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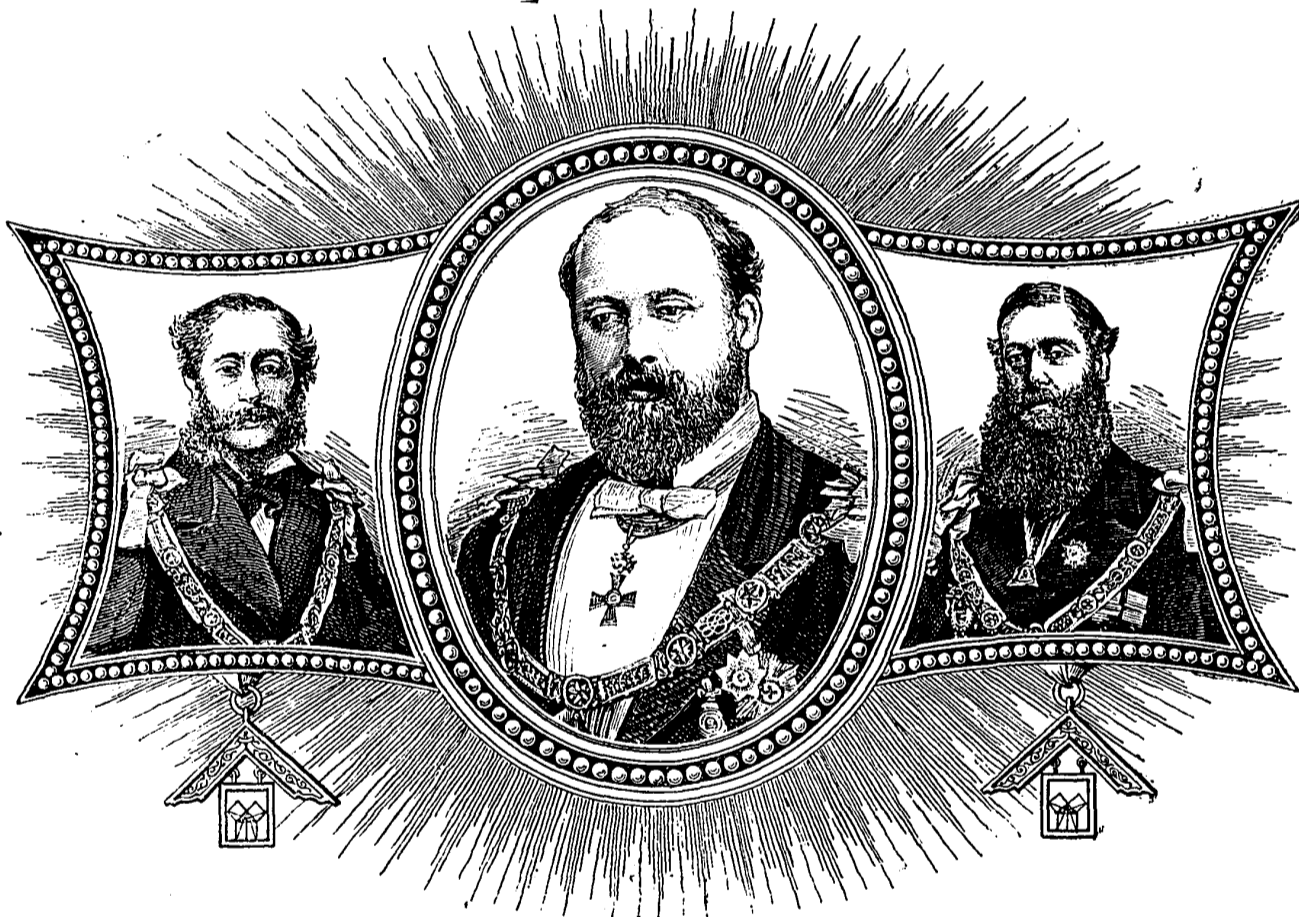
Containing all the most Important Information relating to
FREEMASONRY IN EVERY DEGREE.

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H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, the M.W. Grand Master of England;
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P R E F A C E.

THE NINTH VOLUME of the *Freemason* is completed, and offered to kind friends and readers wherever the English language is spoken; in fact, in all parts of the world. It is truly a cosmopolitan work, as it records the events which take place, week by week, in every portion of civilized nationalities, and its completed volume will therefore have much interest for all who like to keep before them an authoritative record of Masonic "sayings and doings" during each successive twelve months. It may perhaps be said without any egotism or bravado, that few journals have so much claim on the Craft generally as the *Freemason*. It offers in the first instance, a great desideratum in all legitimate trade, a very good article, at a very reasonable price. Indeed, it is not too much even to add that we know of no publication anywhere which affords so much to its readers at so little cost. Its zealous and Masonic Publisher has from the first most manfully laboured to give it not only a status in this country and in all countries, but also to put before his large circle of subscribers, and the reading public, as week follows week, a simple Masonic Paper of literary merit and of careful compilation which might command the attention of all ranks in our Order, and fitly serve as trustworthy chronicle of the "notabilia," and the "bene notanda," of our great Masonic fraternity at home and abroad. And who can venture to deny that to him has been vouchsafed the prestige both of mercantile success and personal approval? The *Freemason* is read, as we know just now, in every known portion of the world, and its circulation is weekly increasing. When we remember the history of Masonic literary labour in this county, we see at once how exceptional and how triumphant has been the onward progress of the *Freemason*. Its Publisher has never been daunted by difficulties or doubts. He has offered in the open market of Freemasonry an honest ware, (warranted not to shrink), at a very reasonable price, and he has left the matter as it can only be left, to the good sense, fair judgment, manly criticism, and kindly sympathies of his brethren. He has not been disappointed; since never in the history of Freemasonry has so much Masonic support been ever received before in Great Britain, by any Masonic Paper. But still, being alike energetic and persevering in business, as well as in Freemasonry, our Publisher naturally wishes to enlarge still more his circle of readers, so as to render the support he receives from the body generally, commensurate as far as may be, with the numerical and social importance of the Craft. One fact he wishes to impress on the minds and memories of his readers is that a large proportion of Freemasons read no Masonic Journal at all, and the margin between those who can take in a Masonic Paper and those who do not, for some reason or other, is very wide indeed. He trusts therefore that in 1877, much of the past apathy may be remedied—more of this present ignorance of the *Freemason* may be dispelled. He will spare no pains in the present or future, as in the past, to make the *Freemason* worthy of the Order. During the last 12 months, he has very frequently increased the 16-paged paper to 20 or 24 pages, in order not to lag behind with the "copy," so kindly forwarded from all parts; he has improved the quality of the paper in striking measure, and he will be always willing to make any sacrifice in the interests of the *Freemason*, which passing news may require, or the exigencies of superabundant correspondence may demand.

He thanks again one and all who have read, or circulated, or subscribed to, or written for the *Freemason* in 1876, most heartily and sincerely for all their truly fraternal efforts, and he trusts that the same kind support will be tendered to him in 1877.

The Editor also begs to join with the Publisher in offering his heartfelt acknowledgments to all, whether readers or writers, who have cheered his humble labours in 1876, and he is inclined to hope that 1877 will witness no deterioration in the quality of the *Freemason* in any respect, but will manifest to all who look over it, or carefully con over its interesting pages, that as good Freemasons, those who manage it are zealously striving week by week, and year by year, to add to its own intrinsic worth as a true, sound, creditable, fair Masonic Journal, and to claim the confidence and maintain the patronage of old and new friends.

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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

MOUNT LEBANON LODGE (No. 73).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 21st ult., at Bro. Spencer's, the Bridge House Hotel. The W.M., Bro. I. J. Hooper Wilkins, as is customary with him, took the chair punctually at half-past five, the time named in the summons, supported by his officers, viz., Bro. Charles Rayden, S.W.; Knott, J.W.; Keeble, S.D.; Ireton, J.D.; Cooper, I.G.; Harris, P.M., Treasurer; Free, P.M., Secretary; Ebsworth, P.M., D.C.; and Rose, P.M., W.S. Notwithstanding that it was election night, the general attendance was below the average. The close proximity of Christmas may have had something to do with this, as many brethren would probably be so much engaged in other matters that they could not attend "without detriment to themselves or connexions." It may be, too, that the election was considered as a foregone conclusion, as no one would vote against the Senior Warden, so popular is he among those over whom he is so soon to rule. There being no work on the agenda, the election of W.M. for the ensuing year was proceeded with, and the result, as we have already anticipated, was unanimously in favour of Bro. Rayden. The ballot for Treasurer was next taken, which was unanimously in favour of Bro. Edward Harris, P.M., who has now filled that office for, we believe, 38 years, during the whole of which time he has only been absent from the lodge on three occasions, and then only through illness. Bro. Harris is not only the oldest P.M. but is the oldest member of the lodge; hence he may lay a double claim to the title of father of the lodge, and a very good father he is, for he is at all times ready and willing to give advice and instruction to his younger brethren. Bro. Laing was re-elected Tyler. Bro. Harris next proposed the usual sum from the lodge funds to purchase a Past Master's jewel to be presented to Bro. Wilkins on his vacating the chair, and in the course of his remarks he paid a very high compliment to the W.M. for the skill and ability with which he had governed the lodge during the past year. Were he to propose, he said, double the amount he had named he was certain it would be cheerfully given; but with Bro. Wilkins that was not necessary. The jewel, whatever it was, would be valued not for its intrinsic worth but as being a souvenir of his year of office. It is needless to say that the motion was unanimously passed.

METROPOLITAN LODGE (No. 1507).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 16th ult., at the Metropolitan Club, 269, Pentonville Road. The W.M., Bro. J. J. Michael, presided, and performed the work of the lodge, assisted by his officers, Bros. Thos. Williams, S.W.; B. Kingham, J.W.; Rose, Treas.; G. Tims, Sec.; John Douglas, S.D.; C. J. Seales, J.D.; W. M. Stiles, D.C.; Geo. Colls, W.S.; W. Side, I.G.; Jas. Willing, I.P.M. Visitors: Bros. J. Gardner, 1563; Fenner, 1227; S. Millis, P.M. 157; Geo. Jones, One and All; H. Massey, P.M. 619 ("Freemason"); and 34 lay brethren of the lodge. The work consisted of raising Bros. H. Stiles, T. Gilbert, jun., Swaagman, and Solomon; passing Bros. Cave, Van Camp, and Lovegrove; and initiating Messrs. F. Baddeley, George Edwards, and Henry Seales. The brethren were engaged in these ceremonies for over three hours, and at its termination they adjourned to an excellent repast, provided by Bro. George Cox, the manager of the Metropolitan Club. The toasts followed the banquet, and the Prince of Wales's health, together with success to his journey in the far East, was most heartily drunk. The Prov. and Deputy Grand Masters' health was also drunk, and the W.M. in proposing it drew attention to the great ability of both these rulers in the Craft. Bro. Willing proposed "The Health of the W.M.," who came into the lodge 15 months ago an obscure country brother. He had, however, so applied himself to Masonic studies that since his connection with the lodge he had blossomed and borne magnificent fruit. He meant to go on as he had begun. His working in lodge had been excellent. Five gentlemen had come up for initiation, and the W.M. had consequently had no easy time of it. Other duties were also required of him, and in this lodge the W.M. was expected to collect a large amount of money for the charities; to keep the brethren well supplied with all that they wanted; and also to leave a large balance in the Treasurer's hands when the chair was passed to the next W.M. That evening they had

had a very agreeable meeting, and the W.M. had done his best to make it so. He had, in fact, proved himself in all respects fitted to occupy the chair. (Applause.) The W.M., after some allusions to the endeavour which had been made in the lodge to render all the brethren comfortable, and at the banquet table not to stint them of good cheer, expressed his pleasure in ministering, even though sometimes in a small degree, to the extension of Freemasonry. Freemasonry did not consist in eating and drinking. This lodge was now becoming very powerful, and it was the lodges that were powerful which exerted the greatest influence in the Order. This lodge therefore should set the example to other lodges. What they could afford they should spend, but at the same time they should remember that they should leave something to be applied to the cause of charity. The Metropolitan Lodge would never forget this, and it was one of the greatest objects of its promoters that the cause of benevolence and charity should ever be its distinguishing feature. The lodge had freed itself from all engagements, and it could now devote itself to the objects it had in view. This was a very proud position for so young a lodge to attain to; and it was also a proud position for a brother to occupy its chair when it had so far fulfilled its mission. He was much obliged to the brethren for having drunk his health so heartily, and he trusted that on all occasions they would support him as loyally and heartily as they had hitherto done. If they did he should when his year of office expired retire into the ranks of the Past Masters with his best wishes to them all. (Cheers.) Bro. Michael then gave "The P.M.," and, quoting Barham's "Jackdaw of Rheims," said his "words were too faint his merits to paint, and so they agreed to make him a saint." (Laughter.) Fortunately they did not want reminding of the P.M.'s many good qualities, and if they did there was that in the lodge room to bring him to their memory (referring to the oil painting which was presented on the occasion of Bro. Willing becoming I.P.M.). The promotion of the lodge was due to Bro. Willing, through whose indefatigable exertions night and day they had obtained their warrant. When they considered the amount of pleasure he had been instrumental in affording all of them, they could not but feel what an immense debt they owed him. Freemasonry, to his (the W.M.'s) mind, afforded pleasure to all its members. It was one of the greatest pleasures of life; and if for nothing else the establishment of this lodge had endeared Bro. Willing to all of them. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Willing replied. He had always experienced kind feelings from the members of the lodge. If it was difficult for him to speak now, what would it be a few years hence, when as one of the many Past Masters he should have the pleasure of meeting many happy faces sitting alongside him as Past Masters. He felt deeply the good feelings of the brethren, and anything that appertained to Freemasonry, he could assure them, was ever of interest to him. Any one who took the same interest in the well-being of the Craft naturally became a close friend of his directly. Certainly he was the founder and father of the lodge; but it must be remembered its success depended on the hearty support it received from others. The brethren who assisted him in its formation had no idea when they established it that they would be able to make it more than 30 strong at the end of the year. But such success had attended it, that the difficulty now was not to bring members in, but to keep them out. There was the great question of want of accommodation looming in the future. But then, where were they to go? Anderton's Hotel, one of the best places of meeting in the whole of the metropolis, the London Tavern, Cannon-street Hotel, Freemasons' Tavern, all had the objection of not being so easily accessible for the brethren, who by the circumstance of their residential localities were conveniently situated for the Metropolitan Club. It behoved Freemasons to build halls of their own. In many parts of the country, Freemasons were better accommodated than in London; and it must be known to the brethren that it was essential to the proper performance of the ceremonies that there should be every accommodation. More especially was this the case for the ceremony of initiation, for it was on a brother's primary introduction to the Order that the greatest impression was made on him. Proper Masonic halls erected in different localities would provide this requisite. He would now speak of the Charities, which up to the present time the brethren had liberally supported. He then appealed to the brethren to assist him in making up a good list for the Benevolent Institution's Festival, of the 9th February. (This was responded to by the contribution of some £30.) The W.M. afterwards gave "The Visitors," for which compliment Bro. Millis, P.M. 157, and several other brethren responded. The W.M. next proposed "The Initiates," and exhorted them to join the Lodge of Instruction, and obtain a further insight into Masonic mysteries than they had obtained that evening, crossing as it were the threshold of Freemasonry. The Initiates having responded, the toast of "The Officers" followed, and these brethren having replied, the evening, which had been enlivened by some very nice singing, was brought to a close.

