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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY (No. 185) met on Monday evening at the City Terminus Hotel. The W.M., Bro. John Horth Ross, presided, assisted by his officers, Bros. J. D. Daniell, S.W.; S. Posener, J.W.; G. S. Pare, S.D.; H. D. Bayley, J.D.; F. Croker, I.G.; G. Betty, Organist; George Peartree, Treas.; Philip Levy, Sec.; John Constable, P.M.; Nathan Moss, P.M.; S. Moss, M. Harris, E. Harfeld, Bloomfield, P.M.; Fred. Saul Solomon, Parkinson, P.M.; E. Gottheil, P.M.; and a large number of the members of the lodge. There were also present, as is usual in this famous lodge, several visitors, among whom were Bros. James Cox, S.D. 765; W. Lean, P.M. 1087; John Smith, 1257; H. Roberts, 22; H. Massey, P.M. 619 ("Freemason"); and Jacob J. Cohen, S.W. 1340, Smyrna. There was a heavy evening's work before the lodge. Three out of four candidates for raising were in time to take the degree, but the fourth arrived a minute or two too late for the opening of the ceremony, and he was deferred, unfortunately, till next meeting. Bros. Saillard, Bush, and Cohen were the brethren who took the degree, which was admirably and impressively worked by the W.M. and his assistants. The lodge was then lowered to the First Degree, and ballots were taken for Messrs. M. J. E. Schultze, C. K. L. Gablonz, and Moss Davis, who, the ballot being unanimously in their favour, were duly initiated, with the same correctness and impressiveness as the W.M. and his officers exhibited in the Third Degree. The lodge working was accompanied by some beautiful music by the Organist, Bro. Betty, which produced a fine effect. Bro. A. I. Myers, 65, was elected a joining member of the lodge. Previous to the ballot for this brother, his proposer, Bro. Daniel Marks, according to the custom, had to vouch for him, whereupon two brethren could not allow such an opportunity to pass without testifying to this brother's great worth, his intellectual capacity, and his ability to confer honour upon the lodge. As a literary brother, it was thought he would be a great acquisition to the lodge, and several other brethren regretted that they had not had the duty cast upon them of seconding the election of Bro. Myers. The Committee of the Benevolent Fund was then re-elected, the brethren being Bros. Saul Solomon, A. E. Sydney, Maurice Hart, M. Harris, S. E. Moss, and E. Harfeld. Bro. John Constable, P.M., gave notice of motion that ten guineas be voted by the lodge for a P.M.'s jewel to be presented to the W.M. Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, which was well supplied by Bro. Lord, the manager of the hotel. On the removal of the cloth the toasts were proposed, and honoured with the fervour which this lodge never fails to exhibit. The W.M., in giving the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," said that as our Royal Master gave "Loyalty and Charity" as the watchwords of the Order, it would not require any words of his to recommend this toast to the notice of the brethren. (Cheers.) In giving the toast of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master," the W.M. said that the universal topic of conversation for some time past had been the recent visit of the Grand Master to India, and there was not a brother who did not wish him God speed on his journey. Before him he knew there was not a brother who would not respond to this toast. (Cheers.) When the toast had been drunk most cordially, the W.M. next gave "The Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, &c.," and said it had been asserted that he who delegated his power to other hands ill deserved the crown he wore. Such, however, would not apply in the present instance, for the M.W.G.M. had left behind him such a representative that no one allied to the Craft could have the least doubt of his capabilities. He was speaking of the Earl of Carnarvon, the Pro Grand Master, and with the assistance of the D.G.M., Lord Skelmersdale, the Craft must be steered with safety by the Pro Grand Master. "The Initiates" was the next toast, and the W.M., in

proposing it, said that the accession of gentlemen to the Order from time to time had made the position of the brethren as Masons one of pre-eminence, and he was very pleased to think that the Lodge of Tranquillity had men of such high intelligence, great moral character, and good social standing, seeking its aid to become members of the Order. If it were not for initiates, Freemasonry would fall into desuetude; but with the addition of such gentlemen as they had that night, the credit of the Craft would be added to, and the stability of the lodge assured. (Cheers.) Bros. Lederer, Moss Davis, and Schultze responded. Bro. John Constable proposed "The W.M.," and appealed to the brethren to confirm him in his opinion that the ceremonies had been admirably worked, notwithstanding the hoarseness which a severe bronchial affection had produced. (Hear, hear.) The W.M., in reply, said he thanked the brethren for their cordial reception of the toast. He had but one object in view, to do the best he possibly could for the lodge, and to make the brethren happy. As long as he was in the Master's chair he would endeavour to do as he had done. (Cheers.) "The Visitors" was the next toast, to which Bro. W. Lean, P.M. 1087, was the first respondent, and he said he thought Bro. Constable's remarks in apologising for the W.M. were not wanted, because the way in which the ceremonies had been rendered that evening were certainly in the good old style; at any rate, they revived the good old feelings which the hearing of those ceremonies always revived in his own breast. As the brethren present were not all M.M.'s he would allude to the initiation ceremony, in which there was a reference made to the grandest of all the Masonic virtues, charity. We were fast approaching that period of the year when we all rejoice to meet together, both abroad and in the family home; and he thought they could not do better than remember those less favoured brethren who had been once in a position not less fortunate than that of the brethren present. When the business brethren were making up their balance sheets he would recommend them to set apart a small amount for the benefit of the three Masonic Institutions, the grandest in the country. In this way they would be showing true charity. Bro. Roberts, 22, in his reply for the same toast, referred to the recent initiation of Captain Webb in that lodge (Neptune), and the great enthusiasm with which he was received on the occasion of his entering into Freemasonry. The W.M. afterwards gave "The Health of the P.M.'s," who had at all times been of great service to the lodge, and who would never be found wanting in the performance of the duties of the officers should any be absent. He was looking forward to the time when he himself should go into "retirement," and be numbered with that glorious band. Bro. Bloomfield replying, said the P.M.'s of the Lodge of Tranquillity were always very ready and very willing, at the same time that they were able, to do anything they could for the lodge. They were ready and willing to assist the Master in his duties whenever required. Fortunately, in any of the offices very little was ever required of them, and they had merely to sit in the lodge and witness the ceremonies. They were all zealous men, and even if they were called upon in the middle of the night to give assistance he was sure they would do so. (Laughter.) He could assure the brethren that nothing could happen in the lodge which would make a call on them that the P.M.'s would not be found at hand with assistance. "The Benevolent Fund of the Lodge of Tranquillity" was then given by the W.M., and the object of the fund was briefly stated. Bro. Saul Solomon, Treasurer of the fund, in his reply, gave a fuller exposition of the purposes for which the fund was established, preceding his remarks by recurring to the observations of Bro. Lean, as to the opportunity afforded at this season of the year for remembering those less fortunate than ourselves. He advised a "charity column" in books, as well as a "money column." The fund had been originated by one brother now abroad and another now dead; and he (Bro. Saul Solomon) had been, he was happy to say, connected with it from its inception. The fund had done a vast amount of good to poor brethren who had in their season of prosperity, when they belonged to the lodge, joined them at the hospitable board. The assistance given had always been liberal, so much so as to give the recipients a fresh start in life, and a great feature was, though the amount was duly accounted for, in no case was the name of the brother made known by the board before whom he came. At present the fund amounted to £600 or £700. It was all very well to say to brethren in distress that there was the Lodge of Benevolence, the Boys' School, the Girls' School, and the Benevolent Institution; but he contended that the brethren were first entitled to be relieved by their own lodge. Members of the lodge only were allowed to subscribe to this fund, because it was only members of the lodge who could be relieved by it. His call had ever been liberally responded to, and for the information of the brethren he might say the moneys subscribed by them were never misapplied. He might give one instance. A brother lately was relieved with £100 to enable him to go abroad. After his arrival they gave him £25 more; and at the Cape, whither he had gone, he was already doing well. Lost it could not be, because it was given for a charitable purpose. In one case the money had been refunded; and it was a pleasure to the subscribers sitting round that table to reflect that by means of small subscriptions at different times they had been able to raise brethren from indigence to a state of prosperity. He hoped that evening would be the precursor of many others of equal liberality, and that they would conduce to the placing of many brethren in a state of peace and prosperity. Bro. Saul Solomon concluded by saying that the great advantage of the money being distributed anonymously was that a brother relieved was able to meet the other members of the lodge without any fear of his just and honest personal pride being affected. He trusted that the brethren would assist in making the fund £1000, and he had much pleasure in stating that the initiates of the day

had each contributed a guinea towards that amount. The W.M. gave "The Health of the Treasurer and Secretary" next, both of which officers returned thanks. The Treasurer said both he and his brother Secretary were pleased to perform their offices, and as long as they had health and strength they would continue to do so. The W.M. concluded by proposing "The Health of the Officers," which he gave with the utmost pride and satisfaction. He boasted that there was not one, from the S.W. to the I.G., who was not perfectly able to perform his duties. As this was the last occasion before Christmas when the brethren would have an opportunity of hearing his voice, he would wish them a merry and very happy Christmas. The S.W. responded, and said he was sure that the efficiency which the W.M. had so often noticed in the officers, if it was deserving of his commendation, was only derived from those who had gone before them in their different positions. The Tyler's toast concluded a most agreeable evening.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No. 228).—The "election night" of this old lodge was held on the 14th inst. in the banqueting hall of the Old St. John of Jerusalem Gate, Clerkenwell, the W.M., Bro. J. While ("Freemason"), presiding. There was a very full attendance of brethren and visitors, and the officers were at their posts with the punctuality for which the lodge is celebrated. Bro. Griggs was S.W.; J. Hill, J.W.; Snare, S.D.; Halford, J.D.; Percy, I.G.; J. Crump, Sec., and father of the lodge; J. Hillhouse, I.P.M.; J. Terry, P.M.; Coulston, P.M.; E. Davies, P.M.; Harty, S.D. 1201, acting as Organist, and there were also present as visitors Bros. Charles Horsley, W.M. Acacia, P. Grand Registrar of Middlesex; G. Killick, P.M. of Merchant Navy Lodge; C. Hill, S.W. of the Highgate Lodge; G. Clarke, of the Phoenix; W. Senior, of the Alexandra Palace Lodge; J. B. Edwards, of No. 861; A. Henson, of the Asaph; Herbert T. Parsons, of the Minerva, Hull; J. W. Adams, the Southwark; and Thomas Danson, of Port Madoc. Bro. Brienholt, Baker, Adams, Gedde, and Bellor, who had been initiated at previous meetings, having, with Bro. Senior, the well-known journalist, of the Alexandra Palace Lodge, answered the usual questions, were entrusted, and the lodge then opened in the Second Degree. Three of these brethren were then passed, and the other three followed, the ceremony from beginning to end being gone through twice. The ballot—an unanimous one in the result—having been taken for Mr. W. G. Hanchet, a sculptor, the Rev. W. Dawson, M.A., Rector of St. John's, Clerkenwell, and Mr. T. H. Coles, the candidates were introduced in due form, and the ceremony repeated up to a certain part in their case. The interesting work was done according to Emulation ritual. The ballot was then taken for Bro. W. Malthouse, of the Wellington, No. 518, as a joining member, and this was also unanimous. The ballot for W.M. was then taken, and resulted in practically an unanimous election of the S.W., Bro. Griggs, who was warmly greeted according to Masonic form when he rose to thank the brethren for the honour conferred upon him, and to assure them that he should not be wanting in his work. The ballot was then taken for Treas., and Bro. Winsland, P.M., who, unfortunately, was absent through illness, was again unanimously elected, and Bro. Steed was elected as Tyler, in the place of the retiring Tyler, Bro. Beckett. On the motion of Bro. James Terry, P.M., P.G.D.C. of Herts, who spoke of the excellent work of the retiring W.M. during the year, and the great success which had attended the lodge during his period of Mastership, the lodge unanimously voted Bro. While the P.M. jewel, to be ready on the installation night. The lodge being closed, the brethren banqueted together, the large hall being completely full. After the usual toasts the W.M. gave the toast of "The W.M. elect," and took occasion to warmly thank the W.M. elect and the officers generally for the assistance they had given himself during the year, both in punctual attendance and in ability, when present, to carry out the work in a thorough manner. He reminded the members generally that by that election all the appointments to office, except that of Treasurer, became vested in the Master, who, following the traditions of the lodge, would, no doubt, select as his officers those who had done good suit and service in bygone times, and both the principal and assistant officers had done this. If members who were not in office desired at some time to be adorned with the collar, their only means, he warned them, of obtaining the position would be by attending at the opening of the lodge, and by accepting any opportunity which offered, through the absence of any officer, prove to the future Masters where they would have to look for members with the requisite knowledge to do credit to a post. If any Master placed a brother in the lowest position, even, who was not competent to work the higher positions, that Master was not only doing an injustice to the lodge, in storing up for it a future difficulty, but he was placing the brother in a position which in time to come would be one to him of mortification, for the lodge would use its judgment, and would pronounce distinctly against the Mastership of a brother unless the members were convinced of his competency to discharge the duties, and of the soundness of his judgment. The W.M. hoped then that those brethren who desired office would by attendance at instruction, and at the opening of the lodge, prove their willingness and ability, that future Masters should have no difficulty in selecting brethren who to the ambition for office added the necessary qualifications. The W.M. elect was one who had so worked, and had so proved himself. He had been a constant attendant, a good worker, and before he held any office had worked the chair in Lodge of Instruction. Before his adornment with the collar in the junior ranks of office he had been ready and able to fill any position vacant in bygone years by the absence of a brother, and the lodge had only given Bro. Griggs his due by electing him to the proud position he that night occupied. Bro. Griggs, the W.M. elect, in responding, warmly thanked

the brethren for their reception of him, and gave them the assurance that he fully appreciated the honour they had bestowed upon him. The W.M. was toasted, and the toast was acknowledged, and in proposing the toast of "The Past Masters of the Lodge," the W.M. said the lodge was fortunate in having among those on the left of the chair such brethren as the quarter-of-a-century Secretary, Bro. Crump, their respected Treasurer, Bro. Winsland, their energetic Bro. James Terry, and no less active and earnest brethren, Coulston, Davies, and Hillhouse. The toast was acknowledged by the latter, and then the toast of "The Visitors" was given by the W.M., and Bro. Charles Horsley, in reply, thanked the W.M. for the opportunity he had that night of seeing the United Strength Lodge thus ably worked, and having declared the words the W.M. had addressed to the brethren who desired to be officers to be words of wisdom, the speaker, in a happy vein of poetic lore, proceeded to connect the W.M.'s name with the refrain of various well-known songs, much to the amusement of the company. Dr. Hunter, one of the joining members elected at the last meeting, responded to the toast of his health, and Bros. Hill, the J.W.; Halford, J.D.; and Patmore (Steward), responded for the officers. The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT LODGE (No. 1558).—This lodge held its second regular meeting at the Surrey Masonic Hall on Thursday, the 9th inst. Present: Bros. W. Snowden, W.M.; W. S. Cackett, S.W.; T. Sleep, J.W.; J. Dann, P.M. and Sec.; W. Mitchell, S.D.; A. Runacres, J.D.; J. Kemp, I.G.; W. Chalk, W.S.; F. Geider, Tyler. Also Bros. C. E. Power, T. Taylor, E. Pearman, E. Sims, J. E. Pentreath, W. Rowlands, G. Harris, J. H. Swan, J. Emms. Visitors: Bros. C. B. Wright, Asaph, 1319; S. J. Harvey, Royal Jubilee, 72; C. E. Towell, Victoria 1056; J. M. Walters, Westbourne, 733; T. T. Dryson, Royal Union, 382. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. vacated the chair, and Bro. P.M. Dann officiated. Bros. Power, Taylor, Pearman, Sims, and Pentreath were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. Bro. W. Rowlands, of the Royal Jubilee Lodge, 72, was enrolled as a member of the lodge. Messrs. G. Harris, J. H. Swan, and J. Emms were initiated into Freemasonry. The Secretary read a copy of a communication from Grand Lodge, dated 7th December, 1839, respecting the Master's light in the Third Degree. Bro. Sleep, J.W., moved that the question of raising the initiation fee from five to seven guineas be taken into consideration, as more conducive to the interests of the lodge. Bro. Mitchell, S.D., seconded the motion. Bro. Chalk, W.S., moved as an amendment, that the motion be deferred. Bro. Dann, P.M. and Sec., seconded the amendment, which was put to the lodge and lost. The original motion was then put and carried by a large majority. Bro. Rowlands proposed, as a joining member, Bro. John Morgan Walters, of the Westbourne Lodge, No. 733. Two gentlemen were proposed and seconded as candidates for initiation. The lodge was adjourned till the second Thursday in January next. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, at which the usual toasts were duly honoured.

IPSWICH.—British Union Lodge (No. 114).—The annual meeting of this old lodge was held on Thursday, the 9th inst., when there were present: Bros. A. D. George, W.M.; J. J. Burton, P. Prov. G.D.C. Cambridge, S.W., W.M. elect; Rev. E. J. Lockwood, D.P.G.M.; W. Spalding, P.M., Sec.; W. Boby, P. Prov. S.G.W.; W. Clarke, P.G.A.D.C.; Emra Holmes, P. Prov. G.R. and P.G.D.C.; Viscount Mahon, M.P., Junior Lord of the Treasury; H. Miller, S.D.; Rev. J. B. Tweed, J.D.; P. de Lande Long, P.M., Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes, &c. &c. Visitors: Bros. N. Tracy, P. Prov. S.G.W., W.M. Perfect Friendship Lodge; W. T. Westgate, W.M. St. Luke's Lodge; G. Cresswell, P.M. of the Prince of Wales Lodge; J. Wilson, an officer of the Carabineers, &c., &c. The lodge having been opened in due and ancient form, and the minutes confirmed, Commander John Parsons, R.N., of H.M.S. Porcupine, and a young officer of the Carabineers, Wm. Longhurst, were introduced and initiated into Masonry, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. At the conclusion of the ceremony the President of the Board of General Purposes was announced, and on the entrance of our excellent and esteemed brother, J. B. Monckton, the brethren rose to order, and, under the direction of the M.C., saluted him with the honours suitable to his rank in Grand Lodge. Bro. George giving the gavel to V.W. Bro. Monckton, he assumed the chair, and proceeded to install Bro. Burton as W.M. for the ensuing year. The whole of this long ceremony, with the charges to the Master, Wardens, and brethren, were admirably and faultlessly given, and performed according to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement working, and we cannot speak in too high praise of the manner in which the W.M. was inducted into the chair of K.S. We can only hope the brethren will always endeavour to secure the services of so bright a Mason, and so valued a member of the lodge, as Bro. Monckton. One or two brethren having been proposed for joining and initiation, and the customary business disposed of, the officers were appointed and invested as follows, the Installing Master addressing a few words to each:—Bro. A. D. George, I.P.M.; Rev. T. B. Tweed, P.G.C., S.W.; H. Miller, P.G.P., J.W.; H. Casley, S.D.; G. Elliston, J.D.; Ridley King, F.R.I.B.A., I.G. Bros. W. Spalding, Sec.; Emra Holmes, M.C.; and Geo. Spalding, Tyler, were re-appointed. The lodge having been closed, the brethren numbering about 30, retired to the dining hall, where an excellent banquet was served, but where the waiting, as usual, was bad. In responding to the toast of "The D.P.G.M.," Bro. the Rev. E. J. Lockwood spoke with great pleasure on the increasing interest shown in Masonry by the clergy of the Church of England, an interest which could not but be productive of good, and the more so because it was a complete answer to such brethren as the

brother at Lowestoft, who gave up his office in Prov' Grand Lodge at the last meeting, assigning as a reason that he found that Masonry was incompatible with his Christian obligations. Their W.M. would ere their next meeting be ordained; their S.W., his (the speaker's) relative, was a clergyman, at their last meeting they had initiated another clergyman, and he thought so much interest could not be felt in Masonry by the clergy had there been anything inimical to the interests of true religion in the principles of the Craft. Bro. Monckton responded to the toast of "The Officers of the Grand Lodge of England," and admitted that he was proud of being a member of that distinguished body. The Very Worshipful Brother made a characteristic, eloquent, and withal modest speech in acknowledging the toast, and was heartily applauded as he took his seat. Bro. Tracy responded on behalf of the visitors, and reminded the brethren of the Perfect Ashlar Lodge of Instruction, which met weekly under the banner of the British Union, and of which he was Preceptor, where the brethren might have an opportunity of qualifying themselves for the posts which they filled. Bro. Westgate also responded, as did Bro. Wilson, who hoped on the next occasion to be a member of the lodge, and not a visitor. The newly-initiated brethren responded in the manner common to new initiates, and the Secretary's and Tyler's toasts having been duly honoured, the brethren separated. Neither the National Anthem nor any other song was given, and the lack of music probably took somewhat from the enjoyment of an otherwise pleasant evening. Bro. Burton, W.M., presided at the banquet, and performed the arduous duties of chairman in a manner befitting the occasion. As the brethren dined in collars and jewels, and the tables were handsomely decorated with flowers and coloured glass, the effect was very good, though the banquet as a whole was not to be compared to the summer festival, the Feast of Roses. A hundred years ago the installation of W.M. always took place on St. John's Day, so that the festival of St. John was always duly kept. This excellent practice seems to have fallen into desuetude, and we confess we should like to see a return to the old paths, and the festival restored. Bro. Emra Holmes' notes on the old minute books of the British Union Lodge are now in course of publication in the pages of our contemporary, the "Masonic Magazine," the first portion appearing this month.

WINDSOR.—Etonian Lodge of St. John (No. 209).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, the 7th inst. Present: Bros. J. O. Carter, W.M.; Deane, S.W.; Canvin, J.W.; Pullin, P.M., Treas.; Strange, P.M., Sec.; Crowhurst, S.D.; Hume, J.D.; Roberts, I.G.; Schiemann, D.C.; Pears, S.; Dixon, I.P.M., P.G.D.C.; Stacey, P.M.; Wilson, P.M.; Cross, P.M.; Reid, P.M.; McIlwham, P.M.; Hawker, Stollery, Pennicott, Woods, Cousins, Spindler, Legg, &c. Visitors: Bros. Tolley, P.M. 771; Johnson, 771; T. Byett, 834; Knighton, 834; Whittaker, &c. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. raised Bro. Cousins to the degree of M.M. The brethren unanimously elected Bro. Dennie, S.W., to the office of W.M. for the ensuing year, and voted a Past Master's jewel to the W.M. Bro. Wilson, P.M., was elected Treasurer, in the place of Bro. Pullin, P.M., who retires, and in consideration of the services rendered to the lodge (extending over many years) by Bro. Pullen, the brethren voted a sum of money to purchase a testimonial to him; the form of such recognition was left to the ultimate decision of that worthy brother. The two brethren elected to audit the accounts were Bros. Hume and Pears. Bro. Case was again appointed Tyler. Two candidates for initiation having been proposed, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony.

