of bearing testimony to the excellent working of the W.M.; he had upheld the prestige of the lodge, and he (Bro. Dawson) was sure that he would continue to uphold the standard of efficiency it had

attained, and he was convinced they would agree with him when he stated the W.M. was a credit to Masonry and to the lodge over which he so worthily presided. Bro. Ward in response, thanked P.M. Dawson for the kind remarks he had made, and the members for the manner in which they had received them; he had always taken the greatest interest in the working of the lodge, and had made it his business to study closely the working of the several W.M.'s who occupied the chair during the period he held subordinate offices, and had worked hard to obtain his present proud position amongst them. He was gratified to find the brethren appreciated his working, and he could assure them that he would conscientiously carry out the duties pertaining to his office, and he hoped that the same kind spirit would be shown him throughout the remainder of his year of office. He had made it a point through life to appreciate old friends, and he could look upon the many old friends present, and say that he was proud of their lasting friendship, and trusted that they would all, in the future, spend as many happy hours as they had done in past years. The toast of "The Visitors" was most cordially given, and coupled with the name of Bro. Pryce, of the Pattison, who spoke in eulogistic terms of the conduct of business of the Nelson Lodge. This was supplemented by a few appropriate sentences by Bros. Latham and Cameron; the latter, although brief, was very happy in the comments he made, and fully bore out the opinion universally formed of him as a most fluent speaker. The health of the Past Masters of the lodge followed. Bro. P.M. Dawson replied to the toast. Past Master Charles W. Hobson, who arrived as Bro. P.M. Dawson was concluding his remarks, rose and informed the brethren that he had just arrived from Grand Lodge, where he had been with others to support the petition of one of the local brethren, and he was happy to inform them that they had been instrumental in obtaining a grant of £30 for him. The few words he had heard expressed by Bro. P.M. Dawson he quite concurred in, and he would be happy at all times to render that ready assistance due from him as a P.M. The W.M. said Bro. P.M. Hobson had rendered him a good service in representing him in this case at the Board of Benevolence. He could speak with great pleasure of the ready manner in which Bro. P.M. Hobson consented to undertake the duty, and he begged to tender him his thanks for it. The W.M. then cordially thanked Bro. Jolly for his kindness in reporting (with prudence) the successful meetings of the lodge, in the regularly authorised paper, the "Freemason." Bro. Jolly responded, and the brethren then separated.

ASHFORD.—Invicta Lodge (No. 709).—There was an unusually large gathering of Freemasons, not only of the Province of Kent, but of those belonging to more distant parts of the country, on Friday, the 10th inst., on the occasion of the installation at the Corn Exchange of Bro. Charles G. Robinson, Lieutenant Royal Navy, as Worshipful Master of the Invicta Lodge, No. 709, held in this town. Among the brethren present on the occasion were:—Bros. Eastes, Deputy Prov. Grand Master for Kent; Thorp, Prov. Grand Treasurer; Blakey, P. Prov. A.D.C.; Goldfinch, P. Prov. J.D.; Warne, P. Prov. G.A.S.; Bathurst, P. Prov. G.R.; Finch, P. Prov. D.C.; Ashdown, P. Prov. G.S.W.; Clarke, P. Prov. G.P.; Greenhill, P. Prov. J.D.; Woodruff, P.M.; Chubb, Geraud, Terson, W.M. 199; and others. The ceremony of installation was most ably performed by Bro. the Rev. T. Robinson, M.A., P. Prov. G.S.W., Vicar of Chart Sutton, Staplehurst, the father of the Worshipful Master elect, who was inducted, according to the ancient rites, to the chair of King Solomon, where he received the homage of the assembled brethren. The newly-elected Master having appointed the officers of the lodge for the ensuing year, a unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. the Rev. T. Robinson for the able and efficient manner in which he had performed the installation ceremony. At the termination of the Masonic business the lodge was closed, and the brethren afterwards adjourned to the Saracen's Head Hotel, where they partook of a sumptuous banquet, presided over by Bro. Robinson, the newly-appointed Master, who was supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the leading brethren of the province. The usual Masonic and other toasts were duly given and responded to, the proceedings throughout being of a very agreeable character.

DERBY.—Hartington Lodge (No. 1085).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Derby, on Wednesday, the 1st inst. Bro. F. Iliffe, I.P.M., presided (the W.M., Bro. Henry T. Bobart, being unavoidably absent, owing to the illness of a relative). The brethren present were F. Campion, P.M.; S. Pipes, S.W.; W. Heathcote, J.W.; M. H. Bobart, P.M., Treas.; J. Worsnop, P.M., Sec.; Theo. Hills, S.D.; G. Pipes, D. of C.; J. Heathcote, I.G.; Thos. Slinn, Tyler; J. H. Biggs, J. Shaw, M. Hill, J. Griggs, J. O. Manton, J. Parkins, J. T. Eaton, J. Whales. Visitor, G. T. Wright, P.M. 731. The lodge was opened in the First Degree. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Griggs being a candidate for passing, was examined as to his proficiency in the former degree, and being entrusted, he retired. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Griggs was passed to that degree. The lodge was closed in the Second Degree. Bros. Iliffe and Worsnop were appointed Auditors. A brother being proposed as a joining member, the lodge was closed according to ancient custom, and adjourned until 5th Jan., 1876.

LLANGFNFI.—Anglesea Lodge (No. 1113).—The annual installation meeting took place at the lodge room, Llangfenni, on Wednesday, the 8th inst. There was a large attendance of the brethren. Bro. J. Lloyd Griffith, P.M. St. Cybi, 597, was the installing officer. The following were installed, invested, and elected:—W.M., Bro. Edmund Hicks; S.W., Bro. Dr. Evan Williams; J.W., Bro. T. H. Warrington; S.D., Bro. T. Pritchard;

J.D., Bro. J. Inglis Williams; Sec., Bro. G. J. Hughes; Treas., Bro. W. Hughes; Chaplain, Bro. Rev. T. Lloyd Kyffin, I.P.M.; I.G., Bro. R. H. Williams; Steward, Bro. J. Crewdson; Tyler, Bro. Owen Roberts. After the closing of the lodge, the brethren sat down to a banquet at the Bull Hotel. The visitors present included Bros. J. Peters, P.G.S.W., P.M. 597; B. Roose, W.M. 1488; Dr. Evans, P.M. 1113; Rev. H. Lloyd, 1488; F. F. Hills, 1488; J. Hughes, 1488; and O. Rowlands, 1488, St. Cybi.

EXETER.—Semper Fidelis Lodge (No. 1254).—The brethren of this lodge assembled at the Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 6th inst., to celebrate their seventh yearly festival; and, according to ancient custom, to instal the W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. B. Barber was unanimously selected at the previous lodge to fill the chair. Bro. H. W. Hooper, P. Prov. G. Reg., presented Bro. Barber to the Installing Master, Bro. H. L. Brewster, P. Prov. G. Reg., as the W.M. elect for 1876. The ceremony of installation was most effectively gone through. The following brethren were then invested:—Bros. F. Horspool, I.P.M.; G. Huxham, S.W.; W. Brodie, J.W.; H. W. Hooper, Treas.; W. Pidsley, Sec.; E. T. Fulford, S.D.; W. A. Gregory, J.D.; W. R. Commings, I.G.; W. Roberts, Org.; J. Sampson, C.; R. Nobbs, D.C.; F. Sanders, S.S.; H. Elmore, J.S.; P. L. Planchard, Tyler; Blanchard, jun., Asst. Tyler. Bro. Barber, in most appropriate language, and alluding to the happy Masonic year just brought to a close, as well as the many excellent and estimable qualities of the worthy brother, in the name of the lodge presented him with a handsome and valuable Past Master's jewel, which had been unanimously voted to him by the lodge, added to which was an artistic and beautifully illuminated scroll (executed by Mr. Charles H. Clarke) containing the names of the brethren who had subscribed thereto, and the following inscription, viz.:—"This scroll, together with a P.M.'s gold jewel, was presented to Bro. Frederick Horspool, the last of the Founders, by the Officers and Brethren of Semper Fidelis Lodge, No. 1254, as a mark of their fraternal respect and esteem, and in recognition of his valuable services as W.M. during the past year." The scroll was mounted in a handsome frame, decorated with Masonic emblems, by the Messrs. Rowden. The jewel took the form of a Masonic square, suspended from the top bar by a gold ribbon, bearing in raised letters of solid gold the name and number of the lodge. Unanimous and long-continued applause heartily testified to the pleasure experienced by the brethren in thus conveying to the recipient such a tangible proof of their full appreciation of the successful efforts he had made (during his year of office) towards having the beautiful and impressive Masonic ritual carried out in all its integrity. Bro. Horspool, on stepping forward to acknowledge the receipt of the jewel and scroll, said he deeply felt the honour conferred upon him, and the handsome jewel would ever remind him of their great kindness. The beautiful scroll, hung up in his home, would be treasured by him and his. He was more than satisfied with his past year's work from the expressions of approval of those around him, and he trusted that the strings of the bond of union between Masons had been drawn more closely together, and Masonic principles had been thoroughly understood and practised during his year of office. The brethren adjourned to Bro. Langdon's, Globe Hotel, and partook of the annual banquet. Bro. Barber, as W.M., occupied the chair, supported by about forty of the brethren of Semper Fidelis and other sister lodges. The son of an old Exonian, Bro. J. H. Mance, of Lodge Commercial, No. 180, Scotland, responded to the toast of "Visiting Brethren."

LEICESTER.—Commercial Lodge (No. 1391).—This lodge held its monthly meeting on Saturday, the 11th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester. Present: Bros. R. A. Barber, P.P.G.P., W.M.; E. Mason, S.W.; B. Moore, J.W.; J. Ewing, Sec.; J. B. Hall, Treas.; A. Chamberlin, S.D.; G. Mott, J.D.; C. McBride, D.C.; Meadows and Hunter, Steward; E. T. Butler, I.G.; Past Masters Bro. G. Clifton, and numerous brethren. The visitors were Bros. S. Partridge, P.G. Sec., and P.M. 523; J. T. Thorpe, W.M. 523. Mr. Edward Thomas Hutchinson was balloted for and elected, and initiated into the First Degree, the ceremony being ably worked by the W.M.. The lecture on the First Tracing Board was given at length by Bro. Ewing, Sec.

HAMPTON COURT.—Era Lodge (No. 1423).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, 11th inst., at the King's Arms Hotel. Present: Bros. J. W. Baldwin, W.M.; E. H. Thiellay, S.W.; J. B. Langley, J.W.; T. J. Sabine, P.P.G.B. Middlesex, P.M. and Treas.; F. Walters, P.P.G.P. Middlesex, P.M. and Sec.; E. William Devereux, S.D.; S. Wolff, J.D.; A. F. Loos, I.G.; B. Wright, D.C.; J. Gilbert, P.G. Tyler Middlesex, Tyler. Past Masters: Bros. J. T. Moss, P.P.G.D. Middlesex, P.M.; H. A. Dubois, P.P.G.A.D.C. Middlesex, P.M.; T. H. Miller, P.G. Organist Middlesex, P.M. Visitor: Bro. A. Hart, 1339. Bro. J. W. Baldwin, W.M., opened the lodge. The minutes of the meeting held in October were read and unanimously confirmed. The W.M. in an able manner raised Bros. A. Rumblelow, F. Hevrena, and F. H. Harvey. The bye-laws were then read. The elections resulted unanimously in Bros. J. B. Langley, J.W., being elected W.M., and T. J. Sabine, Treasurer, being re-elected Treasurer for the fourth time. J. Gilbert, Tyler, was re-elected for the fourth time. It was unanimously resolved that the usual twelve-guinea Past Master's jewel be presented to Bro. J. W. Baldwin, W.M., for his efficient services rendered to the lodge. The Audit Committee was appointed.

LIVERPOOL.—Lodge of Emulation (No. 1505).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was recently held at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, the proceedings being greatly increased in interest by the fact that a very handsome presentation was made to Bro.

Henry Nelson, the first W.M. of the lodge, whose admirable ruling contributed so much to the success of the Emulation Lodge. The lodge was opened at half-past six o'clock by Bro. J. T. Callow, W.M., and amongst the officers and members present were Bros. H. Nelson, I.P.M.; H. Morris, S.W.; W. Quayle, J.W.; J. Haiken, Treas.; W. H. Corbise, Sec.; T. Large, J.D.; J. Capell, I.G.; C. Sidebotham, S.S.; H. Coulson, J.S.; J. Skeaf, Org.; J. Skelly, W. Banks, A. McKenzie, M. Shaney, T. Garratt, T. Walley, M. Drake, A. Pearson, P. Thomas, R. Foote, W. B. Roberts, J. Irving, J. Hodges, H. J. Atkinson, and others. The visitors were Bros. T. Darcey, 914, Jamaica; M. Hart, S.W. 1502; J. W. Burgess, J.W. 1325; E. P. Butt, 1325; J. Jacobs, 724; G. Hutchin, S.W. 241; Rev. H. G. Vernon, M.A., P.P.G.C.W.L., P.P.G.C. Cheshire, P.M. 155; J. Williams, J.W. 1182; R. Washington, P.M. 1094; R. R. Martin, P.M. 1094; S. Campbell, 823; D. S. Davies, 216; G. Fowler, S.W. 216; J. Hayes, P.M. 249; William Forster, J.D. 249; G. J. Jones, 241; and others. After the confirmation of the minutes, several candidates were initiated, and a number of brethren raised. After some discussion it was agreed that the initiation fee should be raised to eight guineas. After the banquet, which followed business, Bro. J. T. Callow, W.M., presented Bro. H. Nelson, I.P.M., with a magnificent ormolu drawing-room eight day timepiece, with a handsome pair of vases on suite, and in doing so, spoke in high terms of the services rendered by Bro. Nelson to the cause of Masonry generally, and the Emulation Lodge in particular. The timepiece was richly embellished in Sevres plaque, painted in Watteau subjects, mounted on gilt stand, under glass shades and bore the following inscription on a silver tablet in front:—"Presented to Bro. Henry Nelson by the members of the Lodge of Emulation, 1505, of Free and Accepted Masons, as a token of esteem for his untiring energy as one of its promoters, and for the efficient manner in which he performed the duties as first Worshipful Master. Liverpool, December, 1875." Bro. Nelson acknowledged the splendid gift in an excellent speech, assuring his brethren that he would continue to work for the good of the Order. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were giving during the evening.

CHISLEHURST.—Chislehurst Lodge (No. 1531).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, 11th of December. There were present Bros. J. Coutts, P.J.P., W.M.; G. F. Guest, S.W.; W. Kippis, J.W.; J. Griffin, P.M., Sec.; J. Mason, S.D.; H. Gloster, J.D.; W. Hardman, I.G. Bro. J. Coutts, W.M., P.G.P., opened and closed the lodge. Feeling indisposed, he delegated all the work to Bro. J. Griffin, who, in his usual able manner, passed Bro. Kippis (brother to the G.W., who came up from Hull to take his degree). He then initiated Messrs. Joseph Williams, Lipman, Samuels, and Thomas Rayner Hayhow.

INSTRUCTION.

WOOLWICH.—Union Waterloo Lodge (No. 13).—The annual festival of the above lodge was held on Friday, the 3rd of December, at the Sir Robert Peel Tavern, Ciescent-road, Plumstead, B.o. B. Plaisted's. Bro. C. G. Dilley, P.M. 147 and 1155, was in the chair, and up till recently the Preceptor of the lodge. Among the company were Bros. Macdonald, S.W. 1158, the present Preceptor; Rose, P.M. 73 and 1475; Pownell, W.M. 1536 and S.W. 13; Henderson, P.M. 13, 700, &c.; Reed, J.W. 13; Weston, S.W. 1536; Goddard, P.M. 13; Loeing, P.M. 45; C. Heckell, and others. The dinner, which was both elegant and plentiful, gave unlimited satisfaction, and was much enjoyed. Upon the cloth being removed, the chairman gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which, it is needless to say, were well received and enthusiastically responded to. In proposing "The Union Waterloo Lodge of Instruction," the chairman said that Lodges of Instruction were not so well attended as they should be. Many Masons thought that as soon as they had taken the three degrees that they had learnt all that Masonry had to teach, but never was there a greater mistake made; take the regular monthly meetings of most regular lodges, and they did not extend above six times a year, and in those lodges the whole of the work was seldom carried out; but in the Lodges of Instruction there was always the diligent and earnest Preceptor weekly at his post to go through and teach the beautiful ceremonies of the Craft to all who desired to be taught them. He then spoke of the difficulties attending the exertions of the Preceptors, and concluded an eloquent address by proposing "Continued Success to the Union Waterloo Lodge of Instruction." "The Health of Bro. Dilley" was then proposed by the Preceptor, Bro. Macdonald, in glowing terms. Bro. Dilley, in reply, spoke of his long and earnest love and work for Freemasonry, and owned he had had his reward in the many pupils of this that were now shining lights in their particular lodges. He felt proud of them, and their distinction was all the reward looked to by him; and he trusted they in their turn would do good work in teaching young Masons the beautiful and impressive mysteries of the Craft. He explained that having to enter a new line of business at Rotherhithe had compelled him to give up the Preceptorship of the lodge, and he left them with every confidence in the hands of Bro. Macdonald. He spoke of the difficulties attending even his getting from Rotherhithe that night (which place he declared was the last invented), and cautioned them first to look to business and then Freemasonry; "or a man who neglected his business for Freemasonry was not a good Mason. It is impossible in our limited space to do justice to Bro. Dilley's excellent remarks, but they were cheered by the brethren most enthusiastically, and upon his retiring shortly after he received quite an ovation. "The Officers of the Lodge, Bros. Macdonald, Preceptor; Reilly and Syer, Secs.; and S. Goddard, Treas." were then honoured; and Bro. Reilly gave the following results of their first year:—Number of members, 111; 3

deaths; number of meetings, 48; total of attendants, 972; average of attendants, 20; subscriptions, fees, &c., £15 9s. 1d.; expenditure, £11 10s. 7d.; balance, £3 18s. 6d.; and no liabilities. "The Health of the Stewards, Bros. Macdonald, G. Davies, S. Goddard, N. Brown, H. S. Syer, and R. A. Smith" followed, and Bro. Goddard, in reply, said they commenced work with only a square for tools, and now they had everything of their own, with the exception of wands, and those they meant to have shortly. Several other toasts followed, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by the brethren.