HULL.—Humber Lodge (No. 57).—An unusually large number of members of this old and important lodge assembled on the evening of Tuesday, the 21st ult., for a purpose at all times of great Masonic interest, viz., the election of W.M. for the ensuing year. During the last year the office has been fulfilled by Bro. Jonathan West, and we are merely relating a fact in stating that his year of office has been as pleasant and as prosperous a year as can be recollected by the oldest members of the lodge. Bro. West is, in himself, a striking instance that genuine Masonic worth, such as kindness and courtesy, adherence to Masonic principles, and attention to Masonic duties are certain to be recognised and rewarded amongst us. In addition to these qualifications, Bro. West has the advantage of possessing many genial and attractive social

attributes, which always make their influence felt in a large lodge, and tend to promote that harmony and good feeling so essentially necessary to "mother comforts." Bro. West, we are assured, leaves the chair with the best and most fraternal wishes of his brethren, who, in appreciation of his many brotherly qualities, intend making him the recipient of some tangible mark of their approbation through the medium of a Masonic presentation. The W.M. elect is Bro. A. W. Ansell, who will, no doubt, have the example of his predecessor constantly before him, and who, we believe, will zealously strive to maintain the happiness and prosperity of the lodge. There is one thing to which, as we are now referring to this lodge, we may, with propriety, allude, and that is, the somewhat indiscriminate admission of members. Many of the brethren appear to think that the success of a lodge relies more upon quantity than quality, and, therefore, instead of adding to Masonry those capable of shewing to advantage its principles and teachings, and taking an active part in its promulgation, they get those who, after becoming full fledged M.M.'s, degenerate into thinking that the essence and spirit of Freemasonry consist in the Knife and Fork Degree. The Humber Lodge is one of the largest in the kingdom, as well as one of the richest. At present the list of members number nearly 300, and as the lodge is worth some thousands of pounds, the rapid increase of members cannot be on account of money wanted. There seems to be a desire on the part of the W.M.'s to initiate as many candidates as possible, so that such W.M. may say he has done more to increase the lodge than his predecessor. During Bro. West's Mastership somewhere about thirty candidates have been initiated into Freemasonry. What will ultimately become of the lodge if the manufacturing goes on at this rate we cannot tell. It is hoped that those to whom the future prosperity of the Old Humber is dear will take this subject into consideration, and that Bro. Ansell during his year of office will set an example which has long been wanted. A report of the installation will duly appear.

BURY.—Prince Edwin Lodge (No. 128).—The usual monthly meeting of the above lodge was held on Wednesday, the 15th ult. Amongst a number of other visiting brethren present we observed Bros. Tunnah, Provincial Grand Secretary for East Lancashire, and Newton, of Bolton. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, the lodge proceeded to the election of W.M. for the ensuing year. The presiding W.M., Bro. Warwick Wood, recommended as Master Bro. W. S. Barlow, the S.W. of the lodge. The election was by ballot in the form prescribed by the Book of Constitutions. The W.M. declared Bro. Barlow to be unanimously elected, and congratulated him thereon. Bro. Barlow briefly thanked the brethren for the honour conferred upon him. The lodge then proceeded to the appointment of the rest of the officers: Bros. Thomas Hood being Treasurer; Wright Greenhalgh, Tyler; and S. Holt and S. Horrocks, the Auditors. Bro. Tunnah concurred in the manner in which the election had been conducted, and congratulated the lodge on the result. The W.M. then, in a highly eulogistic speech, presented to Bro. Ramsbottom, Secretary, a massive silver cup and a Past Master's jewel, subscribed by the brethren of the lodge. The cup was chastely engraved, and underneath a suitable Masonic emblem. On the side of same was the following inscription, "Presented by the Officers and Members of Prince Edwin Lodge to Bro. Thomas Ramsbottom, who for upwards of 40 years has served the lodge with zeal and fidelity." Bro. Tunnah, at the request of the W.M., then proceeded to invest Bro. Ramsbottom with the Past Master's jewel, and in doing so alluded, in very eloquent and earnest terms, to Bro. Ramsbottom's long and valued services to the lodge, which he stated had extended over nearly half-a-century, and notwithstanding that their honoured Secretary was verging upon fourscore years, he found him still in harness, and to all appearance able to serve the lodge for many years to come with pleasure to himself and profit to the lodge. He (Bro. Tunnah) was glad to have the opportunity of making this investiture. He thought there was a peculiar fitness in that ceremony having fallen into his hands, for he believed that, as Bro. Ramsbottom was the oldest lodge Secretary in the province, he (Bro. Tunnah) was the oldest Provincial Secretary in Lancashire. They had held their respective offices for a longer period than any of their predecessors, and he was quite sure they both had no higher ambition than "to die with harness on their backs." He concluded by requesting the W.M. to adjourn the lodge from labour to refreshment, that he might have the satisfaction of filling the very handsome cup just presented, and pledging Bro. Ramsbottom therein. The W.M. consented, when "the loving cup," filled and re-filled several times by Bro. Tunnah, was passed round the lodge until every member had quaffed therefrom to the aged veteran's health and happiness.

SHEERNESS.—Adams Lodge (No. 158).—The regular meeting of this highly prosperous and excellent lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which is fairly entitled to rank as one of the best worked and most harmonious lodges in the extensive Province of Kent, met on Tuesday, the 7th ult., for the first time, in their new rooms, at the Victoria Hall Buildings, Trinity Road, Sheerness-on-Sea, which has been decorated in a most beautiful way, and is now considered equal to any in the province. These rooms were originally designed for a Masonic Lodge by Bro. C. B. Shrubsole, P.M. of this lodge and P.P.G.S.D. of Kent, and great credit is due to him for the judgment he displayed. Bro. T. J. Firminger, W.M., presided, assisted by the following officers:—viz., Bros. A. Spears, P.M., Treas., P.P.G.O., acting I.P.M.; W. T. Carpenter, P.M., acting S.W.; J. H. Brett, J.W.; J. Bagshaw, P.M., Sec.; J. P. Watts, S.D.; J. F. Nunn, J.D.; C. Perkins, I.G.; A. Donovan, Steward; and J. Akhurst, acting Tyler, and the following brethren:—Bros. R. Derry, C. Moore, J. H. McLachlan, R. Coleman, J. Brown, A.

Thompson, G. Wager, H. E. Hammond, F. C. Paul, A. Steadman, T. F. Brown, J. Davidson, E. J. Penney, G. Ayton, E. Goldsborough, and J. Taylor. Among the visitors we noticed Bros. T. M. Rigg, P.M. of 1089 and P.P.G.R. of Kent; R. Warlow, J.W. of 378 and P.P.S.B. of South Wales; J. Nixon, E. Garrett, M. W. West, P.M.; and H. A. Johnson, of 1089; J. Harper, 521; R. Pyke, 175; A. Bean, 336; S. Reeves, 358; and F. Blaas, 184. The lodge was opened in due form and with solemn prayer. When the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed the ballot was taken for Mr. C. W. Bradley and Mr. Arthur W. Bird, who were elected unanimously. The W.M. then called upon Bro. A. Spears, P.M. and P.P.G. Org., to address the brethren on this occasion; when Bro. Spears first complimented the brethren on their first meeting in the new lodge room, then taking the subject of the groundwork of Masonry being holy, he illustrated it by giving the history of the three grand offerings, which made it holy, as we find recorded in the volume of the Sacred Law, and characterized them as three distinct offerings to complete one great purpose, the first being an offering of faith, the second an offering for disobedience, the third an offering of thanksgiving and worship, and alluded to the great number of years that elapsed between the first offering and the third, and the complete fulfilment of the promises that God had made to Abraham when he called him to go and offer up his only son on Mount Moriah. He then exhorted the brethren to practise the grand principles of Masonry—brotherly love, relief and truth, and in their daily walk and conversation, to display to the world the happy effects of our honourable Order, and to practise not only that charity which supplies the wants of the needy, but act to our neighbour as we would our neighbour to act to us, concluding with a prayer for the prosperity of the lodge and Craft in general wherever dispersed. After this address the brethren sang the following ode:—

Genius of Masonry, descend,
And with thee bring thy spotless train;
Constant our sacred rites attend,
While we adore thy peaceful reign.

The above was much appreciated by all present. The business of the lodge was then proceeded with, which was as follows:—Bro. E. Goldsborough, F.C., who had previously been found qualified, was raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M., and Bro. Thos. F. Brown and Bro. G. Ayton, E.A., who had also been found qualified, were passed to the Second Degree of F.C.; the ceremony of passing and raising were worked by the W.M. in a very creditable manner. The business of the lodge being ended the lodge was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. The brethren then adjourned to the Britannia Inn for refreshment, and after spending a short time in song and sentiment, they separated, happy to meet again.

BATH.—Lodge of Honour (No. 379).—A meeting was held at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13th, the most important one in the year, being that at which the officers are changed. Bro. J. S. Bartrum, W.M., opened the lodge, assisted by Bros. G. H. Cook, S.W.; H. Gore, J.W.; C. S. Barter, Treas.; H. Culliford Hopkins, Sec.; W. C. Dickenson, S.D.; J. M. R. Leir, I.G.; Gazzard, Tyler; R. Cook, P.M.; E. E. Phillips, I.P.M.; C. A. Bush; H. G. Bush. As visitors there were present Bros. Capt. Phayre, 53; C. Milson, P.M. 53; Simmons, I.P.M. 53; Wilton, P.M. 41; Trevor, 944; Gen. Doherty, P.M. 53; W. Hunt, 41; J. F. Draper, P.M. 243; Dr. H. Hopkins, 41, P.P.G.S.W., and P.M. 43 and 958; J. L. Stothert, P.M. 53; Colonel Ford, P.M. 53; Else, D.P.G.M. for Somerset. Bro. Phillips, P.M., gave the charge to Bro. Bush, which was omitted at his initiation at the previous meeting. He then took the chair and examined and entrusted the candidate. The latter retired for preparation, and the lodge was opened in the Second Degree. On his return he was duly passed as a F.C. by the I.P.M. The working tools were explained by Bro. Dickenson, who during the ceremony had acted as J.D., Dr. Hopkins taking the duties of S.D., and also giving the charge. Bro. Else then took the chair, he having kindly undertaken the duties of Installing Master. The preliminary proceedings being concluded, the lodge was opened in the Third Degree, the brethren below the chair retired, and in their absence Bro. Cook was regularly inducted into the chair of K.S., the ceremony thus far and afterwards being ably conducted by the D.P.G.M. On the return of the brethren the usual processions, salutations, and addresses took place, the lodge being resumed at the proper time in the Second and afterwards in the First Degree. The following appointments were made, and the brethren named were duly invested: J. S. Bartrum, I.P.M.; H. Gore, S.W.; H. C. Hopkins, J.W.; C. S. Barter, Treas.; Dickenson, Sec.; H. N. Smythe, S.D.; Leir, J.D.; C. E. Little, I.G.; C. Bush, D.C.; Gazzard, Tyler. The W.M. briefly addressed the brethren on his installation. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the retiring W.M., and also to the late Secretary, who had most efficiently filled the office for two years. A similar compliment was paid to the D.P.G.M., who had travelled far to perform the ceremony of installation, and had performed the duty efficiently and gracefully. Several other matters of lodge business were transacted, and the proceedings were brought to a close at 6.30. About twenty brethren afterwards partook of a banquet at the Castle Hotel.

ROCK FERRY.—Rock Lodge (No. 1289).—The installation of W.M. of this lodge took place on Friday evening, the 10th ult., at the lodge-room, Bedford House, Rock Ferry, Cheshire. The brethren assembled at 5.30 p.m., when the retiring W.M., Bro. Lilley Ellis, passed Bro. Fergusson to the Fellow Craft Degree, the ceremony, in the perfectness of its working, being illustrative of the able manner in which the work of the year had been performed by him. There was a large number of visitors present, including several P.P. Grand Officers and W. Masters of neighbouring lodges. The W.M. elect was Bro. Francis

L. Bolton, and the chair of Installing Master was filled by Bro. Edward Friend, P.M., P. Prov. G.J.D., himself the first W.M. of the Rock Lodge, and by whom all the succeeding Masters have been installed. The Wardens' chairs were taken by Bros. J. and T. Platt, P. Prov. G.J.W. and P. Prov. G.J.D. respectively, and the installation ceremony was performed in such an impressive and skilful manner by the Installing Master as to elicit the warm approbation of all the brethren present, who, later in the evening, expressed their cordial thanks for his untiring interest in the welfare of the lodge, and their appreciation of the mode in which he had performed the whole of the ceremony. The newly-elected W.M., having been saluted according to custom, appointed the following brethren as officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Dr. J. Wilson Paton, S.W.; W. S. Stanton, J.W.; F. K. Stevenson, P.M., P. Prov. G.S.B., Treas.; P. J. Pearson, Sec.; Archd. Wallace, S.D.; Richard Townsend, J.D.; J. Phillips, I.G.; J. R. Ross and E. Overbeck, Stewards. A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. L. Ellis, I.P.M., by Bro. Stevenson, P.M., as a mark of the appreciation of the Master's able and courteous manner in which he had presided over the lodge during his year of office, and was by him feelingly and suitably acknowledged. The brethren afterwards dined together, and Bro. J. Platt reported that the result of the three entertainments given by Bro. Chas. Du Val on behalf of the Cheshire Masonic Institution had been a substantial addition to the funds of the charity.