BRADFORD.—Lodge of Hope (No. 302).—On Monday, the 13th December, at the Masonic Hall, Godwin-street, the brethren of this lodge celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist, and the installation of Bro. Hanson Farrar as W.M. of this lodge took place. The brethren assembled at six o'clock in large numbers, including the following:—Bros. Thos. Hill, P.M., P.P.G.W., Chairman of Charity Committee; J. J. Schaeppi, P.M., P.P.G.S.D.; C. H. Taylor, P.M., P.P.G.S.D.; J. D. Sugden, P.M., P.P.G.J.D.; W. W. Barton, P.M.; Geo. Richardson, P.M.; C. Pratt, P.M., P.P.G. Sup. of W.; J. Ambler, P.M.; W. Bottomley, P.M.; and the under-mentioned visitors, namely, Fred. W. Nicholson 1034, Prov. G.O.; T. Senior, W.M. 974, P. Prov. G. Reg.; W. Morgan, W.M. 1018; H. Lambert, 129; Chas. Bartlett, 903; G. Alsing, 113; Sam. Pecke, 254; Sam. B. Walmsley, P.M. 974; Jos. Dobson, 289; Chas. F. Urna, P.M. 600; Geo. Altherpe, P.M. 1018; R. Richardson, P.M. 974. The ceremony of installation was ably performed by Bro. B. Broughton, I.P.M. The W.M. Elect was conducted to the pedestal by Bro. T. Hill, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.W., and afterwards was duly proclaimed. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Chas. Gott, S.W.; T. G. Andrews, J.W.; Rev. T. H. Flynn, P. Prov. G. Chaplain; M. S. Rhodes, Treas.; T. C. Hope, Sec.; J. Harland, Assist. Sec.; J. Pickles, S.D.; T. F. Pettinger, J.D.; F. C. Atkinson, Org.; J. D. Sugden, D.C.; T. G. Boyce, Assist. D.C.; Thos. Hill, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.W. Charity Steward; T. C. Pearson, Almshouse; Rob. Brewer, I.G.; J. J. Holmes, Tyler. The ordinary business of the lodge was brought to a close by the W.M. at 8.30. We should not omit to allude to the very handsome and valuable presentation to the lodge by Bro. Manoaah Sharpley Rhodes, Treasurer, of an excellent coloured portrait of His Royal Highness Bro. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England, in full Masonic clothing, in a beautiful gilt frame, which was accepted by the brethren with acclamation, and directed to be hung in the lodge-room. From the skill displayed by Bro. Hanson Farrar, W.M., in performing the duties devolving upon him

during the evening, it seems as though the mantle of his late sire, who was one of the ablest P.M.'s of the Lodge of Hope, had fallen on his shoulders; and we augur that he will successfully exert himself to tread in the footsteps of his accomplished ancestor, whose abilities and example are so eminently worthy of remembrance and imitation. Lodge business over, the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room, and sat down to a recherché banquet, in keeping with the high reputation of Bro. R. Brewer as a caterer. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly given and responded to; amongst the latter we may allude to "The Immortal Memory of St. John the Evangelist," proposed by Bro. the Rev. T. H. Flynn, the Chaplain, in an able address replete with good words and instruction. "The Clergy," was put down to be proposed by Bro. M. Rhodes, P.M., P.P.G.W., but owing to his unavoidable absence, that duty was undertaken by Bro. Geo. Richardson, P.M., and was responded to by Bros. Rev. T. H. Flynn, P.P.G.C., and H. Lambert. "The Masonic Charities," proposed by Bro. T. G. Andrews, J.W., who, addressing the W.M., Officers, and brethren, said that the toast he had to propose was dear to the hearts of Freemasons. He did not feel equal to the task assigned him, but the sincerity and heartiness of his remarks must be his apology for any shortcomings. He felt it a pleasure, as it was his duty, to bring under their notice the claims of those noble institutions—our Masonic Charities, and in doing so he naturally had in mind three of the virtues inculcated by our Order—Faith, Hope, and Charity; they are great elements for doing good, and we, as a brotherhood, are banded together to do good. Our Masonic charities are the outcome of all that is good, as you know they are for the education and maintenance of our orphan children, and for providing annuities for our aged and unfortunate brethren. Those of you who have not already done so, I ask to visit some of the annual festivals of these admirable institutions, and then I know what a thrill must come over your hearts when you there see what good some of the brethren have aided in doing. Some of you may say I should be very glad to give my mite, but do not feel at liberty to be a Steward. Well, I may inform you that there is the way to do this, and that is by several brethren joining to endow one of the chairs, and most of our chairs have been so endowed. But I would have every chair endowed, and, further, I would increase that of those that are already endowed, because in that way you increase your voting powers. Our W.M. (Bro. Hanson Farrar), has nobly contributed to these charities, and let each of us strive to do his best. I may mention to you that the contributions to our charities in the year 1875, amount to the sum of £26,604, of which sum our Province of West Yorkshire, contributed £1845. On a similar occasion to this last year there was contributed in this room the sum of £100, and I hope that will be increased this year. Brethren, it would ill become me were I to close these remarks without reference to the services of Bro. T. Hill, P.M., Prov. G.S.W., our Charity Steward. He is also Chairman of the Charity Committee, and it is a great honour to this lodge. We all heard what fell from him in lodge, that he felt that he ought to give way to some other brother, after filling the position for so many years, but we all hope he will not think of that, we all know how he has worked for the good of the charities, and that we owe him a debt of gratitude we can never repay. In conclusion, I have faith that the brethren of this lodge will assist the charities as they have hitherto done, and I hope that I am not mistaken in my faith. Bro. Thomas Hill, P.M., P.P.G.S.W., Chairman of the Charity Committee, in responding to the toast, said that the first thing that was brought under the notice of every brother on his initiation was, that we, as an Order, have poor and distressed brethren amongst us; and whilst we hope that we ourselves may never be brought low, yet we have seen in our lodge, as in others, that some of our dear brethren who have moved in good society, have had to succumb to misfortune and death, and in some of these cases their children have been liberally educated, clothed, and maintained, until they attained the age of 16 years, in our Royal Masonic Schools. The knowledge of this ought to incite us to do all we can in support of our charities, and I hope the appeal, so ably made by Bro. Andrews, will be as liberally responded to as it was last year, when £100 was subscribed round this table; and I believe our respected Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. Henry Smith then had a few slips printed with our subscriptions inserted, and this proved the starting point to £2000 being raised in the province. I hope the brethren present will respond as they feel able; already I have received a few names. We profess to be charitable, and it is but right that our professions should be brought into practice. Bro. Andrews made reference to my office as Chairman of the Charity Committee, and I must say that, although I have held high office in the Craft, there is none I so highly esteem, and I think it is a position that any brother may feel proud to hold, yet I think it should not always be in the same hands. Brethren, I again thank you most heartily for the honour you have done me in coupling my name with the toast. Bro. Hill afterwards announced that he had that evening received seventy guineas for the Charities. The W.M. then said that whilst we thought of our Masonic charities, towards which he had felt it his duty to subscribe ever since he was a Mason, we must not overlook our local Charities, and he understood that the Masonic Ward in the Bradford Infirmary, some years ago furnished by us, was in need of more blankets, and he hoped the brethren would give some small donations for that. The result of this announcement was that the sum of £9 2s. 6d. was collected. Bro. B. Broughton, P.M., in proposing "The Retiring Master," said,—And a very retiring Master he is, brethren. I remember, at the commencement of the year of his office, he expressed his diffidence in taking the chair, but he accepted it at your hands. I also remember how, as

his I.P.M., I promised him all the assistance the P.M.'s could give him, and now he retires I think he will feel that they have redeemed their pledges. If he were not present I could say more in his favour than I now can. Brethren, I leave it to you to say whether he has not been successful in his endeavours. I believe he has, and in that belief I have much pleasure in proposing his health, as time will not permit me to relate all his deserts. In conclusion, in my opinion he resigns to his successor the collar and jewel of his office untarnished. The retiring Master, in offering his sincere thanks for the toast, said,—The best means I have of judging whether I have given satisfaction is the way in which I have been received by the P.M.'s, and brethren of the lodge. The remembrance of this day will never be erased from my memory. Before I sit down allow me to propose "The Health of the Worshipful Master." It is indeed a great honour to one so young in years to preside over such a lodge as this, and from the unanimous vote of the brethren on his election there is every prospect of his having a successful year. Bro. Hanson Farrar, W.M., on rising to respond, was received with acclamation, and on the repeated rounds of cheers of the brethren subsiding he said:—Worthy P.M.'s, officers, and brethren, my feelings overcome me; you have given me such a hearty welcome. I thank you for the proud position in which you have placed me—I can only say it will be my earnest endeavour to work for the advantage of the Lodge of Hope, and Freemasonry; and I assure you that as in the past so I will do in the future. Brethren, you may rely upon it I shall endeavour to add to the lustre of the Lodge of Hope. Again, heartily thanking you for the great honour done me, I beg to propose for your acceptance the toast of "The Visiting Brethren," whom we are always glad to see amongst us; coupling therewith the names of Bro. Thomas Senior, W.M. Pentalfa; W. Morgan, W.M. Shakespeare, and F. C. Unna, P.M. Harmony; each of whom gave able, pertinent, and hearty responses. Bro. W. T. McGowin (Town Clerk), addressing the W.M., officers, and brethren, said:—The duty which has been entrusted to me almost overwhelms me. I see by the time of the clock that my remarks must be brief. Since I came into this room I have had the pleasure of hearing two of our clerical brethren, and I particularly noticed the remark which fell from Bro. the Rev. H. Lambert, who stated he comes from a country district where he could not freely mix with Freemasons. The remark he made was that, "as far as Freemasonry goes, it is thoroughly consistent with the principles of religion." That was what he felt, as far as you go, and so soon as you touch upon religion you stop. That is so, and it is what ought to be. In this noble Craft I find what is not to be met with in any other body, namely, that all classes of men—all humanity—can freely join and fraternize. Now I say, if I can show you (as you know to be the case) that there is some common ground—some grand green spot—where all men can meet, shake hands, and band themselves together for the common good of their fellow man, that is a grand thing for society, and that we all know is the case in connection with our Grand Order. See what is taking place in India, where the most distinguished and thorough Englishman, a man of the world, a finished, polished gentleman, with ability, whose near relations have been in times ago illustrious members of our Order—what does he say? Why, that he considers us a worthy class, and that he will join us, upon which follows one of the grandest things of modern times. He leaves this land and mixes with those who would not mix with us, who would, if they had the power, overthrow our rule. They meet with him on the common ground of Freemasonry, where caste, religious and political differences, and worldly distinctions are unknown; and as long as they live they will nurture a friendly feeling towards him. Then if this Craft has in it that which scatters to the winds all such grounds of contention, and is so well calculated to improve the hearts and the minds of men, what good must there not be in the P.M.'s? Men cannot always rule, but they have been W.M.'s in their time; they have done their part, and I call upon you to join with me in drinking to "The Health of the P.M.'s." The Senior and Junior P.M.'s were called upon to respond, which they did in fitting terms. "The Retiring Officers" was then given, and responded to by Bros. Alfred Robertshaw and Sharp, the retiring Wardens. "The Officers" was likewise proposed, and shortly responded to in unassuming terms by Bros. C. Gott, S.W., and M. S. Rhodes, Treasurer, who, in thanking the brethren for the compliment, congratulated the W.M. on the high position he had attained. He thought the allusion which he heard Bro. W. W. Barlow, P.M., make the other evening very appropriate when he referred to his having during his year chosen for officers some brethren who had been allowed to remain out of office, instancing the present W.M., Bros. C. Gott, S.W.; M. S. Rhodes, A. Robertshaw, J. Ambler, and others. You, W.M., have also elected officers who have been old Masons, and I know that they will do their duty to the utmost, and in due time endeavour to occupy the position you now hold. I can only say for myself that, occupying an important position, I shall do all I possibly can to discharge the duties efficiently. The W.M. then gave the "Tyler's" toast, which brought to a close a most agreeable evening. We must not omit to mention the services of the brethren who added so much to the gratification of all by their musical performances.

STOKESLEY.—Cleveland Lodge (No. 543).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening last, in the lodge-room at the Golden Lion Hotel, the principal business being to elect a W.M., and to raise a brother to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The officers were all present in their proper places, viz.:—Bros. Benjamin Richardson, W.M.; Anthony Johnson, S.W.; James Coulson, J.W.; Richard Watson, P.M., Treas.; J. H. Handyside, P.M., Sec.; William Scarth Dixon,

S.D.; David Dixon, J.D.; William R. Sharp, I.G.; and William Harrison, Tyler. The lodge being duly opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting being read and confirmed, Bro. W. M. Forbes, M.B., late S.W., was unanimously elected to the chair of K.S. for the ensuing twelve months, and the Monday nearest the full moon in January, being the ordinary lodge night, was fixed upon for the installation and anniversary festival. Bro. Orton was afterwards raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. After the lodge had been closed, and the brethren (of which there was a good attendance) had retired into the ante-room, Bro. George Markham Tweddell said that as he expected it would be the last time they would sit there to spend a social hour after lodge business with their present W.M. in the chair, though he would advise all speech-making to be deferred until their banquet, yet he thought they could not do less than drink the health of Bro. Richardson, with thanks for the very able manner in which he had presided over them, and the excellent example he had set in attending their meetings during his year of office. Bro. Handyside, P.M., the father of the lodge, said they would adopt Bro. Tweddell's recommendation in not having any formal speech-making that evening, and therefore he would not rise in addressing to them the few words he had to say, but he must bear his testimony to the very able manner in which Bro. Richardson had always gone through all the ceremonies of the lodge, to his punctual attendance there every lodge night, though living at a good distance from them, and to the excellent example which he had set for all his successors to follow. The W.M., who was visibly affected by the way in which the health was received, thanked the brethren, and proposed "The Health of the W.M. elect, Bro. Forbes," which was duly drunk, and briefly acknowledged by that brother. During the social hour spent together after the labours of the evening were over, many of the brethren expressed an opinion that the time had arrived when they ought to have a Masonic hall to meet in. Masonic halls have already been built by many of the neighbouring lodges, whilst the mother lodge in Cleveland still continues to meet at a tavern. We hope the day is not far distant when every lodge in England will have a good Masonic hall to meet in, and that the brethren will assemble there frequently to study the liberal arts and sciences.

RUNCORN.—Ellesmere Lodge (No. 758).—The regular monthly meeting of this prosperous lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, December 8th, 1875. The following is a list of the brethren present:—Bros. R. Rigby, W.M.; E. Aston, S.W.; W. Garnett, J.W., pro tem; Charles Gerrard, J.D.; J. Fothergill, P.M.; Captain, P.M.; A. Buck, P.M.; C. C. Jerrison, P.M.; T. Horsfall, Sec.; J. W. Lightburn, Org.; W. Wass, I.G.; G. Purver, Tyler; J. Mellor, T. Gregson, G. Moss, J. Couth, J. L. Jones, J. Coxshill. Visitor: J. K. Diggs, W.M. of St. John's, No. 673. The lodge was opened in due form with solemn prayer, at 6.30. The minutes of the previous lodge were read and confirmed. The first business arising from the notice convening the meeting was the election of W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Edward Aston was proposed, seconded, and unanimously carried as W.M. Bro. William Lyon was also unanimously elected Treasurer for the coming year. A vote of thanks and also a small donation was voted by the lodge to Bro. George Purver for having fulfilled the duties of Tyler to the highest satisfaction of its members, to which Bro. Purver responded in suitable terms. Bro. G. Moss and T. Gregson were appointed to audit the accounts for the past year. A committee was appointed, consisting of Bros. R. Rigby, W.M.; C. C. Jerrison, P.M.; J. Fothergill, P.M.; Captain Clarke, P.M.; and W. Miller, to make the necessary arrangements for the annual installation of W.M. and banquet, which is to take place early in January. Other important business being done, the lodge closed in harmony at 8.15.

ECCLES.—Victoria Lodge (No. 1345).—The last regular meeting of this young and well-worked lodge was held at the Cross Keys Hotel on Wednesday, 15th inst. The members present were Bros. Wright, W.M.; Rudman, S.W.; Ballard, J.W.; Shaw, S.D.; Holt, J.D.; Pearson, I.G.; Brooks, P.M.; Buxton, P.M.; Gillman, P.M.; Barker, P.M.; and others. The lodge having been duly opened and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. Wilson was passed to the Second Degree by Bro. Brooks, P.M. Bro. Rev. J. Harper, J. C. Mather, and W. Pendlebury were raised to the Sublime Degree by Bros. Wright, W.M.; Gillman, P.M.; and Buxton, P.M., in a most solemn and impressive manner. Bro. Buxton, P.M., Treasurer, having announced his intention to attend as Steward at the next festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, the sum of £20 was unanimously voted to be placed on his list. Bro. Mountain proposed a brother as a joining member. Hearty good wishes were expressed from several visiting brethren. All business being ended, the lodge was closed in ancient form. The brethren afterwards partook of refreshment, the W.M. receiving the congratulations of those present on the prosperous state of the lodge, having during his year of office been enabled to pay off all outstanding debts, and given several donations to various charities, including one of 30 guineas to the Boys' School, in addition to the amount voted this evening.

MANCHESTER.—Lodge of Truth (No. 1458).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, the 4th inst., at the Royal Archer Hotel, Manchester. The lodge was duly opened by Bro. Smith, W.M. The first business on the summons was the confirmation of minutes of last regular meeting, which were confirmed unanimously. The ballot was then taken for Mr. Wm. Richardson, which being declared favourable, he was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. The ceremony of installing Bro. Charles Joel Kent, W.M., elect., into the chair of K.S., was performed

by Bro. Caldwell, P.M., and D. of C. After the admission of the brethren and the customary salutes, the Worshipful Master appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. J. Batchelder, S.W.; J. Branton, J.W.; T. Tyers, P.M., Treas.; W. J. Kinder, Sec.; R. Fallows, S.D.; Wm. Cox, J.D.; J. Taylor, I.G.; R. Caldwell, P.M., D. of C.; E. Walton and R. Wheeldon, Stewards; T. Davis, Org.; C. Beswick, Tyler. The following lodges were represented:—Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, and Nos. 581, 879, 999, 1011, 1077, 1083, 1161, 1219, 1359. Bro. Potts served up the banquet in excellent style, and perfect unanimity prevailed amongst the brethren. A gratifying feature was the attendance of the W.M.'s father, Bro. Kent, P.M. of a Metropolitan Lodge.

LEICESTER.—Albert Edward Lodge (No. 1560).—The first regular meeting of this new lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Tuesday, the 14th inst. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the W.M., the Earl Ferrers, P.G.M., the chair was taken by Bro. G. Toller, jun., I.P.M. There were also present R.W. Bro. W. Kelly, P.P.G.M.; Bros. Rev. Canon Burfield, P.M., S.W.; Dr. Hunt, J.W.; C. Stretton, P.M., Treas.; Rev. W. Langley, P.M., Sec.; J. G. F. Richardson, Assist. Sec.; Rev. F. H. Richardson, S.D.; J. F. L. Ruckleston, J.D.; S. S. Partridge, P.M., D. of Cer.; Dr. Buck, I.G. Visitors: Bros. T. Worthington, W.M. 50; J. T. Thorp, W.M. 523; W. Deane, P.M. 1007; Dr. Clifton, I.P.M. 1391; and others. The principal business was the initiation of Mr. A. H. Burgess, solicitor, clerk to the School Board, and Mr. R. S. Toller, solicitor to the Corporation of the Borough, who had been already approved on the ballot. The ceremony was performed by the acting W.M., assisted at various portions of the ceremony by Bros. Kelly, Deane, and Thorpe. The lecture on the Tracing Board was ably given by Bro. S. S. Partridge. Bro. F. A. Wykes, J.W. 523, very efficiently presided at the organ, for which he received the special thanks of the lodge. Several joining members having been proposed, and also a candidate for initiation, the lodge was closed in due form. There appears to be good reason to hope that this, the fourth lodge now working in the town, will be perfectly successful.

Royal Arch.

CHAPTER OF PRUDENT BRETHREN

(No. 145).—The regular convocation of the Chapter of Prudent Brethren was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, 14th inst. The chapter was opened by Comps. N. Walford, C. A. Long, and T. Bull, the three Principals, with the assistance of Comps. States and Pratt. After the opening of the chapter, and the admission of the companions below the chair, the ballots were taken for Bros. N. B. Headon, W. Miller, W. Braine, F. R. Williams, and Masters, which having proved unanimous, ballots were taken for the Principals, and Comps. Long, Bull, and E. Moody were duly elected. These companions were afterwards installed by Comp. Boyd in the Z., H., and J. chairs respectively, and the following officers were invested:—Comp. States, P.Z., Scribe, E.; Comp. Joseph Last, Treas.; Comp. Parkins, S.N.; Comp. Thiellay, P.S.; Comp. Cox, 1st A.S.; Comp. Venn, 2nd A.S.; and Comp. Grant, Janitor; Bros. Headon, Williams, Braine, Masters, and Miller were then introduced, and exalted as R.A.M. Letters of resignation were read by Comp. States from Comps. Horwood and Avrillon, and the resignations were accepted with regret. On the motion of Comp. Warrington, seconded by Comp. Walford, a list of members of the chapter was ordered to be printed and circulated. The companions then closed the chapter, and adjourned to banquet. The following companions were present during the evening:—J. E. Walford, C. A. Long, Thos. Bull, Edwd. Moody, J. Parkins, E. H. Thiellay, John Cox, J. Last, John Boyd, Herbert Dicketts, Wm. Platt, R. Storrington, J. G. Manby, R. Douglas, D. M. Belfrage, J. H. Leggate, John Chinnery, Geo. Biggs, James Ranoc, D. Haslett, Fred. Godfrey, Geo. Purkess, E. W. Braine, W. P. Masters, M. B. Williams, W. H. Miller, Visitors:—J. Barnes Amor, 91; Edwd. White, 1305; C. A. Cottebrune, P.Z. 177; John Read, P.Z. 720, S.E. 1319; J. Bond, P.Z. 657; H. Massey, ("Freemason,") P.Z. 619; H. M. Levy, P.Z. 188; John Seer, J. 186. When the toasts were proposed the M.E.Z.'s speeches were very interesting, and had in them a freshness of expression which rendered them highly agreeable. In giving "The Queen and R.A. Masonry," he said, "When a man lives in a country that is well governed, that is, at peace with the whole world; when he forms part of a community where liberty is respected, and where his property is not touched by other hands; when he is in a society where the arts and sciences are cultivated in quiet, and to some great extent, he is apt to forget the means by which this security has been attained; and I do not think as Englishmen, although we are excessively loyal—and as Masons we are extra loyal—we fully appreciate the steps that have been taken to produce this security. We must be fully aware that among the principal reasons why we are in this secure and comfortable state is that we have been blessed for a great many years with Sovereigns who have reigned over us—with an iron hand, possibly—but that iron hand has been covered with velvet. In the present era we have no reason to think differently. Our present Queen, Her Most Gracious Majesty, has ruled over us in a manner so highly creditable to the line from which she has descended, and she has also made matters so very comfortable to Englishmen in all parts of the globe, that I am sure you can have no hesitation in feeling gratified that she is our Sovereign. Therefore, I would ask you to look upon her as our patroness, as she has given several pledges that she means well towards us. We have our full liberty of meeting, and our full liberty of discussion, which is a great thing. The next toast was "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.E.G.Z." I dare say, said the M.E.Z., in giving it, the