Knights Templar.

CAMBRIDGE.—Tancred Preceptory.—An encampment was held at the Old Union Rooms, Cambridge, on Thursday, December 2nd, Sir Knt. the Rev. Dr. Bryan Walker, Preceptor. Comp. Raj Narain Mitra, of St. Catherine's College, and the Euclid Chapter, received the Degree of Knighthood; and Sir Knt. Professor R. Kalley Miller (Fellow of St. Peter's), was elected Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year.

Red Cross of Constantine.

LEICESTER.—Byzantine Conclave (No. 44).—A meeting of this prosperous conclave (postponed from November in consequence of the consecration of the Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1560), took place at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Tuesday, the 7th inst., when there were present:—Sir Knts. W. Kelly, Int. Gen.; G. Toller, jun.; G.O.; S. S. Partridge, K.G.C.; F. J. Baines, M.P.S.; C. Stretton, Rev. W. Langley, Major Woodall, C. J. McBride, (Premier); and J. C. Duncombe, P. Sovs.; W. Weare, V.E.; W. Sculthorpe, Treas.; R. B. Smith, Rec.; J. T. Thorpe, S.G.; and most of the other officers Visitor, Sir Knt. B. Ellis, P. Sov. 120 (Sheffield). The first business was the enthronement of Sir Knt. Comp. J. C. Duncombe, V.E. as Hon. Sov., which was performed by Knt. Comp. G. Toller, jun., assisted by the Rev. W. Langley as V.E. and C.; McBride as Herald. A sanctuary of K.H.S. was then opened, Sir Knt. W. Kelly officiating as M.E.C., when Sir Knts. Major Woodall, C. McBride, and T. M. Quin were received, and afterwards installed as Knights of St. John. Owing to its great length the impressive ritual of these degrees was obliged to be somewhat curtailed, but enough was given to prove to the candidates that—properly worked, and with all the accessories complete—they would rank second to none of the high degrees. The conclave having been resumed, Bro. E. J. Mason, S.W. 1391, was admitted and installed as a Knight of the Red Cross, the ceremony being ably conducted by Sir Knt. Partridge, as M.P.S., assisted by the other officers. A banquet took place at the closing of the conclave, after which a very pleasant evening was spent, the flourishing state of the Order in general, and of this conclave in particular, being a subject of general congratulation.

Scotland.

DUNDEE.—On Tuesday evening, the 30th ult., the different Masonic lodges in Dundee met for the purpose of celebrating the Festival of St. Andrew. Office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—

Operative (No. 47).—W.M., Alexander Henry; D.M., George Eunson; P.M., W. F. Longmuir; W.S.W., John Morris; W.J.W., Charles Clayton; Treasurer, Charles Bailey; Secretary, W. B. Galloway; S.D., Thomas Skene; J.D., John Logie; G.S., James Storrar; C., D. L. Black; S.B., Andrew Marshall; I.G., George Keir; O.T., Thomas Robertson.

Ancient (No. 46).—W.M., Alexander Kelt; P.M., G. D. Matthews; D.M., Thomas Buik; W.S.W., James Peacock; W.J.W., Elisha Smith; Treasurer, James Alexander; Secretary, David T. Martin; C., James Thomson S.D., Alexander Brown; J.D., John Kinnear, jun.; G.S., James Fyfe; S.B., Fred. S. Rickman; T., Andrew Scott.

St. David's (No. 78).—W.M., James H. Mackay; P.M., David Anderson; D.M., Henry Fairweather; W.S.W., George Butchart, jun.; W.J.W., Charles Howe; Treasurer, William McDonald; Secretary, James B. Third; S.D., Donald McNaughton; J.D., David K. Lesslie; G.S., John Richardson; S.B., Duncan McRae; O.T., John Young.

Thistle (No. 158).—W.M., J. Pringle; P.M., A. Cloudsley; D.M., David Bower; W.S.W., David Henderson; W.J.W., Alexander Clark; Treasurer, J. McDougal; Secretary, J. Anderson; C., J. McFadzaen; S.D., David Small; J.D., John Barrie; S.B., Robert Peters; S., James Brimmer; I.G., A. Brown; T., E. Martin.

Caledonian (No. 254).—W.M., A. Calvert; D.M., Thomas M. Lindsay; W.S.W., George M. Gibson; W.J.W., Alexander Sturrock; Treasurer, John McGregor; Secretary, Charles B. Lindsay; S.D., Thomas Rodger; J.D., John McGlashan; G.S., John Crow; C., James Low; S.W., Henry Clarke; I.G., Henry Grubb; O.T., James Gray.

Forfar and Kincardine (No. 225).—W.M., Peter Robertson; P.M., Robert Brownlee; S.W., H. Baxter; J.W., James Knight; Treasurer, William Reid; Secretary, George B. Diack; C., Rev. A. F. Reid; S.D., A. M. Duff; J.D., James Robertson; S.B., D. A. Peebles; S.B., J. H. B. Cowie; I.G., D. Talbert; T., C. P. Robertson.

Camperdown (No. 317).—W.M., Ebenezer Bowman; D.M., James Robertson; P.M., James Gelson; W.S.W., Peter Sidey; W.J.W., P. Howe; Treasurer, R. F. Grieve; Secretary, James Hill; S.D., Robert Archibald; J.D., R. Paton; G.S., Wm. McAllister; C., C. Taylor; S.B., David Beharrie; I.G., Simpson; O.G., Thos. Ross.

Albert Lodge, Lochee (No. 448).—W.M., Douglas Foote; P.M., James McDonald; W.S.W., David C. Martin; W.J.W., David C. Watson; Treasurer, David Nicoll; Secretary, John McDonald; S.D., John Bruce; J.D., J. P. Scott; G.S., William Grant; C., W. Baxter; S.B., Robert Reekie; I.G., Alexander Lindsay; O.T., Charles Beat.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. John (No. 31).—This lodge held its regular meeting in their lodge-room, 213, Buchanan-street, on the 9th inst. Bro. Wm. Bell, the respected R.W.M., took the chair, supported by Bros. Fletcher, P.M.; J. T. Smithe, P.M.; D. M. Nelson, D.M.; John B. Young, S.W.; David Horn, J.W.; B. R. Dalziel, Treas.; John Dick, Sec.; P. Brownlie, S.D.; and many others. Among the distinguished visiting brethren we noticed Bros. Stewart Lackie, P.M. 5; Robert Campbell, 22, St. John, N.B., Canada; Michael Barclay, Alexander and Bonhill Lodge, 321; J. M. Oliver, S.W. 360; R. H. Sharpe, 378, E.C.; and others. The meeting was an exceedingly large one, the hall being filled to a most uncomfortable degree. After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, there appeared no less than seven candidates for initiation, viz., Messrs. James A. Jardine, John Park, S. Palmer, David Gardiner, Archd. Morrison, David Stewart, Robert S. Donaldson; and for affiliation, Bros. Wilson, Rier, and Anderson. The R.W.M. here intimated that the total sum subscribed to the Bridgetown Fund was £15 15s., which was handed to the "Mail" Fund, and acknowledged by that paper. The Treasurer was also instructed to forward £4 to the widow of a deceased brother. The nomination of office-bearers for the next year was proceeded with.

GLASGOW.—Glasgow Chapter (No. 50). met in the chapter rooms, 213, Buchanan-street, on the 9th inst., Comp. J. Miller, M.E.Z., presided, supported by Comps. J. Louttit, J.; J. Douthie, Z. 67, acting H.; G. Agnew, Treas.; Robert Morrison, S.E.; C. McKenzie, 1st Soj.; Hardie, 2nd Soj.; A. Merser, 3rd Soj.; and a number of companions. A lodge of Mark Masters was opened, when the minutes were read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the M.E. Degree, and Bro. W. Murdoch was put in possession of that degree by Bro. A. Merser. A Holy Royal Arch chapter was then opened, and Bro. Murdoch was admitted a companion of the R.A., Comp. J. Duthie, Z. 67, officiating.

PORT GLASGOW.—The Lodge Doric Kilwinning (No. 68) held their annual meeting on Tuesday, the 30th ult. (St. Andrew's Night), in the Masonic Hall, Port Glasgow, which was well filled, Bro. Joseph W. Taylor, M.D., R.W.M., presiding. The Treasurer's report was read, and showed the funds of the lodge to be in a satisfactory state, there having been 45 initiations during the past year. The following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—William Forgie, R.W.M.; Dr. J. W. Taylor, I.P.M.; Richard Boyle, S.M.; Daniel McKirdy, S.W.; William Wallace, J.W.; T. Clark, Sec.; James Sloan, Treas.; Rev. George Durns, Chap.; William Neill, S.D.; R. Patission, J.D.; Hugh Orr, jun., Archt.; Thomas Smith, Jeweller; P. Crookston, B.B.; J. Telfer, S.B.; T. Pollock, S.S.; S. Young, 2nd S.S.; J. Teek, 3rd S.S.; Wm. Shaw, 4th S.S.; C. Crookston, I.G.; John Weir, Tyler. The brethren were afterwards called from labour to refreshment, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk with enthusiasm.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Thistle and Rose (No. 73).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 170, Buchanan-street, on the 7th inst. Bro. McDonald, R.W.M., presided, and was supported by Bros. Macgregor, S.W.; J. F. Hanbidge, J.W.; J. Bannerman, D.M.; G. W. Wheeler, Chaplain; J. S. Ampleford Sec.; W. J. Kay, S.D.; J. Morgan, R.W.M. 219; Wm. Ferguson, R.W.M. 114; Alex. Cross, Sec. 408; and others. The minutes were read and approved. The only other business was that of installation of office-bearers. This was got through in admirable style by Bro. J. Morgan, R.W.M. 219. The following are the office-bearers for the current year:—Bros. Geo. McDonald, R.W.M.; G. Weston, P.M.; John Bannerman, D.M.; James Ballantyne, S.W.; Alex. McLeod, S.W.; J. F. Hanbidge, J.W.; J. S. Ampleford, Treas.; Rowland Richards, Sec.; W. J. Kay, S.D.; Thos. Yuill, J.D.; G. W. Wheeler, Chaplain; A. Young, B.B.; W. McFarland, Dr. of C.; Jas. Smith, S.B.; J. Rinnaird, P.G.S.; John A. Macqueen, S.S.; Geo. McDonald, jun., J.S.; Thos. McMurray, Std. B.; Barnet Levy, I.G.; and Kay, Tyler.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Thistle (No. 97).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place in the Masonic Hall, 30, Hope-street, on the 7th inst., Bro. J. Booth, R.W.M., occupied the chair, supported by Bros. J. Burns, I.P.M.; J. G. Ritchie, S.M.; Wm. Stewart, S.W.; R. Barr, J.W.; Archd. McPhee, Sec.; J. Law, P.M. 570; Henry Hartick, P.M. 673; John Harley, J.W. 554; and others. The lodge was opened on the E.A. Degree, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read. A lively discussion took place thereon, and after some slight alteration they were passed. After some other business of an ordinary character was got over, the sum of one pound was voted from the lodge funds to the Talisman Fund. Three candidates for initiation were then proposed, viz., Messrs. John Ritchie, spirit merchant; John Barr, engineer; Geo. Black, traveller. They were prepared and received the First Degree, the R.W.M. officiating. The lodge was then raised to the F.C. Degree, when Bro. Angus McLauchlane received this degree at the hands of the R.W.M.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Union and Crown (No. 103).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, 12th ult., in the Masonic Hall, 170, Buchanan-street, Bro. Andrew M. Wright, R.W.M., presiding. Bros. William Thomas, S.W., and Robert Munro, J.W. The R.W.M. was supported on the dais by Bros. George Muir, D.M.; David Murray, S.M.; Alexander Bain, P.M.; Neil Cameron, Treasurer; Jas. Gillies,

P.M., Secretary; John Campbell, R.W.M. 128; John Morgan, R.W.M. 219; William Bell, R.W.M. 33; Robert Kerr, R.W.M. 524; David Reid, R.W.M. 465; and William Ferguson, 543 ("Freemason"). There were also present Bros. Peter Dow, 30; J. A. Mac Queen, 73; E. Arthur, Mother Kilwinning; William Campbell, Secretary 465; John Park, 122; and Duncan McKillop, 180, and others; and a large number of the members, over 100 having signed the attendance book. After the minutes and auditors' report were read and confirmed, Mr. Alexander Smith was admitted, and initiated into the Order by Bro. Gillies, P.M. The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year then took place, when the following brethren were duly elected as follows:—Bros. David Murray, R.W.M.; Andrew M. Wright, I.P.M.; Robert Munro, D.M.; John McFarlane, S.M.; William Thomas, S.W.; William Forsyth, J.W.; Neil Cameron, Treasurer; James Gillies, P.M., Secretary; Rev. J. C. Stewart, L.L.D., Chaplain; J. S. Pollock, S.D.; Archibald Gray, J.D.; Peter Cullen, B.B.; Peter Cameron, Jeweller; James Kennedy, S.B.; Colin Robertson, P.G.S.; John Derry, S.S.; George McLuckie, J.S.; James Gray, I.G.; and Robert Boyd, Tyler. The office-bearers were installed into their respective places, Bro. Alexander Bain, P.M., performing the ceremony in a very able and impressive manner. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, when Bro. D. Murray, R.W.M., was duly installed at the hands of Bro. Bain. The lodge then went into harmony, and after spending a short time was closed in proper form.

PAISLEY.—Lodge St. Mirren (No. 129).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Paisley, on Monday evening, the 6th inst., the R.W.M., Bro. H. S. Edmonds, in the chair, supported by Bros. William Gemmill, S.W.; George Fisher, J.W.; A. McPherson, Secretary; Peter Blair, Treasurer; and the other office-bearers in their respective places. The minutes of last meeting were read. A motion was read for the third time to the following effect, "That brethren may be affiliated honorary members of this lodge free of expense, who have shown eminent zeal for Masonry in general or to this lodge in particular, said members to have no vote or voice in any lodge business." On the motion being put to the meeting it was carried unanimously. The nomination of office-bearers for the coming year was next gone on with. The following were duly nominated, viz., Bros. H. S. Edmonds, R.W.M.; William Gemmill, S.W.; George Fisher, J.W.; Peter Blair, Treasurer; A. McPherson, Secretary; Rev. W. P. Mills, Chaplain; Robert McLeod, S.D.; Hugh Burton, J.D.; D. Bell, Robin, and Sharp, Architect; William Scott, Jeweller; James Spence, Director of Music; James Gould, Clothier; John Barnett, S.S. B.; A. Moffat, J.S.B.; Alexander Morrison and T. Scott, S.S.; William Hodgert, J.S.; William Craig, Inner Guard; and William Alexander, Tyler. A committee was appointed to take an inventory of the lodge jewels, clothing, &c., and also to audit the books and report at next regular meeting. It was unanimously agreed to that the annual festival be held on St. John's night, the 27th December.