ECCLES.—Victoria Lodge (No. 1345).—The last meeting of this young and well-worked lodge was held at the Cross Keys Hotel, on Wednesday last. The members present were Bro. Wright, W.M.; Bros. Rudman, S. W.; Ballard, J.W.; Shaw, S.D.; Holt, J.D.; Pearson, I.G.; J. Brooks and T. Buxton, P.M.'s, 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 Bro. Wright, W.M.; Gillman, P.M.; and Buxton, P.M., the work throughout being performed 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 refreshments, 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 thirty guineas to the Boys' School, in addition to the amount voted that evening.

CHATHAM.—Brownrigg Lodge (No. 1424).—The installation of W.M. of this lodge took place in the Assembly Rooms, Brompton, Kent, on Friday, the 17th ult., when one of the most brilliant gatherings of the brethren ever seen in this locality assembled to do honour to this excellent lodge. The W.M., Bro. Jervis, took the chair at 2.45 p.m., with Bro. Wood, W.M. 20, as S.W., and Bro. Watson, P.M., P.G.R., as J.W. The D.P.G.M. for Kent, supported by several other distinguished brethren, having taken his seat on the dais, with Bro. Jervis, the Director of Ceremonies called upon the brethren to salute the D.P.G.M. according to ancient custom. The following lodges were represented by brethren:—Bros. Wood' W.M. 20; May, W.M. 212; Santi, W.M. 706; Nicholls, W.M. 1050; White, 1174; Pownall, W.M. 1536; Kayney, P.M. 20; Watson, P.M. 1050; Wyles, P.M. 1050; Coles, P.M. 20; Bates, P.M. 1424; Warne, P.M. 20; and brethren from Nos. 1174, 20, 1536, 1050, 158, 733, 184, 1257, 87, 1393, 1321, 1331, 407, 706, 262, 1536, 212, 77, 503, and 13. Bro. William Simmons was presented by Bro. Bates, P.M., to the W.M. to receive at his hands the benefit of installation as W.M. of this lodge. The installation ceremony was one of the most magnificent ever heard in the province; the sacred music by the organ and string instruments of the choir harmonised most beautifully with the impressive delivery of this grand ceremony by Bro. Jervis, and the general effect of so solemn a rite will not be easily forgotten by those who were so fortunate as to be present on this occasion. The W.M. invested the following brethren as his officers for the year, the full explanation of the Masonic meaning of their respective jewels and their duties in the lodge being given by Bro. Jervis, the Installing Officer:—Bros. H. L. Fowler, S.W.; W. Cottrell, J.W.; Thomson, Treas.; Magee, Sec.; Ramsden, S.D.; Johnstone, J.D.; Piking, I.G.; Crane, D.C.; Crisp and Stammers, Stewards; Snape, Organist; Drago, Tyler. Bro. Jervis, the I.P.M., had the honour of receiving from the hands of the D.P.G.M. a handsome P.M. jewel in recognition of his services to the lodge as W.M. for the past year, the D.P.G.M. remarking that from what he had seen and heard of Brother Jervis never was a jewel more worthily bestowed, and he took occasion to point out to the brethren what a high degree of skill and knowledge in the Craft diligence and careful attention to every detail would give, them as exemplified by the working of Bro. Jervis. The I.P.M., in thanking the brethren for the mark of approbation they had been pleased to bestow upon him, pointed out the advantage of attending good Lodges of Instruction, as he owed his present knowledge of the Craft to the excellent teaching of the Past Masters of his mother lodge (1050) and other Lodges of Instruction to which he belonged. Bro. Watson, P.M., P.G.R., proposed and the W.M. seconded a vote of thanks to Bro. Jervis, for the admirable manner in which he had performed the installation ceremony. Carried unanimously. The I.P.M. having replied, Bro. Cottrell, J.W., proposed a gentleman

for initiation and a joining member. The I.P.M. then proposed the W.M. as representative of the Brownrigg Lodge at the Provincial Charity Committee. Carried unanimously. The I.P.M. having also nominated an Audit Committee for the ensuing year, the W.M. closed the lodge in due form. The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting-room, at the Mitre Hotel, Chatham. About seventy-three sat down to the banquet. The whole arrangement was magnificent, the room being tastefully decorated with beautifully designed Masonic emblems, flags, exotics, &c. A novelty in bills of fare was placed near every brother's plate—it was an elegant folding card in white and gold, containing the menu, and photographs of the W.M., I.P.M., S.W., J.W., and Treasurer of Brownrigg Lodge. The W.M. took his seat, with the D. Prov. G.M., S.G.W., Prov. G. Registrar, and other Grand Officers on his right, the I.P.M., with Bros. Major Santi, W.M. 706; Captain Coles, P.M.; May, W.M. 212; Pownall, W.M. 1536; Warne, P.M.; and several other Past Masters on his left. The W.M. was, however, unfortunately taken ill at the commencement of the banquet, and reluctantly obliged to retire, so that Bro. Jervis, I.P.M., took the chair. The usual Masonic toasts were then proceeded with. When the I.P.M. gave the toast of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master," a pair of crimson curtains behind his chair were drawn aside by invisible hands, and a recess disclosed, in which was a large transparency of H.R.H. the Grand Master, in full Masonic costume as he appeared on the occasion of his installation last April; this was illuminated by a strong light from behind; and the other parts of the recess were filled with plants, flowers, ferns, &c., presenting a pleasing effect, which was heartily greeted by the brethren present. Bro. Fowler, S.W., sang "God bless the Prince of Wales." The D.P.G.M., in replying to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Master and Grand Officers," pointed out to the brethren the great progress Masonry had made latterly in the kingdom, and stated that forty-one lodges had been added to the roll of the Grand Lodge of England during the past year, and exactly 150 since the formation of the Brownrigg three years ago. He expressed his desire to visit all the lodges in Kent, in order to make himself acquainted with the brethren of his province, and spoke in the highest terms of approval of the Brownrigg Lodge, and of the fine installation ceremony performed by Bro. Jervis that day, which he stated had given him an amount of pleasure he could scarcely express, and he trusted other lodges would strive to attain a similar degree of excellence. The D.P.G.M. also explained the objects and benefits of the provincial charities, and earnestly requested the attention of the lodges of Kent to their support. Bro. Cottrell then sang a capital song, suitable to the occasion, composed and arranged by himself. The toast of "The Visitors" was suitably responded to by Bro. May, W.M., and Bro. Pownall, W.M. 1536, both these brethren speaking enthusiastically of the admirable manner in which the duties had been performed by the officers of the Brownrigg Lodge. The D.P.G.M. proposed "The Health of the Past Masters of the Lodge," which toast was replied to by Bros. Jervis, Bates, and Watson. "The Health of the Officers of the Lodge" having been drunk, Bros. Fowler, S.W., and Cottrell, J.W., responded. The latter, in his reply, called the attention of the brethren to the debt of gratitude they owed Bro. Burfield, P.M., and Bro. Gamon, J.W. 20, for the beautiful decoration of their banqueting-room. Bro. Wood, P.G.S.W., in proposing "The Masonic Charities," made a most earnest appeal on their behalf, and forcibly exhorted the brethren to support that great principle of Masonry in its fullest sense, an appeal which we hope and believe will not be neglected by those who heard it. A most pleasant evening was passed, the excellent singing of Bros. Gifkin, Edwards, Percy, Cottrell, Gates, and Walker, and the recitations of Bros. Bates and Gamon, being thoroughly enjoyed by the brethren, the Tyler's toast bringing the whole to a close. We may conclude by drawing attention to an excellent system which has been carried out by the Brownrigg Lodge since its formation, and which may be adopted with advantage by other lodges—that is, the publication of an annual balance sheet, which shows the whole receipts and expenditure of the lodge for the past year. This is forwarded to every member of the lodge, and enables him to be quite cognisant of its financial proceedings and position.

BIRMINGHAM.—Lodge of Israel (No. 1474).—An event, somewhat unusual in Masonic customs, was celebrated in Birmingham in connection with the Lodge of Israel last Monday. Bro. Michael Davis, W.M., was entertained by the brethren at a complimentary banquet, in recognition of his valuable services to the lodge from its foundation to the present time. This lodge, which was established some twenty-two months ago, has prospered eminently, and its prosperity is to a great extent due to the zeal of its first W.M., Bro. Michael Davis, who at the termination of his first year of office was unanimously re-elected. It was resolved to give some slight recognition of his valuable services by entertaining him and Mrs. Davis at a banquet, which was held last Monday at the Midland Hotel. Bro. Rev. G. J. Emanuel, B.A., Chaplain, occupied the chair, the vice-chairs being filled by Bros. Barnett Lazarus and Philip W. Newmann, J.D. The rev. Chairman, in proposing "The Health of Mr. and Mrs. Davis," spoke of them in terms of high eulogium, and animatedly upon the merits of Bro. Davis as a W.M. Bro. Davis feelingly and appropriately replied. Bro. Muggleton proposed "Prosperity to the Lodge of Israel," which was responded to by Bro. S. Lyon, S.W. "The Chairman" was proposed by Bro. Lazarus, and suitably acknowledged. "The Visitors" received due honour from W. Bro. Joseph Myers. "The Ladies," of whom a goodly number were present, being toasted by W. Bro. Geo. Baker, P.M., and answered for by Bro. Newmann, J.D., singing, recitations, and dancing followed, and the company, about 105, separated at 2 a.m.

Royal Arch.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Chapter (No. 41).—The anniversary meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, on Monday, December 21st. The chapter was opened at 4.30 by Ex. Companions Jelley, M.E.Z.; Jas. Parfitt, H.; Thompson, J.; in the presence of Comps. Moutrie, P.Z. and Treas.; Mann, P.Z.; Keene, P.Z.; Mitchell, P.Z.; G. Parfitt, P.Z.; Reeves, P.Z.; Dr. Hopkins, P.Z. 328, 587, 710; General Doherty, P.Z. 53. On the admission of Comps. Hill, N.; Hearn, P. Soj.; Brown, A. Soj.; Faulkner, Williamson, Davis, and Gazzard, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer gave the details of his accounts, which were very favourable, showing a balance in hand of nearly £50, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to him for his successful efforts in that office during 15 years. Propositions were made, to be considered at the next meeting, for a grant of £5 5s. to the widow of the late Tyler, and of £10 10s. to the Girls' School. Other business of only private interest was discussed and settled. A ballot was taken for a brother to be exalted at their meeting in January, which was unanimous in his favour. The following officers, previously proposed, were elected by ballot:—Jas. Parfitt, M.E.Z.; Thompson, H.; Carey, J.; Hill, E.; Hearn, N.; Brown, P. Soj.: the latter appointed Comps. Young and Faulkner as his assistants. Comp. Bigwood was appointed Janitor. The companions below the chair then left the chapter, a Board of Installed Principals was constituted, and the three newly-elected Principals were installed in their several chairs by E. Comp. Dr. Hopkins, P.Z. The board was closed, and the companions were re-admitted. A vote of thanks was passed to the Installing Principal for the effective manner in which he had performed the duty. The proceedings were brought to a close at about 7 o'clock, and the brethren adjourned to partake of banquet at the Castle Hotel, breaking up, after a very enjoyable evening, soon after half-past 10.

BARNSTAPLE.—Chapter of Loyalty and Virtue (No. 251) held its 54th annual meeting on Monday last, at the Masonic Hall, Queen Anne's Walk under the Mastership of Comp. Willshire. A large number of companions attended. Two brethren of Lodge No. 251 were exalted, and the officers of the chapter for the year ensuing appointed as follows:—Comps. W. H. Brewer, Z.; W. Britton, H.; J. T. Shapland, J.; Oliver, Scribe E.; Furse, Scribe N.; W. J. List, Treas.; J. Brewer, P.S.; W. Baze, A.S.; T. Hancock, A.S.; and Alfred Bates and H. J. Hancock, Janitors. An excellent dinner was afterwards partaken of by the companions at the Royal and Fortescue Hotel, and a very pleasant evening spent.

Mark Masonry.

IPSWICH.—Albert Victor Mark Lodge (No. 70).—The quarterly meeting of this prosperous lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Ipswich, on Monday, the 20th ult., when the following were present:—Bros. Geo. Cresswell, W.M.; Rev. R. N. Sanderson, P.M.M., P.G. Chap.; C. T. Townsend, P.M.M., P.P.G. Sec.; Emra Holmes, P.M.M., P.G.I. of W.; W. T. Westgate, P.M.M.; W. Clarke, J.W.; J. H. Townsend, and others. The minutes of last lodge were read and confirmed, and the ballot was taken for Bro. Wm. Watson, of the Prince of Wales Lodge, who was a candidate for advancement to the honourable degree of Mark Master. The brother was unanimously accepted, but was prevented by business engagements from attending. This being the meeting for the installation of W.M., Bro. Sanderson was presented for that purpose. All brethren not installed Masters having retired, and Bro. Cresswell having resigned the gavel into the hands of Bro. Townsend, P.G.D., the worthy and expert Secretary duly obligated and inducted our reverend brother into the Chair of Adoniram. The brethren being re-admitted, saluted the new W.M. in ancient form, and Bro. Sanderson proceeded to invest his officers as follows, addressing a few suitable words to each:—Geo. Cresswell, I.P.M.; W. Clarke, S.W.; D. F. Ranking, J.W.; F. Bennett, M.O.; B. M. Ranking, S.O.; J. Calthorpe, J.O.; W. T. Westgate, S.D. and M.C.; J. Parsons, J.D.; D. Stemmeck, I.G. Bro. C. T. Townsend was re-appointed Secretary; Bro. Rev. J. B. Tweed, Chaplain; and Bro. J. H. Townsend, Reg. of Marks. The current business being disposed of, the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired for refreshment. "The Queen," and "The Earl of Limerick, Grand Mark Master Mason," were the only toasts drunk, but the brethren enjoyed a no less pleasant evening because there was a lack of the speechifying now so common at all Masonic gatherings. We ought not to omit to mention that Bro. Westgate, P.M.M., proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Cresswell for his conduct in the chair during the past year, which was cordially seconded by Bro. Emra Holmes, carried unanimously, and directed to be recorded in the minutes. The Albert Victor has always been a very prosperous Mark lodge, but under the gavel of so excellent and erudite a Mason as the Rev. R. N. Sanderson, who now presides for the second time over this lodge, there is little doubt but this year will be one of more than ordinary prosperity, for there are no Freemason in the whole of Suffolk more widely esteemed and respected than our clerical brother, and no one who holds so distinguished a position in the high degrees as Bro. Sanderson. We hope to see the day when the first Mason in Suffolk is honoured with an office in the Grand Lodge of England, which, if he does not desire, he most certainly deserves.