thought has occurred to a great many of us, and not infrequently, what a jolly thing it must be to be born a prince. You have, under these circumstances, everything that you can wish for in this world—possibly health—but certainly riches, and the goodwill and good feeling of all your fellow creatures. But there is a reverse to the medal; and a prince in this country and in this century has no easy time of it. Where we look upon it as civilians as a great pleasure, he must look upon it as a great bore in many instances; and at the present time our M.E.G.Z. is doing very heavy duty indeed in a hot climate. Any one who follows his progress must be fully aware that no Indian servant, no member of the Army, or of the Civil Service ever has or would be liable to work so hard as our Prince and G.Z. is working at the present moment. We all of us feel when he is engaged in anything that the matter is sure to come right; we feel that he is a capable man in every way, and that is why, as Masons, we feel so comfortable to have him at the head of our Order. We feel that whatever he is called upon to do he will do at a proper time, in a proper manner, and in princely style. This toast having been duly honoured, the M.E.Z. said, There are three companions who sometimes one hears coupled in chapters with the former toast; but I think that considering the work that they have to do, they are deserving, as far as they can be, of a separate recognition, that is the Pro Grand Z., the Grand H., and the Grand J. They are hard-working Masons in every sense of the word, and it strikes me that during the time our M.E.G.Z. is in the chair they will have a tolerably hard time to keep pace with the Grand Z. We must always remember that as they together form the Grand Arch; the bigger the Keystone the more pressure he puts on the neighbouring stones; so that as we have a very big Keystone in the Prince of Wales, it will require the others to be strong in proportion to support him. (Hear.) Comp. J. E. Walford, I.P.Z., proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z." He felt himself, he said, quite unequal to the task of doing this properly; but as the duty fell to him as the P.Z. he did it with great pleasure. The companions who had been in chapter were witnesses of the perfect way in which he could perform his work, and it must have afforded them all the greatest satisfaction; but especially was it gratifying to the P.Z.'s to see that their successors were treading in their footsteps, and that they were quite equal to their task whenever it was imposed upon them. He was sure that the M.E.Z. and his immediate supporters would do honour to this famous chapter, and worthily tread in the steps of their predecessors. They were deserving of all the praise that could be given them, and it was a pleasure to see officers coming up so well in rotation for the chair. (Cheers.) The toast was most heartily received, and the M.E.Z. said, in acknowledging it, Companions, I hardly know what to say in returning you my thanks for the very gratifying way in which you have received any little thing I have been able to do for the chapter. I feel quite new in my present position, and I do not like to say too much of what I can do or what I will do. But this much I will say, that I will endeavour to do the best I can for the interests of the chapter, and in any way in which I can serve it by the work that I can do in the chair, or in any other way in or out of the chair, I shall be only too happy to serve it. At present it seems too early a time to speak about it; but at the future time, perhaps this time next year, I may be able to say something of what I have done. Now, it is a carte blanche in front of me, and I really hardly know how to fill it up. But I suppose circumstances will arise during my year of office that will enable me to distinguish myself in some way before the chapter, and I trust I shall benefit the chapter and the companions in doing so. I am not, as I sometimes say, an eloquent man; but if I had all the eloquence of Cicero, or the rhetoric of Demosthenes, or any of those great men of history, I could not say more than that I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the way in which you receive me and treat me. In proposing "The Newly-exalted Companions," the M.E.Z. said that it was well known that in every structure it was necessary to have some good materials; it was the very first thing that a builder looked to in raising a structure. That evening they had had some distinguished brethren, whom they had raised from the Craft to their Sublime Degree. He felt certain from the way in which they had received the small amount of tuition which they could have that evening, that they bade fair to be very honourable members of Royal Arch Masonry; that they would continue to progress in that branch of Masonry the same as they had in the Craft; and that some day the companions would see them passing through that chair, very much to their own credit, and certainly to the benefit of the chapter. "The Visitors" was the next toast, and the M.E.Z. observed that when King Solomon completed his temple at Jerusalem he asked the princes of his own country and the princes of neighbouring states to come and view it. The Chapter of Prudent Brethren had that evening completed their new building, and they had asked the princes and rulers in the Order to come and see what they had done. He trusted that their verdict would be equally favourable with that of the princes of Solomon's time, to the builders of their modern temple. His only regret was that there was no Queen of Sheba present. On behalf of the chapter he might say he was much pleased at the distinguished array of visitors, who, he trusted, would find themselves so comfortable, that whenever they had an opportunity they would come again. (Hear, hear.) Comps. Cottebrunne, Barnes Amor, and John Read responded. The M.E.Z. next gave "The Past Principals." We always value, said he, the opinion of any one who has really earned his knowledge by experience, and therefore it is that, as Principal of this chapter, I very highly value the opinion and advice that I receive from my Past Principals; they have gone through all the work, all the hard work, for some years, and therefore their advice and their

opinion on any subject on which I consult them is to be esteemed most highly. I have found very great service from consulting the Past Principals of this chapter, because it is no easy matter, as many companions will know who pass through the chair of their lodges, to take the command of any institution, and any body of men. There are certain things which it is necessary for a Principal to consult his predecessors upon, and to draw upon their experience to a certain extent. A man would make a very bad hit if he did not look for information to the experience of others. I have found the greatest benefit from consulting my Past Principals, and I have no doubt that during my year of office they will give me the same good advice and kind consideration as they have given me up to the present time. (Applause.) Comp. Walford, in the course of a brief reply, said the Past Principals were always ready and anxious to render what service they could to the Principals of the chapter; and it mattered not what office might be vacant they were always prepared to fill it. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the old adage that "two were company, but three were none," the truth of which he could not see, the M.E.Z. proposed "The Health of the H. and J." He reminded the companions of what they had heard in chapter, and of the unhesitating and smooth way in which his two subordinate Principals delivered their portion of the ritual. Trusting to see them in due course in his own exalted position, he called on the companions to honour the toast. This having been done, Comps. Bull and Moody replied. "The rest of the Officers" was the succeeding toast. The M.E.Z. said—The architect may strike his arch, and the mason may put most accurately the stone in answer to the drawings supplied him by the architect; and the arch may be thoroughly well formed; but it would cut but a very poor figure indeed in architecture if it had not exactness and solidity in the foundation on which it was set. We have erected an arch this evening, and, as I said before, we trust to complete it. I look forward to the support of my officers as a sure substratum for building upon, and for making our undertaking a great success. I am sure that the companions who form the other parts of the structure are fully equal to the office they have undertaken. Comp. E. H. Thielay, P.S., replied, promising a faithful performance of his duties, and feeling confident that his Assistants would do the same. The Janitor's toast was then given, and the companions separated, after having spent an instructive and delightful evening.

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.]

ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The letters by "1446" and "Ad Rem" deserve the particular attention of all interested in the real and permanent prosperity of the Grand Lodge of England. "The number of publicans who belong to our Order," mentioned by "Bro. 1446," is certainly very great, and leads many not members to consider Freemasonry to be an eating and drinking institution. The pernicious system of the "feeding" lodges, receiving never more than 24s. annually in subscriptions from their members, and yet, at every monthly meeting, having "a glass of grog," &c., and also the annual banquet, defrayed out of the funds of the lodge, cannot be too severely condemned. Indeed, there is actual need of Grand Lodge legislation on the subject, the extent to which some lodges spend their funds being lamentably un-Masonic, and a disgrace to their profession. It is much to be desired that the Grand Lodge authorities were as explicit and as authoritative as to keeping the moneys for subscriptions and banquets distinct from those paid into the lodge for the General Fund and for the Grand Lodge. We have proved to members "over and over again" that by attending the lodge regularly, and "sitting down afterwards," also by being present at the quarterly suppers and annual banquets, they receive in "feels" more than their stipulated subscriptions, and hence the lodge has to pay out of the funds every year their annual fees to the Provincial and Grand Lodges, and their fair quota of the ordinary expenses. We do not, of course, allude now to those lodges who have inclusive and exclusive terms of subscription to the funds and banquets, neither do we speak of those who charge sufficient to defray the ordinary and banqueting expenses combined, but simply of those lodges, as before stated, who permit their members to feed monthly at the expense of the funds, to the detriment of the Order, and to the injury of themselves, the subscriptions not being sufficient to defray the bills for the "suppers and banquets." Hence, such lodges are either deeply in debt or by securing initiation fees use that money to meet the gormandizing propensities of its members. Lodges being held in hotels doubtless induce increased expenditure in this direction, but the chief evil lies in the system of allowing such wholesale waste and extravagance, and in not being sufficiently careful in the choice of members.

With respect to Bro. "Ad Rem's" remarks—excepting those as to the "low level" of Scottish Freemasonry, wholly out of place—I quite concur with him in regretting the present facilities for men blackballed in one town being accepted and installed in another, to the great injury of our society. Worthless fellows, quite the scum in a neighbourhood, have thus been received into our ranks, by being proposed and accepted by lodges held in towns in which they are strangers, excepting probably to the proposer, and thus this system of initiation out of towns in which the candidates reside is fraught with danger, and requires imme-

diately legislation by individual, Provincial Grand, and Grand Lodges.

This evil has been provided for by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the extract from its constitutions being inserted below, and in this country the Provincial Grand Lodges are gradually doing what ought to be done by the Grand Lodge. In the Provinces of West Yorkshire, East Lancashire, Cornwall, Leicestershire, and Rutland, and probably others, the following law is in operation, with slight variations, and we can speak from actual observation that the regulation works exceedingly well, excepting that while it answers thoroughly for the provinces in question, candidates blackballed under their jurisdiction can be again proposed in neighbouring provinces, and initiated. (Sometimes good men have been blackballed, and in such cases the necessary enquiry would simply reveal them to be of good report, but generally the seeking of membership away from one's own town or province is a suspicious occurrence, and should be distrusted.)

I hope that other provinces will take the matter up, and, when ripe, that the Grand Lodge will deal with the subject, as it has done in so many other instances for the welfare of the Craft.

Believe me, yours fraternally,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

Truro, 11th December, 1875.

Constitutions, Grand Lodge of Ireland, 1875, p. 38:—"A lodge shall not ballot for, or initiate into Freemasonry, any person who is not a resident in the town, village, or neighbourhood in which the lodge into which he seeks to be admitted holds its meetings, until due enquiry shall have been made of such lodge or lodges as may exist in the neighbourhood of his residence respecting the character of the applicant for admission, and a satisfactory reply shall have been received and read in open lodge, under a penalty of having its warrant suspended or cancelled, or of payment of a fine not exceeding five pounds, as the Grand Lodge may determine."

Bye-laws Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, 1872, pp. 25-6:—"In case any person resident in a town or place where a lodge is established shall become a candidate for admission into any lodge established elsewhere within this province, it shall be incumbent on the Master of the lodge wherein he so seeks admission, to make enquiry in writing of the Master of some lodge established in the town or place wherein the candidate resides, touching the character and moral fitness of such candidate. And it shall be incumbent on the brother from whom such enquiry shall be made, if within this province, to make prompt reply thereto in writing, and to set forth any ground of objection within his knowledge to the admission of such candidate into Masonry, but if not within this province, then the Master of such lodge shall be respectfully requested to furnish the foregoing particulars as far as his knowledge or information may extend, and the purport of the reply shall be made known to the brethren of the lodge into which the candidate seeks admission, before the ballot for such candidate takes place. A copy of this bye-law shall accompany the enquiry."

MASONIC FORBEARANCE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Your article on "Masonic Forbearance" last week can only command approbation from every brother who has read it. I was, however, pained to find a flagrant exception, to what we plume ourselves upon possessing, very shortly after reading the article I mention.

Last Saturday week, returning from our lodge at Wood Green, Lewis, No. 1185, five of the brethren got into a compartment by themselves. We all had left the train except one brother, who, just before arriving at Aldersgate-street, saw a small parcel on the seat, and having no doubt it belonged to one of our lodge, opened it, and found it to be a Masonic apron, belonging, however, to a member of another lodge. As you, Sir, and, no doubt, any Mason, would have done, he took the apron home, wrote to the Secretary of the lodge, saying what he had found, and if the brother to whom it belonged would call at his business address, in Cheapside, he should be pleased to hand it to him.

The brother called for his apron in due course, and, instead of thanking the finder, actually bullied him for not leaving the parcel where he saw it, saying that he had had the trouble of going to the lost property office about it. I say bullied, and with reason, for when he had gone some friends who were standing by, and had heard his gross incivility, said to our brother, "Is that fellow a brother?"

Our brother was also called upon by an authority at King's Cross to give an explanation of his conduct in taking a parcel away out of their carriage.

I know, Sir, your principles are thoroughly antagonistic to such conduct, especially in one who has been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

Dec. 16.

"YOUNG LEWIS."

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HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—ENFEBLED EXISTENCE. This medicine embraces every attribute required in a general and domestic remedy; it overturns the foundations of disease laid by defective food and impure air. In obstructions or congestions of the liver, lungs, bowels, or any other organs, these Pills are especially serviceable and eminently successful. They should be kept in readiness in every family, being a medicine of incomparable utility for young persons and those of feeble constitutions. They never cause pain or irritate the most sensitive nerves or most tender bowels. Holloway's Pills are the best known purifiers of the blood, the most active promoters of absorption and secretion, whereby all poisonous and obnoxious particles are removed from both solids and fluids.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Merry boys and laughing fairies
Throng around yon Christmas tree;
All our Ediths, Ethels, Maries,
Toms and Bobbies now we see;
Sophy, Maud, and Jane, and Milly,
Dick, and Kit, and George are there,
Laughing Amy, pleasant Polly,
Gentle faces bright and fair.

Hear the shouts of cheery voices
Echoing from the "sacred room,"
How the heart of youth rejoices,
Banished every care and gloom;
Carols sweet the children singing,
Remind us of a roundelay
Rais'd by voices dear and ringing,
In the mists of "far away."

Once again the room is thronging
With sweet faces known so well,
Many an old and lov'd belonging
Seems that busy crowd to swell;
We listen to their airy patter,
We see their forms all full of grace;
Mid the merry cries and clatter,
We watch again each cherished face.

Little children, laughing lasses,
And the front of boisterous youth;
All are there—how fast time passes,
Vanish'd all of grace and truth!
Kindly shadows still abiding,
Seem to flock around yon tree:
All so gentle and confiding,
Full of love and chivalry!

Vain delusion! I am dreaming:
Tis but fancy's fond mirage;
Alas! Alas! tis only seeming
All that gathering gay and large.
Other voices shout in gladness,
Other pleasant forms are here;
And amidst the heart's deep sadness
Those dear phantoms disappear.

Merry maidens come beguiling,
Asking, with resistless mien,
"Why are you not gay and smiling?
Paying homage to our Queen?"
"Fair girls, this poor old heart has travell'd
To other gatherings, other days,
And the twisted skeins unravell'd
Of life's dark and weary maze."

Still may all of joy attend you
Joyous maidens in your games,
Still may all of good befriend you
Lasses with your classic names!
Still, fond youth, may you remenber,
As the whispered tale you tell,
January has its December,
All too soon for loving well!

May this Christmas gather glad'y,
Cheery boys and maidens glee,
As the fun arises madly
Round that fairy Christmas tree.

May litesome forms and glowing tresses,
Of flashing eyes the gladsome gleams,
Lighten with some soft caresses
All your pleasant Christmas dreams!

COLEBES.

Reviews.

SCOTTISH PROVERBS. A New Edition, by James Donald.—Tegg, and Co., London, 1875. This little work is a reprint, by James Donald, of Andrew Henderson's collection of proverbs. It is a very interesting little work, and we especially call the attention of our readers to it. Proverbs have been the staple vernacular literature of all nations to say, and yet nothing is so difficult as, after all, to define a proverb. Some have called them the "oracular wisdom of centuries." Good Johnson defined a proverb to be "a short sentence frequently repeated by the people," and as is, as he usually is, we venture to think, very near the mark. Some have said that his definition does not cover all proverbs, but as a general rule it does, as after all there is no true proverb which is not popular in its use and tradition. Motherwell in his preface, in 1832, to that edition of Henderson, tells us that Howell says the true ingredients of a proverb are "sense, shortness,

and salt," and Motherwell puts it well when he quotes Benjamin D'Israeli as laying down "the essential feature" of proverbs, that they are the "condensation of much thought and observation within a small compass." It seems, that the first published book of Scottish Proverbs was in 1598, when a collection was issued by Mr. David Ferguson, Presbyterian minister. James Kelly published a large work, and very valuable one on the subject, in 1721, at London, and Allan Ramsay published two thousand two hundred proverbs in 1737 and in successive editions. This new edition of Donald's is based on Henderson's, and is a welcome addition to our paræmiographical literature, if we may use so hard a word. Those of us who have read the Archbishop of Dublin's charming little work on "Proverbs" will remember and realize how much pleasure and improvement result from the study of what Benjamin D'Israeli called "those abridgements of knowledge," conveying "great results with a parsimony of words, prodigal of sense." How true and yet how witty are some of the Scottish proverbs. There's nane sae busy as them that hae least to do. Twa heads are better than ane, though they were only sheeps' heads. Wanton kittens make douce cats. Forsake not God till you find a better master. A faithful friend is the medicine of life. Canny chiefs carry cloaks when it's fair; the fool, when it's foul has nane to wear. Fortune can take naething but what she gave. Ane wud and aye waur. A gossip speaks ill of a' and a' of her. A gude wife and health is a man's best wealth. East or West, hame is best. Its curly and crooked, as the De'il said of his horns. Ladies and Turkeys need delicate upbringing. Waes the wife that wants the tongue, but weel's the man that gets her. Virtue never grows auld. And so we might go on, practically ad infinitum, but we stop here, in mercy to our readers, commending these pleasant proverbs to all who like honest wit and true good sense, accompanied with that cheerful spirit which characterizes so remarkably many of the proverbs of North Britain. For, as the saying truly runs, "As long lives the merry man as the sad."

THE GARDEN. A weekly illustrated journal of gardening, No. 212, Vol. VIII.—William Robinson, 17, Southampton-street, Strand.

We have received, and looked over, this gardening serial with sincere pleasure and gratification. It is most admirably got up, and the coloured drawings are both striking and unique. To all who are interested in the most healthy and gracious of all pursuits, "horticulture," this periodical must be an invaluable "vade mecum," and a more desirable present at this Christmas season we do not know than the seven volumes of this meritorious and valuable publication. We commend it to the notice of all our flower-loving readers.

HAND AND HEART. Thomas B. Burrows, 75, Shoe-lane, Fleet-street, conducted by the Editor of "Home Words."

This is a new candidate for popular approval, to appear January 7th, 1876. To us Freemasons it is particularly welcome, as containing a portrait of our little Royal Lewis, Prince Albert Victor, with his autograph in 1875. The journal is intended, it is said, for the "industrious class," and is neatly printed, well arranged, and admirably illustrated. A journal which the working classes will really read is a great desideratum. A good many well-intentioned people seem to think the average working man a sort of demi-savage, and heathen, and that it is proper and necessary to speak and preach to him as such. Indeed, these addresses are generally "ad hominem" sermons, and we fear, as a rule, John Dobbs, skilled mechanic, is not an ardent admirer of sermons, per se. What he rather wants, we fancy, is a good and instructive paper, full of technical information and illustrative anecdotes, together with good Anglo-Saxon prose, and readable poetry, with a considerable amount of natural history, and of mechanical science. Such topics will always find, we are inclined to believe, many grateful readers among our skilled working men, for our estimate of working men generally is higher than most of our contem-

poraries. We shall be glad if "Heart and Hand" succeeds in its object, as no doubt nothing can be worse than that "cheap and nasty literature," now so prevalent, that garbage of journalism which is distributed wholesale and broadcast, alike in London and the country districts. We wish the editor and publisher all success.

PENNY ALMANACK AND DIARY.—Moses & Son.

Last year we spoke approvingly of this little book—we do the same this year. It is very convenient and portable, and as our copy was given to a young lady, who immediately put it into the pocket of her jacket,—Yes, jacket—we feel that we have said enough for it to-day. We quote her remark—"It's a very cosy little book," and so we wish it all success. W. F. A.

CONSECRATION OF THE "STUART" CHAPTER, BEDFORD (540).

Tuesday, the 14th of December, will long be a day to be remembered amongst Masons, not only of Bedford in particular, but also of Bedfordshire in general, for on it was founded the first chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the county.

Eight and twenty years ago the late Bro. Stuart founded, and for many a long day after he and his brother fostered, the lodge which bears their name, one of them, indeed, exchanging at the close of one well-remembered lodge-night, the labour of his earthly lodge for the well-earned refreshment and rest of the Eternal lodge above.

The lodge then truly lost its early patrons, but there was still one of the old names left to exercise the same care over its fortunes, and it never, even for a moment, lost its prestige or popularity.

For many years Colonel Stuart, the present S.W. of the lodge, has felt the desirability of leading Bedfordshire Masons to the climax of Masonry, and on Tuesday week this desirable consummation was effected.

On that day were assembled at the lodge-room of 540 a goodly number of Royal Arch companions, including Colonel William Stuart, High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, J.P., P.G.H.; P.S.G.W., &c.; R. Wentworth Little, P.S.G.W. Midx., P.G.H. Midx., M.E.P.Z.'s of 19; Byett, Grabham, Lynes, M.E.Z. 834; Read, and Barfield; Comps. Rev. W. Tebbs, 285; Rev. R. Faussett Ward, 712; Brook, 304; Capt. Polhill-Turner, Bull, Cookson, Captain Colburn, Trapp, Cuthbert, Captain Green, Leslie, Whyley, &c.

After some time spent in inspecting the admirable appointments of the chapter, supplied by Comp. Kenning, a chapter was opened with the following acting officers:—M.E.Z., R. W. Little; H., Barfield; and J., Lynes.

On the admission of the brethren, Comp. R. W. Little, assisted by Comps. Rev. W. Tebbs, Chaplain; Read, as P.S.; and Barfield and Lynes, as the other two P.Z.'s, duly consecrated, dedicated, and constituted the Stuart Chapter, 540, Bedford, of Royal Arch Masons of England.

To say that the ceremony was that usually adopted by Comp. Little is simply to say that it was performed in a most impressive manner, giving the companions of the newly constituted chapter a most thorough insight into the solemnities of this holy and Royal rite.

Comp. Little next instituted the three First Principals:—Comps. Col. Stuart, M.E.Z.; Bull, H.; Cookson, J.

After which the Most Excellent invested as officers Comps. Rev. Wm. Tebbs, Chaplain; J. Trapp, Treas.; Captain Colburn, E.; Captain Polhill-Turner, N.; Cuthbert, P.S.; the last named then investing as his assistants Comps. Captains Green and Fisher.

The chapter, as its first duty, asked the acceptance by Comp. Little of honorary membership of the chapter he had thus constituted, together with its thanks for his kind offices.

This vote was warmly acknowledged by the recipient of the honour.

As its next business the chapter unanimously elected Bro. George Reynolds, the old and much respected Tyler of Stuart Lodge, as its future Janitor.

Many joining members and candidates for exaltation were then proposed, after which, in answer to the M.E.Z.'s demand for "propositions of benefit," "heartly good wishes" were announced from Royal Arch Chapters 19, 285, 304, 712, 834, 840, and 948. After which the chapter was closed in due form.

The companions subsequently sat down to an excellent banquet provided by Bro. Wicks; when an exceedingly pleasant evening was spent. After the usual official toasts, "The Health of the M.E.Z." was proposed by Comp. Trapp (Treasurer), and most feelingly acknowledged.

The M.E.Z. then proposed the healths of "Comp. R. W. Little," "The Visitors," "Principals H. and J.," "P.S. Cuthbert and other Officers," and of "Chaplain, Rev. W. Tebbs." After which the proceedings of this auspicious day were brought to a close.

We cannot conclude without remarking the musical arrangements of Comp. Cookson; the way in which Comp. Gilbert (of Richmond) fulfilled the duties of Janitor; the unflagging energy and zeal of Comps. Bull and Cuthbert; and the substantial support of the M.E.Z., who, as his predecessors had done in days gone by for the lodge, thus gave the benefit of his Masonic knowledge, as well as the honour of his name, to the Stuart Chapter.

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

NOTICE TO THE TRADE.

THE
CHRISTMAS NUMBER

OF

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consists of 32 PAGES, EXCLUSIVE OF WRAPPER, and contains a PORTRAIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES. THE CHARGE FOR THIS NUMBER IS 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.

SENIOR DEACON.—We should say, Slowly and quietly. S. B. O.—Received. Many thanks, but it has already appeared.

"Carnival of Chaos" declined with thanks.

The following stand over:—Metropolitan Lodge, 1507; Adams Lodge, 158, Sheerness; Prince Edwin Lodge, 128, Bury; Brownrigg Lodge, 1414, Chatham; Rock Lodge, 1289, Rock Ferry; Albert Victor Mark Lodge, 70, Ipswich; Lodge of Honour, 379, Bath; One and All Lodge, 330, Bodmin; Glasgow, 27, 102, 219, 253, 360, 413, 441, 465; Helensturg, 503; Maryhill, 510; Partick, 117; Royal Cumberland Chapter, 41; Provincial Grand Lodge of Argyll and the Isles.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DEC. 25, 1875.

CHRISTMAS.