POLLOKSHAW.—Lodge Royal Arch (No. 153).—The members of this lodge met at their new suite of rooms in Cogan-street, Pollokshaws, for the purpose of having them consecrated, on Friday evening, 26th ult. The accommodation includes one large hall and two ante-rooms, which are tastefully decorated and fitted up in a manner suitable for the efficient conduct of the lodge business, and capable of comfortably accommodating about 70 members. The lodge having been opened by Bro. John Peters, R.W.M., and the minutes of previous meetings read and confirmed, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire (East) were announced, and received in due and ancient form. The deputation consisted of Bros. Col. A. C. Campbell, R.W.P.G.M.; Fisher, D.M.; Caldwell, S.W.; Anderson, J.W.; Rev. P. Rodger, Chaplain; McPherson, Treasurer; Henderson, Secretary; and others. Deputations were also present from Paisley, Busby, Barrhead, and Glasgow lodges. The consecration ceremony was then proceeded with, and performed in the usual masterly style of the presiding brother, Col. Campbell, P.G.M., ably assisted by his office-bearers. The Prov. G.M., in the course of his oration, exhorted all present to continue steadfast in adhering to and practising those principles which are the groundwork of the Order, that being the only way whereby permanent success can be attained. The installation of office-bearers elected for the current year was next proceeded with, the new list being as follows:—Bros. John Peters, R.W.M.; William Paton, D.M.; J. E. Peters, S.M.; J. Black, S.W.; Thomas Hart, J.W.; Rev. Philip Rodger, Chaplain; D. Allan, Treasurer; De Hort Baird, Secretary; D. McNaught, S.D.; J. Hart, J.D.; D. Kennedy, B.B.; McCrae, Jeweller; W. M. G. Adams, Director of Music; W. Johnston, Marshal; Woods, S.B.; Tommie, S.S.; McGhie, J.S.; Thomson, I.G.; and Black, Tyler. The installation ceremony over, the Provincial Grand Lodge was thanked for their presence and services, and thereafter affiliated as honorary members of the lodge. The lodge was then called from labour to refreshment, and an agreeable evening was spent in harmony. Bro. J. Miller, Director of Music, Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, presided at the harmonium.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Shamrock and Thistle (No. 275).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 22, Struthers-street, Calton, on Friday evening, 3rd inst., Bro. R. M. Yuill, R.W.M., presiding; Bros. David Ronald, S.W.; William Findlay, J.W. The business before the meeting was the election and installation of office-bearers for the next twelve months, which brought a large number of members and visiting brethren together. Among the visiting brethren we noticed the following:—Bros. John Millar, P.M. 87; Alexander Bain, P.M. 103; John Campbell, P.M. 128; Robert Jack, R.W.M. 128; Joseph Single-

ton, R.W.M. 178; William Phillips, P.M. 275, and R. W.M. 556; William Ferguson, 543 ("Freemason"); William Thomas S.W. 103; John McNaught, S.M. 556; J. B. McNaught, S.W. 556; John Howie, J.W. 556; James Anderson, 28; J. Aitkinson, 31; G. M. Wheeler, 73; George Muir, 103; William Gibson, 103; James Kidd, 27; and others. The Auditors' report showed that the lodge is in a very healthy and prosperous condition. The following brethren were duly elected, and afterwards installed into office, the ceremony being performed by Bro. John Campbell, I.P.M., St. John's Lodge, Shettleston, No. 128, in good style—viz., Bros. David Ronald, R. W.M.; R. M. Yuill, I.P.M.; Hugh Mathieson, S.M.; John Paterson, D.M.; William Findlay, S.W.; Thomas Neilson, J.W.; John Horn, Secretary; W. B. Hutcherson, Treasurer; Charles Mair, S.D.; Charles McLeish, J.D.; Walter Smith, Conductor; R. Hardie, Director of Music; Edward Mooney, Standard Bearer; Samuel Bilsland, P.G.S.; H. Cox, Inner Guard; J. Guthrie, Tyler. The ceremony of Installed Master was then duly conferred on Bro. Ronald by Bro. A. Bain, P.M. Union and Crown, No. 103, assisted by Bros. Campbell, P.M. 128; Jack, R.W.M. 128; William Ferguson, R.W.M. 543. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and spent a short time in harmony, when the usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were given and responded to. Thereafter the lodge was called to labour and closed.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. George (No. 333) held their regular meeting in the Masonic Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, on the 8th inst. Bro. Alex. Thomson, presided, supported by all his office-bearers, and P.M. John Winton. Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. Election and installation of office-bearers for the next year was the business before the lodge, but previous to beginning the election Bro. J. Winton, P.M., rose and said, they were all aware that the Past Master's jewel belonging to the lodge had been lost a considerable time ago. The want of it had been felt very much, as it was the jewel of an important office. He then, in a few graceful words, requested the R.W.M. to accept on behalf of the lodge, from him (Bro. Winton) a P.M.'s jewel, to replace the one lost. The R.W.M. thanked Bro. Winton for his handsome present to the lodge, and proposed a vote of thanks to be recorded in the minute book. Bro. Winton briefly replied, and business was then proceeded with. There being no opposition to any of the office-bearers nominated, the election was declared carried. Bro. Winton, P.M., then proceeded to install the various officers into their respective positions, which he completed in a most excellent manner. The R.W.M. then made a few remarks on the annual balance sheet, showing the position of the lodge. He said they would find from the abstract put into their hands that the lodge did not stand in a pecuniary point of view quite so well off as it did last year, but otherwise they were in a prosperous condition. This finished all the business before the lodge, when it was called to refreshment for a short time. The following is the list of office-bearers:—Alex. Thomson, R.W.M.; John Winton, P.M.; John McFarlane, D.M.; J. Findlay, S.M.; J. Forsyth, S.W.; Robert Anderson, J.W.; A. Dunn, Treas.; Archd. McIntyre, Sec.; John Clarke, Chaplain; Thos. Hill, S.D.; A. Boyd, J.D.; James Allan, S.S.; Wm. Miller, J.S.; Archd. McIntyre, jun., M. of C.; R. Fairbairn, Std. B.; B. G. Cranston, P.G.S.; R. Adam, Jeweller; A. W. Taylor, Architect; Alex. Wright, I.G.; W. G. Hickson, Tyler.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Commercial (No. 360).—A meeting of this lodge was held within their own hall, at 30, Hope-street, on Friday the 3rd inst. The W.M., Bro. J. Monro, presided, and said, he had the pleasure of informing them that the Rev. D. McCorqudale, of Crosshill Established Church, was waiting outside to become a member of this lodge, with a view to become also its Chaplain. The reverend gentleman having been duly recommended by two brethren of the lodge, was then accordingly introduced, and received the Entered Apprentice Degree at the hands of the W. Master. Bros. John Mitchell and John Clark received the Third Degree at the hands of the depute Master, Bro. D. Lamb.

RUTHERGLEN.—Lodge St. John Operative (No. 347).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Friday evening, the 10th inst., in their new Masonic Hall, Rutherglen, Bro. Smart, W.M., in the chair; Bro. J. Murdoch, S.W.; and Alston, J.W. A large number of members were present, among whom were many visitors, viz., Bros. W. Ferguson, W.M. 116; W. Harper, W.M. 408; W. Ferguson, 543 ("Freemason"); J. Low, 31; J. Millar, 114; J. Hamilton, 114; J. Hamilton, 116; G. Love 116; J. Cunningham, I.P.M. 347; W. Gardner, P.M., Treas.; A. Pearson, Chaplain; M. Abbott, D.M.; A. Warnock, Sec.; W. Young, S.D.; A. Robertson, J.D.; R. Hastie, J.S.; J. Cairn, Tyler, and others. Messrs. McAllan, J. Thomson, and J. Hall were initiated into the First Degree by Bro. D. Smart, W.M. The ceremony was ably carried out and reflects credit on the choice of the lodge in electing Bro. Smart to the chair. Thereafter, a board of Installed Masters, consisting of Bros. J. Cunningham, 347; W. Ferguson, 543; W. Harper, 408; and A. Warnock, 347, were formed, when the ceremony of Installed Master was conferred upon Bros. D. Smart, W.M. 347; W. Ferguson, W.M. 116, ("Freemason"); and W. Gardner, P.M. 347. On the lodge being resumed, Bros. W. Gardner, Treas., and W. Young, S.D., were installed into office by Bro. Cunningham, I.P.M. The lodge was then closed.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Clyde (No. 408).—The election of office-bearers of this lodge for the ensuing year took place on Friday evening, the 10th inst., within the Masonic Hall, 170, Buchanan-street, the following being the result:—Bros. Wm. Harper, W.M.; Thomas Gordon, D.M.; John McInnes, S.M.; William Bilsland, S.W.; John McKinnon, J.W.; Wm. Anderson, Treas.; Alexr.

Cross, Sec.; Andrew Strathearn, Chap.; John Buchanan, B.B.; Wm. Williamson, S.D.; Robt. Wallace, J.D.; James Blackstock, Architect; James Morton Jeweller; John Clare, P.G.S.; John McCall, S.S.; James Harkness, I.S.; John Archer, S.B.; George Baillie I.G.; and David Ramsay, Tyler. The ceremony of installing the W.M., together with his Depute and Substitute Masters, was performed by Bro. J. P. Macnair, W.M. Lodge Union (332). The remaining office bearers were installed by Bro. Harper himself.

GOVAN.—Lodge Govandale (No. 437).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, the 7th inst, in the Masonic Hall, Govan, Bro. J. McFarlane, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. A. Campbell, P.M.; J. Millar, D.M.; R. Muir, S.W.; G. Wilson, J.W.; J. Sutherland, Secretary; and others. The business before the meeting was the nomination of office-bearers for the ensuing year. The majority of offices were keenly contested. The following were unanimously elected:—Bros. J. Millar, W.M.; J. Hutcherson, D.M.; R. Muir, S.W.; A. James, J.W.; J. Sutherland, Secretary; J. Moggin, Inner Guard; J. McIntyre, Tyler. The election and installation of office-bearers is to take place on Tuesday night, 21st inst.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Clydesdale (No. 556).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, 106, Rose-street, S.S., on the 6th inst. The R.W.M., Bro. W. Phillips, took the chair, and presided over one of the largest meetings that ever took place in the Clydesdale Lodge. He was supported by all his office-bearers being in their respective places. The lodge was opened and raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., when Bro. James Roberts, W. Lockhart, W. Riddell, and R. Paterson were found worthy, and received that degree, the R.W.M. officiating. Thereafter, the lodge was reduced to the E.A. Degree, and the minutes of last regular meeting, and those of the emergency, were read and confirmed. Then came the business of the evening, viz., the election of office-bearers for the next year. Nearly every office being contested, the excitement that prevailed was great. The sharpest and most exciting of the contests was that for the W.M. chair, between Bro. Phillips and McNaught, Bro. Phillips gaining the position by the small majority of one vote. The list of elected office-bearers is as follows:—W.M., W. Phillips; D.M., Hugh McCulloch; S.M., James Boyle; S.W., John McNaught; J.W., Thomas Phillips; S.D., Peter Young; J.D., McCameron; Treas., McKechnie; Sec., G. B. Yulle; Chaplain, Bro. Webster; Architect, Geddis; P.G.S., Middleton; S.S., Simpson, J.S.; John McMillan; Std. Bearer, Tait; I.G., W. Smith; Tyler, W. Graham. A motion was then brought forward to alter the night of meeting. After some discussion the matter was left over till the next meeting, when the installation of the office-bearers will also take place.

KILMUN.—Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam (No. 496).—The anniversary meeting of this lodge took place on Friday, 26th ult., in Kilmun Hotel (Mr. William Morrison's). There was but an average attendance. Bro. the Rev. G. Masson Sandbank occupied the chair, and Bro. Mercer discharged the duties of Croupier. After dinner, several topics affecting the membership of the lodge were brought up and discussed. Regret was expressed at the loss about to be sustained by the removal to another sphere of usefulness of Bro. the Rev. L. Dobbie, of Strone. The reverend gentleman, who was present, thanked the lodge for the fraternal feeling expressed. The remaining part of the evening was spent in a most agreeable manner.

GLASGOW.—St. Rollox Chapter (No. 144), held their regular meeting in the chapter rooms, Garnad-road, on the 10th inst. The M.E.Z., Comp. J. Armand, presided, and was supported by Comp. J. McLeish, H.; D. Gilchrist, P.Z. 73; G. W. Wheeler, Z. 73; J. H. Shiells, Z. 143; J. S. Allan, 1st. Soj.; and W. Sampson, 3rd Soj.; D. Reid, 87; and a number of well-qualified companions. A lodge of M.E. Mark Masters was opened, and the minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. It was expected that a number of brethren would have been present for this degree, but only one came forward. He received that from Comp. G. W. Wheeler in excellent style. An R.A. Chapter was afterwards opened, when the same brother was made a companion of the Holy R.A., Comp. Shiells officiating.

THE URBAN CLUB.

The seventeenth annual dinner of the Urban Club was held on Friday in the large hall of the St. John's-gate Tavern, when some 60 or 70 gentlemen sat down to a substantial repast, provided by the Steward of St. Edmund Lachmere, the Master of the Knights of St. John. Bro. Sir John Bennett occupied the chair. There were present Bros. Chas. Horsley, Dr. Carpenter, S. Wickens. After dinner Bro. Sir John Bennett proposed "The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." "Our National Forces" was the next toast given by the Chairman, which was duly responded to for the Volunteers by "Colonel" George Cruikshank and Captain G. W. Challis. The toast of the evening, "Success to the Urban Club," was introduced with great warmth by Sir John. He was glad to see so many friends of literature present, not only from our own country but from America and many other countries in Europe. Mr. J. Redding Ware then proposed "The Fine Arts," which was responded to by Mr. Geo. Cruikshank. Dr. F. G. Luke, M.A., rose to propose "Literature and Science." Mr. Karl Blind responded on behalf of Literature. Dr. Richardson replied on behalf of "Science." Dr. W. C. Bennett proposed "The Drama and the Stage," which was responded to by Dr. W. B. Richardson, M.A., of Boston, U.S., in a very effective manner. Bro. Chas. Horsley proposed "The Health of the Chairman."

BRO. H. SEEBOHM IN SIBERIA.

A lecture of more than ordinary interest was given recently in the School of Art, Sheffield, by Bro. H. Seebohm, who has recently returned from a journey to Siberia. Some idea of his adventures in the "desolate land of ice and snow" may be gained from the fact that for five months he slept in his clothes, and had nothing but a few wild onions for his vegetable diet. Starting from London he went to St. Petersburg, from thence to Moscow, and forward to Vologda. Then he sledged to Archangel, where he stayed for three weeks, getting information as to the rest of his journey. Setting out again, he sledged eight hundred miles due east to Petchora, along the course of which great river he met with the chief of his adventures. In search of rare birds, he found, not only ornithological treasures, but saw strange sights, and came across strange people. Sometimes journeying over vast tracts of ice, at others being threatened with starvation, now anticipating even a more violent death by the break-up of the mighty river, and the annihilation of his dwelling by the rapidly rising waters. At one time ingratiating himself into the good graces of the philosophical Samoyedes, a nomadic tribe of singularly stoical tendencies, who, in the words of the lecturer, "must have blood in their veins, although it runs very deep beneath their sallow skins." One day passing his time with the Ziriani, and the next coming across another tribe with a still more unpronounceable name. Oft-times in the midst of scenery wildly picturesque, and frequently traversing weird-looking tracts of country disheartening in their "blackness of darkness." Passing the Arctic circle, where the distinction of day and night ceased, and making his way to Dvoinik, where he, and his fellow travellers, took possession of a stranded wreck, and spent a week there, making most interesting discoveries. And as in all these experiences he never lost sight of the importance of gaining knowledge relative to the national characteristics of the people, no wonder his lecture was interesting. Moreover, he accomplished the great object of his visit, which was the pursuit of birds. In the course of his travels he has secured 1000 skins and 1000 eggs, so his journey has not been in vain. Besides he has discovered one bird entirely new to science, which will be called after his own name; found several birds entirely new to Europe, one of them hitherto known only as a visitant to India, and another known as a winter visitant to Persia, as well as the eggs of four birds whose breeding places have been a mystery. The excursion has certainly been a great ornithological success; and the products of it non-ornithological caused considerable amusement at the lecture, especially the donning of a Siberian travelling costume by Mr. Seebohm, and the exhibition of the attire worn by the Samoyede ladies. The Rev. C. G. Coombe, M.A., presided at the lecture, which was delivered in connection with the Literary and Philosophical Society. In proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, the rev. gentleman regretted that the lecture had been delivered to comparatively few persons, although the room was crowded. The description of the journey to Siberia had been so very interesting that he hoped Bro. Seebohm would be prevailed upon to deliver it in the Cutler's Hall to a much larger audience. Mr. Parkes second the motion, and it was carried unanimously. In acknowledging the vote, the lecturer said if, upon reconsideration, they thought it worth while, he should be very glad to deliver the lecture again. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Obituary.

BRO. THOMAS ROUTLEDGE, P.M. 327.

It is our duty to record the death of Bro. P.M. Thomas Routledge, of the St. John's Lodge, No. 327, who died on the 5th November, 1875, at his residence, Emerald Villas, Garden-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester, in the 83rd year of his age. He was well known throughout this Province, having been upwards of 40 years a member of his lodge. As a Royal Arch Mason, he was most active and persevering, and in his capacity of First Principal and P.Z. exalted upwards of 200 members. His services were held in high estimation by the Order in general throughout the North of England.

THE "FREEMASON." LECTURE BY THE REV. P. P. AGNEW.