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

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Victoria Chapter Rose Croix.—The annual meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Ipswich, on Monday, the 13th ult. Present: Ill. Bros. Emra Holmes, 31, M.W.S.; W. T. Westgate, P.M.W.S., Actg. Recorder; Dr. Mills, 1st General; G. Cresswell, 2nd General. Chapter was opened; the minutes were read and confirmed; a candidate's name was withdrawn in consequence of his being about to leave the town. The election of M.W.S. and Treasurer for the ensuing year was proceeded with, when Dr. Mills was unanimously elected to fill the former post, and Bro. W. Cuckon re-elected to the latter. There being no other business, the chapter was closed.

Scotland.

SUPREME GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

The quarterly communication took place on the evening of the 15th ult., in the Grand Chapter Rooms, Grand Lodge of Scotland. Although no business of great importance was before the Grand Chapter the meeting was a large one. Among those present were Major W. H. Ramsay, of Garion H. 40, and Second G. Soj. Acting First G.P.Z.; Geo. W. Wheeler, Z. 72, Acting Second G. Priocipal H.; Alex. Mitchell, P.Z. 99, Acting Third G. Principal J.; Lindsay Mackersy, W.S., Grand Scribe E.; James Duthie, Z. 69, Acting First G. Soj.; W.S. Carmichael, M.D., P.Z. 100, acting Second G. Soj.; I. Shiells, J. 73, acting Third G. Soj.; R. S. Brown, Z. 83; Jas. Berry, Z. 6; W. M. Bryce, Z. 12; W. I. C. Abbot, P. J. 53; Geo. Murray, C.A. P.Z. 77; C. G. C. Christie, P.C. 110; David Knight, P.H., 126, and others. The business commenced by the reading of the minutes of the last quarterly communication; also the minute of Grand Committee, which were confirmed. Presents from the Grand Chapter of New Jersey and Colorado, U.S., consisting of the published proceedings of these Grand Chapters were received, and the thanks of the Supreme Grand Chapter were voted therefore. Petitions for new Chapters, St. Blanc, Rothsay, and St. David, Dundee, were granted. The following motion by Comp. W. M. Bryce, P.Z. 12, seconded by Comp. W. S. Carmichael, P.Z. 100, viz., "That in future the quarterly communications of the Supreme Grand Chapter be held at six o'clock, p.m., was, after some discussion and altering the hour to five o'clock, agreed to by a large majority. This alteration of the hour of meeting will give great satisfaction throughout the provinces. The present hour of meeting—eight o'clock—often compelled those from the provinces to remain in Edinburgh all night. The hour now fixed—five o'clock—will, no doubt, increase the number of members attending the quarterly communication, and allow the members to return home that night. There was no other business before the meeting, and Grand Chapter was closed in due and ancient form.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ARGYLL AND THE ISLES.

This lodge was re-opened on Friday, 17th ult., after having been obsolete for a number of years, by Bro. Charles Dalrymple, M.P., of Rothesay Saint John's, No. 292, being installed Provincial Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Scotland issued a commission in his favour, and appointed Bro. Alexander Smollett of Bonhill, Provincial Grand Master of Dumbartonshire, to conduct the proceedings for the Grand Lodge. Accordingly on Friday night, Bro. Smollett and the office-bearers of Prov. Grand Lodge of Dumbarton opened the Grand Lodge in the Bull Hotel, Rothesay, and installed Bro. Dalrymple with all the honours and ceremony. There were also deputations present from all the lodges in the province, with the exception of Commercial, Oban, 180, viz.:—St. John, Inverary, 50; St. John, Campbeltown, 141; St. John, Rothesay, 292; Argyll, Dunoon, 355; Kelburne, Cambrae, 459; St. Munn, Ardenadam, 426; Kildalton, Port Ellen, Islay, 552. The Grand Lodge was opened, passed, and raised to the Sublime Degree by Bro. Smollett, and was reduced and closed after installation by Bro. Dalrymple. The hon. brother thereafter opened the Provincial Grand Lodge of Argyll and the Isles, when he installed the following office-bearers nominated by him:—Provincial Grand Substitute-Master, Quinten Montgomery Wright, Inverary; Senior Warden, Peter McNeil, Campbeltown; Junior Warden, Robert Stirling, Dunoon; Chaplain, Ker H. H. Richardson, Millport; Secretary, Archibald Morrison, Rothesay. Bro. Smollett addressed the newly-appointed office-bearers and other brethren in an eloquent speech, detailing the benefits of Masonry, and concluding with the hope that they would all so act as to hand down Masonry pure and unsullied. Bro. Dalrymple replied, and thanked the brethren for their attendance, especially the Provincial Grand Master for coming at his advanced age, at this season of the year, and the brethren from the distant parts of the province. Thereafter the 10th Psalm was sung, and the Rev. H. H. Richardson invoked the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on their proceedings. The lodge having been closed in due form, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, and received all the honours. Occasion was taken to compliment the re-opening of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the great impetus it would give to Freemasonry, and the zeal displayed by the attendance of brethren from such distances as must have been inconvenient. In replying to

"The Provincial Grand Master of Argyll and the Isles," Bro. Dalrymple stated that answers of the most cordial kind had been received from all the lodges in the province expressing satisfaction at the re-opening of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and expressing the kindest sentiments to himself personally. It must be regretted that no representative had arrived from Lodge Commercial, Oban, as arranged, but this was not to be wondered at considering the difficulties of travelling at this time of the year. He assured the brethren that the interests of Freemasonry would be promoted by him as far as he could, and he hoped to be able to visit all the lodges in the province in person within a month or two. Among the other toasts that followed was that of "The Oldest Mason in Scotland," Bro. George Grant, Chaplain of Rothesay St. John's, who has been a Freemason for 65 years, to which the venerable Chaplain replied. Song, toast, and sentiment were the order of the evening, which was spent with the happiest of Masonic harmony and goodwill.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Mungo (No. 27).—The regular meeting of this lodge took place in St. Mark's Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on Thursday, the 16th ult. Bro. Dugald Butler, R.W.M., presided, supported by Bro. Dr. McInnes, S.W.; William McCall, acting as J.W.; and the other office-bearers. On the lodge being opened, Bro. William Niven, Secretary, read the minutes, which were adopted. Messrs. James Dickie and John Goldfinch were unanimously accepted, obligated, and initiated as E.A. Freemasons, the ceremony being performed by Bro. John Scott, P.M. Bros. A. Monteith, J. Kidd, Robert Spiers, and Thomas Bell were duly passed to the F.C. Degree, James Gilles, P.M., officiating. There was no further business, and the lodge was closed. Among the visitors present were Bros. A. Bain, P.M. Union and Crown, 103; Robert Jack, R.W.M. Shettleston, 128; Robert Brodie, D.M. 360; W. H. Bickerton ("Freemason"), &c.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Mark (No. 102).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, 213, Buchanan-street, on the 13th ult. In the temporary absence of the R.W.M., Bro. J. F. Mitchell, P.M., took the chair, and was ably supported by all the office-bearers, and a large number of brethren and visitors. Among those present we observed Bros. Thos. Halket, P.M.; Captain Lindsay Gray, D.M.; Thomas Kerr, S.M.; J. Burton, S.W.; J. Thomson, J.W.; A. T. Patrick, Treas.; H. McMillan, S.D.; J. Singleton, I.G., &c. Among the visitors were Bros. W. Bell, R.W.M. 34; McMillan, P.M. 34; D. M. Nelson, D.M. 34; A. Sage, P.M. 360; R. Aikman, R.W.M. 570; W. B. Paterson; J. Stewart, 360, &c. The meeting of office-bearers was held previous to the hour of the lodge meeting, in a side room. When the lodge was opened, the minutes read and confirmed, the First Degree was given to Mr. John E. Hays by Bro. J. F. Mitchell, I.P.M., in his usual painstaking manner. Bro. J. Oswald Smith, the R.W.M., now being present, Bro. Halket, P.M., proceeded to install him in his office, this being omitted at the regular night of installation on account of his illness. Bro. Aikman, R.W.M. 570, received the Installed Master degree, along with Bro. Oswald Smith. Bro. Halket pointed out the numerous and difficult duties a Master of a lodge had to perform, and the great responsibility that was attached to him. The R.W.M. on taking the chair thanked the brethren for the high position they had placed him into, and if at first he appeared to be a little rusty, it would be his earnest endeavour to wipe that away, and he trusted that in this he could calculate upon the support, not only of his own office-bearers, but also of the past office-bearers and members of the lodge. He then moved a vote of thanks to Bro. Halket, for the able manner he had gone through the ceremony of installation. Bro. Halket feelingly returned thanks. Bro. Aikman, R.W.M. 570, returned thanks for the brotherly act of kindness shown him that night, in conferring the Installed Master degree upon him, and said he would be delighted if some of St. Mark's brethren would pay him a visit to his own lodge at Springburn. After a little more business of a routine character, the lodge was called to refreshment for a short time. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, Bro. J. F. Mitchell, P.M., proposed "The Health of the R.W.M.," remarking that he had seldom met a brother, in all his experience, so capable to fill the chair of that lodge. Bro. Oswald Smith returned thanks, remarking that he was no speaker, but in all his course he had tried to act the part of a true Mason, so far as he understood it, and now that he was placed in a position he would have scope to practise it; he would make it his duty to do so. Bro. Bell, P.M. 34, proposed "The Health of the P.M. of St. Mark's Lodge," which Bro. Mitchell gracefully replied to. The next toast was "The Visiting Brethren," replied to by Bro. McMillan, P.M. 34, and Bro. Sage, P.M. 360. This brought the proceedings to a close.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Union and Crown (No. 103).—On Friday evening, 10th ult., Bro. David Murray, W.M., met in a social capacity with about some five-and-twenty brethren, on the occasion of his election to the chair of this old and respected lodge. The meeting took place in the County Buildings' Restaurant, Wilson-street (Bro. Wileman's). Bro. Murray presided, Bro. William Thomas officiating as Croupier. Among those present were Bros. James Gillies, P.M., and P.G.S.D.; A. Bain, P.M., and P.G.B.B.; Robert Munro, D.M.; William Forsyth, J.W.; Major J. S. McCaul, Third L.R.V.; and others. The chairman proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured, and in proposing "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow," said as far as Masonry went, the Western Province was probably the most important in Scotland, and the amount of business brought before the Provincial Grand Lodge was very great, and in

regard to the Benevolent Fund alone, it was very hard work, and they deserved the heartiest thanks of all the brethren for the time and labour they expended in the performance of their gratuitous duties. They had among them to-night those who were office-bearers in the Provincial Grand Lodge, and who for years had given their kindest and best consideration to the duties thereof, and he begged to couple with the toast the name of Bro. James Gillies, P.G.S.D. In acknowledging the compliment, Bro. Gillies had to endorse the statement of the chairman to the effect that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow was second to none on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It was doing an amount of duty which the world did not know of. They had the widow and the orphan coming almost daily before them, and they never scrupled to launch out for their relief, while on the other hand, it behoved them to be careful about doubtful cases. To such applicants they applied the work test, and if they declined that, they had nothing to do with them. He was glad to state that at present they had £300 to their credit, at 5 per cent., besides a floating capital to help needy and deserving brethren in their distress. The toast of "Past Masters and Office-Bearers of Lodge 103" was proposed by Bro. A. Bain, P.M. He could assure them that the Past Masters of Union and Crywn had done the best they could to make the lodge respected in the province and to bring it to a point of moral excellence, which it would be the duty of the new Master and his office-bearers to keep it up to. The toast was coupled with the name of the chairman, who, in replying, observed that Bro. Bain had shown what Lodge Union and Crown had been and what they must keep it to, and, if possible, surpass. As he (the chairman) had mentioned in open lodge after the election, he saw the weakness of his own position to maintain the lodge in its present state of excellence, unless with the full concurrence and full co-operation of every office-bearer and every member. He wanted therefore their thorough assistance and hearty support, and nothing should be wanting on his part to maintain the dignity, honour, and respectability of Lodge Union and Crown. In proposing the toast of "Lodge Union and Crown," Bro. Gillies gave some interesting reminiscences of its history during a period of over twenty years that he had been connected with it. It had its changes, and at one time he even left it for a while unsatisfied. He had now, however, lived to see it in a position to vie with any lodge in the province in respect to their good order and harmony generally; not a jarring word could be heard at their largest meetings. The toast was coupled with the name of Bro. George Muir, and by him acknowledged. An unusually pleasant evening was brought to a close at a timely hour by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." It may be mentioned that mine host (Bro. M. Wileman) served a most substantial supper in his usual fine style.

PARTICK.—Lodge St. Mary (No. 117).—The meeting of this lodge on the 15th ult. was largely attended by the members, who displayed a lively interest in all that took place. Among the many present were Bros. W. Wylie, R.W.M.; R. Granger, P.M.; Brunton, P.M.; Alex. Campbell, P.M.; D. Peacock, S.W.; A. Agnew, J.W.; J. M. Wylie, Treas.; Albert Lawrence, Sec.; J. Bain, S.M., &c. Bro. Wylie, R.W.M., took his place, and opened the lodge. The Secretary was called upon to read the minutes of last regular meeting. The minutes embraced an abstract of the annual balance, which was very favourable. Minutes relating to several emergency meetings were also read, all of which were agreed to and passed. A long and animated conversation took place in reference to the consecration of their new hall, which was now ready. It appeared that the P.G. Secretary had been requested to get arrangements made and fix a day for that purpose, but owing to the P. G. Master, W. M. Neilson, being out of town, and the D.P.G.M. having resigned, no conclusion could be come to, but Bro. McFaggart, P.G. Secretary, had explained that after Bro. Neilson, P.G.M., had been communicated with, and should he not be able to come himself, Bro. J. Baird, P.G.S.W., would no doubt consent to perform the ceremony, and notice accordingly would be sent to the R.W.M. of the lodge. It was unanimously resolved that, as the new hall was all ready to walk into, the next regular meeting in January would take place there. It was also agreed that a supper should take place in the new hall to celebrate St. John's day, on the 27th ult. The initiation of Mr. Allan McKay was then proceeded with, Bro. Brunton, P.M., performing the ceremony. A vote of thanks was then proposed to Bro. Latto for his ready and uniform kindness and attention to them since they became his tenants, the same to be recorded on the minutes, and a copy transmitted to Bro. Latto, which was agreed to. There being no more business before the lodge, and the night being "young," it was agreed to go into harmony for a while, which was carried out under the watchful care of the J.W. The usual toasts being rapidly gone through, great merriment was caused by an amusing recitation, by Bro. Bain. After several other toasts and songs, the toast of "The Press" was given from the chair, coupled with the name of Bro. G. B. Adams ("Freemason"), who very briefly replied, but pointed out very forcibly that it was very pleasant to hear them all admiring the "Freemason," "Masonic Magazine," and other works, but exceedingly disheartening to reflect on the meagre support they afforded it, but he trusted this would not long be the case. The lodge was then recalled to labour, and closed in due form.