If Christmas comes, as it is said, but once a year, yet it draws near ever a welcome guest, whether in the palace or in the cottage. Indeed, it is a very large class of mortal beings for whom Christmas is an anniversary of pleasantness and good will. The schoolboy poring over a stiff passage in Thucydides, the school girl weary with her French exercise, that huge crowd of rosy cheeks and merry voices and smiling faces, which still fills Dr. Birch's Academy, or Miss Brown's, Laurel Grove, to say nothing of a variegated collection of home blossoms,—all are eagerly anticipating the Christmas tree, the Christmas present, and the Christmas gathering. But there are bigger children for whom, also, Christmas has an ever-abiding and pleasant summons. Many of us toil from year's end to year's end at the desk, in the counting-house, in the office, in the chambers; and our holidays are short, and sometimes far between. Some are seeking by an honest business to be the breadwinners for a large family, others are laboriously toiling for literary reputation; the banker, the merchant, the lawyer, the medical man, the author, the soldier, the sailor, the skilled mechanic, and the industrious artizan, all are filling their various parts in life, and all work hard with their hands and with their brains to advance their individual interests, and to increase the national prosperity. From how many families up and down our good land have gone forth those "stems" and "off-shoots" who, in many situations, and in various ways, make up the staple of the great laborious classes; and how many are the severances and intervening distances which divide loving hearts from one another, nearly all through the year, and diminish that once joyous family circle by those missing links which are united all so closely together, and which, though absent, are not forgotten. For all these divisions of society and of industrial occupation Christmas is a very engaging season of re-union and in-gathering. No doubt the recurrence of Christmas year by year cannot be for any of us of unmixed joy and undimmed happiness. Amid the shouts of the young and the staid congratulations of the old there will float over our memories a strain of other days, a carol of "auld lang syne," which we shall never hear sung again here, at any rate, not by the same pleasant voices. Each Christmas, as it meets us on our onward pilgrimage, with all its gracious associations, reminds us inevitably of gaps in our family circles, of honest hearts, and dear eyes, and

sunny faces, and warm hands, no longer to the fore, of some whom are missing, of many who are wanting, when we keep our Christmas holiday. It seems but yesterday that we were all together, young frank, loving, sincere! Alas! where are we all now? How few of that goodly band are still lingering on earth? and how impossible it is to collect those "disjecta membra" once again here? No, the friends—the tender, the open-handed, the genial, the trusting, all are gone; their place on earth knows them no more; they have left us in youth, or in prime, in ripened powers, or in fading old age, in fell disease, or amid the shouts of victory; and for us never again, all together, can the yule log be lighted, or the mistletoe hung up, or the Lord of Misrule issue his decrees of ancient wisdom, and of modern fun! Christmas, therefore, has a deep and solemn interest for us all alike. It summons the young from their studies, and mature life from its burdens, and dull old age from its griefs and weakness, to join once again in festive array. The family once more assembles in that well-known room. The kind master and the smiling mistress are there, as genial and as hospitable as ever; tall men and comely women reassemble, like as of yore, around the family dinner table; the bright muster of pleasant maidens and the bold fervour of ardent youth are all there, to add lightness and brilliancy to the scene; while above all is heard Master Bobby's shout, and Miss Edith's exclamations! Pleasant scenes for the sage and the sympathising. Happy holiday for the learned and laborious, the careworn and the complaining, the troubled and the tried, the man of letters and the man of money, for rich and poor, for high and low, for learned and unlearned. Some writers have complained that the world has too much appropriated Christmas to itself, and has thrown its colouring over the scene, and has mingled its tares with the fairer wheat. Now we do not hold with such "pessimists." We cannot see why you are to take such a morbid view of life and man, and things and facts. Let us rather, as it seems to us, accustom ourselves to accept things as they really are, to rate them at their proper worth, to estimate them at their true intent, and then we shall not fall either into the folly of undervaluing, or into the extravagance of over estimating, into the lugubriousness of the "Slough of Despond," or into the frivolity and evil of a merely sensual commemoration! Christmastide, depend upon it, is a great and a good institution for us all, and one which the world, ever wise in its generation, has eagerly appropriated no doubt, and cheerfully observes, simply on those humanitarian grounds, which appeal so profoundly to the hearts and memories, and thoughts and affections, of us all. There is, as we all well know, a very religious side to Christmas, but it is one which for obvious reasons we cannot dilate upon in the "Freemason." All that we can fairly do is to greet it as it meets us with a dying year, as it invites us to present happiness around "our own fire-sides," as it reminds us of a buried past still very dear to our recollection, as it suggests kindly consideration for the wants and woes of others! When, then, Christmas-day once again assembles under many a "roof tree" the long scattered members of a confiding family circle, when it gives lustre to the eye, and tinges with roseate animation the cheeks of the young, the fair, the graceful, when it even bows down stalwart manhood beneath the tender sway of silvery voices and "wreathed smiles," when it reanimates old age with some bright memories and faded dreams, let us all bear in mind that Christmas time, and Christmas gatherings, all warn us that some are not so blessed as we are. Let not our Christmas leave us without some few kind thoughts and gentle deeds for the poor, the friendless, the fallen, the outcast; and then our sweets will prove sweeter, and our own enjoyment will be augmented by the pleasant consciousness that we have not been selfish in our own happiness, but, full of good things and glad hours ourselves, have sought to make others happy too, have lightened, if only for a few passing moments, the burdens of affliction, and sought to wipe away the tear-drops of humanity! To all the readers of the "Freemason," to all our brethren, their wives, sisters, and sweethearts, to the little world of Lewises and laughing fairies, and countless Masonic blossoms, whom Christmas

fills with glad and innocent gaiety, we wish most sincerely from the very bottom of our heart a very merry and happy Christmas, indeed!

SUMMARY OF MASONIC EVENTS
FOR 1875.

The New Year of 1875 began well for Freemasonry, and especially for our good brethren in Ireland, for it witnessed the installation of our most distinguished Brother the Lord Lieutenant, His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, as Grand Master of our genial Order, in the "Green Island." As Paddy would say, "Good luck attend the Freemasons, notwithstanding Cardinal Paul," and "here's to the Hilt of the Lard Liftenant, and more power to his arm." The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held its anniversary in January, when the large sum of £6630 was collected, and the labours of its energetic Secretary, Bro. James Terry, were fully rewarded. During this month the Craft had to deplore the untimely death of the Countess of Carnarvon, the gentle and amiable wife of our Deputy G. Master. In April, our Royal Grand Master laid the foundation of the New Merchant Taylor's School, amid a large assemblage, and with great applause. May witnessed a never-to-be-forgotten scene by this generation of English Masons, the installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of the English brotherhood, at the Albert Hall. Those of us who were present on that "alba dies" will never lose the vivid reality of the gathering or the scene, and we shall rejoice to think amid the onward march of years, that we were permitted to behold so great a high day of Freemasonry, to rally round our Royal Grand Master, and to hail the unparalleled demonstration of our English Order. The arrangements were perfect, and reflect the greatest credit on Bros. Sir A. Woods and Thomas Fenn. The Swedish deputation which had been sent to congratulate our Grand Master, who was, be it remembered, initiated into the Order in Sweden, visited the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and expressed warmly the great pleasure the visit had caused them. Our Royal Grand Master was also in May installed as First Principal of the Grand Chapter. During this "merry month" the anniversary of the Girls' School took place, when £7000 were collected. June witnessed, across the dividing waters of the Atlantic, a great Masonic ceremony in New York, namely the Masonic dedication of the new hall. It was a most imposing demonstration, telling well for those who arranged the proceedings, and we in England have the deepest interest in and sympathy for our American brethren of the "mystic tie." July brought the Boys' School anniversary, when the unprecedentedly large amount of £12,700 was announced at the Alexandra Palace by Bro. Binckes. Bro. Binckes may fairly claim great credit for his "coup," and we trust that after some little clouds over the internal regime of the school have completely passed away, all will go on well with that great institution. Some perverse and personal attacks have been made on Bro. Binckes and the House Committee, but like all similar manifestations, in Masonry or out of Masonry, they generally both fail in their purpose, and react on those who initiate them. During this month the Surrey Masonic Hall was dedicated with much eclat, under the presidency of our distinguished and amiable Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, the D.G. Master. In August we have to note the presentation by that kindly Lady Baroness Burdett Coutts of a most beautiful Bible to the Burdett Coutts Lodge. The proceedings, under the direction of Bro. J. Terry, were most animated and interesting. The foundation stone of a Masonic Hall at Grimsby also was laid in this month. In the month of September a presentation was made to our well-known and worthy Bro. J. C. Parkinson, which afforded great pleasure to his many friends. Bro. Lord Mayo's statue was unveiled at Cocker-mouth, and then across the Atlantic we heard of the foundation stone of a new Masonic Hall at Halifax, Nova Scotia, having been laid. We may note here that during the last year the Lord Mayor of London, our worthy Bro. D. Stone, has been made Junior Grand Warden. In October the presentation of an address to our Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, before his

departure to India, took place, which was warmly expressed and graciously received. November saw the departure of our Royal Grand Master for India, where his journey has been, so far, one great success, and where he has won golden opinions from all. He assisted at a Masonic ceremony at Bombay. December brought special meetings of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, the former to enquire into certain alleged errors in the accounts, the latter to consider a scheme for increasing its accommodation. In the former case the Special Committee has reported that no grounds exist for such perverse charges; in the latter the committee has yet finally to report. Bro. Erasmus Wilson, M.D., well known for his zeal and benevolence, was entertained at a complimentary dinner; and Bro. the Earl of Zetland, nephew and heir of our old chief and Prov.G.M. for North and East Yorkshire, was exalted in the Zetland Chapter, York. During the last twelve months very many lodges, alike in town and the provinces, have been added to the English muster roll, which will apparently soon reach 1600. We note especially the "Chaucer," and the new lodge at the Surrey Masonic Hall, "The Carnarvon," and many others, too many in fact to name here, where the consecration ceremonies have been marked by heartiness of tone, and effectiveness of ritual. In many of these our worthy and admirable Grand Secretary took, most effectively, the leading part. English Masonic provincial life and work have proceeded during 1875 with increasing energy, and our great provinces are teeming with active and young and zealous members. A large numerical addition has been made to our Order, but we hope that our lodges will never forget the good old motto "Festina lente." It appears to us, that just now we want, so to say, "tightening up," as regards the admission of members. Abroad Masonry has gone on, and still is going on, favourably and prosperously on the whole. The Masonic Congress at Lausanne seems to have been a great success, and alike in Italy and France, Freemasonry seems to be regaining its normal position. The one great defect of much of individual and lodge Freemasonry abroad, is a tendency to deal with very questionable subjects, and much needed reform must be introduced in many jurisdictions if Freemasonry is ever to rise to the proper level of its true mission. Freemasonry has nothing properly to do with politics, affairs of state, or religious controversies, nor even social questions, and the sooner some of our foreign brethren realize this undoubted truth, the better for Freemasonry and for themselves. The Roman Catholic Church has continued impetuously through 1875 its hopeless and ill-advised crusade against Freemasonry, and there appears at present no lull in the fury of the storm, no abatement in the violence of our traducers. That religious body has certainly evinced great "cursing powers," and despite the deprecatory remarks of that amiable Roman Catholic, Sir George Bowyer, as regards our Order the Church of Rome has been, and still is, a "cursing church." It is all excessively silly and meaningless. If the Roman Catholic authorities have to complain of the words or acts of lodges or brethren abroad, their best plan is not to notice them, but for the most part their grievances are really imaginary, and their facts utter fictions. The worst feature of the case to our mind is, their deliberate "suppressio veri" and "suggestio falsi" in lumping all Freemasons together as revolutionists, conspirators, infidels, &c., whereas they know that in Great Britain, and America, and Canada, to say nothing of Germany and Holland, at any rate, Freemasonry is a non-political body. There may be some foolish and violent brethren, there as everywhere, but the great mass is loyal to Masonic principles. Indeed, as far as we are aware, no grand orient or governing body anywhere can be charged with interference in political matters. If the Church of Rome likes to continue "cursing and swearing," persecuting and even desecrating the graves of Freemasons, she will eventually disgust and alienate her more enlightened children, and she will assuredly receive, as she will merit, the censure of indignant humanity. We have had to deplore the loss of many worthy brethren alike in th

metropolis and in the provinces, like Bros. Savage, Llewellyn Evans, Freeman and Franklin, "cum multis aliis," all good men and true, and "worthy Freemasons," whose Masonic place on earth knows them no more. Peace be to them. We give a detailed list elsewhere. Freemasonry in England leaves the old year and awaits a new, alike prosperous and peaceful, contented and united. It is moving on. Loyalty and charity are emblazoned on its "Banner of Blue," together with toleration and freedom, benevolence and goodwill, the right of conscience, and the sanctity of honest conviction. We have no doubt as to the result of the struggle. 1876 we trust will witness a still greater manifestation of Masonic principles and charitable efforts, and our good old Craft leaves an old year behind it, if somewhat sadly with the memories of parted comrades, yet with bright anticipations of its work and witness in the new year which lies before it.

OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO INDIA.

The following interesting account from Madras appears in the "Times" of the 20th:—If all goes on well, the Serapis, in company with the Osborne and the Raleigh, will leave Madras Roads before 5 o'clock on the 19th. Great preparations are being made. Although not in bed till past 2, after a hard day's work, the Prince went out hunting soon after dawn this morning, and was rewarded by a nine-mile run and kill. The Princess of Tanjore visited the Prince at Government House, and was presented to the ladies of the Duke's family. The Prince was introduced at a corner screened off. The Prince put out his hand, and the Princess grasped it. Mr. Henderson interpreted, the Princess of Tanjore speaking little English. She styled the Prince her Royal brother, and spoke of the Queen as her Royal sister. Next the Prince drove to a children's fête at the People's Park, where immense crowds had assembled. It was a pretty sight. Thousands of children sang and played games. The Prince was loudly cheered on leaving to attend the review. A vast multitude was present. Two batteries (A and C) of the 20th Brigade, and a detachment of the 16th Lancers, formed the body guard. The 89th (Europeans), the Madras Volunteers, the 10th, 13th, 14th, and 37th Madras Infantry (Natives), marched past. They looked well. The Prince dined with the Commander-in-Chief. All day the people are in the streets, and remain waiting for hours to see the Prince. The preparations for the illuminations are very extensive. The people are not so demonstrative as at Bombay, nor do they clap hands as in the South, but they are not less enthusiastic. The Prince will never see in India or elsewhere any spectacle so strange and awful as what was called the "illumination of the surf." Neither pen nor pencil can give any idea of it. It was weirdly beautiful, exciting, grand. As if to render homage to the occasion, the wind had risen and the surf was high. The sight was fine on the pier, through the base of which ran curling breakers. Seats were placed for the Prince, the Governor, his family, and suite out of the reach of the spray. The buildings along the beach, transparencies, and triumphal arches, all brilliantly illuminated, formed a background, above which rose steeples, columns, and lamps. Southwards, where the rollers swept up to the roadway, there were rows of natives with blazing torches and blue lights. There was occasionally a wash of larger billows behind the multitude, and facing seawards an ocean of white turbans. The Serapis, Osborne, and Raleigh were illuminated outside. Between the outer darkness and the beach the moonlight now and then revealed dark objects rising and falling on the billows. The Prince having arrived from dinner with the Commander-in-Chief, after a grand discharge from the ship Raleigh, there was one flight of 190 coloured rockets. The Osborne and Serapis vied with each other in the display. It seemed as if volcanoes were emitting volumes of coloured flames. Presently appeared fires, here and there seawards, amid waves drifting landwards, like fire ships from afar. These multiplied, dipping,

rising, now and then, through the waves, while occasionally came a light from the other side. It had an immense effect. Suddenly from the beach dashed the black forms of Masouwah boats and catamarans, which, amid the wildest yells, charged into the serried ranks of the foam-crested breakers, and dark objects seaward were revealed, as the boats tossed violently on the outer ridge of the breakers. There never was such an awful regatta. Amid a sea now black as ink, now like fire glistening jet, in a creaming surf the catamaran men were swept off and regained their craft, or disappeared beneath the billows. There was an awful suspense till they were landed safe on the beach. The Masouwah boats, swept from stem to stern by the breakers, forced their way into the smoother sea, to return still more animated. Their skill is beyond praise. These hardy fellows, watching an opportunity, keep the top of the wave by tremendous efforts, and are borne past with wonderful velocity, yet emerge safely from each succeeding breaker. This extraordinary spectacle was renewed repeatedly. One might fancy it a combat of water gods. The people amid the blue lights, the rockets, and the boiling surf remained almost quiet. It was midnight before the Prince drove off to the native festival. The crowd broke in, followed, and surrounded the Prince's open carriage. The railway station was converted into a reception hall. The sides, pillars, and roofs were decorated with wonderful richness. It was filled with many thousands of Europeans, Asiatics, Hindoos, and Mussulmans, who had waited two hours. The Prince was seated in a silver chair on a raised dais.

MASONIC LIBRARIES.

It is very remarkable how very little we Freemasons, for the most part, know of our own Masonic literature. Indeed, one of the objections to Masonic libraries used to be of old, that we had not books enough to fill them, and that with the exception of the stereotyped editions of Oliver's Works, Preston's History, Ash, Calcott, Smith and Hutchinson, Laurie, and the various editions of Anderson's Constitutions, we had not many books worth reading, and certainly not worth buying. There were, indeed, smaller works like "Freemasons' Companions," and Collections of Songs, and "Ahiman Rezon" and Cole's and Finch's works, but we have heard it generally contended, once upon a time, that such works would exhaust our Masonic literature. Mr. Heckethorn, amid his other amenities, and his lamentable caricature of our Order, has specially gone out of his way to say that we have practically "no literature." But, in this, as in a good many other details of his recent work, he only demonstrates to bonâ-fide Masonic students how very little he knows of the subject on which he so dogmatically dilates. Will it surprise our readers to be told, that Freemasonry has a large literature of its own and one that is rapidly increasing? Indeed, at this moment, we may fairly point to such works as D. M. Lyon's History of the Lodge of Edinburgh, Findel's History of Freemasonry, Steinbrenner's Smaller Essay, Mackey's Encyclopædia, Fort's History of Freemasons, Bro. Hughan's Collection of the Constitutions, and many more, as works of which as an Order we may all be proud, critically. In Germany especially, the writings of Kloss, Krause, Mossdorff, Winzer, Fessler, Schauberg, and many others deserve the highest commendation, archæologically, intellectually, and scientifically. We will, therefore, leave Mr. Heckethorn in all of contemptuous silence henceforth to his own remarkable display of knowledge of our Fraternity, whether as regards its real history, its true teaching, its literature or its habits, its endeavours or its end. Some thirty years ago Kloss published his remarkable "Bibliographie der Freimaurerei," which must ever remain the great "vade mecum" of Masonic bibliomaniacs, and the one text book of Masonic Bibliography. That work contained close upon the names of 6000 works, and many publications have been issued yearly since from the German, French, American (including Scotch and Irish), and Dutch Masonic press, to say nothing of many minor contributions from other countries. Indeed, we do not

know of another Order in existence which has on the whole such a very wonderful amount of actual literature to offer, alike to its "alumni" and to the "profane world." No doubt amid the "wheat" there is a good deal of "chaff;" no doubt too all that often passes under the name of Masonic literature does not deserve the name at all. We have, we admit, to make many deductions from the gross total, in consequence of uncritical theories, unreliable statements, and empirical views. But when we peruse the careful pages of Kloss we must be struck not only by the diversity of subjects but the wideness of range which mark our Masonic literature. History and tradition, ritual and laws, attack and defence, poetry and the drama, philosophy and archæology, numismatology and biography, all are there classified and abounding, and every collector of Masonic books is fully aware how many Masonic works really exist, and how many even of which for the most part we know nothing about. And the only way to bring such knowledge home to the minds of Freemasons is the creation of Masonic libraries. There are plenty of Masonic works, old and modern, to be found, and every Masonic library at a reasonable outlay, and under the advice of a competent librarian, can now procure many curious productions to fill its shelves. In our opinion it has long been a standing reproach to our Order that our libraries are so sparse and our readers so few. We believe that the absence of libraries has tended to encourage and add to our Craft apathy on the subject. At any rate, the time seems to have come when in all our Masonic halls libraries should be formed and books should be collected, and readers and students should both be encouraged. We think we have said enough to show that there is no real difficulty in the matter, if only we will but have it so. The staple product is forthcoming, and all that is really wanted is pecuniary support or generous aid. To our younger and sapient brethren, "Verbum sat."

ROMAN CATHOLIC INTOLERANCE.

Our readers will, we fear, be almost tired of such a subject, and yet we seem to have no other course left open to us, but again to call attention to the mournful and indubitable fact. We publish a very sad recital of a very lamentable outbreak of Roman Catholic feeling against a Freemason and a Protestant in South America, and we beg to invite the attention of Roman Catholics themselves to it. An English Freemason and Protestant, Bro. Wallace, was interred in the public cemetery at Guayacan. After a time it was quite clear, by ocular demonstration, that the coffin had been disturbed, and, as we understand the painful recital, the body removed from the coffin. And, what adds to the grotesque barbarity of the whole proceeding, a cross appears to have been marked on the wall of the cemetery near to the grave, to point out, we suppose, what had been effected in the name of religion, peace, and charity, and, above all, professedly in His blessed Name who came to show love and pity to all the human race, and died on the actual cross to save all mankind. A more saddening narrative of bigotry never was sent to us, a more depressing evidence of human intolerance never came before our notice. We are accustomed, indeed, to fierce anathemas and bellicose bishops; we have read, and read quite calmly, unfounded calumnies and bitter incriminations. We have even got quite accustomed to the violence of Ultramontane abuse, and the assertions and announcements, equally erroneous and untrue, of so-called infallible authority. But to realise that the war with the living is to be perpetuated in the quiet cemetery, to know that death, which levels all distinctions, closes all debates, and hushes all strife, is not, from the Ultramontane view, to put an end to the rancour or the antagonism of earth, is, indeed, most painful to every thoughtful mind. For surely, just as we cannot carry away our riches with us when we are deposited in the silent grave, when, as children of the dust, we find our common level, so surely in the one resting-place of humanity, there should be deposited the angry passions and the intolerant animosities which divide us from one another here, and mar

the peaceful progress of society with hateful variance and cruel strife. Indeed, moralists and philosophers have often rejoiced to think and to believe there was one spot where human passions would be stilled, where the bitter hatred and the deadly dislike might be unknown, when over the excited imagination, the busy brain, the perverse disposition, and the tenacious will, might fall, so to say, the peaceful slumber of that intermediate state, which stretches out in its unfathomable mystery and silence, and sternness and repose, between earth and Heaven, between time and eternity. The popular saying has ever been, whether sound or unsound, or even "humbug," as Archdeacon Grantley remarked, "di mortuis nil nisi bonum," and we all of us more or less feel, we believe, be we who we may, that in the grave all enmities should end, and in death all old griefs, and complaints, and wrath should be at any rate forgotten. But the Church of Rome, with hazardous boldness, seems to say, "I am above the 'consensus' of humanity; I ignore the most deeply rooted sentiments of mortals. 'Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus;' and for those who defy my laws, for those who reject my teaching, who claim liberty of conscience, or avow a difference of belief, I have curses while living; I have no forgiveness when dead." For we feel sure of this, that were it not for this detestable teaching, worthy only of the "Avocato del Diavolo," Roman Catholics, who are not unlike other men, would never be consenting parties to, or share in, such revolting inhumanity, by which affection is deeply wounded, and which is indeed an outrage on every kindly feeling of the human race. But we have said enough on so humiliating a topic, humiliating alike to all who, like ourselves, believe in the regeneration of humanity. And having called attention to the subject, as was our imperative duty, we leave it in all its morbid sadness of stern and indubitable truth, to the bitterest of Ultramontane assailants, and the appreciation of our universal brotherhood.

COMPARATIVE COST OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

Owing to press of matter, and our Christmas number, we defer until next week our remarks on this subject. We do so the more readily as the subject is not very pressing, nor, to say the truth, very important.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS For the Week ending Friday, December 31, 1875.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25.

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 27.

Lodge 27, Pythagorean, Ship Hot., Greenwich.

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 28.

Lodge 205, Israel, City Terminus Hot., Cannon-st.

" 1158, Southern Star, Montpellier Tav., Walworth.

Chap. 7, Royal York of Perseverance, F. M. H.

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 29.

Lodge 2898, Temperance in the East, 6, Newby-pl., Poplar.

INSTRUCTION.