The Rev. P. P. Agnew delivered a lecture at the Lorne-street Hall, Auckland, New Zealand, on the subject of Freemasonry. Several distinguished members of the Craft were present on the platform. Mr. G. P. Pierce, P.G.M. of New Zealand, I.C., occupied the chair, and introduced the rev. lecturer to the audience. The Rev. Mr. Agnew, in opening his remarks, alluded to his being, perhaps, the first who had received authority to lecture on the subject. There were some who went so far as to say that the origin of the Craft dated back so far as the Creation, and others traced it to the erection of the Tower of Babel. But it was to be observed that the Tower of Babel was of brick. Now, in all Masonic legends, in all Masonic emblems, no mention was anywhere made of brick, neither was there any reference to it; therefore it was to be concluded that Masonry was in no way connected with the Tower of Babel, for brick formed no part of true Masonry. In referring to ancient architecture, it appeared that at the present time we, with all our knowledge and enlightenment, were ignorant of the means by which the massive masonry of the old cities was put into position; and besides, we had no tools at the present time at all suitable for preparing the huge blocks of stone that might be seen, for instance, as forming part of the ruined Egyptian cities. The true origin of Masonry lay in the Temple of Solomon. This was their sure foundation, on the great glory of which Freemasonry rested as the model of Masonic teaching. After describing the great costliness of the Temple, on which no less than £943,000,000 sterling had been expended, the rev. lecturer traced the existence of the Craft through the intermediate ages to Numa Pompilius, the King or Prince of Rome, who, being desirous of introducing stone into the architecture of ancient Rome, called into his service certain of the Craft. Coming down to later times, and the introduction of Masonry into Britain, it would be found to have become established about the time of King Alfred, and in the year 928 it was said that Prince Edwin, a brother of the King, called the first meeting of Masons in England at the city of York, and there drew up the first English Constitution. In what might be termed the present day, 1813, the Grand Lodges of York and London were united. Regarding those who were member of the Craft, he might say the Pope had been a Mason. The Prince of Wales was a Mason, and their Grand Master, so that at some future day they might look forward to seeing seated on the throne of Britain one who had worn the apron and used the trowel. The Rev. Mr. Agnew said he would introduce to his hearers some of the pleasing mysteries of the Craft itself. They took as their guide the Word of God. Every candidate for admission to the brotherhood must be made to feel that he was ignorant, and in the greatest need of Divine assistance. He was instructed that in that Book lay the surest guide for him, and that by a careful and diligent study of it he was to mark out his course in life, and be most careful never on any occasion to utter irreverently and without respect the name of the Supreme Deity. No lodge could be worked unless the Word of God lay open before the Master. It was a strange fact that Masonry existed among the Chinese in a form which led to the belief that its origin was still more remote than the generally received authority. There was in his (the lecturer's) possession a Chinese chart which contained emblems of far greater antiquity than any in use among the Masons of the present day. In this chart were to be found the ark of Noah, the dove, the olive branch, the pillar of cloud, &c., and many signs which were as yet inexplicable, and this antiquity was further borne out by the very excellent Masons who were to be found amongst the Chinese. There was in Victoria, on its very borders, a colony of Chinese, who received and treated him (Bro. Agnew) with the greatest kindness and consideration, solely from the fact of his being a brother. The lecture gave many instances in which the bond of Masonic friendship had been of great assistance to him, and he also gave an instance in which a Masonic sign actually prevented the execution of a sentence of death. In conclusion, the rev. gentleman most quaintly recited to his hearers Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lecture, ancient the Craft, and drew many signs of appreciation from them, resuming his seat amidst applause. Mr. M. Niccol proposed, in a neat speech, a vote of thanks to the rev. lecturer, which was accorded by acclamation. In thanking the brethren and the audience for their attention that evening, Bro. Agnew intimated that on Sunday evening he would hold Divine service, according to the Church of England, at the City Hall, which would probably be the last opportunity he would have of addressing an Auckland audience. His object in coming to New Zealand, and it was not the first time he had been in the colony—for he was here during the Hone Heke war and at the sack of Kororarake—was that he might raise sufficient funds to enable him to proceed to England, for the purpose of finding, and bringing out to the colonies, some of the ardent youthful spirits, who would take up the ministry in places where they were now waiting for them to appear. Many of these congregations he had laid the foundation of himself. He again thanked those present for their attention. The company then dispersed.

WIDE YOUR FEET.—The best Cocoa Nut Mats and Matting are made by Treloar and Sons, 69, Ludgate-hill.

"There are few wines that contain so many valuable qualities as really good sherry. A remarkable fine pure pale wine is imported by the firm of Felton & Sons, Albermarle-street, that would surely convert the most ardent admirers of French vintages."—"The Standard."

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

A special meeting of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was held on Saturday last, at Freemasons' Hall, on the following business:— "To consider, and if approved, adopt, the Report of the Special Committee, appointed by the Quarterly General Court on the 9th October, 1875, with reference to the subject of providing accommodation for an increased number of girls, the scheme to be submitted having also been recommended by the General Committee on the 25th November, and further, in the event of the adoption of the Report, to nominate a Building Committee, who shall be charged with the superintendence of the necessary works, with full power to draw cheques, and perform all such duties as may appertain to their office." Bro. Lieut. Col. Creaton, Vice-Patron, was voted to the chair, and among the other brethren present were Bros. Lieut.-Col. J. Creaton, Thomas W. White, John Boyd, J. A. Farnfield, Herbert Dicketts, S. Rawson, A. H. Tattershall, H. Massey ("Freemason"), R. W. Stewart, G. Bolton, H. Browne, W. Smeed, John A. Rucker, W. A. Bowler, William Roebuck, Griffiths Smith, Thomas T. Peacock, Z. D. Berry, Charles Jardine, W. J. Murlis, John Healey, R. B. Webster, James W. Baldwin, Charles Lacey, G. R. Shirvill, C. Wright, J. C. Parkinson, H. A. Dubois, Colonel Francis Burdett, William Ramsey, Nathaniel George Phillips, Robert Kenyon, J. M. P. Montagu, William Stephens, George Kenning, Thomas Bartlett, H. Phythian, C. J. Hanspden, Joseph Smith, F. B. Davage, Lieutenant Colonel Peters, E. J. Barron, W. Winn, John Symonds, C. Burmeister, George Angold, F. B. Lemaitre, Hyde Pullen, Charles G. Hill, E. C. Woodward, Thomas J. Sabine, J. M. Vaughan, J. Terry, Charles Fish, Frederick Binckes, William F. C. Moutrie, J. L. Coulton, E. H. Thiellay, Jesse Turner, W. C. Ramm, W. Barrett, Thomas Massa, F. W. H. Ramsay, M.D.; and Dudley Rolls. The Chairman said this special meeting had been convened for the purpose of receiving a recommendation from the General Committee in accordance with law No. 31 in the Institution's book, and he thought he should be best studying the convenience of the brethren by having that law read at the outset. Bro. Little then read the rule, which directed that before a special meeting could be called a requisition must be signed by a certain number of brethren and given to the Secretary. Bro. Little afterwards read the requisition, and the names attached thereto. The advertisement convening the meeting was taken as read, and Bro. Little concluded by reading that part of the minutes of the General Committee of 25th November which related the business before the Special Court. The Chairman thought that before going further it would be better to read the schemes for the enlargement of the school, by which the brethren would have full information as to what was proposed to be done. Bro. Little thereupon read the following schemes:— Report of the Special Committee, composed of the House Committee, appointed by the Quarterly General Court on the 9th October, 1875, to consider and report upon the subject of providing accommodation for an increased number of girls:— "Pursuant to the resolution of the Quarterly Court, the Special Committee held its first meeting at Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 5th November, when a proposition was made and seconded that a site for the erection of a newschool, to be subsidiary to the establishment at Battersea Rise, be sought for, to which an amendment was moved and seconded that an additional building be provided on the present site. After some discussion, it was resolved to adjourn the consideration of the question to Friday, the 12th November, when the committee held its second meeting, at which it was resolved that the present grounds be utilized for the purpose of providing the extra accommodation required. "The committee then adjourned, for the production of plans and estimates, to Monday, the 22nd November, when the third meeting was held. Several plans were submitted, upon the suggestions of several of the members present, and having been fully considered and discussed, it was resolved, without a dissentient, to recommend the adoption of a plan brought forward by the Chairman, Bro. Lieut.-Colonel J. Creaton, which includes the erection of a large hall, with class rooms and offices, on the ground floor, and dormitories with governesses' rooms, providing for 94 additional children, on the floors above. "(Signed) A. J. CREATON, Chairman." The Chairman said these were the schemes which the Special House Committee had submitted to the General Committee, and the General Committee had recommended to this Special Court. Bro. Thomas W. White had much pleasure in moving that this scheme, the estimated cost of which amounted to £20,790, be adopted. Bro. H. A. Dubois seconded the motion. Bro. W. Ramsey asked whether the cost would not exceed the estimated sum. The Chairman said that the committee had gone well through the scheme and the estimate, and they believed they had taken the outside cost. He thought that instead of being more, it would come to less than the amount stated. Bro. Raynham W. Stewart presumed that this would be without the architect's commission, which would amount to £1250. The Chairman asked Bro. Massa whether he could enlighten the brethren on this point. For himself and the committee, they had gone very carefully through the prices, and they thought the chances were in favour of a much less sum than £20,790 being enough to cover the cost. Bro. Massa would be able to say whether this was right. Bro. Massa: Yes.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart: But it is exclusive of your commission.

Bro. Massa: Yes. The commission would be some £1200.

The Chairman said, that perhaps the brethren might ask why the committee were proposing to build so large a school. It was for these simple reasons; first, that the requirements of the Craft were rapidly becoming very large, and there was no doubt that in ten or fifteen years all the space now proposed to be given would be required; and secondly, that instead of patching, as they had been doing for the last twelve years, it was thought best to do all that was required at once, and make but one job of it. From the year 1862 they had been putting on a bit here to the building, and a bit there, and this had cost £15,609. He would ask whether it was not better to go into the thing at once and do it properly, than continue on this principle.

Bro. Kenyon said it would probably be in the recollection of many of the brethren that at the last quarterly meeting several propositions were brought forward, one by Bro. Joshua Nunn, that £25,000 should be expended in the purchase of land and the erection of a new building elsewhere than at Battersea Rise. There was also a proposition of Bro. Raynham W. Stewart that they should utilise the infirmary, on which a large sum of money had already been expended. Bro. Rucker brought forward another proposition; and the result was that the whole question was referred to a Special House Committee; but this House Committee was to receive suggestions which any brother might feel disposed to offer, and give them due consideration. He understood that the House Committee did receive such suggestions, considered, and then ignored them one after another. The scheme now before the meeting he understood met with the approval of the majority of the House Committee. To that scheme he had some objection, and at the monthly meeting of the General Committee, which was held on the 25th November, he proposed an amendment to the report of the House Committee. He was met by Bro. Dubois starting the objection that he could not put that amendment at that meeting, and the Chairman ruled in Bro. Dubois' favour, that it could not be done at the committee meeting, but must be done at this court.

The Chairman said no, not at this Special Court, but at the regular Quarterly Court. Bro. Kenyon could do so still by giving proper notice to the General Committee.

Bro. Kenyon said, at all events he was to bring it on here. The Chairman proposed to call a Special Court in order to save time. However, he (Bro. Kenyon) was debarred from bringing his amendment on at the General Committee.

The Chairman, interposing, said, in the first place Bro. Kenyon did not give notice of his motion. He must do that. He (the Chairman) told him he could bring his motion forward at a Quarterly Court, but it was not his business to tell him to give notice there and then.

Bro. Kenyon replied that he had received a letter from Bro. Little saying that he could not bring his motion on at the present Special Meeting; he would therefore move the rejection of the proposition and go to the Quarterly Court with his own scheme, which he proposed to have carried out. He would now state the reason why he opposed the adoption of this Report. In the first place he thought it very impolitic and unwise to go to so large an expense to erect a building on the present site. They all knew very well it was not one of the most healthy. They also knew that the land which they now possessed was not very extensive; and to erect a very large building, in addition to that which they already possessed, would be foolish, inasmuch as they ought not to crowd a large number of children together in a building. In the next place they knew, for they saw it every day of their lives, that there was a large colony of small houses springing up around this school; and in a few years there would be found a very crowded neighbourhood there, which would not be conducive to the health of the children. The next objection he had was to the very large amount of money which it was proposed to spend. Now, it was perfectly true they had £40,000, the accumulated fund of several years' saving; but the Committee came down to this court, and proposed at one fell swoop to strike off about £21,000. Let them bear this in mind; they proposed to take upon themselves the increased responsibility of another ninety-four children, whom they must clothe, feed, and educate; and at the same time they were knocking off £1000 a year from their income by expending the £21,000 on the building. No man of ordinary business pursuits would do such a thing. And what had they got when they had done this? If there had before been a chance of the railway company taking the present building, when the compensation they would have to pay was increased by £20,000 or £30,000 that chance would be destroyed. A railway company, before embarking on an extension of their works, would hesitate when they had such a sum to pay as £40,000 or £50,000; and they would gladly abandon the project when it could only be done on such terms. The brethren would be wrong in spending such a large sum of money on the present site. They should look out for a healthy locality where they might have extensive grounds, and where a building might be erected which was fit for Freemasons to have, not for the present only, but for the future. He thought Bro. Massa was wrong when they said the expense would be less than the estimate, rather than more. He had never known such a thing in his life—he did not know whether any one else had—of a building costing less than the original estimate. The building, he thought, would cost more than £30,000, instead of less than £20,000. It always had been the case, and always would be. Every one who had entered in building operations knew that an estimate never was reduced. Therefore he had a very strong objection to the expenditure of this money. He did not think that because

they had £40,000 they ought to expend £25,000 in erecting an addition to this present building on a portion of the land they had, in which building they would crowd the children, and so not conduce to their health. He would therefore move, "That this Report be rejected," and if it were rejected, as he hoped it would be, then the House Committee could bring forward any other proposal they think fit. He would then bring forward his proposition, which would not cost half the amount, and the brethren would get an institution of their own worthy of them. He was precluded from introducing the particulars of his proposal by the ruling of the Chairman.

The Chairman: No, not by my ruling, but by the rules of this Institution.

Bro. Kenyon: If this Report were rejected (he did not see that there was any haste required in the matter) he would bring forward his motion as a substantive motion at the next Quarterly General Court.

Bro. John Symonds said that as a matter of form there was no necessity to move an amendment. Bro. Kenyon, if he disagreed with the mover of the proposition, could vote with those who opposed it.

Bro. H. Browse had no doubt that the brethren must add very considerably to the estimate of £21,000. Never in his life had he seen an estimate from an architect—and he had had large experience—when it had not been exceeded. It had even been the case with this Institution. The infirmary was an instance. He was quite sure that for £21,000 ought to be read £25,000 at least. Do not let them go into the undertaking under any false impression; it would not be done, he thought, even for £25,000.

Bro. W. Winn: And then there is the cost of the furniture.

Bro. H. Browse: There had been other schemes before the committee which would cost but half the money.

Bro. W. Ramsey said that a remark had been made by Bro. Kenyon in respect of the healthiness of the present site; was it true that this site was not a healthy one?

The Chairman said he would answer that question by saying that in seven years they had had but two deaths.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart observed that he did not think they were justified in going to this enormous expense; there was really no necessity for it. Although they had an estimate for a new building, the Infirmary might be utilised; and at a small cost they might be able to accommodate a large additional number of children. They might build a hall, and the whole expense would come out at about £10,000; £14,000 at the very extreme. That had been his proposition; but he was met by the architect, saying (at least he believed he said) that his (Bro. Stewart's) plan was to pull down this place, which cost £7000, and build up another which must cost £14,000. That was not his proposition; he would have been an idiot to propose such a thing. As that was the feeling, he withdrew his scheme. His scheme was still to utilise the infirmary. The chairman had said they had had only two deaths in seven years. If that was the case they did not want such an infirmary. Let them make use of it; lengthen their dining hall; and go to an expense of £10,000 or £11,000; and then, if the railway company wanted their premises they would pay them compensation. He did not think there was any chance of the railway coming there; but at the same time, as Bro. Browse had said, this new scheme could not be covered by £25,000, or anything like it; therefore he could not say he agreed in the plan.

Bro. Herbert Dicketts wished to call attention to the subject of the healthiness of the neighbourhood of the present building. Her Majesty's Government always looked out for the most healthy places to build their gaols; and they issued royal commissions to enquire into the subject. There had been two such commissions, and both had reported favourably on this locality; and in it they had built the Royal Patriotic School for Girls and the Royal Patriotic School for Boys. The parish too had proposed to build a district workhouse there.

Bro. Z. D. Berry, P.M. 179, said it was a mistake to think that the present site was an unhealthy one. A more healthy spot did not exist, with the exception perhaps of Hampstead. As to the building of a large place, he thought that any business man would face a difficulty at once. Instead of frittering away their money as they had been doing for the last thirteen years, they should have their expense once for all. His experience was that the cheapest way was to grasp the subject now; and meet their liabilities and demands. Was it possible that they were to be retrograde in their movements, and not maintain the position they had hitherto attained? Was there any reason for believing that their subscriptions would not advance, as he was glad to say the Boys' School subscriptions had advanced? The arguments he had heard had convinced him of the desirability of adopting the recommendations of the committee. He was well acquainted with subjects of this kind. He had been on a great number of committees, more perhaps than any one in that room, and he knew that questions referred to them were fully considered. Was it fair to the committee to waste a lot of time, now that they came forward with a report, to which there were but two dissentients? Let them at once put their shoulders to the wheel and act upon it. As to finances, there would be no difficulty; but as to the railway coming on to the site of the school, it was only a bugbear: there was not much probability of their coming.

Col. Burdett said that the brethren were all aware that the neighbourhood of Clapham Junction was beginning to be crowded with houses and other buildings; and although it was very healthy now, when it became more crowded a different state of circumstances might occur, and it might be found to be a very unhealthy position indeed. They would then find that having spent a large sum of money, it had been thrown away, and a much larger sum than was now proposed to be laid out would

be required for another building. This question he thought required a great deal more consideration than it had yet had. It was one of vital importance to themselves and those who were under their care. If the building got hemmed in by all sorts of buildings—they could not tell what they might be—they might repent having laid out so much money, although the healthiness of the spot might now be very great. With regard to the House of Correction, and other large public buildings having been erected in the neighbourhood, it must be remembered that they were at a very great distance from the Girls' School, and not likely to be shut in by houses being erected.

Bro. Z. D. Berry said there was a large space of ground round about the Girls' School, on which no buildings could be erected, as it was secured for ever to the general public. (No, no.)