PAISLEY.—Lodge St. Mirren (No. 129).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, 20th ult., in their hall, No. 5, Moss-street, Paisley. The business included the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year. Bro. H. S. Edmonds, R.W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Gemmill, S.W.; and Fisher, J.W. The following brethren were duly elected as follows:—Bros. H. S. Edmonds, R.W.M.; T. Bustard, D.M.; W. Gemmill, S.W.; George Fisher, J.W.; Peter Blair, Treasurer;

Alexander Macpherson, Secretary; Rev. W. Fowler Mills, Chaplain; Robert McLeod, jun., S.D.; H. Hutton, J.D.; Robert Sharp, Architect; William Scott, Jeweller; J. Barnett, S.S.B.; A. Moffat, J.S.B.; Alexander Morrison, S.S.; W. Hodgart, J.S.; James Spence, Dir. of Music; J. Goold, Clothier; W. Craig, I.G.; and W. Alexander, Tyler. From the annual financial statement it appeared that the income had been £92 1s. 5d., and the expenditure £92 12s. 7d. The income had been chiefly derived from membership subscriptions, and the expenditure had this year been increased by some extraordinary items. On the motion of Bro. Wallace, it was agreed that, on and after December 27th, the fees for initiation be advanced from £2 6s. 6d. to £3 3s. Among the visiting brethren were Bros. George Glen, R.W.M. Prince of Wales, Renfrew, 426; and William Sim, P.M. 426. After going through a good deal of other business, the lodge was closed in due form.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Star (No. 219).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, 12, Tron-gate, on Monday, the 13th ult., Bro. John Morgan, R.W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. James Horn, S.W., and David Mearns, J.W. There were also present Bros. Jasper Martin, D.M.; B. Black, Treas.; F. Dow, Sec.; and others. Among the visitors present there were Bros. D. Reid, R.W.M. Lodge St. Andrew, 465; Robert Jack, R.W.M. Shettleston, 128; J. Fraser, P.M. Lodge Thistle, 87; G. McLeod, P.M. Lodge Shettleston, 123; Wm. H. Bickerton ("Freemason"); and, as usual, a large attendance of members and visitors. The lodge having been duly opened by Bro. Morgan and the minutes confirmed, the following gentlemen, who were unanimously accepted, were obligated and initiated as E.A. Freemasons, viz.:—Messrs. Martin McLymont; John McMurray, S. McFarland, the ceremony being performed by the R.W.M., Bro. John Morgan. The lodge being opened in the Second Degree, Bros. G. Forest and G. Wescott were passed to this degree, also two members of Lodge St. Andrew, 465, Bro. Morgan, R.W.M., again officiating. During the evening, balance sheets showing the receipts and expenditure of the lodge for the past year were laid upon the table for the inspection of the brethren present, every one expressing themselves highly pleased with the present prosperous condition of the lodge, and we are glad to be able to say, under the careful management of Bro. Morgan, there is no doubt of Lodge Star still prospering. Bro. G. McLeod, P.M. Lodge 128; and Bro. W. H. Bickerton ("Freemason"), were honorarily affiliated into Lodge Star by Bro. Morgan.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Caledonian Railway (No. 354).—This lodge met in the Masonic Hall, 30, Hope-street, on Wednesday, the 15th ult., being their regular meeting. Bro. James Shaw, R.W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. A. B. Ferguson, S.W.; John Harley, J.W.; and the other office-bearers. The lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes confirmed, Mr. Julius Weyer-gang, was unanimously accepted, obligated, and initiated as an E.A. Freemason, the ceremony being performed by the R.W.M., Bro. James Shaw.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Commercial (No. 360).—The regular meeting of this prosperous lodge was held in their hall, 30, Hope-street, Glasgow, on Friday, the 17th ult. Present: Bros. John Monro, R.W.M., presiding; J. M. Olliver, S.W.; T. Graham, J.W.; John Smith, Secretary; G. Scott, Treasurer; William Finlay, S.M.; William Keiller S.D.; R. Reid, J.D.; Hugh Jamieson, I.G.; James McCosh, D.C.; R. Brodie, Director of Music; A. Sloane, B.B.; James Minnoch, Tyler. Among the visitors were Bros. James Shaw, R.W.M. Lodge 354; James Booth, R.W.M. Lodge 87; Dr. Humphreys, M.E.Z. 69. On the lodge being opened the minutes were read and adopted. Messrs. William Mann, Andrew Harvey, and David Jones, who were unanimously accepted by the lodge, were then obligated and initiated as E.A. Freemasons. Bro. J. M. Olliver and Bro. James Shaw performing the ceremony most impressively and carefully. Bros. the Rev. D. McCorquodale and Julius Weyer-gang were passed to the Degree of F.C., Bro. John Monro, R.W.M., officiating in his usual efficient and impressive manner. The lodge met on Monday, the 27th ult., to celebrate the Festival of St. John.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Clyde (No. 408) held their bi-monthly meeting on the 17th ult. The R.W.M., Bro. Harper, presided, supported by Bros. Bisland, S.W.; Williamson, J.W.; J. W. McInnes, S.M.; Anderson, Treas.; J. Stewart Duncan Downie, P.M.; R. Prout, R.W.M. No. 4, &c. The meeting was well attended by the members of the lodge. A request was read from the R.W.M. of No. 4, asking the favour of conferring the First Degree upon two candidates for them, their names being Messrs. Thos. Beal (ship steward) and John Douglas (ship steward). This was agreed to, and the R.W.M. conferred the E.A. Degree upon them. A similar request was made by the R.W.M. of St. Mark's, No. 102, for the F.C. Degree, which was also complied with. The lodge being passed to the Square Degree, Bros. J. E. Hays and A. McKenzie Cameron (for St. Mark's), and Bro. Baxter (for the Clyde), were admitted to this, Bro. Wheeler officiating. The lodge was then raised to the Sublime Degree, and Bro. Baxter was made a M.M., Bro. Wheeler again officiating.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Athole (No. 413).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in St. Mark's Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on Tuesday, 14th ult., Bro. John Wallace, R.W.M., presiding, supported by the Wardens and the other office-bearers. The lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed. The ballot was then taken on behalf of Mr. John McLachland, and having been unanimously approved of, this gentleman was duly and impressively initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by Bro. Wallace, R.W.M. The business of the evening was then proceeded with—the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the brethren being elected that were nominated at the previous meeting. The

office of S.D. being contested, Bro. G. Robertson was duly elected to that office. Bro. John Miller, P.M., then installed the brethren into their offices in a most efficient manner. On Bro. James Louttit, the newly-installed Master of the lodge, taking his seat on the dais, the lodge was called to refreshment.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Glasgow (No. 441) met in their hall, 22, Struthers-street, on the 14th ult. Bro. Hugh Tulloch, R.W.M., took the chair, supported by nearly all his office-bearers, and a very large number of members of the lodge. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Two gentlemen having been proposed at last meeting for initiation, viz., Messrs. William Alexander and Robert Paton, they were prepared and received the First Degree from the R.W.M. The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. There being only two offices contested, the election was got through rapidly and quietly. The following comprises the list:—R.W.M., Bro. Woods; D.M., Jackson; S.M., Sloan; S.W., McInney; T.W., Neagle; Secretary, Goldie; Treasurer, Martin; S.D., Seivwright; Chaplain, Caldwell; B.B., Cunningham; Std. Bearer, Waters; Jeweller, Lawson; Architect, McHirdy; S.S., Malcolm; J.S., French; P.S.S., Murray; I.G., W. Murray; Tyler, Price. The installation was then gone on with, Bro. Tulloch gracefully performing that ceremony.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Andrew (No. 465).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, Garngad-read, on the 16th ult., at 7.30. The meeting was an exceedingly large one, all the office-bearers being present with the exception of the S.D. A considerable number of visiting brethren were also present, including Bros. J. Booth, R.W.M. 87; J. Morgan, R.W.M. 219; G. W. Wheeler, G. B. Adams ("Freemason"), and others. Bro. D. Reid, I.P.M., took the chair, and opened the lodge, when the Secretary was called upon to read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed. The annual report was then taken up and discussed. Bro. Annand went over the balance sheet, which was in the hands of the brethren, criticising at considerable length various items, with a view to have them further explained, after which he moved the adoption of the report. Bro. Clark seconded this, and it was agreed to. The acting R.W.M. then resigned the chair to Bro. Morgan, R.W.M. 219, who installed the office-bearers while the R.W.M. was receiving the Installed Master's Degree in another room. The following compose the office-bearers for the ensuing year, viz.:—D. Gilchrist, R.W.M.; D. Reid, I.P.M.; Jas. Clark, D.M.; J. McLeish, S.M.; G. B. Davidson, S.W.; Wm. Chalmers, J.W.; Robt. Donaldson, Treas.; W. Campbell, Sec.; C. Gibb, S.D.; D. Anderson, J.D.; the Rev. W. E. Braidshaw, Chaplain; Daniel McMaster, B.B.; Wm. Calderwood, Architect; R. Maxwell, Jeweller; Alex. Clelland, S.S.; J. Morrison, J.S.; P. Douglas, I.G.; Peter Johnston, Tyler. Bro. Morgan, though suffering from a severe cold, went fully into the details of the installation ceremony, after which he delivered a most excellent address to the installed brethren, explaining in a clear manner the nature of the duties they had undertaken in support of their R.W.M. and Masonry in general. The R.W.M. then entered the lodge, along with the Installing Masters. Bro. Morgan invested him with the jewel and clothing belonging to his office, and placed him in the chair, and also invested Bro. Reid, I.P.M., with the jewel of his office. The office-bearers and brethren were formally introduced to their new R.W.M. A vote of thanks to Bro. Morgan and the Past Masters present for their services that night brought the business to a close, and the lodge was called to harmony. After toast, song, and sentiment had passed round, the toast of "The Masonic Press" was given, coupled with Bros. Wheeler and G. B. Adams ("Freemason"). Bro. Wheeler replied at some length, Bro. Adams briefly acknowledging the compliment. He urged upon them to give greater support to the Masonic press.

HELENSBURGH.—Lodge St. George (No. 503).—The installation of office-bearers of this lodge took place in the Oddfellows' Hall, on Thursday evening, the 16th ult. Deputations were present from Lodge Dumbarton, Kilwinning, No. 18, headed by the R.W.M., Bro. William Barr; and Lodge St. John's, Greenock, No. 175, headed by the R.W.M., Bro. McMaster. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. McMaster, R.W.M. 175. After a service of cake and wine had been served, the brethren proceeded to the Queen's Hotel, where an excellent supper had been provided, Bro. Marsland, the immediate Past Master, in the chair. A very enjoyable evening was spent. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, and heartily responded to.

Reports of the following Scotch Lodges stand over:— Neptune Kilwinning, 442; Govandale, 437; Clydesdale, 556; Union, 332; Thistle, 87.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual Christmas and New Year's entertainment to the aged inmates of the Asylum at Croydon will be given on Wednesday next. The usual Christmas fare will be provided, and the company will sit down to dinner about two o'clock. In the evening, after tea, there will be several amusements provided, among which, it is hoped, will be some prestidigitatorial wonders of an eminent professor. Every year these entertainments have been very successful, and it is a pleasing reflection to those who inaugurated them that they are highly prized by those annuitants who are provided with a comfortable home in the Asylum. By the earnest advocacy of Bro. James Terry, the Secretary of the Institution, and several brethren, members of the Committee, who take a deep interest in the welfare and progress of the Institution, numerous lodges, chapters, and individuals have contributed to a list which has been opened to defray the expenses of the evening. We shall give a full account of the proceedings in our next issue.

COMPLIMENTARY MASONIC BANQUET TO SAMUEL HOMFRAY, ESQ.

To use the vernacular of sporting circles, this interesting event "came off," at the Royal Albert Hall, Newport, on Tuesday, the 7th ult., on which occasion above two hundred brethren assembled together to do honour to their invited guest, Samuel Homfray Esq., J.P., on his having attained to the advanced age of eighty. Additional interest was also imparted to this great Masonic gathering from the fact that the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province, Bro. S. G. Homfray, also attained to his forty-fifth year. From the moment the assembled brethren first caught sight of the venerable form of their respected guest on his entrance to the balcony of the hall, until he reached his allotted seat, escorted by a goodly array of Provincial Grand Officers, their greeting was continuous and hearty. The scene which was presented to the observer at the moment when Mr. Homfray bowed his acknowledgments to the vast assemblage before him for the wealth of welcome tendered him, was one of an imposing character. The hall had been tastefully decorated with various Masonic banners, by skilful and willing hands, and these emblems, combined with the glittering jewels and varied colours of Masonic clothing, profusely displayed by the brethren, produced a coup d'œil not often witnessed. The general effect of the scene was also greatly enhanced so soon as the masterly touch of Mr. Risley was applied to the noble organ, at which he presided, drawing forth from its inner depths a concord of sweet sounds both inspiriting and elevating in the extreme.