Mt. Lebanon, Windsor Cas. Tav., Southwark-bdg.-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 Edgecumbe, 19, Jermyn-street, St. James's.
Islington, Crown and Cushion, London Wall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30.

General Committee Girls' School at 4.

Lodge 22, Neptune, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-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.
Ebury, 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., Alibon-rd., Dalston.
Doric Chapter, Three Cranes Tav., Mile-end-road.
Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31.

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 Courts, 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, January 1, 1876.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27.

Lodge 148, Lights, M. R., Warrington.
Chap. 241, Friendship, M.H., Liverpool.
Chap. 721, Grosvenor, M. R., Eastgate-row, Chester.
Merchants' L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29.

Lodge 1393, Hamer, 92, Everton-road, Liverpool.
" 1570, Prince Arthur, 80, N. Hill-st., Liverpool.
Chap. 823, Everton, M. H., Liverpool.
Mark Lodge, 11, Joppa, 55, Argyle-st., Birkenhead.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30.

Lodge 1313, Fermor, M. H., Southport.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 1, 1876.
All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27.

Lodge 102, St. Mark, 233, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
" 103, Union and Crown, 170, Buchanan-st.
" 219, Star, 12, Irongate.
" 362, St. Clair, 25, Robertson-st.
" 541, Marie Stuart, M. H., Crosshill.
Chap. 122, Thetis, 35, St. James-st., Glasgow.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28.

Lodge 413, Athole, 213, Buchanan-st.
" 543, St. John's, M. H., Dalmuir.
Chap. 67, Cathedral, 22, Struthers-street, Calton.
" 73, Caledonian Unity, 170, Buchanan-st.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30.

Lodge, 334 St. John, Castle Inn, New Cumnock.

Chap. 117, Govan, Postland-buildings, Govan.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31.

Lodge 51, London, Black Bull Inn, Newmilns.
" 118, St. Bride's, Masonic Hall, Douglas.
" 125, St. James's, Masons' Arms, Newton, Ayr.
" 153, Royal Arch, Masonic Hall, Pollokshaws.
" 236, Wilsontown, St. John, Forth Inn, Carnwarth.
" 347, St. John's, Masonic Hall, Rutherglen.
Chap. 79, Commercial, 30, Hope-st.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 1, 1876.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27.

Lodge 349, St. Clair, F. H., George-st.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28.

Lodge 151, Defensive Band, Cockburn-street.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30.

Lodge 223, Trafalgar, 54, Be-nard-st., Leith.

UNITED ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE
AND HOSPITAL.

[Memorials against the New Statutes having appeared in our columns from time to time, we think it only fair to publish the following paper issued from the Chancery, and which at the present time cannot fail to interest such of our readers as are Knights Templar.]

Sundry Memorials addressed to the Great Prior having been circulated, and as these Memorials contain various errors, both as to facts and the effect of the Statutes, the following Commentary on these Documents is designed to correct the erroneous impression created by such statements.

By the treaties with Scotland and Ireland of the 8th October, 1867, and 27th November, 1868, it was provided that a joint committee of the three kingdoms should be appointed to draw up Articles of Union. The Irish and English members met, and ultimately, in 1872, completed statutes framed to meet the emergency of the case.

The committee consisted of the following gentlemen:—

On the part of England:—Sir P. Colquhoun, the Rev. J. D. Huyshe, R. Woof, Captain N. G. Phillips, and J. Tepper. On the part of Ireland:—The Hon. Judge Townshend, the Earl of Limerick, Colonel Francis Burdett, Captain N. G. Phillips, and W. E. Gumbleton.

This committee drew up a unanimous report, which, having been submitted to Grand Conclave in December, 1872, was, after discussion, accepted.

A similar course was pursued in Ireland.

Thus these statutes were under consideration between four and five years, and Grand Conclave, if it had confidence in the men it appointed, could not but accept the result so carefully prepared; how can it then with truth be said, "that by reason of the hurried manner in which the new statutes were brought forward, no consideration could be given to their probable effect, and the expediency of their enactment?"

Material alterations were requisite, not so much in the existing national Governing Bodies, the names alone of which were altered, as in the creation and constitution of a new Supreme Body. The Grand Conclave of England became the Great Priory of England, and a similar change was made in Ireland, both being bodies subordinated to the Convent General, of which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was to assume the Headship. The internal government of the two component bodies was not interfered with except in the election of the Great Priors, who are now appointed by the Grand Master.

It is, however, more than probable that many who neither attended Grand Conclave, nor troubled themselves to read the Biennial Reports, knew little or nothing of the matter, otherwise their ignorance of the facts could not have been thus used to mislead them.

The first grievance in the Dorsetshire Memorial, of which the others are for the most part mere transcripts, is a general and unsupported assertion, viz., that "the experience since acquired of the effect and working of these new statutes convinces the memorialists that they are detrimental to the best interests of the Order, and must inevitably in the course of time thin its ranks and weaken its influence."

After this general and sweeping assertion the memorial enters into detail.

First, it states it is undesirable to drop the title "Masonic." Let it now be seen how this matter stands.

It is acknowledged that the Order is a Christian Society. That the Masonic qualification is indispensable is granted; but, on the other hand, it may be alleged that the word "Masonic" is the exclusive right of Craft Masonry, and is an assumption on the part of any other Secret Society, for in Templary there is no Masonic allegory. The Irish designate themselves as High Templars. The Scotch do not assume it. The American branch repudiates it as inappropriate, and as the assumption of the title of an-

other degree. As this prefix was an introduction of modern date and changed nothing in the substance, the committee had no difficulty in acceding to its omission, but strengthened the bond by adding the condition that a candidate must not only be a R.A., but also a M.M. of two years' standing.

As the old Order of the Temple was abolished 562 years ago, there is no other body which assumes this title; the military virtues of the old Knights are supposed to be represented as to the moral part by the new Order. The Articles of Union of the Craft of 1813 acknowledge it as a chivalric degree attached to, but not incorporated with Masonry, and the clause is purely permissive. The body therefore, be it called what it may, is as much under the protection of 39 Geo. III., c. 79, and 57 Geo. III., c. 19, as Craft Masonry, for all members are Craft Masons, but few know that these statutes only apply to Lodges existent at that time. These Acts therefore do not protect even Craft Lodges established since that date (1799), and those preceptories only which were existent before that date.

With respect to the nomenclature of the Order, it is strange to find men persistently advocating the perpetuation of an historical error.

The Masters of Temple houses were called House Preceptors; the Masters of Provinces, Great Preceptors. The head of the Order was originally termed simply Master, or later Magnus Magister, or Great Master. The word "grand" was merely the French for great. The equivalent designation of the Hospitalers was Commander, and their estates were called commanderies, whereas those of the Templars were termed Preceptories.

The question of Past Rank has, too, been misrepresented, and it is almost impossible to conceive such ignorance of the statutes as that alleged in the memorial.

Formerly he who had passed "the Chair" was designated a Past Commander, that is a retired Commander. The new statutes make him an actual Preceptor for life, with the right of voting in the Great Body, or Parliament of the Order, so long as he continues to subscribe to some Preceptory—nay, he may cease to do so for any length of time—but so soon as he places his name on the roll of any Preceptory his right and franchise revive; but in Craft Masonry, if he cease to subscribe for a year, his right lapses, and he becomes a mere Master Mason, nor can he recover his position and franchise without again serving as Master of a Lodge.

The position of the present Preceptor is therefore improved: the office once given to him is lasting. Should, however, those who have served the office before the last statutes prefer the title of "Past" Preceptor they are at liberty to adopt it, for all existing rights are reserved.

The dignities of Grand Cross and Commander are superadded: they take nothing from the members, but give something in addition, and it was considered by the joint committees it was due to his Royal Highness, when he condescended to assume the Headship of the Order, that he should have the rights belonging to all Crowned Heads, for in that light the Prince of Wales must be considered in relation to the Order; the more so since he had induced her Majesty as head of the State, to take the Order under her patronage and protection. No new dignities or titles have been created in the Order; they all existed in England, Scotland, or Ireland.

With regard to the Past Grand Rank, the number of those who obtained it yearly were twice as many as those who obtained the same rank in the Craft, yet the Temple only counts 2,500 active members, while the Craft numbers as many thousands.

The Provinces complain they cannot induce the members to pay fees for Grand Rank except it be permanent; they could provide for their necessary expenses by a small Capitation Tax, which would not press heavily, and so dispense with the fees of office.

At present, every member pays to the Central Authority an annual contribution of 3s. 6d.; London Craft Lodges pay 4s., and Country Lodges 2s., yet the class which belong to the latter are less able to pay these quarterages than the members of the Temple, who, in fact, contribute no more than Craft Masons. But as all existing rights are reserved, those who held this Past Grand Rank before the late statutes still enjoy it, while those who have obtained Grand Rank since have done so with the full knowledge that it was an annual office.

To meet, however, any objection, the following motion was passed at the Great Prior's Council, and incorporated in its report to the Great Priory in May, 1875, and the Great Prior has given effect to it by giving notice of amendments for the next Convent General:—

"That a limited restoration of Past Rank is desirable. That such Past Rank should only be given to Great Officers, National Great Officers, and Provincial Great Officers, and also to the Great, and National, and Provincial Vice-Chancellors and Sub-Masters, provided these latter Officers have served two years in their respective ranks."

Some offices, indeed the majority of them, are purely nominal, others are permanent, and it would be unreasonable to suppose that such as have real duties to perform could be changed annually; under such a system, the Order would fall into hopeless confusion.

Lastly, many members will be surprised to learn that the changes now made were in substance advocated 13 years ago, as the following memorial shows:—

Copy Memorial from the Province of Worcester, laid before Committee, 1863.

THE ORDER OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, MALTA, &c.
To the Very High and Eminent the Deputy Grand Master, the Very Eminent the Grand Chancellor, the Provincial Grand Commander for Kent, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Registrar:—

The Knights of the Ancient Order of the Temple and of Malta, in the Province of Worcester, assembled in Provincial Grand Conclave on the 2nd day of October, 1862, having ascertained that a committee has been appointed by the Grand Conclave of England to revise the statutes of the Order, desire to offer a few suggestions, which they trust may not be deemed unworthy of consideration. They are induced to venture these suggestions from a sincere desire to advance and exalt the Order, and from a wish to see it more closely assimilated with the brilliant and picturesque model presented by the early chivalrous constitution from which it is supposed to be descended.

The suggestions which are respectfully offered for the consideration of the committee are—

1. That the title of the Order be "The Royal Exalted Order of Knights Templar and Knights of St. John of Jerusalem."—(*Burnes' Hist.*, p. 63.)

It is conceived that the additions, "Religious and Military" and "Masonic" are unnecessary, as being qualities of the Order and qualifications for it which form no essential part of its name or title.

2. That resting upon traditional belief it may be declared by the statutes that the Order of the Temple is descended and perpetuated from the ancient Constitution, and that on the suppression of the Templars by the Statute "de terris Templariorum," 17 Edward II., Stat. 3, A.D. 1324, they were probably incorporated with the Knights Hospitalers of St. John of Jerusalem, now commonly known as Knights of Malta.—(*Burnes' Hist.*, p. 73.)

It appears a reasonable supposition that an incorporation of the Order may have obtained in this country, as well as in Scotland, where it cannot be disputed, and this appears to have been the belief of the present constitution of the Order prior to the edition of statutes now in force.—(*Burnes' Hist.*, p. 63.)

3. That every Initiate be received into both Orders as one.

4. That the dignities of the Order as distinguished from the titles of its Officers, be Knights Grand Cross, Knights Commander, and Knights Companion.—(*Statutes of the Scotch Templars*, p. 9. *Vertol's Knights of Malta, small edition*, v. 5, p. 241, and *the present Order in Portugal and Italy*.)

5. That each country holding under the Grand Conclave be constituted a Grand Priory, and be governed by a Grand Prior.

6. That each country or such other district as may be assigned (now called a "Province") be constituted and called a "Preceptory."—(*See Letter herewith*, Mar. 28, 1863. R. W.)

7. That the present Provincial Grand Commanders be called "Preceptors" during office.

8. That all installed Grand Priors and Preceptors with such other Knights Commanders as may be distinguished by patent of the Grand Master be Knights Grand Cross for life.—(See Letter herewith, Mar. 28, 1863. R. W.)

9. That all "Eminent Commanders" be called "Commanders" during office.

10. That all installed Commanders be Knights Commanders for life.—(See Letter, R. W.)

11. That the jewel of a Knight Grand Cross be a gold cross of eight points, two inches and-a-half across, enamelled white, bearing on the centre a cross pattée, enamelled gules, and surmounted by the Grand Master's crown, worn round the neck, pendant from a gold or gilt collar.—(Burnes' Hist., p. 5.)

12. That the jewel of a Knight Commander be of the same size and kind, worn round the neck pendant from a scarlet ribbon edged with white.

13. That the jewel of a Knight Companion be of the same kind, but measuring an inch and-a-half across, or of smaller size if preferred, worn on the left breast from a similar ribbon.

This appears to be only a restitution of the old jewels as to Commanders and Companions. The Provincial Grand Commanders appear to have been distinguished by a gold patriarchal cross, but the foregoing suggestions seem to give greater uniformity and preserve the one form of jewel.

14. That the star be worn only by Grand Crosses and Commanders, and that it be of distinctive form for each rank.

15. That the triple, double, and patriarchal cross be used as heretofore, but only as badges of office instead of as jewels of the Order, and be not worn after expiration or resignation of office except on the mantle.

16. That the hood of the mantle be lined with silk of a distinctive colour. For a Grand Cross or Grand Officer who is a Knight Commander, of violet; for a Knight Commander or Grand Officer who is not a Knight Commander, of scarlet; and for a Knight Companion, of white.

17. That if any additional jewel be deemed desirable in distinct perpetuation of the Order of Saint John, it be a gold cross of eight points enamelled white, surmounted by an Imperial Crown, and worn on the left breast pendant from a black ribbon.—(From a History published about 1800.)

18. That the velvet belt and apron now in use be discontinued, and a narrow sword belt substituted, of black leather, with a silver clasp for Knights wearing white hoods, and of red, with a gold clasp, for Knights wearing violet or scarlet hoods.—(Scotch Statutes, p. 22.)

19. That the term "baldrick" be discontinued, and "ribbon of investiture" substituted, and the ribbon thereby restored to its original purpose.—(History of 1800.)

20. That a crosshilted sword be used, without specifying or restricting any particular pattern.

21. That right be reserved to present members of the Order to wear all such jewels as they have been heretofore entitled to wear.

It is thought that these suggestions need not in any way interfere with the use of the Jewels of the Grand Conclave, which were the handsome gift of the late Grand Master, as they are essentially Badges of Office, as distinguished from Jewels of Rank in the grades of the Order.

These suggestions are offered on historic and antiquarian grounds, in the belief that they comprise alterations consistent with the regulations of the ancient Orders, and they are earnestly and confidently commended to the consideration of the committee with the intent alone that the modern constitution shall be advanced and secured in dignity and position.

Given under my hand in the Provincial Grand Conclave of the Province of Worcester, on the day and year first before written.

(Signed) H. C. VERNON,
Provincial Grand Commander.

I have carefully perused the above, and feel so pleased with the suggestions that I have laid them before my Provincial Grand Conclave with an earnest recommendation to the Sir Knights to give them their best support.

(Signed) CHAS. JNO. VIGNE,
Prov. Gr. Comr., Dorset.

13th Oct., 1862.

Instead of the ranks of the Order being thinned as asserted, they have numerically increased, the best test of which is the greatly increasing number of certificates issued from the Chancery of the Order.

The members of the Order are invited thoughtfully to consider those matters for themselves, in that spirit of moderation and fairness which only can promote the good of the Order.

22, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

November, 1875.

"SINGULA QUÆQUE LOCUM SORTITA DECENTER."

We have been requested to publish the following report of a meeting called by circular, addressed "to those gentlemen who, as Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons under the Grand Lodge of England, signed a petition in July last, directed to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Grand Master of the Order in England."

The brethren who had petitioned the Grand Lodge of England in July of this year for a warrant to be granted to English resident brethren in Belgium, to form a Masonic Lodge under the English Constitution, was called together on Wednesday evening, the 3rd Nov., to receive the official reply received.

Colonel Kemeys Tynte, P.P.G.M., the Master-Elect of the English Lodge "in spe," occupied the chair. He stated in opening the proceedings of the evening that he was exceedingly disappointed in having to communicate to the brethren the answer he had received from the Grand Lodge, but that, as members of that illustrious body, the Free and Accepted Masons of England, there remained but one course open, and that was to obey the decrees of the governing body. He then proceeded to read the reply, which was signed by Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary. It was to the effect that previous to the departure of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for India, the petition of the brethren had been laid before him, but that he regretted he could not accede to their request, as his doing so might be considered as an innovation of a Foreign Masonic Jurisdiction, and a breach of Masonic usage and etiquette.

Having read the communication, Colonel Kemeys-Tynte invited any of the brethren present who might wish to make some suggestions or observations on the subject matter, to do so.

Bro. W. C. A. Røettger, P.M., and P.Z., the Senior Warden-elect, then rose, and expressed his deep regret at what had been just communicated to the meeting. He said he was the more sorry as there were several candidates who would have been happy to be initiated into the much-coveted mysteries of the Order, but who were now lost to the Fraternity, as they were only agreeable to take "that mystic step" under the guarantee of a National Lodge, *i.e.*, Grand Lodge of England. There were a great many English brethren resident in Belgium, who, although they quite appreciated the objects English Masons have in view, in common with the Fraternity in Belgium, more especially charity and brotherly love, they yet felt strangers in the Lodges of this country, where, partly through the imperfect knowledge of the language, and partly through difference in Rite, they did not feel at home, and consequently very rarely visited Belgian Lodges. Although bowing to the decision of the Grand Lodge, he said he trusted some means might be found available to bring about the so much desired object—the establishment of an English Lodge, besides the already existing Lodges, which are under the "Rite Ecossaise moderne," for he was quite certain there was ample room for both. Moreover, from his personal knowledge of the dignitaries of the Grand Orient of Belgium, he was quite sure that they would be very much pleased to see an English Lodge exist in Belgium, besides the already-established Belgian Lodges.

Bro. Humberston, P.M., made similar remarks, and expressed a hope that the wishes of the brethren might yet be crowned with success.

After various other observations from the brethren present, all testifying to the great regret felt about the polite, yet distinct refusal, and agreeing in the course to be taken—that is, implicit obedience to the decrees of the Grand Lodge to which they belong,

Bro. Røettger rose, and, in addressing Col. Tynte, and the other brethren, said—Right Worshipful Sir and Brethren, it is now my pleasing duty of returning to our Master-elect (the gallant and Right Worshipful Brother Col.

Kemeys Tynte) our most heartfelt and sincere thanks for the great interest and trouble he has taken in aiding our united endeavours to bring about the establishment of an English Lodge in Brussels. That we have not succeeded, sir, is not for want of interest on your part. Your name alone, which may be almost looked upon as a pass-word in Masonry, would have been sufficient guarantee to have had our prayers granted, had there been a possibility of this being done by his Royal Highness the Grand Master; but, suffice it to say, Right Worshipful Sir, that, although we have not been successful in our most earnest endeavours, we are fully sensible of the great and sincere interest and support you have given to our petition. I am exceedingly sorry, sir, that I have not that flow of language at my command to express all that I—and I am certain my brethren feel—impressed with the sentiments of gratitude. Be assured, however, Right Worshipful Brother, that our sentiment and wishes are sincere. May, then, the Great Architect of the Universe permit you to sojourn a long time yet among us, and to remain an ornament amongst the Rulers of the Craft to which we all have the honour to belong.

Colonel Kemeys Tynte tendered his heartfelt thanks to Bro. Røettger and the other brethren for the kind sentiments expressed towards him. He said he valued the words that had just been spoken, all the more because he knew that they were not meant as flattery, but proceeded from a sincere desire of giving some appreciation to the very trifling assistance he had rendered to the movement. He begged in the meantime to assure the brethren present that, should there be at any future time a chance of seeing their wishes as to the establishment of a Lodge, under the English Constitution, realised, he would come forward and do all in his power to further that object.

Bro. Col. White then rose and tendered his thanks to the Chairman on behalf of the absent brethren. He said—Right Worshipful Sir and Brother, I am commissioned by the absent brethren to return to you, sir, their heartfelt thanks for the efforts you have made to support their prayer for a Craft Lodge to be held in Brussels, and, on their behalf, to bow to the decision of the Grand Lodge of England. We are well aware, as Bro. Røettger says, that, had it been possible to grant our prayer, no name on the time-honoured roll of Free and Accepted Masons could have carried greater weight than yours, Right Worshipful Sir. It now devolves upon me to ask you, sir, in the name of the brethren who signed the petition, to accept from my hands all the correspondence and documents relating to this our effort to establish an English Lodge in Brussels, with the hope that the Great Architect of the Universe may take you and yours into His keeping, until you are translated to the Great Lodge above. "So mote it be!"

NIL DESPERANDUM.—True hope is based on energy of character. A strong mind always hopes, because it knows the mutability of human affairs, and how slight a circumstance may change the whole course of events. Such a spirit, too, rests upon itself, and it is not confined to partial views or to one particular object, and if at last all should be lost, it has saved itself, its own integrity and worth. Hope awakens courage, while despondency is the last of all evils; it is the abandonment of good, the giving up of the battle of life with dead nothingness. He who can implant courage in the human soul is its best physician.

GOOD WINE NEEDS NO BUSH.—In the spring of 1874, a daily contemporary writing of The General Expenditure Assurance Company, says:—By a clever and happily conceived arrangement, so simple and judicious that it is wonderful it was not thought of before, the company is enabled to assure the return of all money spent for the ordinary wants of life. At this festive season, to all *patrons*, this information will be an addition of "good cheer," and we commend the pamphlet, brimful of information, published by The General Expenditure Assurance Company, obtainable at their several offices, and Smith and Son's Railway-bookstalls—to the notice of heads of families and our readers generally. From the period above-named the company has rapidly extended its operations; the trade members are numbered by thousands, and the success of the Coupon Trading System is now assured. In addition to the London Office, 8, Old Jewry, E.C., Branch Offices are established in Dublin, Liverpool, Newcastle, Brighton, and other chief towns. Bro. the Hon. F. Walpole, M.P., P. Grand Master of Norfolk, is a trustee of the Company.

OUR GRAND-MASTER ELEPHANT HUNTING.

We are indebted to the *Times* for the following animated description of a day of hard work, and no little risk:—

All Sunday night rain gathered in the roof of our calico and bamboo dwellings. When Monday morning dawned, the landscape was shrouded in steaming vapour, but preparations for the elephant drive were actively begun. At 6 all were ready, and the Prince turned out in a broad-brimmed solar topee, a dark shooting suit and knickerbockers, and those necessary articles called leech-gaiters, which are required to baffle the efforts of the Ceylon leeches to suck travellers dry. The jungle in which the elephants were abiding was about seven miles from Ruanwella, and horses were sent on to await the party, and take them by a bridle-path to the Kraal.