Bro. E. J. Barron remarked that there was one conclusive answer to the brother who last spoke (Col. Burdett), that they had Wandsworth Common within three four minutes' walk, which could not possibly be built upon. They also had Clapham Common, which could not be built upon on that side of them. Then again, there was the railway on the other side, which could not be built upon.

Bro. W. Roebuck thought it would assist the brethren in their deliberations if they were to be told what acreage of ground was already the property of the school.

The Chairman: Two acres-and-a-half.

Bro. W. Roebuck believed that it ought to be considered before they laid out £25,000 in placing more buildings on this space, of which an acre was already covered, whether it was likely they would be able to acquire more ground adjoining.

The Chairman: We are promised the refusal of some adjoining ground on the death of a lady who is now very old.

Bro. Roebuck: If we are only promised we have very little to depend upon. As regards the buildings springing up around us not on the railway side, no doubt every year we shall be built in more than we are now. I quite agree with Col. Burdett that before we agree to spend £25,000, which may be £30,000, the matter ought to be more considered than it has been up to the present moment.

Bro. Dudley Rolls believed that after laying out this money it would be found expedient at a future time to remove these schools. In connection with all the various termini in London as Clapham Junction was, no doubt in course of time the neighbourhood would become as densely populated as Whitechapel. The time was therefore, not far distant when they would have again to take into consideration the removal of the school to a more beneficial site. They had now two-and-a-half acres of land. It would increase in value in the course of years, and they would get a larger sum for it than now, in addition to the value of the building materials. They would then go to a purer district, where they would have all that they wanted. Such being the case it appeared to him evident that whatever sum of money was laid out now would be entirely useless and absolutely thrown away.

Bro. W. Winn reminded the Court that although the Chairman had stated they had had but two deaths in seven years, he had omitted to state that they had had various epidemics. In cases of illness it was necessary to have perfect quiet round the building; but with the railway locomotives screeching night and day this could not be obtained, and it was very detrimental to sick people. The time must come, he thought, when they must follow the example of other institutions, and remove out of the densely populated neighbourhood of London to seek the fine and healthy atmosphere of the country, where they would have larger grounds, a better institution, and more inmates than they could have in their present circumscribed space.

Bro. Dr. Ramsay had not intended to oppose the proposition of the Special Committee; but he thought he must oppose it now on the following grounds:—That to erect a building to cost upwards of £25,000, or even £20,000, on an area of two-and-a-half acres seemed to him most unwise and opposed to sound policy. The arguments adduced by Col. Burdett and others had great weight with him. Had the sum been moderate he would not have opposed it; but a large expenditure of this kind without a large equivalent was a waste of money. It was highly improbable that they would ever get it back—however long they might wait for it—or anything like that sum. Whether the spot was or was not unhealthy now, in a short time it would be hemmed in, and they must remove the children to a better position.

Bro. Joseph Smith would move an amendment with the view of bringing both parties together, and he thought the brethren ought to be very nearly unanimous in supporting it. He was not disposed to reject the report of the committee, because he thought they must have taken a great deal of trouble about it. His amendment was that after having heard the arguments pro and con the report should be referred back to the committee for further consideration. If that should be carried by anything like a majority of the committee, when they had the report back, would consider any other scheme involving a smaller expenditure of money. That could then be brought before the Court, and if it could be unanimous it would be desirable. If the present report was carried, he was sure it would not be by a large majority. If it were carried by only a few votes it would not be satisfactory to the Craft. They must look to the Craft at large for support; and if it went forth that they were spending a large sum of money it might do harm. But if after consideration they should come to the conclusion to spend a large sum, no doubt as Masonry was increasing, and they should extend their building, it would meet with the concurrence of the whole Craft.

Bro. John Boyd seconded the amendment.

Bro. H. Browse said it was true that this was the report of the committee with only two dissentients; but there had been two other schemes before that committee which had

not been laid before this meeting. One of the schemes was to enlarge the north wing of the present building by extending it some forty feet further westward, and sixty feet on the other side, which would give accommodation for some sixty additional children; then, to enlarge the dining hall. This scheme was estimated to cost about £8000. By enlarging the dining hall, which was an absolute necessity, they would have a large hall, which was very desirable. It would be sixty feet by forty, or 2,400 feet of surface. With dormitories over, that would give accommodation, the surveyor said, for thirty-two children. But how he made out that there would be accommodation for ninety-four children, when the extra space was 2,500 feet, when the enlarging of the dining hall by 2,400 feet would only accommodate thirty-two children, he (Bro. Browse) could not understand.

The Chairman said he did not think it quite right for Bro. Browse to explain this scheme now, when the question was whether the report brought up should be referred back to the committee. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Browse thought it was quite competent for him to explain.

Bro. Symonds agreed that as a point of order they could hardly limit Bro. Browse. The other schemes formed an element in the question whether the report should be referred back for the consideration of the committee. Bro. Browse had no power to propose a new scheme, but he was entitled to state in his speech that there were other schemes which were practicable that would involve a less expenditure of money.

The Chairman said he had no objection himself to it; but he thought if Bro. Kenyon was precluded from bringing forward his scheme, no one else should be allowed to bring one forward.

Bro. Browse continued: The great desirability was that they should have a large hall in which to meet (they had none such now), and which might be utilised as a play room for the children in inclement weather. They had not such a room now. There were new schemes for this; and without going into the estimated cost of either of them including that of enlarging the dining hall and building new laundries, with other expenses, the expense of a covered way (£700) to go from one establishment to the other, it would not be more than £11,000 or £12,000. For these reasons he should support the amendment. All the accommodation required could be got without setting up separate establishments, the building of which was in fact beginning, if the proposed scheme was adopted.

The Chairman observed that if the report went back to the committee all schemes would be considered which might be presented.

Bro. Dubois believed he was justified in saying that all the schemes had been fully discussed which had been placed before the committee. There had been several meetings, and the scheme laid before the court that day was after due consideration finally adopted, sent up to the General Committee, and by them recommended to the Special Court. If the sense of the committee were taken as to whether the school should remain where it was or go elsewhere, he thought it would be in favour of the former.

Dr. Ramsay rose to speak to the amendment. It appeared to him that if they sent this matter back to the committee they must not dictate to them what they should do. There had been suggestions made as to what they should do. He thought they should consider the whole matter. The sum, no doubt, was enormously large; but the question was whether any sum should be spent in increasing the school where it at present was. He, for one, thought it would be very unwise to expend any sum of money on that object; but of course there were others who thought differently. He would suggest that, as the question was referred to the House Committee to reconsider, the House Committee should be associated with certain of the Life Governors. That perhaps would give more satisfaction to the general body, because they would then obtain the views of the general body. This meeting was not justified in discussing any scheme, because the House Committee had discussed the matter thoroughly, and were justly entitled to the brethren's best thanks. It would be wise to adopt the suggestion that had been made, and refer the matter back to the House Committee, to be associated with a certain number of Life Governors.

A Brother enquired of the chairman what was the extent of the land adjoining, which he had spoken of, belonging to an old lady, and of which the institution had been promised the refusal; also what was the price that might be expected to be asked for it.

The Chairman said he believed there were seven or eight acres. He could say nothing about the price.

The brother thought the price was pretty certain to be a very large one.

Another Brother said they had already been told by the Report of the Special Committee that £20,000 or £25,000 would be required to complete what was required to make the school adequate to the demands made upon it. Here was a proposition on the board, after they had been patching for some years, that they should still further patch the building at the cost of half the amount of money which the report recommended as requisite to make the school complete. What was required was that the building should be at once made to answer all demands that might be made on it for some time. He thought the report ought to be adopted.

Bro. Kenyon thought that if this matter were referred back to the committee and any number of Life Governors, the proposition should be to include the consideration of all the schemes that had been sent before the committee in the first instance. Those schemes would then be properly discussed.

The Chairman said that every one of the schemes had been thoroughly discussed, and Bro. Kenyon's among the others.

Bro. Symonds asked Bro. Joseph Smith whether his amendment embraced the reference of all schemes to the committee.

Bro. Joseph Smith: Yes.

Bro. Samuel Poynter: The whole subject is to be included in the re-reference—whether the school is to be retained on its present site, and enlarged, or whether it is to be removed to any other part of the country.

Bro. Thomas J. Sabine would like to suggest, as this matter was to be referred back to the House Committee, that when any future report they might make should come before the Quarterly or Special Court that report should be printed prior to the meeting of the Court, and sent out to all the Life Governors, Vice-Patrons, and other subscribers. Many of the brethren came there that day, never having seen the report, and those who came in late—of course that was their own fault—had not heard the report read. Consequently many of them were kept in the dark as to its purport. It would be a very fair and judicious thing, when such a serious outlay was in contemplation that all the brethren who were going to attend the meeting, should be posted up before they came to the meeting in the terms of the report they were called together to consider. The decision must be a most important one whichever way it went, and the brethren could not be too well informed of the facts, figures, and circumstances, which had been determined on by the committee (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Jesse Turner agreed with the last speaker. The more information they had the better for each and all of them. It was quite certain they would become better prepared for discussion if they had had an opportunity of reading the report at home.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded "That this Report be adopted by this Special Court;" upon which an amendment has been proposed, "That the whole subject be referred back to the committee." I put the amendment first.

The amendment was carried by an overwhelming majority, and Bro. Joseph Smith moved (Bro. William Stephens seconded) the addition of Life Governors to the Committee. This having been carried, Bros. Poynter, Kenyon, Dr. Ramsay, Joseph Smith, Dudley Rolls, John Boyd, W. Roebuck, William Ramsey, George Kenning, Fish, and W. Stephens were named for the office, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Masonic and General Tidings.

A "SCOT ABROAD."—A generous benefactor, living in the district of Wanganui, New Zealand, has forwarded £500 to the National Lifeboat Institution to establish a lifeboat on the Scotch coast. He requests that the lifeboat may be named the "Peep o' Day," and the gift entered as from "A Scot Abroad."

On and after the 1st January next, when France enters into the postal union, letters to that country will be charged 2½d. per half-ounce post cards, 1½d. each; newspapers, 1d. per four ounces; printed papers, legal and commercial documents, and patterns of merchandise, 1d. per two ounces; registration fee, 4d. Unpaid letters from France will be charged 5d. per half-ounce on delivery.

The Mansion House Inundation Fund has amounted to nearly £17,000. The subscription list is now closed.

The names of Bros. Robert Grey, and Fredk. Morrell, Grand Junior Deacons, were omitted in our report of Grand Lodge which appeared in the "Freemason" of the 4th inst.

Bro. Dr. Baxter Langley is the W.M. elect of the Era Lodge, No. 1423.

Bro. Sir Edward Lee presided at a dramatic recital from "The Lady of Lyons," given by Mr. A. Wieland, at the City of London College, on Thursday, the 9th inst. Mr. Wieland, who recites entirely from memory, is well known as an able elocutionist.

A Royal Arch jewel has been presented to Comp. W. G. Jennings, Chap. No. 188, by a few of the Albion staff.—"City Press."

On Monday morning there died at Peebles Lady Louisa Stuart, of Traquair House. The last of the Royal Stuarts, she was in her hundredth year. Deceased was a descendant of the House of Stuart, and her genealogy can be traced back to John of Ghent, and Henry IV. and Henry V. Lady Louisa Stuart was a remarkable woman and by her methodical and stately manners maintained the dignity of her race.

TEMPLE BAR.—A deputation from the City Lands Committee on Tuesday waited upon Lord Henry Lennox, First Commissioner of Works, to call his attention to the state of Temple-bar as it affects the approaches to the new Law Courts. The City authorities were willing to remove Temple-bar, and contribute to the scheme by removing the houses on the north side. His lordship expressed the great interest he felt in the matter, but at the same time pointed out how very small a share the City authorities, under the proposed arrangement, would take on themselves. However, he promised to call the attention of the Government to the matter.

THE ANNUAL MASONIC BALL IN LIVERPOOL.—Already there are evidences that the 27th annual Grand Masonic Ball at the Town Hall, Liverpool, on the 11th January, in aid of the funds of the West Lancashire Masonic Edu-

cational Institution, will be one of the most successful held for a long time, thanks to the tact and zeal of Bro. Henry Nelson, P.M. 673 and 1505, Honorary Secretary. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Thomson (Mayor of Liverpool) and the Mayoress will be present, and the list of patrons is even longer and more distinguished than formerly.

Marshal MacMahon, the President of the French Republic, has conferred upon Bro. Alderman Stone, the late Lord Mayor, the rank and decoration of a Commander of the Legion of Honour. Bro. Stone has also been appointed by the Lord Chancellor Justice of the Peace for Hastings.

The "Pictorial World" of Saturday last contains a portrait of Bro. His Majesty Oscar 2nd., King of Sweden.

We have the pleasure to announce that an entertainment on behalf of the Aged Freemasons' Institution will take place on Thursday next, at the Oriental Buildings (adjoining the District Railway Station) New Bridge-street, E.C. The hall has been gratuitously lent by Major Wieland, and the performance is under the management of Bro. Ockenden (1512), 39, Finsbury-square. For particulars see advertisement.

Bro. Æneas McIntyre, Q.C., presided on Saturday last at a dinner given to Sir Hardinge Giffard, Q.C., by the members of the United Welsh Circuit.

A telegram from Madura announces the opening by the Prince of Wales of the southern extension of the South Indian Railway Company. His Royal Highness named the first engine after the Princess of Wales.

Bro. John Tweed, the well-known publisher, 9, Howard-street, Glasgow, has issued an admirable copy of a painting of "Kilwinning," in the possession of John M'Gavin, Esq. The point of view is admirably chosen, including, as it does, not only a characteristic sketch of the old village, but faithful representations of the "Auld Turrills," the "Steeple," and the "Brig," with the sea in the distance. The engraving is dedicated by Bro. Tweed to the Freemasons of Scotland, and for the sake of the associations which cluster round "Mother Kilwinning," we should imagine that it will be a point of honour with all the "brethren" to become possessed of a copy.

The "Masonic Magazine" will, on and after January, 1876, be enlarged to 48 pages.

The Christmas number of the "Freemason" will consist of 32 pages, and will contain a portrait of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master. The price of this number to non-subscribers will be fourpence. To prevent disappointment orders should be at once sent to the office (108, Fleet-street), or through any newsagent.

THE WILLIAM PRESTON LODGE.—The motto of the new W.M., Bro. Pringle, whose banner we mentioned in our report of the lodge, is "Sarsum."

Bro. the Marquis of Hartington, Provincial Grand Master for Derbyshire, was present at the inauguration of a Liberal Association at Sheffield, and delivered a powerful address on the position and prospects of the Liberal party.

DEPARTURE OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES.—The Princess of Wales and her Royal Highness's five children, accompanied by Miss Knollys, Sir William Knollys, and Mr. Dalton, left the South Eastern Company's Station at Charing-cross, for Dover, by special train, which was composed of the usual Royal saloon carriages, at 8.14 p.m. yesterday, en route for Copenhagen, on a visit to the King and Queen of Denmark. The Princess was received on arrival at the station by Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., chairman of the company, and the train was in charge of Bro. John Shaw, the general manager, and Mr. Cockburn, the superintendent of the line. The engine was driven by Mr. Watkin, the locomotive superintendent. The arrangements for the journey are under the control of Mr. Kanac, her Majesty's Director of Continental Tours, who accompanies the Royal party to Copenhagen.

SURREY MASONIC HALL COMPANY.—An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held at 2, Gresham Buildings, on Wednesday evening last, when it was proposed and carried unanimously that the remaining share capital of the company be issued in shares of £1 each, and that the share capital of the company be divided accordingly, representing 1000 shares at £5 each, and 5000 shares at £1 each.

Bro. C. T. Matthew solicits votes for the forthcoming election of Common Councilmen in the Ward of Farringdon Without.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio is stirring up the Coloured Masonry question, most unwisely we think. We shall express our views at length in our next issue.—"Keystone."

In Canada, the Orders of Knighthood are not conferred upon any Master Mason of less than two years' standing.

The Grand Priory of Canada is paying fifty dollars a year, for life, to the widow of the late Bro. Thomas Bird Harris, Grand Chancellor, and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge.

NOTICE TO THE TRADE.

THE
CHRISTMAS NUMBER
OF

THE "FREEMASON"

will consist of 32 PAGES, EXCLUSIVE OF WRAPPER, and will contain a PORTRAIT of HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the PRINCE of WALES. The CHARGE for this number will be FOUR PENCE.

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.

Bro. C. Pegler's letter on "The Girls' School" declined with thanks.

An interesting letter by Bro. W. J. Hughan, on the "Admission of Members," in our next.

The following stand over:—"Admission of New Members"; Letter from Chili; the late Bro. Thomas Sleator. Reports of lodges: Etonian, 209; St. Luke's, 225; Cleveland, 543; Ellesmere, 768; Perfect Ashlar, 1178; Pock, 1289; Albert and Edward, 1560; Duke of Connaught, 1588; Chapter of Prudent Brethren, 145.

BOOK RECEIVED:—"Scottish Proverbs," by A. Henderson.—Tegg and Co.

FRATERNAL ENQUIRER.—Optional.

ENQUIRER.—We cannot understand the question as propounded. What does the 1 to 13 mean? Any Scottish brother can join an English lodge by vote of lodge, paying joining fee, producing the Scotch certificate, and being registered under the English Grand Lodge.

BRO. T. W. PICKTHALL.—You had better write to the Grand Secretary.