By virtue of Masonic etiquette in that respect, Bro. Colonel C. Lyne occupied the chair in his capacity of Provincial Grand Master of the province. On his right the chairman was supported by the guest of the evening, S. Homfray, Esq., and by Bros. H. P. Bolt (the Mayor), L. A. Homfray, P.M. 683, P. Prov. G.J.W., and Admiral H. R. Foote. On the left of Bro. Col. Lyne were placed Bros. S. G. Homfray, D.P.G.M. of Monmouthshire, A.G.D.C. of England, Capt. Perkins, P.G.J.W. Somerset, — Bradford, P.M., Swansa, and W. H. W. Homfray, W.M. 683. It is impossible within the space at our command to enumerate all the brethren present, but we saw the old familiar faces of the following brethren, viz. C. H. Oliver, R. J. Chambers, J. W. Gratte, W. West, W. Pickford, Charles Rowe, R. B. Evans, C. R. Lyne, B. Lawrence, J. Middleton, Dr. G. A. Brown, R. Bond, J. Lewis, — Swandenbrend, W. West, jun., Walter West, L. Hermessen, H. Hellier, W. Whitehall, J. Piggford, E. Wells, J. S. Stone, W. Needham, G. Hoskens, W. H. Watkins, J. Horner, J. L. Lloyd, W. J. Lloyd, S. Cradock, Noble, Kerslake, Davies, J. Griffiths, Dr. W. W. Morgan, S. Goss, H. Appleby, E. J. Grice, James Thomas, Martin, Gibbs, Burpitt, Billingham, Hobbs, Matthews, Richards, Rennie, Saunders, Jacob, Hibbard, Villiers, Brook, Fornacon, Thomas Bailey, Berlin, Huxtable, Wheeler, C. Phillips, Pratt, Davies, Nathan, Woolf, McBean, Pearman, Stevens, and others. The Chairman in proposing "The Queen and the Craft," spoke in eulogistic terms of the many high qualities possessed by Her Majesty, and referred in graceful terms to her close identity with the Craft, in the persons of her three sons, one of whom was now in India, using his power and influence to bring the two countries into closer bonds of unity. The toast of "The M.W. the Grand Master of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," was given with equal felicity by the Chairman, who then proceeded to propose "The M.W. the Pro Grand Master of England, the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Officers of Grand Lodge," which he gave with true Masonic fervour. This toast was responded to by Bro. S. G. Homfray, as one of the officers of the Grand Lodge, in a speech of an impressive character, comprehending an allusion to the honour which had been conferred upon him by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in appointing him to the office of A.G.D.C. of England, as well as to other circumstances of interest connected with the present meeting. The toast of "The R.W. the P.G.M., Colonel C. Lyne," was entrusted to Bro. L. A. Homfray, who acquitted himself in a manner to elicit considerable applause. We need hardly say that Colonel Lyne responded to the toast in a style peculiarly fitting to the occasion. Bro. Captain Perkins proposed the toast of "The W. the D.P.G.M., Bro. S. G. Homfray," in a speech marked, not only by consummate taste, but also by evidences of considerable culture. The felicitous manner in which he described the apparent powers of ubiquity possessed by Bro. S. G. Homfray was enjoyable in the extreme. Bro. Homfray responded to the toast in his accustomed hearty manner, and expressed his personal gratification at the steady development of Masonic strength throughout the province. The toasts we have particularised now brought us to the principal toast, viz., "The Guest of the evening, S. Homfray, Esq., with the hearty congratulations of the Freemasons of the Province on his attaining the advanced age of 80, and wishing him many happy returns of the day." This toast raised a cheer of the unmistakable volume which only the throats of Britons can pour forth as a manifestation of their inward spirit. The ordeal which both the chairman and the guest had to go through was a crucial one. On the one hand, the proposer of the toast had to embody the feelings, wishes, and desires of those by whom he had been deputed to convey them. On the other hand, the respected guest, sitting before an animated assembly, at the ripe age of 80, listening to a record of his public usefulness and private worth, with three sons within his reach, all high in the Craft who were doing him honour, conjointly with the rest present, these are materials potent enough to shake the stoicism of any man, and we cannot help thinking they must necessarily have had an effect upon the venerable guest. Nevertheless, both were equal to the occasion. Colonel Lyne proved fully alive to the trust confided to him.

The estimate he drew of the character of the guest of the evening, and the manner he painted, as it were, the gradational steps by which Mr. S. Homfray had attained to such general respect, was neither overcoloured in fact, or fulsome in phraseology. The concluding portion of the Chairman's speech, more especially at that part where he presented the birthday present of a silver vase, subscribed for by a few Masonic friends, was gracefully and chastely performed. Well, the response. When Mr. Homfray rose to respond, he must have felt conscious by the hearty cheer accorded him, he had ears and hearts open and willing to receive every utterance. His speech was characteristic of the man, warm-hearted, truthful, and full of aspirations for the general weal. The contrast he drew between the past and the present of the district, not only with reference to its general prosperity and extended area, but also in its great strides towards the more efficient conduct of rapidly increasing local traffic, combined with increased facilities of locomotion, was the history of a life of experience, observation, and active work. The occasion we are commemorating was something to be remembered, but we are admonished that our labours must cease. Personal inclination would lead us to dwell upon the other toasts in the programme, were we not restricted to certain limits. We would fain pay a passing tribute to the ladies who graced the balcony in charming force on this occasion, but we must rest content by simply noting the fact of their presence, and their evident identity with the spirit of the scene. We believe, taking the banquet in the main, many a pleasant memory will survive from the commemoration of Mr. Samuel Homfray's eightieth birthday.

Epitaphs.

"CHARITY AND THE POOR LAWS." By Francis Peck, member of the School Board for London for City of London.—Day, Savoy-street, Strand. The name of Peck is not unknown in connection with distinguished services to our charities, and Mr. Francis Peck, one of the members of the London School Board, who has shown more than an earnest desire to inculcate a knowledge of the Volume of the Sacred Law, for he has endowed his purpose of encouraging the knowledge among the poor children of London at a cost to himself of £500 a year, has now come forward with a small volume, under the title of "Our Laws and our Poor," in which he advocates that system of discriminate charity carried out by our brotherhood, and indicates a statesmanlike knowledge of the Poor Laws, of the defects of details, of the results of maladministration, and of the evils to the community at large resulting from the ignorance displayed by the mere politicians who fill the high places. Mr. Peck's book is opportune, for changes must come into our Poor Law, and in pity to the poor to whom relief is administered, and on behalf of the poor, some of whose hard earnings go in rates, it is to be hoped that Mr. Peck's earnest expressions will bring to him helpers in his work. In his own words, he hopes to accomplish two things—"to induce some benevolent men and women, now hesitating as to their vocation in life, to cast in their lot with the many workers, who, while differing in forms of faith and much beside, are yet united in one great desire to resist the progress of those mighty powers of evil which day by day are degrading, crushing into misery, and destroying so many of our fellow-creatures, strewing our paths with human wrecks on which it is difficult to look without pain and humiliation, if we contrast what they are with what, but for bad social customs, bad laws, and selfish neglect, they might have been." The second purpose Mr. Peck desires to accomplish is explained in language which deserves to be studied by that large class of charity givers who, generally acting upon impulse, and to save themselves from importunity, may be said to give alms, but to bestow no charity. Mr. Peck says that he hopes by these essays to "enable many of those who, from warm-hearted benevolence, have thrown themselves into the struggle, to realise that in this, as in every other good work, there is necessity for self-restraint, wise forethought, and much earnest thought, if they would avoid justifying, in some measure at least, the bitter sarcasm of a late cynical writer—"that a great part of the work of the wise is to correct the evil effects resulting from the efforts of the good." There is too good reason for these remarks, and Mr. Peck, in the first of his essays, draws attention "to certain aspects of the present social condition of England," pointing out that the fact of large masses of our people living in a state of vice and degradation is "at once a disgrace and danger to the commonwealth," and that in some circumstances "there is a great cause for anxiety and regret" in the relations of employer and employed, the separation of classes, and the widening gulf between extreme luxury and extreme poverty. In regard to our Poor Laws, Mr. Peck says, "The want of proper discrimination in the management of our poor-law relief is one of the worst defects of the present system—it begins in the workhouse nurseries and schoolrooms, where the orphan children of the deserving poor are herded with the children of the refuse of society; it is continued among the able-bodied, where the virtuous widow 'is sent to pick oakum among the most degraded of her sex; it extends even to the death-bed, where the poor invalid, who, to save herself from such a fate, has worked till she could work no longer, and starved till she could starve no longer, is carried from her wretched home to linger out life's last hours on a bed, on each side of which may lie depraved wretches, whose every word is foulness or blasphemy." Though much good has been done to abolish the possibility of such things in London by the Act of 1867, which, to the honour of our legislature, was carried by the benevolent combination of both political parties, yet it is to be

feared that the Poor Law administration requires a constant glare of public sight upon it to prevent abuses of its easily deranged machinery, and Mr. Peck could have done his fellow creatures no greater good than by turning sharp attention to defects in our laws, as well as to defects in the actions of the so-called charitable. The appeals he makes on behalf of the helpless orphans committed to the Poor Laws, and the points he urges on their behalf, show that he has not overlooked any one operation of these laws, and we cannot help wishing that time and circumstances will bring Mr. Peck into a position where he may have a vocation in directing an improved administration of laws, which now, as he shows, in too many respects afflict the weak, and encourage the idle and worthless. J.W.

"THE HISTORY OF INDIA."—Cassell and Co.

This first part of an illustrated History of India promises very well. It is accompanied by a welcome portrait of the Prince of Wales; and, we think, will be likely to be much appreciated by the reading public just now. For India has so much interest for all of us at home, so many dear interests and precious memories are indissolubly bound up for us with that strange and distant land that to us the History of India is almost a matter of the deepest and most abiding personal interest. We shall watch the progress of this work with interest, and doubt not that it will prove to be a valuable addition to our contemporary literature. W. F. A.

ERRATUM.—By a mistake, Benjamin D'Israeli was substituted for Isaac D'Israeli, in the Review of "Scottish Proverbs."

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

A drawing-room entertainment of a very attractive description was given on the 23rd ult. in the hall of the Oriental Buildings, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, for the benefit of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The site was gratuitously placed at the disposal of the entertainers by Bro. Major Wieland, who had the gratification of seeing the hall crowded to the doors by both ladies and gentlemen. Among other brethren who were present we observed Bros. Major Wieland, F. T. Isitt, a member of the firm of Messrs. J. and C. Boyd and Co., of Friday-street; Bro. W. Hammond, P.G.J.D. Midx.; Pawson Hooton, W.M. 1572; James Terry, Prov. G.D.C. Herts Secretary of the Masonic Benevolent Institution; J. A. Farnfield, and T. W. Ockenden. Vocal and instrumental music and the performance of two farces were on the programme, the whole of which was admirably carried out. Amongst the most noticeable productions was a pianoforte solo by Miss Hammond, who also superbly rendered Gabriel's song, "Would you be a Sailor's Wife?" which was most heartily applauded. She also sang, in company with her sister, Miss J. Hammond, Smart's duet, "When the Wind Blows in from the Sea," a performance which likewise produced rapturous approval. Not the less well received was Hatton's trio, "The Woodthrush," in which the Misses Lawrence acquitted themselves so admirably that their perfectly artistic skill was at once apparent. Owing to the length of the programme encores could not always be complied with, but on several occasions during the evening the satisfaction of the audience expressed itself by demands for a repetition of the songs, which, in some cases, were given. This was the case with Mr. Tregenza, who sang "Poor Chinee." "Hearts of Oak," was given by Mr. Metherell, and "The Spanish Champion" by Mr. Tarn; and the recitation of "Ben and the Butler," by Mr. Binfield, was so humorously delivered as to convulse the house.

Messrs. Ratcliffe, Tew, and Woomansee sang the always pleasing trio, "Mynheer van Dunck," much to the enjoyment of the audience; and this was followed by Maltby's farce, "Two Flats and a Sharp," in which Messrs. Gully, Lane, and Satchell acquitted themselves very well.

Mr. Sturgeon sang Adams's "Warrior Bold," and Mr. H. Warren Edwards sang the comic song of "The Tragedy," which being encored, he sang the music hall ditty, "I am so Volatile," Mr. Wilkinson having very successfully fulfilled his part by singing Maynard's "Old Soldiers." Mr. Ockenden followed by reciting "One Niche the Highest," in which he was greatly applauded. Mr. Tew sang Rockstro's "Reifer," and Martin Beecher's farce, "In Possession," concluded the entertainment. In this Messrs. Marvin, Binfield, Tregenza, Dunn, and Lane took the characters, and filled the different parts not only with spirit, but with taste and judgment. At the conclusion of the entertainment Bro. Ockenden proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Major Wieland for his kindness in granting the use of the hall. To this vote Bro. Wieland said he was unable to reply in a speech, but he would give a song, which he did, and was applauded to the echo. Bro. James Terry moved a vote of thanks to Bro. Ockenden, and the ladies and gentlemen who had assisted in getting up the entertainment, which had produced large pecuniary results in favour of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; and after this had been duly responded to the company separated, acknowledging that the evening had been eminently agreeable and successful.

The usual Twelfth-night entertainment will be given to the pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls at St. John's Hill, on Thursday next.

The annual Christmas entertainment to the children at the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, at Wood Green, will be given next week. It is expected to surpass all former entertainments, although last year it was far above the average, when Mr. Bridgman Smith added some novelties which produced a great sensation.

TO OUR READERS.

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

TO ADVERTISERS.

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

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

Answers to Correspondents.

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

M. DAVIS.—The question is quite inadmissible.
EGERTON, 1392—Yes.

The following stand over:—"The Order of the Temple;" Tudor Trevor; W. P. Buchan; W.M. Dunbar Castle, 75; Report of Chaucer Lodge, 1540; and several Scotch Lodge reports.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

"Evening Hours," edited by Lady Barker; "The Garden"; "Our Laws and our Poor," F. Peck; "East Anglian Hand Book," "All the World Over" No. 11, Cook & Son; "Boletino Officiale del Grande Oriente Nazionale Egiziano"; "The Craftsman"; "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ohio"; "The Colonist," "The Belgian News."

REMITTANCES RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Bailey, F. A., Australia (P.O.O.)	1	1	4
Bate, O. H., The Cape (P.O.O.)	0	2	3
Beg, Rev. Dr., N.S.W. (P.O.O.)	1	2	0
Borg, R., Egypt (Stamps)	0	7	6
Crossley, J., The Cape (P.O.O.)	1	8	6
Dorrell, W., Hasskien (P.O.O.)	0	10	6
Hall, J., Smyrna (Stamps)	0	9	8
Jevon, H., Egypt (Stamps)	0	6	0
Monaghan, W.M. St. Thomas's Mount (B.O.E.)	2	5	0
Peake, H. H., Ballarat (P.O.O.)	1	0	0
Petty, G., Cadiz (Cash)	0	10	8
Toby, C., Tasmania (Draft)	3	0	0
Trelease, Corsica (Cash)	0	9	0
Tyndall, P., Malta (Stamps)	0	5	0
Warmington, H. W., Punjab (Draft)	3	7	4
Zitman, Thomas, Demerara (Cash)	1	0	0

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1876.

OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO INDIA.

Our Royal Grand Master has reached Calcutta, where his reception has been most enthusiastic. There have been several State Ceremonies, and a grand assembly of Indian Princes, to which we shall recur in our next. Our Royal Grand Master is quite well, and has won all hearts. We shall treat the subject more fully in our next.

THE NEW YEAR.