Lord Aylesford, Dr. Fayrer, Lord C. Beresford, Mr. Hall, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Varian went ahead in a mail coach. The Prince, with Lord Suffield and Major-General Probyn, escorted by two Lancers of the Governor's Body Guard, followed in a carriage. Mr. Birch, Mr. Fitz-George, Lieutenant Thackwell, and I closed the rear. We drove through a wooded country, sparsely peopled, in which the view was shut in by walls of dense forests. Men and children flocked to the roadside to see the *cortège* pass, but women were not visible once. On the main road the people were more numerous. At 8 our carriage pulled up at a small village, called, I believe, Algeda, where several hundred Cingalese were congregated. Two or three saddle-horses were standing by the roadside. "Where is the Prince?" exclaimed Mr. Birch. "He has gone," was the reply. Mr. Birch was in despair. Lieutenant Thackwell mounted and rode after him. Mr. Campbell, of the Police, galloped off, and Mr. Varian set out on foot, but the Prince reached the ferry at Avisawella, nearly three miles, before he was overtaken and brought back to the place which had been overshot so unaccountably. There was a chance that the delay would have proved very injurious, for the beaters had begun to drive nearly two hours before the Prince was at his post. Meanwhile Mr. Fitz-George and I resolved to walk to the rendezvous. A path, deep-trodden by many feet, led by the side of a clear stream through the forest, but the impressions of solitude were dissipated by the appearance of police sentries guarding the path. After proceeding half a mile we came to some bamboo huts and the embers of watch-fires. There we found some huts, in which bread, eggs, and fruit were on sale. Besides elephants, some thousand men had been engaged for more than a fortnight making the road, watching and constructing the Kraal. We then passed two barriers guarded by police, and finally arrived at a raised platform, on which we found Lord Aylesford, Dr. Fayrer, and others, awaiting the arrival of the Prince. The platform was, in fact, a grand stand, from which we looked down on a stockade. Outside, running across the jungle from the valley, up the hillside, was a kind of net, into which, when it was opened, the beaters could drive the elephants after they had been forced past the high rock on which the Prince was to be placed. In the jungle at the other side of the stockade, trees, creepers, and bamboos were so thick that 20 or 30 yards off the stockade could hardly be seen. Beyond was the impenetrable forest gloom.

At 9 the Prince arrived, but the yells of the beaters had been audible some time before. We proceeded at once to the Prince's stand inside the forest, and, attended, by Lord C. Beresford, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Varian, noted the shots. Mr. Hall was placed within sight on a similar stand in a tree. No one else was allowed inside. What followed may be told shortly, though it lasted for a long time. In the jungle were two herds, one an old tusker, charged with the death at different times of four European sportsmen and of many cattle, with three females, kept apart from another herd of seven elephants.

When the beaters came up the latter put themselves under a leader whose courage and coolness were only equalled by his sagacity and strategical skill. The animal not only refused to be driven in the direction wished for, but, charging the line of beaters at the head of his column, he broke through them again and again, driving them up trees for shelter, and comparatively spoiling the sport. So hour after hour passed. "One herd," cry out the beaters, "is coming nearer"—just as in a deer drive in the Highlands; and every eye was strained to pierce the forest depths where bamboos and young trees cracked like pistol shots beneath the tramping of hoofs. Every ear listened for the report of the Prince's rifle, as they must be close to the Prince. The platform was deserted, and every one crossed to the Kraal armed with bamboos to thrust through the interstices and drive back the elephants. The Natives were expectant, but silent, the old chief who directed the proceedings walking to and fro in a state of great agitation. Suddenly the cries of the beaters ceased, and the crashing and snapping noise in the jungle receded. The tusker had broken through. 11, 12, 1 o'clock came and went, still no shot was fired. Thrice the Prince caught a glimpse of a ridge like the top of a loaf of brown bread moving swiftly through the jungle. A suspicion arose that the Chief was playing falsely. He was to have whatever elephants could be kraaled, and if the Prince fired there was small chance of driving them outwards to the enclosure; so it was supposed he had given secret orders to dodge the Prince's stand if possible, and he was told that if the Prince did not get a shot the Kraal would be destroyed that night. Perhaps he was wronged.

About 2 o'clock, when the Prince had been five hours on the stand, a report came that the old tusker and the three ladies he was guarding so devotedly had separated from the herd of seven, and had escaped clean away through the beaters into the forest. Before the tusker got away Lord Suffield sent to the Prince for leave to go and shoot him when he was reported to be close, but the Prince thought it would be best to wait, so he got off without being shot at. Even then several of the animals were unmanageable. In vain the beaters yelled like demons; they were charged, routed, and obliged to run up the hill and descend in rear of the herd, and begin again. At last it was resolved to apply the ordeal of fire which elephants so much dread, and dried timbers were piled up in a line to windward. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Varian marshalled the beaters once more, and permission was given to fire on the elephants in the rear to urge them on. Presently a couple of shots were heard, the branches shook, trees were crushed. On rushed an elephant, like some great rock tearing down a hillside, to within 20 yards of the Prince, who fired and hit him in the head, but he went on and was lost. At this moment up came Mr. Fisher, and said, "Sir, if you will come with me I can get you a shot. I have wounded an elephant, and think you can kill him." Lord Suffield, hearing the Prince fire, joined him just as he set out creeping through the dense jungle, with Mr. Fisher and Mr. Varian on each side in front, and Lord C. Beresford, Mr. Robertson, and Mr. Hall in the rear. Hats were lost and clothes torn, the heat was great, and it was impossible to see two yards ahead. Suddenly a small elephant which had been wounded was discovered. The Prince fired coolly at him, and the elephant dropped and lay as if dead. Mr. Hall stopped to take a sketch, but the elephant began to move, and then to kick, and finally to get on his legs, whereupon Mr. Hall, doubting whether with a lead pencil he could challenge an encounter, sought safety in temporary flight. The native heaters got up the trees. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Varian became uneasy and alarmed, for elephants were heard close at hand, but they could not be seen. At any moment an elephant, driven mad by passion, might rush out upon the Prince where evasion and escape were hopeless, for in such a dense jungle no man could do more than creep. Lord Suffield and Mr. Robertson were astonished at the agitation evinced

by the practised hunters, but the Prince's aim was as steady as if he were out pleasant shooting. All at once Mr. Fisher perceived an elephant as if in the very act of charging not ten yards off. The Prince fired and struck it in the side of the head, and it disappeared in the jungle. In a few minutes more an elephant was seen by the side of the inlet, where the bush was not so dense. The Prince fired, and the great beast fell over on its side and lay dead in a stream, where it dammed up the waters. The Cingalese and Europeans dashed into the stream, and the Prince cut off the tail of the animal according to custom, and the crowd cheered again and again as the Prince was seen standing on the prostrate body.

It was getting dark and quite time to get out of the jungle. The Prince, wet, streaming with perspiration, his clothes torn, returned, amid continued cheering, to the road side, where carriages were waiting to take him to Avisawella. As soon as his back was turned the Cingalese cut off pieces of the ear of the elephant as trophies. So far the day had ended well. Seven hours of patient waiting had been rewarded, but when the Prince arrived at Hanvele, where Governor Gregory and others were waiting to receive him, having come down the river by boat, he dismayed them by laughingly narrating how he had been upset on his way. Lord Aylesford was on the box beside the driver. General Probyn, Lord C. Beresford, and Mr. Fitz-George were inside with the Prince. At the corner of a small bridge, where there was a small deep ditch, the carriage went right over, flinging the occupants on each other. The vehicle was broken, but no one was hurt, and there was a hearty laugh at the misadventure.

A MASONIC BALL AT GEORGETOWN BRITISH GUIANA.

The Ball given by the Union Lodge of Freemasons, in the Assembly Rooms on the 19th November, was, as Mr. Longden characterised it, in reply to the toast of "The Governor," 'superb and magnificent. As the Masons of the Union Lodge had on several previous well-remembered occasions, given substantial proofs of their possessing amongst their other secrets, the secret of giving a brilliant and successful ball, the present party, from the time it was announced, was looked forward to with eager interest by those who had had the good fortune to receive an invitation, and there was much speculation as to whether the present would surpass in excellence the ball given in 1871, which, after a lapse of four years, still maintained its position in the popular estimation, as the best ball ever given here. It required a very short survey of the hall to convince the hundreds of guests present, that the former entertainment would have to rank second to its successor. The decoration of the hall had been left to Bro. C. B. Hamilton, J.W., and Bro. F. A. S. Lambert, I.G., and the admirable selection of the general style of decoration, together with the exquisite taste displayed in carrying out the details, received unqualified praise. The decorations were very fully and correctly described by a contemporary in a paragraph, which we take the liberty of making use of here, with some slight alterations and addenda:—The staircase was decorated with palm leaves and plants in ornamental pots, and spanned by arches of evergreens, relieved by bouquets of flowers. The sweep from the head of the staircase to the entrance of the ball-room was draped with blue and white, with the monogram of the Lodge, tastefully decorated with flowers on either hand. The western end of the room presented to view ten pillars, representing the five orders of architecture in duplicate, supporting a screen, the space between the pillars hung with massive folds of many coloured and rich-looking drapery. In the centre, and immediately in front of this screen, was the throne of the Master of the Lodge, which stood on an elevated dais covered with blue and white cloth and flanked on each side with two minor platforms covered with crimson, the whole extending across the entire breadth of the room. In front of the dais stood two noble looking columns capped respectively with a terrestrial and celestial globe, and which on other occasions, we understand, form part of the furniture of the Lodge. The arches between the pillars which support the roof on either side were festooned with blue and white, the apex of each being picked out with a Masonic emblem. On the pillars, hung alternately the banners of the Knights Templar and others bearing Masonic devices. These pillars also bore ornaments of blue

and white drapery, which covered the stems of bunches of flowers disposed around them. The eastern end of the room, in front of the orchestra, was draped with white and crimson, and bore monograms containing combinations of initials appropriate to the occasion. The centrepiece consisted of a trophy of flags, surrounding the Prince of Wales' plumes, resting on a handsomely gilded star. A large quantity of rare and beautiful plants imparted to this end of the room a garden-like and delightfully cool and refreshing appearance. The sides of the room above the arches were covered with Masonic devices florally decorated and the roof was studded with silver stars arranged to represent several of the best known constellations. The appearance of the well-lighted and brilliantly decorated room, enlivened with the moving figures of gaily dressed ladies and jewel bedecked Masons was dazzling beyond description.

The guests were received by the Worshipful Master Jacobs seated on his throne, wearing the regalia of office, and supported on his right by Senior Warden Van Eeden and on his left by Junior Warden Hamilton. Immediately after the arrival of his Excellency and Mrs. Longden, the first quadrille was arranged, and from that time till five o'clock the following morning the floor was alive with the dancers' busy feet. In the opening quadrille the Masons of the Blue Lodge formed two sets at the head or eastern end of the hall; the "Master's" quadrille was made up as follows:—

- Worshipful Master Jacobs Mrs. Longden
- The Governor Miss Jacobs
- Senior Warden Van Eeden..... Miss Klien
- Junior Warden Hamilton..... Mrs. Van Eeden
- Worshipful Past Master Imlach..... Mrs. Jeffrey
- Senior Deacon McGowan Mrs. Phillips
- Worshipful Master Bracker, Concordia Lodge, Surinam Mrs. McGowan
- Inner Guard Lambert Mrs. Luckie.

There were four Masonic quadrilles on the programme. The first was that of the Blue Lodge; the second, No. 5 on the programme, the Royal Arch; the third, No. 11 on the programme, the Knight Templars; and the fourth, No. 18 the Rosicrucians. When the programme was half gone through, the company formed a procession, and—The Worshipful Master and His Excellency the Governor leading the way, marched to the fine old tune of "The Roast Beef of Old England," to the supper tables which were spread in the shape of an immense horse shoe in the Billiard Room downstairs, a few snug side tables being placed on the southern gallery.

After a due time spent in recruiting exhausted nature, the Worshipful Master rose and gave as the first toast "The Queen, Patroness of the Craft." The next toast was "The Prince of Wales the Worshipful Grand Master of Great Britain." In proposing this toast, the Worshipful Master said—"Masonry is not only one of the oldest but one of the most honourable of institutions, as it has existed from time immemorial, and it tends to make all who strictly adhere to its precepts upright and truthful; and to so high an eminence has its credit been advanced, that in all ages monarchs themselves have been promoters of the craft, have not thought it derogatory to their dignity to exchange the sceptre for the trowel, partaken of our mysteries, and joined in our assemblies. And we have what I am stating to you gloriously exemplified in our present Worshipful Grand Master; for what greater honour could any institution desire, or where is the other that can boast of so high a distinction as having the heir to one of the greatest kingdoms, as their ruler and guide. In the speech of our W.G.M. which he gave on the day of his installation in presence of some 7,000 or 8,000 Masons, he then said that he considered that the greatest honour which could be conferred on him had been conferred on him in placing him in the chair, and I would ask you if that is not sufficient to satisfy the pride of any member of the Craft. And to display our loyalty and our delight we are giving this ball in honour of so great an event. I know that the Brethren will join me heartily in this toast, but I would also urge upon them to perform their duties as Masons with fidelity and zeal, and so lessen the arduous duties of our W.G.M. Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, Brethren of the craft, I give you the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Great Britain His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales."

The toast was most enthusiastically received, and after the uninitiated had expended their untutored cheers, the Worshipful Master called on all Masons present to receive the toast with "Grand Honours" the time to be taken from W.P.M. Imlach. The "Grand Honours" were a surprise to most of the guests, and the solemn, regular, and rhythmical clapping of hands created quite a sensation.

The third toast, "The Grand Officers of Great Britain," was received by the Masons with "Honours in the first Degree."

The fourth toast was "The Governor." The Worshipful Master on proposing it said:—

We have, like good and loyal subjects duly honoured the National Toast, and I have now much gratification in proposing the health of Governor Longden. It is an easy matter, gentlemen, to get a hearty response to a toast like this, for no eulogium of mine could increase the regard and respect which His Excellency, since his arrival among us, has won from all classes of society. The position of the Governor of a British Colony is not a bed of roses. John Bull is a great grumbler, and I take you all to witness that his children in this Colony bear him a strong family likeness in this respect, but in spite of our disposition to make ourselves happy by being dissatisfied, we must all confess that under the rule of our present Governor, we have had little opportunity to indulge in our favourite pastime. Through the exercise of his energy, ability, and kindness, he has given evidence of his desire to do everything in his power to promote the welfare of the Colony, and it is for us to acknowledge our appreciation of his zeal and discretion, and to express the wish which is general amongst us, that the remaining portion of Governor Longden's regime here may be as happy and prosperous as that already past, and that when the time comes for him to depart from our shores, it will be to assume even a higher and more exalted position in her Majesty's service.

The toast was most loyally received and the Governor in returning thanks, after alluding to the magnificence of the entertainment and the grandeur of the hospitality shown the guests, remarked on the kind and friendly reception he had always met with in every part of the Colony he had visited. He finished his remarks by some complimentary comments on the order of Freemasonry, and on the conduct of the Brethren, and sat down amid much applause.

In proposing the next toast "Mrs. Longden," the Worshipful Master spoke as follows:

Perhaps you fancy you received the last toast with as much enthusiasm as you could possibly display, but I think you will receive the present toast with even greater warmth and louder cheers. The last toast was the Governor; this one is his partner in life—Mrs. Longden. The influence of a Governor of this Colony in political and official matters is almost unbounded, but great as it is, it is quite equalled by the influence his wife can bring to bear on social circles; so powerful and valuable can this become, that a Governor without a wife may be regarded as only half a Governor, the better half of him being wanting, and in the opinion of many persons, especially ladies, Her Majesty the Queen should carefully exclude such incomplete creatures as Bachelors from Colonial Governorships. However, at the present moment, we have every reason to be satisfied with our Governor's qualifications in this respect. The lady who presides at Government House is the life and soul of local society, and her cheerful drawing-room is the great centre of attraction where both young and old always meet with a courteous and friendly reception. As a community we owe a great deal to her exertions to relieve the monotony of our existence; her well-earned popularity is certain to go on increasing as long as she remains in her present honoured position, and we shall always remember and look back upon the days of her Government with a keen and lively pleasure.

The Governor returned thanks for Mrs. Longden, and amidst cheers from the gentlemen and gratified smiles from the ladies, admitted his good fortune in having had since the Queen had been pleased to entrust him with the charge of one of her colonies, the companionship of one so valuable to him in the social duties of his position. He thanked the company warmly for the complimentary manner in which they had received the toast.

The next toast was "The Concordia Lodge, Surinam," in proposing which, the Worshipful Master spoke of the hospitality dispensed by that Lodge to the Demerara Brethren on a recent occasion. Brother Barnett in behalf of W. M. Bracker, who does not speak English with much fluency, returned thanks in a neat speech for the honour that had just been done their Lodge.

The last toast on the list was "The Ladies," which, the Worshipful Master introduced with some humorous remarks, describing a wife's opportunity to arrive at her husband's Masons' Secret. After detailing the interesting domestic colloquies, he proceeded. "We Masons are often upbraided with ungallant conduct, because we do not receive the fair sex into our Craft, but although the severe and rigid rules of our Order deny us the co-operation of our dear sisters there is no saying what may come to pass in course of time. Ladies are making headway in every direction, they are taking degrees in medicine, as well as in law, and by and by it is just possible they may be taking degrees in Freemasonry; and on some future occasion when the Lodge are entertaining their friends, there may probably be a Worshipful Mistress in the chair, and amongst the guests an honourable Attorney-General, and a talented and fashionable Crown Solicitress. How I envy his Excellency the plea-

sant task he will have of presenting some fair and gushing applicant to a comfortable medical or legal appointment! These will be happy times for Masons, when they come round; we shall then be able to take to the Lodge our daughters, our wives, and those who are not our wives—just yet. But the contemplation of so much happiness I can see is making some of the younger Brethren envious of the rising generation, so I shall not harass their tender feelings any longer but ask you to join me in the toast—The Ladies.

Immediately after this toast, which was received with unbounded enthusiasm, the company returned to the Ball Room.

To satisfy the curious in such matters we annex here the copy of the Dance Programme, adding the names of the music selected. The ball was opened by the Militia Band under Mr. Fricke; the second dance was played by the band of the 1st West, under Mr. Kershaw, and the two bands took the dances alternately to the end of the programme, doing their respective leaders very much credit:—

PROGRAMME:

1. Quadrille.....La Fille d' Madame Angot
2. ValseHydropaten.
3. LancersSomebody's Luggage.
4. GalopViolet.
5. QuadrilleChickamanga.
6. ValseSylvio.
7. MazurkaMadelin.
8. GalopStuttgarler Koenig.
9. QuadrilleImperial.
10. ValseHesperus Klange.
11. QuadrilleRichmond.
12. PolkaGloecken.
13. GalopHit or Miss.
14. LancersVarsity.
15. ValseBlue Danube.
16. QuadrilleImperial.
17. GalopReiter.
18. QuadrilleLa Pinole.
19. SchottischHighland.
20. ValseGeraldine.
21. GalopFlick and Flock.
22. LancersGerman Lancers.
23. ValseArmoret.
24. GalopAlways Joyful.

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Now merry bells! and Christmas chimes!
Awaken thoughts of happy times,
And joys long run away.

And by our thoughts of those old bells,
A momentary cloud dispels
Some brightness of to-day.

For Christmas Day, and Christmas cheer,
Are wont to rouse sad thoughts each year,
Even with hearty friends.

But hearty friends, and hearty fare,
And hearty homes with love to share,
Are joys Old Christmas sends.

And Faith, and Hope, and happy deed,
And kindness of heart proceed
From Christmas, every year.

And Charity! that always lends
Such beaming aid to make amends
For dull or stormy days,

Shall help us to unite The Three—
Our Faith! and Hope! and Charity!—
With Peace!— which Christmas sends.

BRO. G. TIDCOMBE, Jun.

MASONIC OBITUARY FOR 1875.

The deaths of the following Brethren have been recorded in our columns during the past year:—

Bros. S. B. King; E. Collingwood; Capt. W. H. Lee; J. Higgin; Llewellyn Evans, late President of the Board of General Purposes; Serj.-Major Dyer; F. M. Cowley; Wm. Ibbetson; E. Sillifant; J. Pout; C. Oldroyd; J. Peace; J. Jones; D. J. Hill; R. Limpus; G. Pymm; E. G. Willoughby; F. Robinson Hood; J. Holmes Fudge; J. W. Reed; W. A. Musgrave; W. Goodyer; Rev. A. Holmes; D. W. Savage; Capt. Bridges; Benjamin Taylor; Wm. Dobson; Dr. Shannon; J. Holland; C. T. Valmsley; W. Robertson; Geo. Stuttard; T. Haworth; A. W. O'Neil; R. Battersby; J. S. Redfern; S. P. Brabner; W. Bulley; Battersby; Townsend; D. Brandwood; E. H. Finney, jun.; G. Jones; W. H. Gresham; H. W. Nicholson; Capt. C. Loverdo; D. Mitchell; A. A. Shapland; J. Freeman; Alderman Paterson; The Grand Prior, Order of Malta; D. D. Beck; J. Savage, P.G.D.; J. Franklin; J. Chambers; T. Routledge.

BRO. the Earl of Shrewsbury has fixed Wednesday, the 16th of February, for the annual dinner of the British Orphan Asylum, to be held at the London Tavern.

THE SENTENCE ON THE FREEMASONS AT PORTO RICO.

It seems that on the 22nd of April last, sixteen Freemasons received from "Mr. le Dr. Don Jose Conrado Hernandez, Judge of "Premiere Instance" at Porto Rico, a sentence of imprisonment for two years, and perpetual loss of all civil rights."

The names of the Brethren so sentenced are as follows:—Don Jose de C. Balzac, D. Francois-Marie Quinones, D. Manuel Rodugnez, D. Juan, D. Francois and D. Manuel Anton-georgi, D. Antoine Fracioni, D. Michel Ramirez, D. Antoine Ramirez, D. Antoine Riviera, D. Antoine Lebron, D. Ezia Fabiany, D. Pompe Bellony, and the Dr. Ange Franco. They were accused of being members of an illegal secret society, of not having a permit to be so assembled, of having arms without a licence, and also of the fact of being Masons, forbidden by the Article 210 of the Penal Code, and on these four charges were sentenced, as before stated.

When they were arrested by the Civic Guard, under a certain Brigadier Torres Navarro, and Sous-Brigadier, Antoine Vara, they were supposed by the guard to be secret gamblers, so they assert; but finding that they were Masons, they at once took possession of the furniture, arms, books, as well as their persons.

The Freemasons asserted that they had a licence to meet, signed by the Alcalde of Sabana Grande.

The Government prosecutor states that this statement is untrue, and that if they had any permission, it was only one to Bro. C. Balzac, to entertain his friends at supper.

The Lodge was held in Bro. C. Balzac's house.

With regard to the arms seized—two cutlasses, two sabres, a revolver, and a double-barrelled gun—it appears that no licence for the same was produced. Under these circumstances, the rigorous sentence was pronounced, against which an appeal was made by the Masons; but, so far, we do not know with what effect. Now we cannot, according to our known principles, approve of Brethren meeting illicitly or surreptitiously any where "contrateeges," and we feel that both as regards unto that point, and the want of an arms licence—we have nothing to say. But we certainly may, and must protest against any law in any country, which makes Freemasonry a crime, and Freemasons criminals, simply as such—though if such a law exist—until it be repealed, Freemasons are bound, we hold, to obey it. For we emphatically deny that Freemasonry is either a political fraternity, or a secret revolutionary association; and we affirm that its aim is good, and its principles most loyal. We deeply regret that any State can be so stigmatize a beneficent, an honourable, an orderly, and charitable society like that of Freemasonry. And we can only hope that in the progress of civilization and the developement of more liberal (in a good sense) and tolerant views, such penal enactments and such hostile theories may be among the things of the past.

But until that happier epoch arrives, Freemasons are bound to obey the laws of the country where they live *pro tempore*, or which is their Mother Land, or which gives them its privileges as traders, or affords them its protection as peaceable citizens.

While, then, we deeply deplore the fate and the sentence of our Brethren at Port Rico, we regret that a manifest error of judgment, and perhaps some emotions of Masonic zeal not tempered with discretion, should have led them to contravene these municipal regulations as those general laws, which, as true Freemasons and good patriots, they were all equally bound to comply with, and bear in mind.

Two brothers, D. Francois Serra, and Dr. Francois Yanque have been acquitted, and set at liberty, and we hope that the same happy lot may befall our brethren, if the Court of Appeal confirms the sentence of the "Premiere Instance" on a proper appeal to the authorities, and an honest recognition of the binding nature

of the laws of the land, and of the infraction committed by themselves.

We feel that we are bound to say this much—since as Freemasons, we in Anglo-Saxon Masonry especially, ever avow respect to lawful authority, and complete deference and cheerful obedience to the enactments of the supreme Legislature, wherever we ourselves are to be found in any quarter of the world.

We have taken this precis of the case, leaving out a large number of the reasons of the sentence, which, in our opinion, are not material to the matter, from the "Monde Maconnique," of November.