A shocking instance of Roman Catholic persecution of Masons, and even desecration of the dead, will appear in our next impression.

The account of our Royal Grand Master elephant hunting will also appear next week.

ERRATA.—In the letter of Bro. Binckes last week. In the first column, line 11 from the bottom, "tune" should read "tone."—In the second column the word "table" should follow "died." In line 3 from the top the cost for "Salaries and Wages, first figures column 2, should be £14 14s. 9d., and the average, £8 7d. 7d.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATH.

MASSA.—December 14th, very suddenly, at Ivy Lodge, Plaistow, Essex, Maria Eliza wife of Thomas Massa of Dowgate Hill, surveyor, (P.M. No. 59) eldest daughter of the late James Dixon Esq., of the 4th Light Dragoons.

SLEATOR.—On the 4th inst., at Oak Villa, Waterford, Bro. Thomas Sleator, P.M. 5, 32, and 297; P.Z. 5 and 52, &c.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DEC. 18, 1875.

OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER IN
INDIA.

The Prince having left Ceylon, reached Tuticorin on the 11th; Madura at 5.30 the same afternoon. He reached Madras from Trichonopoly at 7.30 on the 14th. The Times gives us the following interesting details:—The Prince of Wales landed at Tuticorin at 8.40, where he had an enthusiastic reception. The landing-place and town were very prettily decorated, and a number of presents from the Chiefs were offered. The first train that ever has run on the South India Railway was started. Dr. Caldwell presented an address from the Tinnevely Christians, and 600 Natives sang a number of hymns. Madura was reached at 5.30, and 60,000 people were assembled to welcome the Prince. The sight was remarkable, and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed, all the people of the country having apparently come to cheer their illustrious visitor. But they were not very well able to recognize him, as he wore no distinctive uniform. At every station the Chiefs of the district had assembled. The streets of Madura were handsomely decorated, and a Guard of Honour of the 19th Madras Sepoys was at the railway station, and one of the 89th Regiment at head-

quarters. The Rajah of Roodocotah received and offered presents, and the Prince was greatly pleased with the scene. The fireworks and illuminations to-night are magnificent. The Chiefs and the people have spent £5000 in providing a suitable reception for the Prince. The State dinner at the Queen's House, given by the Governor, was very successful. As to the Club ball, at which the Prince, the Governor's guests, and the élite of the British, Foreign, and Cingalese residents were present, it may be fairly set down as one of the greatest of many pretty and expensive efforts made to entertain the Prince, and to have been triumphantly successful. The Prince wore the uniform of the 10th Hussars. He appeared to enjoy the evening very much, and did not leave till after the tenth dance. Next day was a field-day among the jewellers and box wallahs, and then the Prince drove to Leechman's factory, where cocoanut oil, fibre, coir, &c., are made on a large scale. The Cingalese seemed never to tire of waiting to see the Prince. Colombo was en fete, and business was suspended, shops being closed all along the route. On Sunday Divine Service was celebrated at 12.30. The Prince left Trichonopoly station at 4 in the afternoon. The axles of the carriage were so much heated that the train had to stop twice. It arrived at Madras one hour late, at 7.30. The Governor, his Staff, and the authorities awaited the Prince's, and there was a presentation of native Chiefs. The procession was accompanied by the 16th Lancers, the body guard and suite preceding the carriage of the Prince and Governor with Major-General Probyn. An escort of horse and a foot cortege of the authorities followed. The arrangements were admirable. Only the municipal police kept order in the poorest suburb. The streets were packed. Thousands had come into the town the night before. Every place was occupied. At dawn the troops lined the way to Government House. Christian children sang with a pretty effect. All along the route there were flags and streamers and striking native dresses. The Prince was known to the crowd by his gold umbrella. He was received everywhere with marks of intense interest and curious respect. There was no cheering or noise. The Prince reached Government House at 9, when presentations were made. Breakfast was at 12. The Maharajah of Travancore paid a visit to the Prince. The visit was private, but was conducted in great state. He speaks English. The Prince expressed his regret that he could not visit Travancore. The Maharajah seemed much pleased. The next visit was from the Rajah of Cochin. He spoke about the trade of Cochin, and also seemed greatly gratified. The Prince of Arcot and four Sirdars followed. The Prince of Arcot said the dreams of his life were at last realised. The Prince gave attar to each, and proper salutes and honours were paid. At one levee there were upwards of 500 Chiefs and Europeans. The Prince stood in front of a splendid silver chair on a raised dais. The Duke of Buckingham and Sir Bartle Frere were on his right, and the Duke of Sutherland on his left. The native officers presented wore very magnificent costumes. At 8 there was a State Banquet with 50 covers; the Bench, the Clergy, and the Civil and Military authorities were represented. The Governor of Pondicherry, and his suite were also present. There was an illumination at 10.30. The Prince, the Governor, and his suite rode out to Guindy Park. To-morrow is the anniversary of the Prince Consort's death, and will be spent there in seclusion by the Prince.

THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

Most of our readers will have anticipated the result which the recently appointed Special Committee of the Boys' School has now brought about. Indeed, there could be but one answer to so foolish and perverse an insinuation. We are not now going into the general and loudly re-iterated charges of mismanagement, extravagance, incompetence, and impropriety, which brethren have thought well for some time past to disperse broadcast among the Craft. Some

may wish that a Special Committee had been appointed to enquire generally into all the charges, and bring accused and accusers face to face. But the special point into which the Committee had to enquire which has now presented its Report, and which appeared in the last "Freemason," is whether or no the sum of £141 15s. was accounted for. The Special Committee finds that the sum is accounted for, and that the mistake is purely on the part of Bros. Tew and Perrott, and that there is not the least confusion in the accounts, nor the slightest pretence for saying so. Such, then, is the result of the investigation, entirely exonerative of Bro. Binckes, of the House Committee, and of the Auditors. We feel bound to add that we fully concur in Bro. Ridgway's remarks, that the pamphlets as circulated are practically "false and libellous," and that the "object" with which they have been so pertinaciously "circulated" can not be "recognised by brother Masons as in the slightest degree of an honourable or fraternal character." We have always contended, and still contend, that had Bros. Tew and Perrott any real or imaginary grievances there was but one proper course open to them, namely to go before the General Committee in the first instance, and move for the appointment of a Special Committee to enquire into all these allegations, which, under the circumstances, would assuredly have been at once granted, and we have reason to believe that no one would have hailed such an appointment more readily than Bro. Binckes himself. But, instead of this honourable, straightforward, manly, and Masonic course, what have Bros. Tew and Perrott done? The first attack on the Boys' School was made on the eve of the Boys' School Anniversary this year, when such insinuations and assertions and charges might naturally have affected the returns to the Charity itself. Happily, the good sense and loyal sympathies of the Craft prevailed over ungenerous imputations and unwarranted allegations. Then comes the second pamphlet, though we must not forget the interlude of a semi pamphlet by Bro. Perrott, printed at Pontefract, which certainly was a pamphlet sui generis. Amid much of wild writing and illogical statement, the second pamphlet contained certain modest demands on the part of two members of our great Craft. First, that Bro. Binckes and the Matron should be removed; secondly, that the House Committee should be changed; and thirdly, that Bro. Perrott should be reinstated. Certainly, these were wonderful requisitions to be peremptorily submitted to a startled brotherhood and a competent executive; and we do not ourselves call to mind any proceedings during our Craft membership more unbecoming or un-Masonic from first to last. Indeed, we are inclined to treat the whole matter as a Masonic Comedy of Errors, were it not possible that a perpetuation of such a Parthian warfare might seriously affect the returns to the Boys' School, which is entirely dependent on the voluntary offerings of the Order. We should be ready to say "Risum teneatis Fratres," were it not that there is a very serious side to the matter, namely, in the personal feelings evoked and the unfraternal animus displayed. As it is, we think it best to leave the matter here; and we consider the discussion closed, and the controversy at an end. The Special Committee has clearly proved that the charges of want of clearness of accounts, &c., are unfounded, that all payments are vouched for; and we can only hope that such an exhibition of indiscreet partizanship as certain unfortunate pamphlets have exhibited, and which have rendered this recent committee necessary, may never occur again. Like our able and respected Bro. J. Symonds, we have never flattered Bro. Binckes; we have very often disagreed with him, and not unfrequently been opposed to his views; but we have ever done justice to his energy and earnestness, and to his great and most successful exertions on behalf of the Boys' School. We fully endorse in this spirit Bro. Symonds' concluding remarks; and we trust that Bro. Binckes may now be left alone to carry on the important duties of the Secretariat. Surely Bros. Tew and Perrott have said quite enough, and the Craft generally, not excluding the great majority of West Yorkshire brethren, is heartily sick of personal attacks and illogical statements.

MASONIC CALUMNY,

What a burlesque on every profession and axiom of Freemasonry, is the fact, that Masons are calumnious, and that Masonic calumny exists? Is it not? To realise that we, who profess to uphold a brother's character in his absence, as we would in his presence, that we, who declare brotherly love the foundation on which Freemasonry rests, should slander one another, is as ridiculous as it is regrettable. Whence comes this increasing weakness of Freemasonry? Whence springs this odious evidence of the littleness or bitterness of the human mind? We fear there is but one reply, "Nous sommes tous mortels," and until we "shuffle off this mortal coil," amid every turn of the road, and through every catastrophe of humanity we still shall remain the same vacillating or perverse beings, as our fathers have been before us, and as our children will be after us. There seems to be inherent in us all, a distrust, a jealousy of our brethren, of our neighbours, in the world, whether as comrades or companions, whether as fellow citizens or fellow labourers here, whether in business or in pleasure, in toil or trouble, in joy or sorrow, in life or death. But why this tendency to calumny, and to impute bad motives, to make false charges? All we can say, so it is, and such seems positively to be the normal condition of the human race! But then, remarks our enthusiastic Bro. Puddleton—"we are Freemasons, we are above such littlenesses and weaknesses, and evil tendencies; we are to shine as lights of the world," we are to be fraternal, while others are uncharitable, and considerate when others are cold. Far from us, the unfeeling or cynical question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" "We know nothing of the impassible emotions of heartless indifferences. No! Freemasonry teaches us all kindlier sympathies, a gentler and a better lore." Now my dear and enthusiastic brother, yours is an amiable but harmless delusion. Freemasons may talk a great deal in the high moral tone, or in the low falutin style, but their deeds are those of the great crowd of careless and bustling mortals, just like those whom they often term "profanes." "Is, then, there nothing in Freemasonry?" asks Bro. Puddleton, hastily. Amiable confrère, we do not say so, but rather we do assert that "exceptio probat regulum." Freemasonry is unchanging alike in its mission of good and its aspirations of benevolence, though Freemasons sometimes overlook the former and neglect the latter. We are now writing didactically, and we are asserting general principles, without any reference to persons or special manifestations. The truth is, that as ever, we find here in this, as in everything else of earth, another proof of the old old story, that dogma is one thing and deeds are another thing, that profession goes one way and practice very often the other. We should not therefore be surprised or disheartened; we should not wonder or complain, when such a state of things is before us. We should only seek to appreciate more than ever the true, the beautiful, the loving, the good, and allow such better seeds to germinate in our bosoms, and to elevate our longings and aims. But we can set ourselves sternly against the calumniator and the calumny. Whether in public affairs or private, whether, in the body corporate or the individual, we should at once repel the insidious shafts of slander, and openly rebuke the slanderer, be he who he may. As a general rule calumny is the evidence of a little mind, of a reckless disposition, of a gnarled heart, of a morbid brain. Calumniators generally are very small men, who seek to rise to notice, on the ruin of a friend's, or neighbour's, or brother's reputation. Let us, as Freemasons, then, denounce calumny, and give a cold shoulder to calumniators. They are the curse of all earthly society. They will undermine any organization into which they get access. Freemasonry loves truth and honesty, and fair-speaking, and brotherly kindness; it indignantly denounces that callous disposition which feels nothing for the annoyance of another, that unscrupulous pen which assails fair fame or honest worth, that "prava imaginatio" which sees the mote in its brother's eyes, but forgets the beam

in its own, and above all that uncharitable and overstrained spirit of calumny which not only without hesitation affirms what is false to be true and what is true to be false, but calunly robs another, perhaps a trusting friend, of that good name which is most precious in his eyes, of that reputation which is dearer to him than life itself.

MASONIC LIBRARIES.

The subject to which Bros. "S. B. E." and "Reviresco" have recently called our attention is one of great importance. For certain it is, from one cause or another, that our good English Craft, has lent itself, and adapted itself so to say, more to the social than the intellectual side of Freemasonry. We do not overlook the fact, that many of our Order belong to the hard-working classes of society, and that the lodge gathering is alike a social relaxation and a social necessity for many, who have all the day been toiling and toiling hard, in counting-house, and office, and study, and chambers. To them the Masonic meeting after needful labour of another kind, becomes an agreeable social reunion, a pleasant and hospitable symposium. But it is undeniable, that our lodges, however flourishing they may be materially, have not kept pace with the intellectual demands of the era, or even with the requirements of a growing body of Masonic students. The existence of Masonic libraries is an exception; the possession of a Masonic library belongs comparatively to but very few lodges indeed. Our Grand Lodge has no befitting library, and we are sometimes inclined to think, that until Grand Lodge itself moves in the matter, and wakes up, so to say, from its literary slumber, we cannot expect any very general activity in the brotherhood, in respect of a subject which is not considered needful by some, and is treated apathetically by more. Still there are among us some few lodges which discern the utility and value of a library, just as there are some few brethren who have all along advocated the creation and conservation of lodge libraries. In the "Freemason" some short time back we called attention to the subject, though with no response; and from time to time, during the last 20 years some of our intelligent students have forcibly advocated the institution of Masonic libraries. We, therefore, hail the repetition of the movement by younger brethren, such as "S. B. E." and "Reviresco," and we trust that better success will attend on their praiseworthy efforts and suggestion, that has been the lot of us "old fogies." We say it, in all sincerity, no greater boon can be conferred on any lodge, if only our brethren will think so, than the erection of a lodge reading-room and library, specially set apart for Masonic literature. It is a little odd, though it is a fitting commentary on the prevailing Masonic sentiment on the subject, that when our Masonic architects lay down the lines of a new Masonic hall, they never think of a library or reading-room. Why? In our humble opinion every lodge which has a proper Masonic Hall ought to have a Masonic reading-room and library attached to it; and we will go further and say that we also venture to think that every lodge ought to have, as one of its officers, a librarian and keeper of the archives. One of the results of this want of interest in the intellectual character of our Order in England has been that as a rule our lodge archives have been utterly neglected. At this moment very few lodges preserve any minutes earlier than the beginning of this century, some even not so early, or if they exist they are stowed away in inaccessible boxes, or are scattered among the private libraries of descendants of Past Masters and early Secretaries. This should not be so. Our Bro. W. J. Hughan will confirm our statement when we add that nothing has so increased the difficulties of arriving at a true history of English Freemasonry as the absence of authentic Anglican lodge records. They probably still exist, but we cannot get at them. Next week we shall call attention to the purely literary question, on which we have a good deal to say. To-day we confine ourselves to a hearty welcome of the movement "per se," hoping that our younger Masons and brethren will come to the rescue, and see their way to the zealous and hearty support, both of a good cause and of a very

needful reform. We invite our readers to consider the facts which we shall seek to put before them next week from a literary point of view alone, in respect both of the utility and value of Masonic libraries.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The result of the Special General Court, on the 11th inst., has been, that the report of the Committee is referred to it for reconsideration, and we therefore defer any remarks until we have the amended and revised report before us. We trust that in the assertion of individual opinions, or the development of personal views, the great and real interests at stake may not be forgotten.

THE COMPARATIVE COST OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

We defer to next week necessarily, owing to the heavy demands on our space, some more remarks on this very important question. The discussion, as will be seen, is continued this week.

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.]

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I observe notices in your issue of the 11th inst., at pages 565-6, that you propose to publish "an official reply by the United Orders of the Temple and Hospital to certain memorials," which reply, you state, "throws considerable light upon the compilation and authorship of the new statutes of the Order." I presume your two paragraphs refer to the same pamphlet, a copy of which I have received, and in a foot-note to which I observe personal allusion made to myself. I hope I may therefore be excused for addressing you on the subject. Permit me to point out that the pamphlet is not "official," but, on the contrary, is an anonymous publication, with which the Vice-Chancellor's department ought not to be identified. No official reply to memorials could be given without the sanction of Convent-General or Great Priory, and surely the very strong and uncomplimentary terms to which the good brethren of Dorset are treated must at once relieve Convent-General and Great Priory from the imputation that the pamphlet in question is an "official" reply.

You will notice that the pamphlet contrasts a memorial of the province of Worcester, of 1863, with a memorial of the province of Dorset, of 1874, an interval of eleven years; and it must be at once plain that there is a motive in this proceeding which the language of the pamphlet does not disclose, and when I consider the fact that the courtesy of a preliminary communication was not accorded to the Prior of Worcestershire, or to myself, the Sub-Prior, and that any mention of the 1874 memorial of this province, with which the contrast, if any, ought to be made, is avoided, I may be excused some doubts whether the motive for publishing this pamphlet is, as it ought to be, a true and unselfish regard for the interests of the Order at large.