The flight of time has ever exercised, so to say, much and deeply the poet and preacher, the thoughtful and the sage. The stern and often unpalatable truth to man—of Time's rapid decay, "its effacing fingers," and its inevitable and often premature ending, have appealed to the feelings and conscious perception of all mortal generations. Time is like a flowing river which we think will run parallel to our course or road, and yet a sudden bend hides it from our view; and we go on our way and behold it no more! For whatever may be our actual views of life per se, whether pleasant or mournful, whether philosophical or paradoxical, we cannot deny this in controvertible truth, that Time is often of very short duration for us and ours, that it often ceases for us at a moment when we least expect its departure, and even when all is summed up, when we have seen the best of it, when we have enjoyed its fleeting hours to the full, it bids us farewell, and seems to us, whether in its longest retrospect or in its often hasty flight, simply like a "tale that is told." How short after all do the hours of our little, if even longish life, appear to us to-day. It seems but yesterday that we were beginning the journey of time. Blithe

comrades were at our sides, we were marching on, a goodly and a stalwart band, the way was pleasant and refreshing, we were traversing flowery meads and the "woodland green;" no clouds were on our path, all was full of hope and of contentment! Life has run on, years have sped away, and we hardly can realize that here we are to-day, moving on with halting steps to our journey's close, weak and weary, footsore and dispirited! We hardly can believe actually the lapse of years and the flight of time! Why it was only yesterday, we feel disposed to say, that this and that happened to us here and there, that ours was the pleasant friendship, ours was the endearing re-union, that for us this world was full of happiness, and life had many charms. And yet here has January whitened into December, and the wintry sky has covered the scene with its dimmer and its duller rays. How quickly old time has passed, how rapidly its days, and seasons, and scenes have vanished away, leaving us only the illusion of memory, or the dream of fond regrets, those ghosts and shadows of olden hours, which serve only to remind us of what once has been, but never, never can be more for us poor sojourners for a little season here below. Youth and hope, and health and happiness, and pleasant association, and tender trust, all are in our "far away;" like many others in this wilderness of life, we have outlived even the warmth of affection, the reality of friendship, and the sympathy of fellow feeling. How many a poor mortal has thus to complain, as it were, to himself, as the hours roll on, and life grows old, and the hurrying years bring with them their inevitable changes, and time leaves us standing, perhaps downcast and depressed, on that great and sombre shore, which hems in the "silent sea." But then, the philosopher, while he admits this normal state of being, this inevitable condition of time, will not therefore really take either a dreary or doubting view of things. So it is, so it ever has been, so it ever will be, in the good Providence of God. This very shortness of time is actually the best thing for us all, though we may not a priori like to think so, and offers to us ever the best of reminders, and the truest and soundest of teaching. For after all, who would really wish time to be more enduring than it is? We may say so, or affect to think so, but we doubt if any one really does so say or think truly, except in the gross ignorance of materialistic unbelief. None of us ever pretend to assert or to believe, that this life is satisfying, that time is our best portion. Take life and time at their very best, their very, very best, what do they ever demonstrate to every thoughtful mind amongst us, but that they are alike imperfect, and transitory, and deceiving? Under the mask of human follies are many heartaches; under the pomp and glitter of terrestrial wealth are ceaseless worries, and sordid cares; health often gives way utterly, and leaves us helpless creatures to-day, a "wreck of the past," a touching instance of shattered strength. When gaiety and merriment are at the highest, there are many who laugh, simply, as Figaro did, to prevent him from crying; and as the lights die out, as the music ceases, as the viands grow cold, as the flowers crumble into dust, we often only look back on those white-robed phantoms, which tell us of baneful pleasures, or whisper to us in sadder tones of golden moments, whose waste we never can repair, of pleasant faces we only recall with the sigh of remorse! Such has ever been the great and unvarying condition of time, that it is disappointing, disheartening, and departing! It is here to-day, and gone to-morrow. It never allows us hardly even to finish our plans, or complete our happiest schemes. If it does so, perchance, it often leaves us in the hour of fruition, and like the fairy palace of old, the building we have created with so much care, after so many long years' work, has crumbled away, and disappeared in the night. Now we all know this, and we all admit this, the preacher and the congregation, the teacher and the pupil, the lecturer and his audience. Hence we venture to believe, despite some few rash assertions of either the worldly wise, or the coldly cynical, or the sceptical epicurean, that none of us really wish time to endure for ever, that none of us honestly desire that we ourselves might "live always." No! there comes over us all, sooner or later, the clear conviction that

it is far better for us all, that things are as they are in this respect! We could not bear a too lengthened continuance of time, we could none of us desire to live life over again. As year follows year, as the new year succeeds the old, as generations give place to generations in their onward march, as the cycle of time keeps ever filling up, and completing its course to us all alike, ours must be the thought and the admission, that not only "sic fata voluere," but that it is idle to complain of the flight of time, and that all things are for the best, and that we must all grow old. If any of us are even tempted to say "ah mihi prateritos si referet Jupiter annos," it is an unreal wish, it is a hurtful aspiration; as, after all, the Great Architect of the Universe has given us all our proper times and seasons, in which to do our work for him, and to help our brother man. Let, then, the departure of 1875, and the advent of 1876, tell us in a clear and thrilling voice of our own mission and our own responsibilities. Let us not, because all things do not go with us as we wish, or want, become sad or sighing, cross-grained or ungenial! We have still something to do, however humble, for our great Grand Master and for our brethren here; let us labour on to the close, so to say, with "harness on our backs" to the last, humbly seeking to do our duty, where God has been pleased in His omniscient wisdom to place us; and then time will leave us without vain regrets, because time is to us but a symbol of that great eternity, into which we all are wending, as the years hasten from us, and our sands are running out.

REPORTS OF LODGE MEETINGS.

With the New Year, and our first issue of the "Freemason" for 1876, we wish to impress upon many of our excellent correspondents, the need and advisability of somewhat condensing the normal reports of the proceedings of the lodges, alike at work, and above all at refreshment. We are quite aware, that one of the "specialities" of the "Freemason" consists in the full and verbatim records it invariably offers to the Craft of lodge proceedings, and Masonic speeches. But of late there has been somewhat of a tendency to be a little too prolix, and a little too diffuse. Much has been sent to us and has appeared in print that in our humble opinion might as well have been kept back and omitted without detriment to the report itself, and without any disrespect to the sender, or the lodge. For instance, we would earnestly call the attention of our many correspondents to the advisability of eschewing for the future all references to the work done in lodge, all ritual arrangements, as we shall assuredly, in justice to our ourselves, to economize our own space, and please our readers and the Order generally, as we know; have otherwise to forbear printing such passages in our weekly correspondence. We also, would respectfully urge a little more condensation as to the reports themselves, and the non-introduction of any thing but what is absolutely necessary or purely Masonic. And lastly, as regards the "after dinner speeches," and the records of "the feast of reason and the flow of soul," we venture to ask, from all our friendly and communicative correspondents, a little alike of curtailment and reserve. We cannot afford, owing to our limited columns, to print the stereotyped phrases, such as "the banquet gave the greatest satisfaction to all who partook of it, and was a credit to the caterer." Neither can we announce week after week that "Bro. Juggins supplied a most admirable entertainment, and the viands and wines were of the first quality." We think that many speeches might be left out, and more might be shortened; and we trust that our brethren who give us, "currente calamio," such elaborate accounts of addresses, which all sound pretty much the same, will pardon us when we say, that while we always hail eloquence or originality, or the sound advice, or the telling point, we, and our brethren equally, are not improved or edified by hearing that "Bro. Thompson returned thanks and said that it was the proudest day of his life, and that he loved Masonry and had worked hard for it, &c., &c., &c." It is all perfectly true, no doubt, and the greatest credit is due to Bro. P.M. Thompson, but Masonry is

not benefitted by this repetitive self-laudation, and the intellectual character of the "Freemason" is materially affected. So we hope that all will take in good part what we have thought well to say to-day, and will assist us in our endeavour to raise as far as we can the staple character of the lodge reports and after dinner speeches. We are quite sensible of the need and advantage of having good and full reports of lodge meetings, and even of Masonic speeches, pace Mr. Heckethorne; but we think there is a *via media* in all things, and even in this. We quite agree, that some reports may be too terse and condensed, such as that which announces that "Lodge 2044 met on the 22nd inst. Present Bros. Jones, Brown, Robinson, &c., &c. Mr. Johnson was balloted for, and being unanimously accepted, was introduced and admitted into our ancient and honourable fraternity. The lodge being duly closed, the brethren then partook of an excellent banquet, &c." Between the too diffuse and turgid report, and the report too condensed and technical (with nothing but the dry bones of Freemasonry, so to say), there is clearly a possibility of a judicious and spirited lodge report, which will give every information to the Order, and yet not weary the reader with needless repetitions, and stereotyped phrases. So we hope to find and to take the golden mean between these two extremes, and if our brethren will only aid us in the somewhat difficult effort, we doubt not, but that the "Freemason" will still continue to supply full and satisfactory and readable lodge reports, and that gradually the character of Masonic speeches generally will be raised, not only in the opinion of "outsiders," but in that of many an intellectual brother of our good old Craft.

THE COMPARATIVE COST OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

We don't think that much has come of this controversy, or that any good can be gained by continuing it, and so we close it in our columns to-day. The matter is confessedly a difficult one, and requires much careful handling, serious consideration, and impartial statements. It is idle for any one to jump up and say "The Boys' School costs so much. I know of a school where the boys are maintained and educated and clothed for £20 less than the Boys' School, and it is therefore £20 in excess of this school, or that school." Be it so, even, what then? Before we can form any opinion on the merits of the case we must ascertain several things. 1st. The class of boys educated. 2nd. The system of education pursued. 3rd. The rate of allowed expenditure per head; and, 4th. What are the special circumstances of the case? For the education of boys, orphan boys like the sons of Freemasons, is in itself a somewhat difficult problem, and requires to be carefully and cautiously dealt with. It is hopeless to attempt to deal with it as an eleemosynary institution only, or as a pauper school, or to suppose that our point can be gained by giving a "minimum" instead of a "maximum" of education, or of anything else. Just now all such institutions are in danger of being gravely affected by quacks and charlatans, by those who have never made scholastic work their study, or by those who take a hard and fast line on the subject, and treating the boys like a set of machines, say "given a certain amount of money, the strictly necessary expenses ought only to be so much per head." Such a line of reasoning may have done in years ago; it can avail no longer. The general advance of education is so great, and will be greater, that it is positively childish for any one to attempt to lay down one rigid level of expense, and maintenance, and instruction. In some orphan institutions, indeed, where the class is special, and the inmates are many, it is possible, perhaps, by strict sumptuary arrangements, to reduce the expenses, but then in those cases we always find that much depends on the dietary prescribed. Some institutions do not give meat to the children more than three or four days a week, it is said, some not even so often. Therefore each institution must be judged by its own merits, and its own work and condition, and it is most absurd to suppose that any one in the world can fix an

arbitrary amount, and say that figure represents moderation and economy—beyond, waste and extravagance; and that all schools in excess of such amount ought to be reduced to the expenditure per head of the schools where the average is of the amount specified. The Freemasons' Boys' School, owing to its contrasted classes of orphans, renders every such suggestion utterly inadvisable and impossible, and we have every reason to believe that the dietary of the school has been formed in a liberal spirit, and we know with the best results to the health of the inmates. Bro. C. Pegler, of Leeds, who has entered the lists on the hobby-horse of economy, in his last letter, we fear, will have not strengthened his position in the eyes of the metropolitan brethren or the Craft at large, because it must be patent to all, that his entire argument rests on two great fallacies. First he takes certain institutions, and says their average is so and so, the average of the Boys' School is much higher, and if the amount of the Boys' School expenditure be reduced to this lower average, nearly double the number of boys can be educated. But the fallacies are these. He assumes that all the schools are on a similar level in everything, whereas, as we said before, not only must every institution be considered on its own merits and character, but the Freemasons' Boys' School has a special character of its own, which requires a special treatment. And he (Bro. Pegler) goes on to say, what must have made many brethren smile, for he gravely contends that living is cheaper in London than in the provinces, and thirdly, that the schools can be provided from wholesale houses, in grocery, butchers' meat, and flour. If Bro. Pegler really thinks it is cheaper to live in London than in the provinces, we recommend him to come and live in London for twelve months, and we will undertake to say from personal experience, that at the end of that period his house expenses in London will exceed 35 per cent. those in Leeds. But in most cases, as a rule, contracts cannot be made by institutions like the Boys' School with wholesale houses. Contracts can be made with retail houses, and are made, but we have never heard of the former arrangement, and do not believe it exists, or could practically be worked. The matter here rests, and must rest where it is. Bro. Binckes has conclusively shown that the argument of the West Yorkshire Charity Committee of 1868 still holds good, and that the averages they gave then fairly represent the averages of 1875, and that on the whole the Boys' School does not suffer by the comparison. We give Bro. Pegler credit for being wishful to make our means go as far as they can, but we venture, in all respect to him, to express our humble opinion that his argument is fallacious, and his complaints are groundless. We believe that every economy is practised in the management of the Boys' School, consistent with the objects of the institution, namely, the health of the pupils, good education, and comfortable clothing and maintenance.

Original Correspondence.

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

MASONIC FORBEARANCE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In reference to a letter in your paper of to-day, headed "Masonic Forbearance," I am much grieved, on reading it, to find that I am accused of having bullied (a very harsh expression, and quite foreign to my character) a brother, as it states, for taking my apron, &c., home, instead of giving it up, on finding it, to the proper authorities. On my attending my lodge on the following Thursday, after losing it, I had a letter handed to me by the Secretary, stating that on applying in Cheapside I could obtain my property. On calling there, I can most positively assert that I thanked the finder two or three times, at the same time telling him that he had laid himself open to be prosecuted for taking it away, and that I had been put to a great deal of trouble, and had been in communication with the general manager at King's Cross, and for saying this I am accused of gross incivility. On recovering what I had lost I immediately wrote to the railway to that effect, stating how I obtained it. If they took further steps, owing to his kindness, I am very sorry that he should have been further troubled. I was not aware until to-day that he was a brother, for I did not recognise him, nor he me, though I must have travelled with him

from Wood Green, being one of the five, and also a member of 1185, and the question was asked at my lodge if the writer was a Mason, and the Secretary stated, from the wording he should say not. I am sure, on reflection, he will remember that I only treated him as one gentleman would another, and that our next meeting will be in a friendly spirit.

I enclose my card.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

JUSTICE.

CAN A TYLER VOTE?

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

A question was asked by Bro. S.C.H. in your number of the 25th December, 1875, in reference to the right of the Tyler to vote for a member of the lodge when proposed as Master, or for any other purpose; and Bro. S.C.H. does me the honour to quote a passage from my article "Ballot" in the Royal Masonic Cyclopædia, p. 65, in which occurs the following expression:—"The Tyler (who is not necessarily a member of the lodge, and in the case of payment for his services, has no vote)." In almost every lodge the Tyler is a paid officer, and attends professionally as such upon many lodges, making a legitimate source of profit of his Masonic abilities, hence it would seem clear that he is not necessarily a member of the lodge he attends, and the money payment makes this still more clear.