ROMAN CATHOLIC INTOLERANCE AND DESECRATION OF THE DEAD.

The accompanying narrative will in all probability prove of melancholy interest to many of your readers, as it shows the amount of intolerance still existing in Chili:—

A little more than a month ago there died at Serena, Bro. James Wallace, son of Mr. Samuel Wallace, of that city; the deceased being a Protestant was buried at Guayacan; the body had to be conveyed by rail, and as the station is some distance from the city a hearse had to be procured; application was made in the proper quarter for hire of same, but the request was only granted after considerable delay. The ecclesiastical authorities being quite indisposed to permit the use of it; the body, however, at last reached Guayacan cemetery, where, after the usual religious ceremonies, it was interred with some simple Masonic rites, the deceased brother being a member, and, I believe, one of the founders of the Serena Lodge. I may here mention that this Lodge was always held under circumstances of the greatest difficulty and danger, for La Serena is notorious as being the hotbed of Roman Catholicism and the point from which many denunciations of the most vindictive character have lately issued against Masonry and its sympathisers.

However, to proceed, on the 21st of October, some boys playing in or about the cemetery, found a plate bearing the name of Jas. Wallace, and on examination his grave was found open, the corpse exposed and mutilated; on the adove wall, immediately opposite the grave, was found deeply cut a cross, thus showing that some muttered threats which had been heard at the funeral had been carried into effect. The body was immediately removed and sent to Valparaiso (196 miles) for interment. It may now be remarked that the spirit of intolerance which refuses to allow the ashes of those who in life professed different beliefs, to commingle together in one God's common acre is bad enough, but the fanaticism which prompts to the desecration of the dead is infinitely worse. It is, however, some consolation to know that there is no surer sign that fanaticism and bigotry are being driven from their ancient strongholds, than when, in despair, they seek to regain power by profaning the ashes of the dead.

The desecration of our deceased brother's remains will be, in all probability, the death-knell of bigotry and priestcraft in Serena, for since that occurrence Masonry has received such a large accession of members in Serena as must, before long, work out many great and salutary changes in that part of the country. Every effort is being made—as may be supposed—by the priests to shield their dastardly agents. But a reward of 500 dols. has been offered, and it is to be hoped that a just punishment for their cowardly and barbarous act will soon be meted out to the perpetrators. Nothing short of this will satisfy public opinion, the affair having called forth expressions of the deepest indignation throughout the coast of South America.

Mr. Samuel Wallace, the father of Bro. James Wallace, has since died very suddenly, it is said from the effects of the shock caused by the occurrence mentioned.

La Serena is close to Coquemo, a well-known port, 196 miles north of Valparaiso, and is the seat of a Roman Catholic Bishop. Guayacan is a mile or two south of Coquemo. T.W.P.

THE ALEXANDRA PALACE.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, there was a numerous attendance at the Alexandra Palace on Saturday, 11th inst., to hear the second performance of "Esther." It is simply marvellous that this oratorio has been heard only twice, in its entirety, since its great composer's death; we trust, however, that ere long "Esther" will become almost, if not quite, as popular as the "Messiah" and other works from the pen of the illustrious Handel. The performance from the commencement to the end was most satisfactory.

Madame Nouver proved an excellent substitute for Madame Blanche Cole, who was unable to attend through indisposition. Mr. Vernon Rigby being again absent from the same cause, his place was supplied most efficiently by Mr. W. Shakspeare. Madame Nouver was especially successful in "Praise the Lord," "Tears assist me," and in the lovely duett, "Who calls my parting soul?" with Mr. Shakspeare; she also gave "Flattering tongue no more I hear thee" with great dramatic effect. Madlle. Enriquez's exquisite rendering of the pathetic air, "O Jordan, Jordan, sacred tide," must not pass unnoticed; she was also equally effective in the "Invocation" immediately preceding the chorus "He comes to end our woes." Mr. Shakspeare was exceptionally good in "Who dares intrude into our presence?" and in Haman's song "Dread not, righteous queen, the danger;" but he deserves special praise for his expressive rendering of the lovely air, "O beauteous queen, unclosethose eyes." Mr. Wadmore obtained an encore in the recitative "Turn not, O queen;" he also gave with much feeling, "How art thou fallen." Mr. Howell sang with great expression, but his voice did not appear sufficiently powerful for so large a Hall; we imagine those at the extreme end of the hall would have great difficulty in hearing him. The choruses, "Ye sons of Israel mourn," and "He comes to end our woes," were given with remarkable effect, while the magnificent final chorus, with solo, "The Lord our enemy hath slain," was almost beyond criticism. The orchestral accompaniments were admirably played, Mr. Weist-Hill conducting with his accustomed ability. We cannot lose this opportunity of publicly expressing our intense disapprobation at the thoughtlessness and bad taste evinced by those persons who persist in leaving their seats during the performance, and thereby causing extreme annoyance to the musical portion of the audience, who wish to listen undisturbed to the whole of the oratorio; this practice seems to be considered quite *au fait* amongst a certain class at the Alexandra Palace; such a proceeding would not be tolerated at Exeter Hall, nor even at the Crystal Palace to the same extent, and we can see no reason why it should be permitted in one case more than another. There is ample opportunity afforded those desirous of leaving before the end to do so between the pieces or during the interval. The practice we so strongly deprecate is most uncomplimentary to the artistes who take part in the performance, and surely the *smallest* tribute we can offer to the memory of those who have bequeathed us the gems of their immortal genius is that of listening to the same with silent and respectful attention. We earnestly trust that this slight reproof will produce the desired effect, and that in future neither Mr. Weist-Hill nor anyone else will be disturbed in a similar manner.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

I have been startled not a little to read a letter signed by "W. M." respecting his Lodge holding a Charter from the Grand Lodge of All England! and that the members thereof have the privilege of wearing a jewel by virtue of such Charter, confirmed at the Union of 1813. There surely must be a mistake in these statements by "W. M.," for there was not a single lodge in existence, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of All England, held at York, to take place at the Union of 1813, the lodges uniting being those under the Grand Lodge of England ("Moderns"), and the Grand Lodge, according to the old Constitutions ("Ancients") respectively, under the Grand Mastership of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, and H.R.H. the Duke of Kent. Will "W.M." kindly inform us of the character of the jewel mentioned, and the name and number of his lodge, so that we might investigate the matter, and prove that the assertions are incorrect or otherwise.

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN,
Author of "Memorials of the Masonic Union of 1813."

Ellis and White, of 29, New Bond-street, have a copy of Caxton's Polycroncon for sale, of 1812 (circa) £210. Would it not be well to secure this for one of our Masonic Libraries, or for the Grand Lodge Library? Its value is very great indeed, and was, in our opinion, the basis of the major portion of the historical reproductions to our old charges from 14th century, the chronicle having previously existed in MS. from early in the 14th century, apparently being the work of one Roger, Monk of St. Werberg, in Chester, amplified by Ralph Higden of the same monastery, who died prior to 1360, of which several copies are still extant in MS. In 1387 it was translated by Trevisa into English, and was revised about a hundred years later by Caxton, which he finished on July 22nd, 1842, and printed soon after. The above is

one of many very curious and valuable for sale by these noted firm of antiquarian booksellers, and if a copy could be made of such a work for publication in the "Freemason" or "Masonic Magazine," it would gladden the hearts of many Masonic students now prevented owning such from the high price.

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

Correspondence.

(Continued.)

THE CHINESE MASONIC CHART.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Adverting to the lecture given by the Rev. P. P. Agnew on the subject of Freemasonry, an account of which appeared in the "Freemason" newspaper of the 18th instant, he remarked, "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." I have to inform you for the benefit of such of your readers as may not be aware of it, that St. Alban formed the first Grand Lodge in Britain, A.D. 287, and King Athelstane granted a charter to Freemasons in 926, the same year in which Prince Edwin formed a Grand Lodge at York; this I deem it essential to mention, as, until the publication of the "Freemason," many old intelligent members of our Ancient Order and high in Masonic rank, have endeavoured to impress more juvenile members with the idea that there was no legitimate record of the establishment of Masonry prior to the completion of St. Paul's by Freemasons in 1713.

I chanced to meet with a Masonic book a few days ago, printed in the commencement of the present century, from which I cull the earlier date (287) of remarkable events in Masonry, the title of which work, with other particulars thereof, I now send you:—

"MASONIC MISCELLANIES,

By STEPHEN JONES, P.M., of the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 1, acting by immemorial Constitution.

A New Edition, enlarged and improved.

London: Printed by W. Wilson, 4, Greville-street, for Vernor, Rees, Orme and Brown, Paternoster-row; Crosby and Co., Stationers'-court; J. Asperne, Cornhill; and T. Keys, Coleman-street."

Yours fraternally,

A PROVINCIAL P.M.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In your report in to-day's "Freemason," of a lecture on Freemasonry, by the Rev. P. P. Agnew, delivered at the Loane-street Hall, Auckland, New Zealand, we are told:—"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."

I very much doubt the antiquity of the Chinese chart. Emblems of Noah's ark, the dove and olive branch, &c., are frequent in British Masonic charts, both of last century and the present, and belong to the Ark Degree, still practised, I believe, in Lancashire. At least I know that I got it and others at an Ark, Mark, Link, and Wrestle Lodge, at Radcliffe Bridge, for thirteence-halfpenny, some years ago. I will be glad to learn full particulars of the present state of all the Side Degrees in the North of England.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDELL.

Rose Cottage, Stokesley,
December 18, 1875.

MASONIC JEWELS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Kindly allow me to point out to "W. M." that the extract given in my letter of the 27th ult., made special mention of some Lodges having jewels of their own.

Believe me, yours fraternally,

JAMES A. HAYES.

QUERIES.

To the Editor of the Freemason,

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will you be kind enough to answer the following question for our information:—Has the Tyler of the Lodge any right to vote for the election of Master, or any other purpose? I may add that our Tyler is a subscribing member and is returned to Grand Lodge as such, at the same time the Lodge pays him a sum each year for his services. In Bro. R. H. Mackenzie's Royal Masonic Cyclopædia (page 65) I read: "The Tyler who is not necessarily a member of the Lodge, and, in the case of payment for his services, has no vote." Please say which is correct.

In the event of the W.M. placing the ruling of the Lodge in the hands of the S.W. would it be necessary for the S.W. to leave his chair and take a seat in the E, or could he rule the Lodge from the W, and could he (all business being ended) close the Lodge. Thanking you for past courtesies,

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Faithfully and fraternally yours,

S. C. H.

[1. We are decidedly of opinion that supposing the Tyler was not initiated in the Lodge as a serving brother, and has joined it since in the usual way, and is now a subscribing member of the same, he is "entitled to all the privileges and benefits of the craft," (see page 87 Book of Constitutions,) and is clearly entitled to vote. We cannot accept Bro. Mackenzie's dictum as to payment for services being a disqualification, such a view is clearly erroneous.

2. The S.W. rules the lodge. In our opinion, if not an installed master, he must take a chair next the W.Ms. chair, and appoint a new S.W. *pro tempore*. With this seat he can open and close the Lodge.—Ed.]

Obituary.

THE LATE BRO. THOMAS SLEATOR.

A noble, large-hearted, and universally respected Mason has recently passed away, and we deem it our duty, as a faithful chronicle of the Craft, to bear testimony to his worth and integrity of purpose. We refer to Bro. Thomas Sleator, who had reached nearly 68 years of age, and who resided at Oak Villa, Summerland, Waterford.

On Friday night, the 3rd instant, at about eleven o'clock he fell into a slumber which proved to be literally "the sleep that knows not waking," as in almost twenty-four hours he quietly passed away without having awakened. His life was useful and good, his death peaceful and calm.

Deceased was P.M. of Lodges 5, 32, and 297; P.Z. of Chapters 5 and 32; a member of the Temple Lodge, No. 1,094, Liverpool; Secretary to Lodge No. 5, Waterford, P.G. Secretary of the South-eastern Division of Ireland; a Governor of the Masonic Male and Female Orphan Schools, Dublin; Life Governor of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution; and a Governor of the Commercial Travellers' School. These sufficiently indicate the zeal and true charity which Bro. Sleator brought to bear on the Masonic duties of his life. His hand was ever ready to help the struggling, his heart to sympathise with the distressed; and no case of genuine charity was ever allowed by him to pass without recognition and succour. With all his charity he was invariably unostentatious, and with the simplicity of a child his invariable desire was to remain out of sight when deeds of charity were performed by him. Combined with those and many other noble qualities, Bro. Sleator was an enthusiastic member of the Craft, and it will not be easy to fill the blank which his departure has created.

The *Waterford Mirror*, of the 9th instant, thus describes the funeral of Bro. Sleator:—"Upon this sad event becoming known in the city (Waterford) on Sunday it was resolved by the Masonic Body that with the consent of his afflicted family the funeral should be celebrated with the honours due to one who had occupied a high position in the Order for many years, and during that time acted up to its principles as a true and worthy brother. Bros. H. R. Sargent, Alexander Nelson, and H. Waugh having been elected stewards the following arrangements were made and carried out on Wednesday, the 8th instant.

Brethren assembled at the residence of deceased, Oak Villa, at a quarter to one precisely.

Each Brother attended in black clothes, with a spring Acacia tied with black ribbon, and a ribbon of the colour of his degree worn in the left button-hole. The Master Mason's colour was blue; Royal Arch, red; Knights Templar, black and white; Prince Masons' red and gold.

The stewards appointed to marshal the proces-

sion each carried a wand with a piece of crape tied on the top. The Brethren proceeded, as directed by those stewards:—

Master Masons (not now in office) two abreast.

Royal Arch Masons, two abreast.

Knights Templar, two abreast.

Prince Masons, two abreast.

Tylers of the Waterford Lodges.

I. Gs. ditto.

I. Ds. with wands, ditto, and crape on them.

S.Ds. ditto, ditto.

Secretaries and Chaplain.

J. W. of Waterford Lodge.

S. W. ditto.

Past Masters, ditto.

W. Ms. ditto.

Bros. Blair, Whalley, and Whalley, jun., alternately carrying the Bible, Square and Compass, and the Book of Constitutions, on a cushion covered with crape, the Bible and Book being also covered with crape.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Bro. H. Palmer.

Bro. W. A. Sargent.

" J. Scott. COFFIN.

" Henry Denny.

" P. Leckie.

" St. G. Freeman.

MOURNERS.

The route taken was through Thomas-street, the Quay, Henrietta-street, to the front entrance of the Cathedral. Arriving there the procession then marched up the aisle, separating on either side, the organ softly murmuring a solemn voluntary, and the coffin being brought into the church by the bearers, who were selected from the Knight Templars and Royal Arch Masons, the two highest grades to which the deceased belonged. The funeral cortege was met by the Rev. Mr. Bradlley, M.A., who read the usual service for the dead, after which Mr. T. Artherton sang, "I know that my Redeemer liveth" (*Messiah*), which was followed by the full choir of the Cathedral, chanting the Psalm appointed for the service, and the appropriate hymn, "Great Captain of Salvation." After the service concluded the coffin was again borne from the aisle through the outer transept and the main entrance to the Cathedral square, where it was placed on the hearse, Bro. James Moreland playing Handel's "Dead March" in *Saul*. The procession then went by Colbeck and Catherine-streets, up John's Hill to the cemetery. The coffin was then carried to the grave by the bearers. When deposited a circle of the Brethren was formed, with the Chaplain and Deputy Provincial Grand Master at the head of the grave. The Burial Service was then read, after which the Masonic Lecture was read by the Chaplain, the Deacons holding their wands crossed over the coffin. At the conclusion the silent salute was given, time being taken from Bro. Harry R. Sargent. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then placed the deceased's apron in the grave, and each Brother likewise placed his sprig of Acacia there.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Abram Denny, then removing the deceased Knight Templar's Sash and Apron from the top of the coffin, replaced them by a Mason Master's Apron, after which the coffin was lowered to its last resting place, while the beautiful words of the hymn "Thy will be done" were sung by a hundred voices with marked effect.

BRO. JAMES BURTON.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of an old and highly-esteemed brother of the Craft, Bro. James Burton. This well-known brother died on the 30th of November, rather suddenly. He was initiated in the Albion Lodge, No. 9, 1850; he served all the offices, and was for some time secretary of that lodge; joined the Globe Lodge, No. 23; Phoenix Lodge, No. 170; Berkhamstead Lodge, No. 504; was Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden of Hertfordshire; was P.Z. of the Jerusalem Chapter, No. 185; and Knight Templar. He took a great interest in the charities of the Order, having been a Life Governor of the three Masonic charities and served the office of Steward on five occasions. The death of this brother is deeply regretted by the Craft generally.

THE LONDON MASONIC CLUB.—We are glad to see that the effort to establish a Masonic Club has been successful. The premises, which are situate 107, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., and are handsome, spacious and central, will be opened for the use of members on or before the 1st March next, and no doubt brethren will gladly avail themselves of what we look upon as a great boon to the Craft. Difficulty has been experienced in meeting with a suitable site, but the premises now taken are certainly all that could be wished, and are capable of being enlarged to meet all requirements should the influx of members render extension necessary. Our space precludes referring to this interesting subject at greater length on this occasion, but we shall refer to it in future numbers; in the meantime we wish it every success, and recommend our Masonic readers to send in their applications for membership without delay, and refer for further information to our advertising columns.

Masonic and General Tidings.

The "Illustrated London News" of last week contains a full page illustration of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, laying the foundation stone of the New Docks at Bombay.

Prince Leopold left Oxford on Saturday for Windsor, having completed his University career.

The Duke of Connaught has been boar hunting with spears at Tangier.

Dr. J. D. Collis, the Vicar of Stratford-on-Avon, has issued an appeal on behalf of the restoration of the church of the Holy Trinity. He wants £10,000 to restore the fabric of Shakspeare's church as Shakspeare saw it, and £4000 or £5000 more to fit up the interior properly.

From a report made by Sir Gilbert Scott, in reply to certain inquiries made by Sir Edward Beckett, relative to the condition of the south arcade wall of St. Alban's Abbey, it appears that this part of the building is in need of "immediate and serious attention," and Sir Edward Beckett has offered the munificent sum of £1000 towards the same. Lady Beckett also offers £200.

The amount collected by the Grand Orient of France for the inundation relief fund had on the 12th inst. reached the large amount of 6,300 francs.

Bro. Ward Hunt, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and Mrs. Ward Hunt left Whitehall on Monday on a visit to the Marquis and Marchioness of Exeter at Burghley House.

PRICE OF GAS.—The Directors of the London Gaslight Company have reduced the charge for common gas to 3s. 6d. per 1000 cubic feet from the Christmas quarter.

At the City Wardmotes there was very little opposition to the re-election of the Common Councilmen. Bro. Alderman Stone received the hearty thanks of the electors of his ward for the manner in which he had maintained the dignity of the office of Lord Mayor during the past year.

In the presence of the Duke of St. Albans, (P.G.M., Lincolnshire) honorary colonel of the Robin Hood Rifles, the annual distribution of prizes to successful volunteers took place at Nottingham on Tuesday, when it was stated that of 1,000 men on the roll every one had made himself extra efficient, and earned the Government grant.

HER MAJESTY'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—On Monday and Tuesday last, according to ancient custom, Her Majesty's Christmas bounties were distributed at the Almoner's Office, by the Lord High Almoner, Sub-Almoner, and Mr. John Hantey, secretary, and other officials. The recipients were principally blind and infirm, varying in their ages from 60 to 92. The amounts distributed varied in sums from 5s. to 7s. 6d.

WILTS ELECTION.—The Speaker's notice preliminary to the issuing of a new election writ to fill the vacancy caused by the acceptance by Bro. Lord H. Thynne of the office of Treasurer of her Majesty's Household appeared in Tuesday's *London Gazette*.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.—The Lodge of Benevolence met on Wednesday evening, the 22nd December, 1875, in the Board Room, Freemasons' Hall, Bro. J. M. Clifton, President; Bro. Joshua Nunn, Senior Vice-President; and Bro. James Brett, Junior Vice-President. The lodge was fully attended, and there were present, among other brethren, Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary; Bro. H. G. Buss, Bro. A. A. Pendlebury, and Bro. S. Rawson, John Boyd, C. A. Cotterline, E. P. Albert, C. F. Hogard, W. Mann, Samuel Poynter, H. W. Hemsworth, W. T. Howe, J. Bingemann, H. T. Wood, W. H. Myers, Giles Jardine, W. H. Murlis, Griffiths Smith, Herbert Dicketts, Joseph Smith, George Everett, Samuel May, H. Massey ("Freemason"), J. G. Marsh, W. H. Stephens, R. Whiting, W. Clifton Crick, W. Neale, G. R. Sherrill, W. Gilbert, S. L. Hickman, H. Bartlett, Frederick W. Pownall, H. T. Wood, H. George Free, Munyard, and J. W. Baldwin. At the opening of the lodge the grants made at former lodges which required confirmation were confirmed, amounting to £220. There were thirty-one new cases on the list for relief. Of these two were dismissed and three deferred, and the remaining cases were relieved with £500 in all. Of this sum two cases were relieved with £40 each; six with £30 each; six with £20 each; three with £15 each; six with £10 each; and three with £5 each. The grant made in each case was very liberal. Grand Lodge was thereupon closed.

DONATIONS from some of the City companies and from private individuals, in anticipation of Christmas, have been received by the magistrates at several of the metropolitan police-courts.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

METROPOLITAN.

GREAT NORTHERN LODGE.—On Thursday, the 16th inst. the members of this flourishing Lodge held the usual monthly meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, under W.M. Bro. James Forbes, who was supported by P.M. T. H. Seaton as S.W., and Bro. E. Lancaster as J.W. There were also present P.M. Webb (Treasurer), and Bros. Jape, Christie, West, and a large number of the Brethren. The visitors were represented by P.M. Goldham, 109, and Bro. Foss, 1260. The W.M. having opened the Lodge in the first and second degrees, proceeded to entrust Bros. Hobbs, Arding, Cushion, Fisher, Wymark, Phillips and Whewell, prior to their being raised to the sublime degree. Having retired for preparation, and presenting themselves at the call of the W.M., they were all in due course raised in his usual careful manner. The Lodge was then closed to the first degree, and the ballot taken for Messrs. A. D. Smith and William Cleghorn, which, proving satisfactory, they were initiated into the ancient order, and having retired, Bros. Gray and Whitfield were examined and entrusted. The latter named Brethren having also retired, the Lodge was resumed in the second, and on their return, they were duly passed. This brought the regular Lodge work to a close, but a very agreeable portion yet remained, in which all were able to participate, viz., the election of W.M., Treasurer and Tyler for the ensuing year. The Secretary having announced who were eligible for the chair, and the P.M.'s having decided not to seek re-election, the Lodge elected the J.W., Bro. Lancaster, who returned thanks for the same. P.M. Webb was re-elected Treasurer and Rawles, Tyler. The Audit Committee having been appointed, it was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously, that the usual amount should be voted from the Lodge funds for the purchase of a jewel for the retiring W.M. Bro. Forbes then closed his Lodge, after upwards of four hours steady work.

PLUMSTEAD.—UNITED MILITARY LODGE (No. 1536).—The members of this young and rapidly increasing Lodge assembled for their monthly meeting at the Hall, Plumstead, on Friday the 10th December, upwards of a hundred Brethren and visitors being present. The business of the Lodge was the passing of Bros. J. A. Mason and G. Smith, and the raising of Bro. S. Morrish, both ceremonies being worked by the W.M., Bro. F. G. Pownall. Among the visitors present were:—J. Ward, W.M. 700; C. Coupland, P.M., 913; and P.G.S. for the Province of Kent; G. D. Roe, P.M., 378 and 1424 and P.P.G.S. for the Western Division of South Wales; Captain Phillips, P.M., 13; J. Headley, P.M., 13; J. McDougall, P.M., 913; T. Butt, S.W., 700; J. Allen, 913; A. Ammerton, 1042; T. Hutton, 13; D. Beard, 700; O. Hutton, 13; W. S. Parsons, 700; R. Weaver, 700; A. Lindsey, 730; F. Battersby, 903; B. Norman, 13; R. A. Smith, 13; R. J. Perry, 13 (Scotch); J. Gregg, 687; C. Cook, 13; J. Tame, 700; W. McCoy, 700; C. Jolly, 913. The officers present besides the W.M., were J. Fenn, P.M.; W. Weston, S.W.; G. Spinks, J.W.; W. Murphy, Treasurer; T. Cooper, Secretary; H. G. Picken, S.D.; H. Shaw, J.D.; Joseph McCaffery, Steward; J. Lackland, Tyler. The Brethren adjourned for refreshment, and the W.M. gave the usual toasts in appropriate terms.