You have, very naturally, concluded that the pamphlet throws light upon the compilation and authorship of the new statutes. I, myself, assumed that the compiler must have been inspired by the Worcestershire memorial, and had forgotten to acknowledge the circumstance; but this is distinctly denied by Vice-Chancellor Tinkler (with whom I have had a correspondence, which I am quite ready to submit to the consideration of the Order), and I have his statement in writing that the Worcestershire memorial of 1863 had no influence whatever in the framing of the new statutes; that he discovered the memorial only in the early part of the present year, and that its existence had been previously unknown in the chancellerie. I cannot now speak to the precise origin of the memorial, and had, myself, forgotten its existence, although I appear to have appended notes to it; but I have made myself sufficiently acquainted with the facts to learn that the memorial was presented when a committee was deliberating upon new statutes, with a view to rectify the extraordinary changes which had been made in the system prevailing before 1853. The province of Worcester desired to aid in this, as, I venture to say, it has invariably done when the good of the Order could be promoted, and in its desire for uniformity, its memorial of 1863, which is an echo of the Scottish Statutes, was presented. This memorial desired the real union of the two Orders "as one," and as prevailing before 1853, but in no way affected the question of past rank, and in these respects the Worcestershire memorial of 1874 is identical; the only material difference between the two being the question of the title "Masonic." Many changes must occur amongst the members of a province in eleven years, and, moreover, there are many reasons connected with the administration of the Order which have induced their present views on this point; but that they hold no obstinate or unreasonable opinion on any question which may conduce to the good of the Order I

can venture to give my personal assurance. This is the first communication, relative to the Temple Order, which I have addressed to a public print, or in which I have been directly or indirectly concerned, for the past two years, and I wish now to say no one word which may give offence to any brother interested in the subject. I desire the true interests of the Temple Order, and I here aver that I am, and have been, and willing to give my humble influence and aid to such arrangements as may, if possible, heal those differences which seem unhappily to have existed, provided the arrangements secure the just, honourable, and kindly treatment of all who may be willing to give their meed of help to the Order, whether their views may, or may not, accord with the opinions of their superiors in office.

For my own strivings to do the best in my power as a Commissioner under the uniformity treaties I have no self reproach.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, faithfully yours,

RICHARD WOOF,
Sub. Prior of Worcestershire,
Honorary Deputy Grand Commander, Canada.

[This pamphlet, it appears, being non-official, though we understood the contrary, will appear in our Christmas number, merely as an ordinary communication.]

LODGE TRUTH, BOMBAY.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir, and Brother,

As I see that a Punjab P.M. has called public attention in the issue of the "Masonic Record of Western India" for November (which came to hand by last mail), to the fact that the Second and Third Degrees were lately conferred at one meeting on the same individual in Lodge Truth, Bombay, under dispensation of the Deputy D.G.M., will you allow me to say in your widely-circulating columns that I was obliged by severe illness to leave Bombay in March last, and that I was, therefore, in no way personally responsible for this obvious breach of the Constitutions of our Order. I think this disclaimer is in justice due to myself, and I hope the editor of the "Masonic Record of Western India," with whom doubtless you exchange, will re-publish it in his well-known journal.

Yours fraternally,

TUDOR TREVOR,
W.M. Lodge Truth, Bombay, No. 944, E.C.

PAST MASTERS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In signing myself as a Past Master at the foot of the note I addressed to you on the 22nd of November, I had no thought or intention of provoking the criticism of any one, especially that of Bro. Jim Sheard, whose zeal, I fear, is running riot on his reason.

Presuming that Bro. Sheard bases his opinion on the first rule in the Book of Constitutions, I would advise that he engage some one to read it for him whose mind is less prejudiced and better capable of understanding its meaning.

Had I attempted as a non-subscribing Past Master to lay claim to a right of membership of the Grand or Provincial Grand Lodge there would have been some apparent consistency in Bro. Sheard's remarks. Apparent consistency, I say, for even then I should have objected to the dictum of Bro. Sheard, on the ground that those who appeal to the law ought to submit to be governed by the law, and Bro. Jim Sheard and his confreres in the Trafalgar Lodge have for a considerable period persisted in violating the constitutions of the fraternity and the bye-laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge; their conduct has already formed the subject of an enquiry before the late Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Bentley Shaw, and a board of Provincial Officers, at which enquiry the award was given against them; and the fact that Bro. Sheard and his confreres have for more than twelve months persistently refused to comply with the conditions of that award will not, I venture to think, advance them in the good opinion of loyal Masons.

For fear any of your readers should think that this is mere verbiage I quote the following letter, addressed to the present W.M. of the Trafalgar Lodge:—

"52, New Street, Huddersfield,
13th April, 1875.

"Dear Sir and Brother,—

"I am directed by the Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Bentley Shaw, J.P., D.L., to ask if you have received any application, under Provincial By-law No. 48, from the W.M. or Secretary of the Scarborough Lodge, No. 1214, Batley, with respect to Bro. P.M. Henry Ingham, and if you have received any application I am further directed to instruct you to answer the same immediately.

"The W.D.P.G.M. also instructs me to inform you that at a board of enquiry, duly convened and held on the 15th of August last, it was proved and decided that Bro. Henry Ingham was not indebted to the Trafalgar Lodge for contributions or otherwise.

"Your immediate compliance with this letter is directed.

"Yours fraternally,

(Signed)

"J. BOTTOMLEY,

"Prov. G. Reg.

"The W.M., Trafalgar Lodge, 971, Batley."

On the 20th of April, six days after the receipt of the above letter, the form of enquiry required and provided under the above-named bye-law was returned, the answers being filled in, the document signed and delivered by "Bro. Jim Sheard, at 2.45 p.m. on the very day that my candidature for affiliation to the Scarborough Lodge was to be brought forward.

The first question on the above-named form, and the one which gave rise to the before-mentioned enquiry, is as

follows:—Have all contributions, subscriptions, and fees due been paid? No, is the answer they give in the face of the above letter. Is there a greater insult that can be offered to a gentleman by any man than to give him the lie? And when we see this from those who call themselves Masons, who profess to be peaceable, loyal, obedient, and obedient members of our time-honoured society—see this, and consider to whom it is rendered, we are constrained to hide our heads in shame for those who have no shame for themselves. One would have imagined, after listening to the beautiful admonitory remarks which fell from the lips of Bro. Bentley Shaw at the conclusion of the before-mentioned enquiry, that the veriest ingrate in creation would not have been capable of such wanton outrage.

Great clemency has been shown to the Trafalgar in this matter, but I am yet to be convinced that the Province of West Yorkshire will suffer the action of its officers to be thus insolently disregarded with impunity, and unless they repent of the evil, and obtain grace, they may speedily find themselves in a less enviable position than that of a non-subscribing Past Master.

I remain, yours fraternally,

HENRY INGHAM,
P.M., P.Z. 258, H. 1214.

Batley, 6th Dec., 1875.

THE LODGE OF TRUTH 1458.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In answer to the letter appearing in your columns of to-day, signed "The Writer of the so-called Report," such letter referring to the report of the meeting of the above lodge on November 6th, (a curtailed account of which appeared in your issue of the 20th ult.), I beg to say that I think the letter signed "Henry Smith, W.M. 1458," appearing in your paper of to-day, fully confirms that the remarks I made in my letter of last week, signed a "Junior Member," were not uncalled for. The ruler of the lodge (at the time of the report) in his correspondence in yours of to-day endorses my opinion.

1st. That a very important fact with reference to the election of W.M. was omitted from the said report and was calculated to mislead; not showing "the reason why" the J.W. was elected W.M., instead of the S.W. I therefore contend that the report has justly merited the definition "so called."

2nd. That the junior members of the lodge were taxed with a serious charge, unmerited by them, viz., that they did not study the interests of the lodge, but simply their own preferment.

3rd. That the result of the election could be a surprise to many was impossible, the J.W. having 17 and the S.W. three votes out of 22 members present.

4th. That the strong remarks in reference to the junior members also reflected upon the W.M. elect, and which reflection I termed "disparaging" in my letter, signed "A Junior Member."

I am pleased to see that "The Writer of the so-called Report" did not intentionally wish to wound the feelings of any member; but I think if the writer will review his report, he will agree with me, that the tone of it could not possibly do otherwise. I regret that I cannot comply with the request of your correspondent to communicate with him privately on this subject; a grave charge has been laid upon the junior members of the lodge, and sent forth to the Masonic and outside world, through a newspaper. Your correspondent declines to enter into a newspaper correspondence upon the matter; considering he was the promoter of such, I think a second thought will convince him that the same medium employed to send forth the charge, should also be used to prove or withdraw the same.

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

JOHN EDWARD LUFF.

Manchester, December 4th, 1875.

ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The Grand Lodge yearly elects its Master, and so do all private lodges, and why is that privilege kept from the members of the P.G. Lodge? This is a question I have, through your kindness, heretofore asked through your paper, and have never received a satisfactory answer. I sincerely wish that some member of Grand Lodge would endeavour to pass a law that we should have the privilege, and he would very much oblige the members of the P.G. Lodge in general as well as,

Yours fraternally, AN OLD P.M., ONE, &c.

[Our brother evidently misunderstands the whole spirit of our Masonic system.—ED.]

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I am much indebted to you for having brought my letter before the notice of the subscribers of the Boys' School. The strictures you have made on several points I feel bound to answer. With the report of the Committee of 1868 I have nothing to do, but will just mention that in that year the London Orphan cost £3 12s. 3d.; last year's report states £2 8s. Commercial Travellers in 1868, you say, cost £7 7s. 5d.; last year they were £4 4s. for office expenses per head. You charge me with being guilty of hasty and fallacious assumptions; I merely called attention to the facts that are issued by the committees of the various schools mentioned. You further say that I know full well that provincial schools are carried on 35 per cent. less than London schools. I maintain that meat is cheaper in Leadenhall, flour in Mark Lane, groceries in Mincing Lane, than in any provincial town in the kingdom, and clothing can be had cheaper of several firms in London, than of country makers. As to the

quality of education, I have before me a letter from the Secretary of the London Orphan School, and I quote his words, "The education given to our children will bear comparison with that imparted to any middle-class or commercial school in the world. I am greatly obliged for your enquiries." I did not state the cost of our boys was twenty pounds too much, but that our expenditure was twenty pounds above that of others, and I considered £36 per boy ample for all charges. You state there were 177 boys in the School last year, the Committee's report at page 12 gives the average number at 156. In your concluding remarks you desire the brethren not to be led away by questionable statements and untenable propositions. My conclusions have been arrived at from the reports of the various schools, and are offered to the Committee in the best possible spirit,

I beg to remain, yours fraternally.

CHARLES PEGLER.

YORK MASONRY.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I do not care to waste time in supporting any high grade system as now constituted. I have given our worthy Bro. Hughan the sources, whence he can ascertain for himself that the Degree of Templar Priest was an old York degree; but my time is of too much importance to seek out chapter and verse.

I have examined a great quantity of old rituals, and have taken the Degree of Templar Priest myself, and know the truth of what I am now stating.

The Templar Priest was the second ceremony in No. 1 Encampment at Edinburgh, at its commencement, about 1798. It was an old Irish Templar Degree; further, it is found in the system of both Bath and Bristol, and I have perhaps four or five different and varying rituals of it. It seems to have been suppressed in Ireland for some political reason—at least it is said so.

The "Masonic Student" once gave the draft of a warrant of the degree found at York, dated 1780. The York Masonry, at the close of last century, consisted of seven degrees. He received a certificate with the formula: "Wisdom hath builded her House. She hath hewn out her Seven Pillars." These seven refer to the signs of these seven degrees, and this was old York, Irish, and Scottish Templary.

Having proof somewhere of so much, I quite willingly admit that it was but a modern system at York. Bro. Francis Drake clearly proves that in 1725 only the three Degrees of E.A., F.C., and M.M. were known and practised at York. The Grand Lodge became dormant for above twenty years about 1740, and when revived after 1760 the Masons composing it adopted three more degrees, for which they required the ceremony of P.M.

There are now quite sufficient documents to prove that pre-1717 Masonry was an operative and speculative system, embracing all the knowledge of our present three first degrees operatively, and something more, but that Royal Arch, Templar, and Templar Priest, or any secret belonging to them, were equally unknown. Mark, Red Cross, Ark Mariners, and Cryptic Masonry are simply too contemptible for enumeration, because they all pretend to be what they are not. If they please any one, let them practice them, however.

Truly and fraternally yours,

JOHN YARKER.

LODGE JEWELS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In the controversy which has been raging on this question one important point has been overlooked in the statements made as to the rights of members of particular lodges to wear jewels. This point is, that at the "Union" in 1813 all lodges then existing were confirmed in the privileges they enjoyed respectively under the "Grand Lodge of England," and the "Grand Lodge of All England." My lodge, for instance, was a York Lodge, and holds the charter from the Grand Lodge of all England, and it was known or distinguished by a jewel, which every member has a right to wear. To deny this right would be equal to denying the legality of the charter under which the lodge is held, for the one has the same right of existence as the other. The value of the jewel was shown some six years ago, when a poor old woman came to the lodge bringing one. She had traced the lodge by the jewel, and it bore the date 1812. Her husband left the lodge in 1814. He died in 1830, leaving his widow well provided for; but 39 years had robbed her of friends and means, and she had to fall back upon her husband's Masonic brethren, to whom she appealed with her husband's jewel and "discharge," as a good brother who had paid his dues. The jewel, in this instance, gave the lodge a means of assisting the long widowed sister, and was therefore useful as well as ornamental.

Yours fraternally,

W.M.

MASONIC JEWELS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have before me a copy of the "Constitutions of the Antient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, published by the authority of the United Grand Lodge, by John Hervey as Grand Secretary," and dated MDCCLXXIII, which devotes the whole of page 137 to "Centenary Jewels." The appendix, which professes to give "drawings of the various jewels," exhibits in plate 14 a "Centenary Jewel." I am bad at descriptions, but a twisted cord, a serpent with its tail in its mouth, and the letter C. are plainly visible.—Yours fraternally,

JAMES A. HAYES.

CONSECRATION OF THE LEOPOLD LODGE.

The south-east of London—that part which lies upon the shores of the Thames between London Bridge and Rotherhithe, known by the name of Bermondsey—was enriched on the 7th inst. by the consecration of a new lodge, named after our Royal Brother Leopold, numbered on the registry of the Grand Lodge as No. 1571. The home, at least for the present, of the new lodge is the Woolpack Tavern, in Bermondsey-street, a name that bespeaks the general work in the neighbourhood; and to meet the wants of the merchant-workers there, the charter of the Leopold was granted. Bro. James Terry, the able, courteous, and energetic Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, P.G. Director of Ceremonies of Herts, and a learned Past Master, having filled the office of Master to several lodges, was, by special command, the consecrating officer, and he fulfilled the duty without the usual assistance of a clerical brother, he being his own Chaplain. Bro. Terry, on taking the chair, appointed as his pro tem. S.W. Bro. H. G. Buss, the Provincial Grand Treasurer of Middlesex, and Bro. John Coutts, P.G.P., as Junior Warden. The lodge thus formed—and very handsome it looked with the furniture and appointments by Bro. Kenning—the consecrating officer arranged the new lodge brethren in order, and after Bro. Sherwin, who presided at the harmonium, had played a solemn march, the usual address on the nature of the meeting was delivered with that point and exquisite elocution for which Bro. Terry has made himself famous. The address was given by the Secretary, and the petition and warrant having been read, the brethren signified their approval of the officers named in the warrant—Bros. Charles William Kent, P.M. 879, as W.M. designate; Henry Hudson, as S.W.; H. Bartlett, P.M. 147, as Treasurer; and others. The presiding officer, amid the breathless attention of the large company, delivered the oration in a charming manner, and then was sung the hymn which ends—

“God of the widow, hear,
Our work of mercy bless;
God of the fatherless, be near,
And grant us great success.”

The prayers and invocation were given by Bro. Terry throughout, and the Scriptures having been read in those parts having touching references to the ceremony, the lodge board were uncovered, and the elements of consecration were displayed in the usual manner, and then the psalm followed—

“O Lord, how joyful 'tis to see
The brethren joined in love to Thee;
On Thee alone their heart relies,
Their only strength Thy grace supplies.”

Bro. Terry, acting as Chaplain, then performed the duties which follow, and giving, with clerical effect, the second portion of the prayer. The hymn,

“Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah,”
having been chanted, Bro. Terry, as presiding officer, dedicated and constituted the lodge.

The ceremony of installing Bro. Kent as W.M. was then performed by Bro. Terry, who was untiring in his work, which he rendered with perfect “Emulation” ritual. The appointment of officers followed, and the first minutes recorded were a vote of thanks to Bro. Terry for his services, and his election, unanimously, as an honorary member of the lodge he had consecrated. The brethren then adjourned to an excellent dinner, and the only fault was that it was rather delayed, so much, indeed, that the after dinner toasts had to be briefly given. They were mostly shorn of replies, for the necessity of catching trains had taken many of the brethren away, and among others the “brief chronicler of the time.”

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS: Winter specifics.—All can estimate the disadvantages to the human system from breathing foul air, such as must necessarily be inhaled during our winters. The safest correctives and best purifiers of the blood are Holloway's balsamic Pills, which are too well known and too highly esteemed to require commendation here. Besides cleansing the system, they improve the appetite, render digestion perfect, admirably regulate the liver, increase the secretion of the kidneys, they mildly yet effectually act upon the bowels without griping or causing any inconvenience. So long as human nature remains what it is, every person will now and again require regulation of organs disordered by irregular or too generous living, and too liberal potations.—Apoth.