PROVINCIAL.

FREEMASONRY IN SHEFFIELD.—ROYAL BRUNSWICK LODGE.—The Royal Brunswick Lodge, No. 296, held its anniversary in the Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield, on the evening of Monday, December 13th, when Bro. Henry Ecroyd, (the Worshipful Master-Elect), was installed in the chair of K.S., in succession to Bro. H. W. Pawson, I.P.M., who very ably performed the solemn ceremony of Installation, in due and ancient form, and in the presence of a large number of the brethren of the Craft. Amongst the distinguished visitors from other Lodges were Bro. Henry Smith, Prov. Grand Secretary of West Yorks; Bro. Rev. A. W. Hamilton, M.A., Mue. Bac., Senior Prov. Grand Chaplain of West Yorks; Bro. William Roddewig, Prov. Director of Ceremonies; the Worshipful Masters of the Britannia and Wentworth Lodges, Sheffield, Seardsdale Lodge, Chesterfield; Phoenix Lodge, Rotherham; Pelham Lodge, Worksop; Bro. Robert Stevenson, Nottingham; Bro. Rev. Vernon Russell, Worksop; Bro. John Denton, member of the Grand Lodge of Sweden and Norway; Bro. Major Vigers, Capt. Traill, and Capt.-Adjutant Mills; Bro. Alexander Hay, and H. J. Garnett (Past Prov. Grand Sword Bearer, etc.). The Prov. Grand Master of West Yorks; Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., and Bro. Tew, Dep. Prov. Grand Master, were unavoidably absent. After the customary homage had been paid to the newly installed Master, he invested his officers as follows:—Bro. John Ridal, Senior Warden; Bro. Walter Nicholson, Junior Warden; Bro. Rev. Samuel W. Earnshaw, M.A., Chaplain; Bro. M. de Bartolome, M.D., Treasurer; Bro. Robert Schott, Secretary; Bro. Geo. Cubley, Senior Deacon; Bro. Wm. Skimmer, M.R.C.S., Junior Deacon; Bro. John Marples, Director of Ceremonies; Bro. Thomas Harrison, Inner Guard; Bro. Charles Clement Carr, and Bro. Moses Hartley, Stewards; and Bro. Suckley, Organist. The Brethren afterwards sat down to a banquet provided by Bro. Brookes, at which Bro. Ecroyd presided. The health of the Worshipful Master was proposed by Bro. Past Master Seebohm, F.Z.S., that of the Visiting Brethren was proposed by Bro. Past Master Longden, and responded to by Bro. Captain Traill.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 225).—This Lodge met on Wednesday last, the 8th inst., at the Coach and Horses Hotel, and, it being the evening for installing Brother P.M. Westgate, your readers of this town and the many Brethren members of this Lodge, who I may truly say are scattered over the four quarters of the globe, will not be surprised to know that the Lodge was filled to excess by its numerous members, and a large gathering of visitors from the other Lodges of the town. The meeting had been fixed for seven o'clock, Bro. Turner, P.M., having taken the chair, in consequence of that lamentable occurrence, which took place in Lodge that day twelve months, when our beloved and esteemed Bro. King was summoned from this sublunary abode to that Grand Lodge above, just as he was in the act of performing the duties of W.M. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Wentworth passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. Mr. Antcliff was initiated. The installation of W.M. being the next and most important business of the evening, the duties of installing Master devolved upon Bro. J. W. Whithead, P.M., who presented the W.M. Elect and afterwards conducted the whole proceedings. The new W.M. having taken the chair, commenced at once to invest his officers as follows:—Bro. Dakin, S.W.; Bro. Hillyard, I.W.; Bro. Booth, S.D.; Bro. Canham, I.D.; Bro. Orton, I.G. The W.M. then rose and addressed the Brethren, thanking them for the high honour they had conferred upon him for the second time, and then in most feeling terms alluded to that melancholy event to which we have before referred. Before concluding his remarks he announced to the Brethren that they had a very short time since the pleasure of affording relief to a worthy, although distressed Bro., and he believed that the Secretary had received a communication from him expressive of the deep feeling of gratitude he owed to the Lodge. There being no further business before the Lodge, he proceeded to close the Lodge, after which the Brethren then adjourned to refreshment. The usual toasts being duly honoured, the W.M. Master, in proposing for "The Visitors," said: Brethren it is always one of the most pleasing duties which a W.M. has to perform at the festive board in proposing the health of Visiting Brothers, and upon this occasion it was especially so, when he saw before him such a goodly number representing, not only the Lodges in this Province, but others from a greater distance. He thanked them for the honour they had done him, and he assured them that any time the St. Luke's Lodge would be ever ready to receive with a hearty welcome all who would favour him with their presence. The W.M. then coupled the names of this toast with the Rev. Bro. Sanderson, P.M., and P.P.G.C., of Lodge Prince of Wales; Bro. Tracey, P.M., Lodge Perfect Friendship; Bro. Clarke, J.W., Lodge British Union; Bro. Stevens, Lodge Perseverance, Norwich; all of whom responded.

ROCHDALE.—PROBITY AND FREEDOM LODGE (No. 367).—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday the 16th inst., at the Bull's Head Hotel, Smallbridge, Rochdale, and was well attended. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of last meeting unanimously confirmed. The ballot for Mr. James Leach proving favourable he was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. Wm. Schofield, W.M. elect, was then installed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom, and appointed the following officers: Bro. William J. Kinder, S.W.; Wm. Beswicke, J.W.; A. F. Shore, S.D.; J. Schofield, J.D.; C. M. Jones, P.M., Treasurer; Swift, Secretary; Robert Wren, P.M. D. of C.; Henry Ashworth, I.G.; W. Davis Tyler. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. T. Baker Ashworth, P.M., in the most impressive and eloquent manner. Four candidates were proposed for initiation at next meeting, and the Lodge was then closed. An excellent banquet was served by Bro. McOwen. The usual toasts were proposed by the W.M. Responding to the toast of the Provincial Grand Officers, Bro. Jones, P.M., and Bro. Roberts, P.M., both P.P.G. Officers, gave the brethren some interesting information, respecting the proposed East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution.

MANCHESTER.—LODGE OF TRUTH (No. 1458).—This Lodge met at the Royal Archer Hotel, Dale Street, on the 4th inst. The minutes of last regular meeting, which included the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, were confirmed unanimously. Mr. Wm. Richardson was initiated into Freemasonry. Bro. Caldwell, P.M. D. of C., assisted by Bro. James E. Hall, W.M. 1459, then installed Bro. Charles Joel Kent, W.M. elect, in the chair of K.S., and the ceremony was performed in a most impressive manner. The following officers were appointed by the W.M.:—Bros. James Batchelder, S.W.; Jas. Branton, J.W.; Thos. Tyers, P.M., Treasurer; Wm. John Kinder, Secretary; Robt. Fallows, S.D.; Wm. Cox, J.D.; J. Taylor, I.G.; E. Walton, and R. Wheelton, Stewards; C. Beswick Tyler. Many visitors were present, and the following Lodges were represented, viz:—Provincial Grand Lodge, 581, 879, 999, 1011, 1077, 1083, 1161, 1219, 1357. After the Lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet, and to celebrate the Festival of St. John. The usual toasts were given and duly honoured. A handsome P.M.'s jewel had been subscribed for amongst the brethren, and the W.M. presented it to the immediate Past Master, Bro. Smith, who accepted it with an appropriate acknowledgment. An event of a gratifying character was the attendance of Bro. Charles W. Kent, P.M., 879, the W.M.'s father who, within three days afterwards was himself installed first W.M. of the Leopold Lodge, No. 1571, Bermondsey, London. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Batchelder, and all carried out in a creditable manner.

LEICESTER.—JOHN OF GAUNT (No. 523).—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge, was held at Freemasons' Hall, Thursday, December 16. The W.M.,

J. T. Thorpe, in the chair, supported by Bros. S. S. Partridge, I.P.M.; W. T. Rowlett; T. A. Wykes, J.W.; W. B. Smith, Treas.; R. Taylor, Secy.; W. C. Shout, S.D.; J. Odell, J.D.; J. Young, I.G.; J. F. Smith, Steward; C. Bembridge, Tyler; and Bros. T. Worthington, W.M., 50; F. J. Baines, P.M.; A. S. Dale, T. R. Pickering, J. M. Padmore, E. W. Potter, J. T. Gunn, W. Chamberlain, W. H. Church, J. M. Quin, S. Knight, J. McAllister, E. Mason, S. Cleaver, G. W. Statham, &c. The Lodge being duly opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. gave the first tracing board to the initiates of preceding month. Bros. J. Mitchell, Padmore and Arthur Shallot Dale, having been examined in the first degree, were passed in regular order to the degree of Fellowcraft. Resuming business in the first degree, Bro Partridge, I.P.M., on behalf of the new Albert Edward Lodge, No. 1560, asked a loan of the John of Gaunt furniture, &c. until such time as arrangements then pending could be made for the purchase of a new set at the probable joint expense of the several town lodges, which application was willingly granted. Bro. Partridge, I.P.M., after apologizing for the absence of Bro. C. Stretton, P.M., 279, announced that the festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and Freemasons' widows, would be held early in February, and Bro. Stretton having been appointed to represent the province as Steward on that occasion, Bro. Partridge gave notice of motion, that at the next regular meeting he should move, that a donation be voted from the funds of this Lodge to the R.M.B.I., to be placed on Bro. Stretton's list as steward. Apologies for absence having been received from Bros. G. Toller, P.M., and C. Johnson, P.M., Organist, the Lodge was closed in due form.

HERWARD LODGE, BOURN, LINCOLNSHIRE (No. 1,232).—On Wednesday evening, December 8, 1875, this Lodge assembled and unanimously confirmed their previous Lodge minutes in their election of W.M. for the ensuing year. When the Rev. Daniel Ace, D.D., P.P.G.C. for Lincolnshire, of Lodges 650, 1,232, and 1,482, and at present P.G.C. for Provincial Royal Arch Chapter, and Mark Grand Lodge for Lincolnshire, was duly installed W.M. of Hereward Lodge (No. 1,232), Bourn, Lincolnshire, 1875-6. The Brethren were favoured with the distinguished presence of two of the Secretaries of our Masonic charities in London to do honour to the new W.M., one of those gentlemen attesting that he had personally known their new W.M. for nearly twenty years, both as a clergyman in the metropolis and as a member of the Craft; and in every relation of life he had proved him a gentleman of the highest honour and integrity. Several high officers, very eminent in the Craft, would have been present had not the weather proved extremely inclement. The brethren, however, who assembled on this auspicious occasion spent a most enjoyable evening, not the shadow of a shade to disturb their harmony. The speeches, too, delivered were admirable, especially those of our London Secretaries on the utility of our Masonic charities, and their urgent claims for support. The Lodge at Bourn has very creditably for some time past worked its way successfully under difficulties; and it is confidently expected that their new Master and his Wardens, with the Past Masters and other honoured Brethren, will fully prove that the Hereward Lodge has undeniable claims for distinction and success, to which it is entitled by charitable exertions and quiet perseverance in well doing.

INDIA.

MAZAGON.—LODGE "CONCORD," (No. 757 E.C.).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Mazagon, on Saturday, the 20th November, 1875. Present, Wor. Bros. W. C. Rowe, W.M.; G. R. Henderson, I.P.M.; B. Robinson, P.M.; J. N. Dndy, P.M.; Bros. F. Burdett as S.W.; W. Fearn as J.W.; F. Burdett, Treasurer; W. E. Craddock as Secretary; J. Spiers, S.D.; W. G. Davie, J.D.; J. Luke, D.D.; J. E. Tyres, Organist; J. F. Grew, Steward; L. Thomas, J.G.; J. W. Seager, Tyler. Members, Bros. J. H. Burrett, J. Armstrong, W. W. Wilson, J. May, H. Watson, J. A. De Gaueca, T. W. Brownmuth, S. Needs, J. D. Longden, J. G. Da Cunlia, &c. &c. Visitors, Bros. A. McKenric, P.M., 944 E.C.; H. W. Barrow, P.M., 944 E.C.; H. Counsell, W.M., 1100 E.C.; F. C. Lafond, 1100 E.C.; T. E. Lafond, 1100 E.C.; C. Parker, 1100 E.C.; A. H. Axford, 351 S.C.; E. Brown, 260 E.C., &c. The lodge was opened with prayer at 6.50 p.m. The summons convening the meeting was read. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The minutes of the last meeting of the permanent committee were read and adopted. Wor. Bro. B. Robinson, P.M., proposed, and Wor. Bro. G. R. Henderson, I.P.M., seconded Mr. Samuel Needs, Loco Fireman, B.B., and C. I. Ry Parell as a candidate for initiation. Wor. Bro. G. R. Henderson, I.P.M., then informed the lodge that a letter had been received by Wor. Bro. B. Robinson, P.M., respecting the proposition for Mr. Samuel Needs, but it was received too late to bring before the last regular meeting, so it was sent to the Wor. Mas. W. C. Rowe, and received his sanction to be entered on the summons for the regular meeting of 20th November, 1875. The ballot was then taken for Mr. F. W. Brownmuth, Mr. Jeronimo Accacio De Gama and Mr. Samuel Needs, and announced duly elected. Mr. Thomas William Brownmuth, Mr. Jeronimo Accacio De Gama, and Mr. Samuel Needs, properly prepared, were then duly and respectively admitted and initiated into the secrets and mysteries of ancient Freemasonry. The Wor. Master then informed Bro. J. Armstrong that, owing to the time being taken up with the newly initiated Brethren, that he would have to defer raising him to the Third Degree until the next lodge meeting. Wor. Bro. G. R. Henderson, I.P.M., proposed, and Wor. Bro. B.

Robinson, P.M., seconded, that a letter of condolence be sent, in the name of the lodge, to the widow of our late Brother, C. Lowe, P. J. W. Wor. Bro. G. R. Henderson, I.P.M., proposed, and Wor. Bro. B. Robinson, P.M., seconded, that a letter be sent to Messrs. Spencer and Co. respecting the inferior quality of the officers' clothing recently received from home. The Wor. Master, W. C. Rowe, then said that all Brethren that were in arrears should be informed, that no Brethren in arrears will be entitled to give their vote at the next election, unless they are clear on the books, as per bye-laws (see Voting, Art. XVIII. A letter from Bro. A. W. Seabrook, J. W., was then read, asking to have his name placed on the absent list, at the expiration of his term of office, and was recorded as desired by the Wor. Master. Wor. Bro. G. R. Henderson, I.P.M., then read a letter received from the Wor. Master, which accompanied a very handsome red silk-velvet cushion, with the device, name and number of the lodge, exquisitely worked in gold. This cushion is to have the Volume of the Sacred Law laid thereon. The Brethren being duly informed of the above, a cordial vote of thanks was returned for this most valuable and fraternal gift. A letter from Wor. Bro. Alfred King was then read, asking for a receipt or voucher, to produce should he desire to join a lodge at home, he being on twelvemonths' leave. His absent dues being paid up to June, 1876, inclusive, a certificate was granted. There being no further business before the lodge, it was closed with solemn prayer at 9.50 p.m.

Scotland.

SCOTLAND, PAISLEY.—THE ST. MIRREN LODGE, (No. 129), held a funeral Lodge on Monday evening, the 13th inst., in memory of the late Brothers Alex. Morrison, S.S.P.G.L.R.E., and Geo. Smith, Standard Bearer of the Lodge. The Lodge was opened at seven o'clock by Bro. Henry Sheppard Edmonds, R.W.M., and on the dais were:—Brothers the Rev. W. Fowler Mills, Lodge Chaplain; John Peters, R.W.M., No. 153, Pollokshaws; John Cunningham, I.P.M., No. 347, Rutherglen; Geo. Glen, R.W.M., No. 426, Renfrew; Wm. Lewis, M.D., Houston, R.W.M., No. 242; Alex. McLeod, P.M., No. 129, Paisley; and Thos. Bustard, D.M., No. 129, Paisley. The Wardens' chairs were occupied by Wm. Gemmil, S.W., and George Fisher, J.W., and there was a good attendance.

Rev. Brother Mills said:—The solemn occasion, brethren, which brings us together to-night is a striking instance of the uncertainty of life and the vanity of all human pursuits, and it cannot fail to produce those suitable sensations and correct sentiments which such occurrences are peculiarly calculated to inspire. The last offices paid to the dead, although they cannot affect the state of the departed, are useful as lectures to the living. From them we may derive instruction, and consider every solemnity of this kind as a summons to prepare for our own approaching dissolution. In addressing you upon the death of our departed Brothers, much might be advanced relative to them; but it will be needless for me to particularise, as any omission of mine will be readily supplied by many present, who both knew and admired them. The large assembly bears witness to their worth as Masons, and we have every reason to believe that both were esteemed and respected as Christians. Perfection, it is true, is not an attribute of man; in vain may we seek for it in any. Frailty and infirmity cleave inseparably to us all. But whatever were the foibles which they might have shared in common with their species, they were counterbalanced by the redeeming qualities of the heart and mind. Our chief aim, however, is to make this solemn meeting subservient to the important purposes of religious and personal edification. "Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return" is a sentence, which, when the fulfilment of it is immediately presented to our eyes, cannot but strike terror into every attentive mind. Who could in reference to the respected subjects of our discourse, abstain from reflecting that the same destiny which has befallen those whom we so lately consigned to the silent chambers of the tomb, awaits himself? "That the place which *now* knows him shall know him no more for ever?" These words do not affect the immediate connection only of the departed, they speak aloud to us all. A voice from the tombs echoes back the awakening declaration of the Scriptures which assures us, "That man walketh in a vain show." What is our life? "It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time then vanishes away. Death, that indiscriminate leveller brings down the vigour of manhood with as much certainty as he crushes the helplessness of infancy or sweeps away the decrepitude of age. If reflections on that awful event tend to depress the pride of the human heart, so should they also elevate their thoughts to that happier world, where no sorrows are ever permitted to damp the ardour of our joys, and where no corroding causes invade that fulness of felicity which, in inexhaustible streams is poured out continually upon its blessed inhabitants, to that celestial city where the sun shall be no more thy light by day, neither shall the moon give to thee by night; but the Lord shall be unto thee as an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. When the warning stroke comes to us, shall it find us with faces and hearts turned towards the heavenly Jerusalem, seeking with full purpose of mind the mansions of the blessed, or shall it find us combined about much serving—swallowed up in worldly cares, and given over to the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Let me urge upon you the necessity of preparing for the momentous issue towards which we are all rapidly hastening. Every succeeding hour and minute is num'ring many with the silent dead. As it is; pointed unto men once for all to die, so after death is the judgment—that awful hour when the universal register of every act, word, and thought,

shall be unfolded before an assembled world, angels and arch-angels assisting at that last assize. How important then, is readiness for death. Remember, it will come whether we are ready or not. And, oh, how often it comes at an unexpected hour. How many go to bed well, and never rise more. How many go out from home well, and never return! Some are snatched away in the midst of their amusements, and others while engaged in their calling. How necessary then to be *always* ready—to be ready *now*. Delay in this case is dangerous, indeed, almost all men talk of preparing at some time when sickness brings them to the brink of the grave or when relatives or neighbours are removed they promise themselves they will repent, but often the impression dies away. The world like the returning tide fills their hearts with its pleasures and cares and the writing on the sand is all obliterated, so dies in human hearts thoughts of death. If a man is living in sin he cannot be happy; he may try to be happy by forgetting death; but he cannot forget it, and he cannot enjoy life for fear of death. On the other hand, happy is the life of that man who has hope through grace. He truly enjoys life, and he may smile at death. He may say, "For me to live is Christ, and die is gain. While I live here Christ is with me; when I die I shall be with Christ." O let us prepare to follow our departed friends, favoured with an early call to glory, whilst we remain here below; let us be active for God, let us support with propriety the character of our Order, by a holy life and religious conversation; let us live each day as if it were the last; let us live to-day as if we were never to see to-morrow, of the very existence of which none of us are at all assured. Let us strive to enter in at the narrow gate which leadeth unto everlasting life, and walk worthy of the high vocation to which we are called, that as we may at last arrive at those blessed mansions of glory where we shall join our kindred spirits around the throne, where the corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and where there shall be no more death. This, we beg, for the honour of Christ's name, to whom be glory now and for ever. Amen.

A beautiful and impressive funeral service was gone through, at the conclusion of which the Right Worshipful Masters, who accompanied Brother Edmonds to the dais, were unanimously elected as honorary members of the Paisley, St. Mirrens' Lodge. Thereafter the Lodge was closed and the benediction pronounced by the Chaplain.

GLASGOW.—LODGE "KENMUIR," (No. 570).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday evening, 16th inst., in their lodge-room, Eastfield-place, Springburn, and was numerously attended by the members and visiting brethren, Brother John Law, R.W.M., presiding. Bro. Robert Aikman (Master elect), and the other office bearers in their respective places. The business before the meeting was the installation of office-bearers; the ceremony was performed by Brother John Law, I.P.M., in a most impressive manner, after which the brethren saluted the newly-elected R.W.M. with the usual honours. The R.W.M. then complimented Bro. Law for the way he had discharged the duties of the chair since the erection of the lodge; he had won the good opinion of all the brethren from his untiring efforts to promote the interests of Lodge Kenmuir. The lodge was then transferred from labour to refreshment, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and after the Tyler's toast the lodge was recalled to labour, and closed in due form.

KILBURCHAM.—LODGE ST. BURCHAM (No. 156).—A special meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday evening, 15th inst., for the purpose of installing the office bearers who had been elected on St. Andrew's night. Bro. Daniel Cunningham presided, and performed the ceremony of installation. The office-bearers for the ensuing year are as follows:—William Lewis, M.D. (Houston), R.W.M.; D. Cunningham, I.P.M.; Andrew Buchanan, D.M.; D. Scrymgeour, S.M.; R. Craig, S.W.; John Orr, J.W.; W. Kirkland, Irecus; Andw. Grant, Sec.; J. Wylie, S.D.; Jas. Stevenson, J.D.; John Hill, B.B.; W. Crawford, S.B.; Peter Woodrow, Architect; Alex. Anderson, S.S.; R. Caldwell, J.S.; J. Lindsay, I.G.; and A. Mitchell, Tyler. Bro. Dr. Lewis, R.W.M., having returned thanks to Bro. Cunningham for having presided, it was unanimously agreed to celebrate the Festival of St. John on 22nd December, after which the lodge was closed in proper form.

ACCIDENTS.—So frequent are carriage accidents becoming, both in town and country, that the total is said to number over one hundred thousand annually, and it is a fact, proved beyond all question, that accidental injury to vehicles of all kinds is greatly on the increase. Many accidents are occasioned by the carelessness of drivers and furious driving; and it is a feature in insurance, highly commendable to the company, and deserving of notice, that we call attention to a coachman's good-conduct bonus, given by The London and Provincial Carriage Insurance Company, Limited, 17, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., to encourage as much as possible the steadiness of servants having the charge of carriages and horses. In the company's detailed prospectus every information is given as to the frequent sources of accidents to vehicles (the annual damage being estimated at nearly £500,000) with rate of insurance, &c., that will commend itself to private, professional, and commercial readers. All who are in the habit of driving can realize the continual dangers to which they are exposed, and an accident easily occasioned often results in severe pecuniary loss. A policy of assurance in this company is a full indemnification against loss. Conducted on sound principles, The London and Provincial Carriage Insurance Company is deserving of the warmest support.