CONSECRATION OF THE AVALON CHAPTER, NO. 446, AT WELLS.

The ceremony of the consecration of the Avalon Chapter, attached to the Benevolent Lodge, No. 446, was held in the Town Hall, Wells, Somerset, on Tuesday, the 30th ult. (St. Andrew's Day), by M.E. Comp. S. G. Homfray, Standard Bearer of Grand Chapter, P.Z., G.A.D.C. England, and D.P.G.M. of Monmouthshire, assisted by M.E. Comp. H. J. Gratte, P.Z., as H.; and M.E. Comp. H. Hellyer, as J. Amongst others the following companions were present:—E. Turner Payne, Past Gd. Sid. Br.; F. R. Prideaux; W. Marchant, A. Baily, T. E. Jelley, F. W. Wood, F. H. Woodforde, J. B. Colthurst, W. B. Stocker, J. Wedgwood Yecles, W. Westcott, J. Phillis, J. C. Hunt, J. Chandler, J. W. Parfett, F. Fisher, J. Cornwall, J. E. Wilson, D. Williams, &c., &c.

Chapter was opened by the acting Principals at 2.15, and the Acting Scribe E., read the petition, and the Charter of Constitution from Grand Chapter, after which the consecrating M.E.Z. proceeded to consecrate the following companions into a regular chapter, viz:—M.E. Comp. R. C. Else, as L.; A. T. Perkins, as H.; and E. Bath, as J.; S. H. Clerke, S. G. Homfray, C. L. F. Edwards, Wm. Long, J. A. Bright, John Hurd, F. C. George, and W. J. Welsh.

The Acting Principal J., M. E. Comp. Hy. Hellyer, delivered a most interesting and excellent oration on the nature and principles of the Order, and the chapter was duly dedicated and consecrated.

The Acting M.E.Z. then proceeded to install in due form, Comp. R. C. Else, as M.E.Z.; Comp. Alfred T. Perkins, as H.; and Comp. Edward Bath, as J. for the ensuing twelve months, and on the readmission of all companions below those ranks he delivered the charge in a most impressive manner.

The companions then proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, when the following were elected and invested with their collars by the M.E.Z., viz:—Comp. C. L. F. Edwards, E.; Wm. Long, N.; J. A. Bright, P. Soj. The election of Treasurer and Janitor, as well as the appointment of the other officers, was deferred until the first regular meeting, when there would be a larger number of companions belonging to the chapter.

The M.E.Z. then said that the first duty of the newly consecrated chapter, and which duty devolved upon him as the first Z., was to propose a vote of thanks to the M.E. Comp. S. G. Homfray, who had kindly come from a distance to perform the ceremonies of the day, and who had performed them in so able and impressive a manner. Comp. Perkins, H., seconded the vote, and added that it would be a great pleasure to the chapter, and a lasting memento of M.E. Comp. Homfray's services to the companions on this day, if he would accept the office of I.P.Z. M.E. Comp. Homfray having signified his willingness to accept this office, the vote of thanks and election of office were carried by acclamation.

M.E. Comp. S. G. Homfray, I.P.Z., then rose, and said that the next minute that ought to appear on the books of this chapter was a vote of thanks to Comp. A. T. Perkins, H., as it was through his untiring energy that this chapter has been brought into existence; that it was he who prepared the petition, got the signatures attached to it, and sent it to the Supreme Grand Chapter; and that he has since been at the sole trouble and expense of fitting up the chapter, the excellence of the furniture and the completeness of the fittings of which, must have been the admiration of all who were there that day, as also the completeness of the arrangements which had made the proceedings of this day such a success. He therefore proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Comp. H., and also that the chapter should shew their appreciation of his services, and make him a slight recompense for the trouble and anxiety he had gone through, by presenting him with a handsome R.A. jewel.

M.E. Comp. R.C. Else, Z., seconded the proposition, which was carried by acclamation.

There were five candidates proposed for exaltation, and four companions as joining members.

The business being concluded, the chapter was closed, and the companions adjourned to the banquet, which was provided by Bro. F. C. Wickenden, of Lodge 446, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to.

Comp. Kenning furnished the chapter.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

We have been requested to insert the following:—

URGENT APPEAL.

51, Threadneedle-street, City, E.C.,
November, 1875.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I trust the cause will plead for the liberty in addressing you on the following subject:—The “Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons” have at the present time great calls on their funds, and the increasing number of applicants makes it necessary for every Mason to plead on behalf of so excellent an institution. Knowing with what a liberal hand all our Masonic institutions are supported by the Craft, I now appeal to the ladies, viz., mothers, wives, daughters, and friends of Masons, in order that where a guinea cannot be obtained our ladies may appeal among their many friends for shillings as well as larger sums. You will see by the sheet enclosed, the lady to whom you hand my contribution sheet will have whatever is collected placed in her name on the list of subscribers, or life donors, as the sum will allow. Kindly assist me in forwarding the object I have in view by handing the list enclosed to a lady. As a Steward at the festival in February, I hope to present a list of donations, &c., which will be called “The Ladies' List,” feeling assured that this appeal, if placed before them, will prove a great success.

This appeal is made to the ladies, viz., mothers, wives, daughters, and friends of Masons, on behalf of the aged Freemasons and widows of Freemasons. The smallest contributions will be thankfully received, if only from one shilling upwards. A few hundred pounds raised in this way will be the means of softening the sorrows of those who, in their declining years, cannot assist themselves; but with your aid they may (after having borne the heat and burden of the day) settle down in the evening of life, exempt from further toil. Let me, in their behalf, touch your hearts.

BRO. FRANCIS FELLOWS,
Steward, No. 192.

MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL, DUBLIN.

A general meeting of the Board of Governors of the Masonic Female Orphan School was held at the School House, Burlington-road, on Tuesday, the 7th of December, R.W. Robert Shekleton, D.G.M., Vice-Patron, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, were confirmed and signed.

The following report from the scrutineers of the ballot was then read:—We, the undersigned scrutineers of the ballot for the election of four pupils into the Masonic Female Orphan School, have to report that, with the aid of the Assistant Secretary, we have examined the several voting papers sent in. The total number of papers received up to the time of the scrutiny was 130. Of these 18 were not properly signed, and 51 were from Governors whose subscriptions were unpaid. The recording of the rejected votes would not have made any alteration in the relative position of the candidates.

Florence Hendley, daughter of James Hendley, of Lodge 242, Boyle, Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the Mayo Militia, and previously of the 80th regiment; Laura Bradburne, daughter of Samuel Tudor Bradburne, of Lodges 20 and 125, Dublin, accountant; Ida Florence Anketell, of Lodge 131, Mullingar, station master on the

Midland Railway; and Lilla Jane Cullinan, daughter of Cormac Michael Cullinan, Lodge 60, Ennis, assistant surgeon in the army, were then declared duly elected as pupils of the school.

From the report of the Finance Committee it appeared that the receipts during November amounted to £268, making the total amount now to the credit of the institution £10,735. A cheque was drawn for the month's expenses, £203 2s. 5d.

A ballot having taken place for the honorary officers and committees of the school for 1876, the following were declared duly elected:—

Chaplains: Rev. John J. Macsorley, G.C.; Rev. Lord Plunket, G.C.

Physicians: John T. Banks, M.D.; George H. Kidd, M.D.

Surgeon: Philip C. Smyly, M.D.

Oculist: Sir William R. Wilde.

Dentist: John A. Baker, F.R.C.S.I.

Honorary Secretary: Joseph Faviere Elrington, LL.D., Q.C., P.G.D.

Education Committee: Hon. Judge Townshend, Right Hon. Hedges E. Chatterton, Lucius H. Deering, George Huband, Charles H. Woodroffe, Rev. J. J. Macsorley, the Rev. Lord Plunket.

Finance Committee: John G. Gibbon, George Hepburn, Harry Hodges, John A. Hogan, Stuart N. Lane, George H. Major, Thomas H. Sanger.

Apprentice Committee: William Allen, Geo. Crowe, John Dunne, Mus. Doc.; Joseph Manning, George T. Whitestone.

Ladies' Committee: Mrs. W. Allen, Mrs. J. T. Banks, Mrs. J. W. Casson, Mrs. C. J. Ferguson, Mrs. Longfield, Mrs. R. Millner, Hon. Mrs. P. C. Smyly, Mrs. J. F. Townshend, Mrs. C. H. Woodroffe.

THE RED CROSS.

The "Bulletin International des Sociétés de Secours aux Blessés" calls attention to the appearance since the Franco-German War of 1870-71 of some spurious "Orders," one at Geneva under the name of "The Order of the Red Cross," whose members are described as "Templiers," "Joannites," and "Trinitaires," and which has an agency in London; and one in London which started up about the same time, bearing a striking resemblance to the other, and calling itself "The Order of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem," whose members also profess to be "Trinitaires." Both these societies appear to have traded upon the reputation of the Red Cross, in adopting as their badge a red cross, with straight ends, upon a white ground, so nearly a copy of the well-known insignia of all the national Red Cross societies that the "Bulletin" has thought proper, in order to distinguish the actual from the would-be Red Cross men, to publish the names of those Englishmen who, in souvenir of services rendered in the cause of humanity during the Franco-German War, have received the decoration of the French National Red Cross Society. The list is as follows, viz.:

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Lieut.-Col. Henry Brackenbury, Major C. J. Burgess, Lord Bury, K.C.M.G.; Dr. Sidney Chater, Mr. Henry Crookshank, Dr. Philip Frank, Lieut.-Col. Keith Fraser, Mr. John Furley, Captain Douglas-Galton, C.B.; Mr. Ernest Hart, Dr. Henry Kane, Mr. V. Barrington Kennett, Mr. H. Barrington Kennett, Sir Edward Lechmere, Bart.; Lieut.-Col. Hon. C. H. Lindsay, Lieut.-Col. Loyd-Lindsay, V.C.; Mr. J. Lyman, the Duke of Manchester, Mr. W. MacCormac, Surgeon-Major Manley, V.C.; Surgeon-Major McNalty, Sir James Paget, Bart.; Surgeon-Major Porter, Lieut. Rennick, Mr. N. M. de Rothschild, M.P.; Mr. John Scott, General Sir John St. George, K.C.B.; the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.; Mr. Stewart Sutherland, Mr. Jenerly Shee, Sir Harry Verney, Bart.; the Duke of Westminster, Mr. Robert Walker, Major de Winton, Surgeon-Major Wyatt, Mr. Edward Walford, Mr. Richard Woof, and Mr. John Smith Young.

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

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending Friday, December 24, 1875.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18.

Lodge 715, Panmure, Terminus Hot., Cannon-st.
" 1364, Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.

INSTRUCTION.

Manchester, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-square.
Lily, Greyhound, Richmond.
Star, Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road.
Sinai Chapter, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20.

Lodge 1, Grand Masters, Freemasons' Tavern.
" 8, British, F. M. H.
" 21, Emulation, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
" 185, Tranquillity, Terminus Hot., Cannon-st.
" 222, St. Andrew's, London Tav., Bishopsgate-st.
" 720, Panmure, Balham Hot., Balham.
" 862, Whittington, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 1201, Eclectic, F. M. H.
Chap. 12, Prudence, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.

INSTRUCTION.

Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., Kingsland.
Strong Man, Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate.
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 21.

Board of General Purposes, at 4.
Lodge 30, United Mariners', Guildhall Tav.
" 73, Mount Lebanon, Brid. Hou. Ho., London-brid.
" 95, Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
" 435, Salisbury, F. M. H.
Chap. 11, Enoch, F. M. H.
" 19, Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.

INSTRUCTION.

Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
Domestic, 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, Wheatshaf Ho., Hand-court, Holborn.
Percy, Grapes Tav., Little Windmill-st., W.
Israel, Rising Sun Tav., Globe Road.
Royal Arthur, Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea.
Metropolitan Chapter, St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill.
Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22.

Board of Benevolence, at 6.
Lodge 212, Euphrates, M. H., Basinghall-street.
" 507, United Pilgrims, Horns Tav., Kennington.
" 754, High Cross, Seven Sisters' Tav., Tottenham.
" 898, Temperance in the East, 6, Newby-pl., Poplar.
Chap. 907, Royal Albert, White Hart, Abchurch-lane.
Red Cross Conclave, 15, St. Andrew's, 68, Regent-st., W.

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 Park 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 23.

House Committee, Girls' School, at 4.
Lodge 22, Neptune, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
" 65, Grenadiers, F. M. H.
Chap. 29, St. Albans, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.

INSTRUCTION.

Egyptian, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., W.
Finsbury Jolly Anglers' Tav., Bath-st., City-road.
United Mariners', Three Cranes, Mile-end-road.
Whittington, Crown Tav., Holborn.
Temperance in the East, Catherine-st., Poplar.
Ebony, 12, Ponsonby-st., Millbank.
Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
The Great City, 111, Cheapside.
High Cross, Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.
Salisbury, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
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 24.

House Committee, Boys' School.
INSTRUCTION.
Union Waterloo, Thomas-st., Woolwich.
St. George's, Globe Tav., Royal-hill, Greenwich.
Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Belgrave, Lyceum Tav., 354, Strand.
Unions Emulation (for M.M.'s), F. M. H.
Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford.
Clapton, White Hart, Clapton.
Stability, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
Metropolitan, Portugal Hot., Fleet-st.
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 Hot., Buckhurst-hill.
Burdett Coutts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.
Pythagorean Chapter, Prince of Orange, Greenwich-rd.
Royal Standard, Finsbury Park Tav., Holloway.
Ranelagh, Clarendon Hot., Hammersmith.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, December 25, 1875.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20.

Lodge 1502, Israel, M. H., Liverpool.
Chap. 32, Jerusalem, M. H., Liverpool.
Everton L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21.

Lodge 667, Alliance, M. H., Liverpool.
" 1225, Hindpool, Hartington Ho., Barrow-in-Furness.
" 1276, Warren, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.
" 1384, Equity, Walker's Commercial Hot., Widnes.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22.

Lodge 32, St. George's, Adelphi Hot., Liverpool.
" 220, Harmony, Garston Hot., Garston.
" 724, Derby, M. H., Liverpool.
Chap. 1052, Callender, P. H., Rusholme.
St. John's L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.
Neptune L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.
De Grey and Ripon L. of I., 80, North Hill-st.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23.

Lodge 594, Downshire, M. H., Liverpool.
" 1086, Walton, St. Lawrence's Schools, Kirkdale.
Chap. 216, Sacred Delta, M. H., Liverpool.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24.

Chap. 680, Sefton, M. H., Liverpool.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, December 25, 1875.
All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20.

Lodge 332, Union, 170, Buchanan-st.
" 556, Clydesdale, 106, Rose-st.
St. Mungo Encampment, M. H., 213, Buchanan-st.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21.

Lodge 3½, St. John, 213, Buchanan-st.
" 73, Thistle and Rose, 170, Buchanan-st.
" 87, Thistle, 30, Hope-st.
" 437, Govandale, Portland Arms, Govan.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22.

Lodge 505, Burns, St. Mary's Commercial Inn, Hurlford.
" 510, Maryhill, 167, M. H., Maryhill.
Red Cross Conclave, Glasgow, 213, Buchanan-st.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23.

Lodge 290, Dalry Blair, White Hart Hot., Dalry.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24.

Lodge 187, St. John's, Carluke, Black Bull Inn.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25.
Lodge 28, St. John's, Black Bull Inn, Kirkintilloch.
" 305, St. John's Woodhall, M. H., Holytown.
Chap. 143, Robert Burns, F. M. H., Holytown.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, December 25, 1875.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20.

Lodge 44, St. Luke, F. M. H., George-st.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21.

Lodge 36, St. David, Ship Hot., E., Register-st.
" 405, Rifle, F. M. H., George-st.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22.

Lodge 112, St. John, Royal Hot., Musselburgh.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23.

Lodge 392, Caledonian, F. H., George-street.

THE COMPLETE FURNITURE AND APPOINTMENTS

FOR
Craft Lodges,

OF SUPERIOR DESIGN AND WORKMANSHIP,
MANUFACTURED IN THREE QUALITIES,

BY
BRO. GEORGE KENNING, P.M.,

COMPRISING

Three Pedestals.	One Oak or Mahogany Kneeling
Three Candlesticks, Oak or Mahogany.	Stool.
Two Columns, Oak or Mahogany.	Lamp (Star in the East).
S. W. Triangle, in Oak or Mahogany with Gilt Tripod, Pulley Blocks and Windlass and Rough and Perfect Ashlars.	Third Degree Sheet.
Oak or Mahogany Box, and nine Tools, Plated.	Bible, with Name and No. of Lodge in Gold.
Three Oak or Mahogany Gavels.	Square and Compasses in Case.
One " " Maul.	Cushion for Bible.
One " " Ballot.	Ten Officers' Collars.
Box and Balls.	Ten Officers' Jewels.
One pair " Wands.	I.G. Dirk.
Three Tracing Boards.	O.G. Sword.
	Set of Eight Books.
	Three S—g Boards.
	Two Pairs of S—s.
	Three C—e T—s.
	Two H—s.
	Three Cards with Emblems.

£30, £60, and £100.

Chairs, Dais, Tesselated Carpeting, Banners, &c., &c. on the most moderate terms, according to material, style, &c.
For Personal Insignia, see List of Clothing and Jewels.

MASONIC DEPOTS:

LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND GLASGOW.