It may so happen in the lodge to which Bro. S.C.H. belongs that the Tyler prefers to subscribe, and I honour the feeling which actuates him to do so, in which case, like any other subscribing member he would have the right of voting, but in exercise it would become necessary for him to delegate his duties to some other brother, and hence cease, while recording his vote, to be Tyler, and become a simple subscribing member.

I consulted the Grand Secretary on points in connection with this, and he bears out the view I have ventured to print. The Grand Tyler, he informs me, is scarcely considered a Grand Officer, and from his situation and duties whether as Grand Tyler or Tyler of a private lodge, it is impossible for him to take part in discussions, and, if he cannot do this, his vote, even if it were conceded to him as such, would not be of much avail.

Wishing you a happy new year, I remain, dear Sir and Brother, yours very fraternally,

KENNETH, R. H. MACKENZIE, (Cryptonymus),
Editor of the Royal Masonic Cyclopædia.

Chiswick-sq., W. 28th Dec. 1875.

[We adhere to our opinion, notwithstanding the great authority of our excellent Grand Secretary, quoted by Bro. Mackenzie. A Tyler who is a subscribing member of a lodge, (not having been initiated in it as a serving brother), is entitled by the provisions of the Book of Constitutions to vote, and nothing can take away his right. How he is to vote is simply a matter of detail. The case of the Grand Tyler is not analogous.—Ed.]

THE VATICAN AND PHYSICS.

We take this striking proof of Ultramontane intolerance from the "Times" of the 18th ult.:

Sir,—A learned French friend has favoured me with a copy of a letter recently published in France, and bearing the following title,—"Letter of Monsignor the Bishop of Montpellier to the Deans and Professors of the Faculties of Montpellier." Its date is the 8th of the month of December, 1875. One or two extracts from it may not be without their value to the people of England and of America, on whom, in our day, has fallen the problem of education in relation to the claims of Rome.

The Bishop writes to the Deans and Professors aforesaid:—

"Now, gentlemen, the holy Church holds herself to be invested with the absolute right to teach mankind; she holds herself to be the depositary of the truth—not a fragmentary truth, incomplete, a mixture of certainty and hesitation, but the total truth, complete, from a religious point of view. Much more, she is so sure of the infallibility conferred upon her by her Divine founder, as the magnificent dowry of their indissoluble alliance, that even in the natural order of things, scientific or philosophical, moral or political, she will not admit that a system can be adopted and sustained by Christians, if it contradict definite dogmas. She considers that the voluntary and obstinate denial of a single point of her doctrine involves the crime of heresy, and she holds that all formal heresy, if it be not courageously rejected prior to appearing before God, carries with it the certain loss of grace and of eternity.

"As defined by Pope Leo X. at the Sixth Council of the Lateran, 'Truth cannot contradict itself; consequently, every assertion contrary to a revealed verity of faith is necessarily and absolutely false.' It follows from this, without entering into the examination of this or that question of physiology, but solely by the certitude of our dogmas, we are able to pronounce judgment on any hypothesis which is an anti-Christian enigma. A war rather than a serious conquest over the secrets and mysteries of human nature."

Liberty is a fine word, tyranny a hateful one, and both have been eloquently employed of late in reference to the dealings of the secular arm with the pretensions of the Vatican. But "liberty" has two mutually exclusive meanings—the liberty of Rome to teach mankind, and the liberty of the human race. Neither reconciliation nor compromise is possible here. One liberty or the other must go down. This, in our day, is the "conflict" so impressively described by Draper, in which every thoughtful man must take a part. There is no dimness in the eyes of Rome as regards her own aims; she sees with a clearness unapproached by others that the school will be either her stay or her ruin. Hence the supreme effort she is now making

to obtain the control of education; hence the assertion by the Bishop of Montpellier of her "absolute right to teach mankind." She has, moreover, already tasted the fruits of this control in Bavaria, where the very liberality of an enlightened King led to the fatal mistake of confiding the schools of the kingdom to the "Doctors of Rome."

Your obedient servant,
Athenæum, Dec. 16.

JOHN TYNDALL.

CONSECRATION OF A NEW CHAPTER IN LIVERPOOL.

The increase in Royal Arch Chapters has been as marked in the province of West Lancashire as amongst Craft Lodges, and the number of those already in existence within the division was swelled on Wednesday, the 22nd of December, when the De Grey and Ripon Chapter, No. 1356, was solemnly and duly consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool. The chapter stands attached to a highly influential lodge, and those identified with the principal offices and organisation of the newly-consecrated chapter are justly recognised as leaders in the Masonic Order. Its birth has taken place apparently under a "lucky star," and there is little doubt that the new chapter will soon grow up to a fine manhood, under the fostering care of those who have the government in their hands. The ceremony of consecration was fixed to begin at three o'clock, and shortly after that hour the interesting proceedings were commenced, the following being amongst those present:—Comps. H. S. Alpass, Prov. G.S.E.; R. Wylie, P. Prov. G.D.C., M.E.Z. 292; B. B. Marson, Z. designate of the new chapter; Joseph Bell, H. designate; Richard Brown, J. designate; J. A. Edginton, S.E. designate; E. Kyle, 220; J. Arellano Hall, P. Prov. G.S.N., P.Z. 32; J. Holland, Z. 823; J. McKune, P.Z. 216, P. Prov. P. Soj.; H. Nelson, P.Z. 673, P.G.D.C.; W. Fletcher, 292; J. Hilton, 203; M. Corless, 673; A. Woolrich, 203; J. Beesley, Z. 216; H. Ashmore, 823; W. Doyle, P.G. 3rd Principal; J. P. McArthur, Z. 1086; J. Lunt, P.Z. 1086 and Z. 241; T. Clark, P.Z. and Z. 673; J. Thornton, P.Z. 673; G. Peet, 241; J. Skaef, 216; W. Shortis, Z. 1094; T. Evans, J. 203; R. Roberts, 203; J. W. Baker, 241; J. Archdeacon, 249; J. Winsor, 241; P. M. Larsen, J. Keet, 202; F. J. Bailey, 680; H. Burrows, 673; J. W. Williams, J. Williams, 220; J. Wood, Treas. 249 (Freemason); J. T. Callow, P.Z. 673; R. Webster, 203; W. Morris; E. Jones, 220; J. E. Jackson, P. R. Thorn, A. Samuels, H. 477; A. Winkup, T. Chesworth, P.Z. 1086; J. R. Johnson, P.Z. &c.; and R. Pearson, 220.

Comp. H. S. Alpass took the chair as Z.; Comp. J. McKune being H.; Doyle, J.; Hall, P.S.; Goepel, First A.S.; J. Lunt, Second A.S.; J. W. Baker, S.E.; Beesley, S.N.

The chapter was opened according to ancient custom, and then Comp. H. S. Alpass proceeded to consecrate in a masterly style, assisted by Com. R. Wylie. Comp. J. W. Baker, acting S.E., read the warrant constituting the De Grey and Ripon Chapter, No. 1356, and the consecrating prayer was offered by Comp. Alpass. The corn, wine, oil, and salt were carried by Comps. Amos, Callow, Clark, Shortis, and Baker, and the chapter was declared duly consecrated by Comp. R. Wylie. The Principals invested were Comps. B. B. Marson, Z.; Joseph Bell, H.; R. Brown, J.; with Comps. J. A. Edginton, S.E.; Keet, S.N.; and P. M. Larsen, Janitor. After about twenty propositions for exaltation, the chapter was closed in accordance with ancient custom.

The majority of those present subsequently sat down to an excellent banquet, provided liberally and efficiently by Comp. W. Vines, of the Canton Hotel. Comp. B. B. Marson, M.E.Z., presided, supported by the other Principals and officers of the new chapter. About 50 special invitations had been issued, and the majority of these were accepted.

The M.E.Z. said:—

I have the honour of proposing "The Health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," and I will know this, the first toast upon our list, will be received and honoured with that enthusiasm which every feeling of love towards her person can prompt us to bestow. In this country it is the happy privilege of Freemasonry to be intimately associated with the throne, for whilst we gladly recognize the Prince of Wales as our supreme head, we are equally proud to mention the Queen as a liberal patroness of our Masonic Charities, and endeared as she is to all classes of her subjects, I am proud to know, in hoping she might long be spared, and blessed with health and strength, that my words will only express the wishes of all true and loyal hearts.

M.E. Comp. Marson, in giving "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Supreme Grand Principal, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," said—

Provincial Grand Officers, Chiefs, and Companions,—I have the honour and privilege of proposing "The Health of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales," and I am quite certain this toast will be honoured with every demonstration of loyalty, for whether we regard His Royal Highness as our future King, or in that closer bond of union towards ourselves, as the Supreme Grand Principal of England, he is every way worthy our esteem. Sorrowing now in that mighty Empire, where British valour has often times been sorely tried, and as often amply proved, I know he has our best wishes for his health, and our prayers for his safe return to his native home.

"The Health of the Provincial Grand Superintendent of West Lancashire, with the Provincial Grand Officers," was proposed in a most happy and excellent manner by Comp. R. Browne, the M.E.Z. of the new chapter. The name of M.E. P. Grand Scribe, Comp. Alpass, was coupled with his toast, and it was received with the greatest warmth.

Comp. Alpass, in replying on behalf of Lord Skelmersdale and the Provincial Grand Officers, thanked the companions present for the hearty manner with which the last

toast had been received, and, introducing the subject of charity in a most elaborate speech, impressed on all present the necessity of supporting Lord Skelmersdale as Chairman of the Benevolent Institution in London in a manner worthy of the Province of West Lancashire, speaking in the warmest terms of the officers appointed to govern the De Grey and Ripon Chapter, and his belief that it would be ruled in a most able and exemplary way under their supervision. He then proposed "The Health of its Chiefs and Officers," the toast being received with the greatest enthusiasm.

Comp. B. B. Marson, Z., in returning thanks, said the founders of the De Grey and Ripon, remembering that happy Christmas time just drawing upon them, when every heart grew larger and every generous impulse was increased, thought that some good deed on their part would convey better than any words they could utter how highly they estimated the good opinions of the companions present; and he was proud and happy as their First Principal to place in the hands of the P.G. Scribe the sum of £10 to represent the De Grey and Ripon Chapter, remarking that he was very glad to state that the founders of the chapter had given him that sum more than a week ago; and he trusted the example set by the latest addition to the Province of West Lancashire would stimulate every chapter and lodge under Lord Skelmersdale's rule to support him at the Benevolent Institution, London, in such a manner that his lordship might justly be proud of his province.

Comps. Joshua Bell, H., and Richard Brown, J., each in a very able speech, supported the remarks of the Z. and the thanks he had given for the hearty reception accorded to their healths.

Comp. B. B. Marson, Z., proposed "The Consecrating and Installing Officers," thanking them very warmly for their services, and the splendid manner in which those ceremonies had been performed.

M.E. Comp. R. Wylie, P. Prov. G.D. of C., returned thanks, and assured the companions how gratified he was to have done anything to forward the interests of the De Grey and Ripon Chapter. The remaining toasts were "The Chiefs of other Chapters," coupled with the name of Comp. Hall, of Chapter 32; "The Visitors," coupled with the name of Comp. A. Winkup, and "The Provincial Grand Organist, Comp. Skaef," and remembering the last toast the companions withdrew at 9 o'clock, after spending a most enjoyable evening, which was greatly enhanced by the musical efforts of Comps. Brown, Woolrich, Winkup, Edginton, and Skaef.

PRESENTATION TO A WORTHY LIVERPOOL BROTHER.

On Tuesday afternoon, the 21st December, a number of gentlemen waited upon Bro. R. C. Yelland, W.M. 1094, Superintendent of the Liverpool Salvage Brigade, at Hatton-garden, Liverpool, for the purpose of making a presentation in recognition of his services for the last nine years. The testimonial, subscribed for by Masonic and private friends, consisted of a splendid English gold keyless chronometer, with 18-carat gold guard and seal, and a 21-day black marble dining-room timepiece inlaid with malachite and gold scrolls. The watch and timepiece both bore the inscription:—"Presented to R. C. Yelland, Esq., Superintendent of the Liverpool Salvage Brigade, by a number of friends and admirers, for services rendered to the town and as a token of esteem." The handsome testimonial was entirely subscribed for by friends of Bro. Yelland; and although a large number of warehouse owners desired to subscribe, the committee thought it better to decline, so as to raise the presentation above suspicion. Bro. Alderman Taylor, P.M. 823, who presided at the presentation, said that while it was incumbent upon every man to discharge his duties without hope of reward beyond that of a good conscience, there were certain circumstances which deserved recognition in this way. When a man like Bro. Yelland risked life to save the lives and property of others, it was felt that those services were worthy of notice. The subscribers to this testimonial were therefore anxious to recognise the nine years' faithful service of Bro. Yelland as the head of the salvage brigade, and more especially his services at the Lar cellosley fire, where by his brave efforts he saved much valuable property. The chairman referred to the good feeling which existed between the salvage corps and the police fire brigade, and concluded by expressing a desire for Bro. Yelland's long life and prosperity. Bro. Yelland, in acknowledging the presentation, said it had always given him pleasure to render assistance to every one in a time of need, and he hoped that feeling would always actuate him in the performance of his duties. He had now been for nine years chief of the salvage brigade, and during that time they had worked harmoniously with the police, with a desire to do good service to the best of their ability. Bro. Dr. Kisch moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Bro. J. Clegg, and carried by acclamation. Bro. R. R. Martin moved, Bro. D. W. Winstanley seconded, and Bro. P. Macmudrow supported, a vote of thanks to Bro. J. Clegg as chairman of the committee; and after this had been carried the proceedings terminated.

CENTENARY FESTIVAL OF ST. THOMAS'S LODGE, No. 142.

This very interesting event took place on St. Thomas's day, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, the ordinary place of meeting of the lodge, under the presidency of Bro. G. A. Rooks, the W.M.; F. T. Dubois, P.M., as S.W.; and J. Lewis Thomas, P.M., as J.W. A lodge of emergency was called for the purpose, and the official document from Grand Lodge, acknowledging the continuous existence of the lodge for 100 years, and granting permission to wear the centenary jewel, was read by the Secretary, Bro. H. C. Levander, and ordered to be entered on

the minutes. Letters were read from Lord Carnarvon, Lord Skelmersdale, Lord Hartingdon, Colonel Francis Burdett, Sir Albert Wood, and Dr. Woodman, Grand Sword Bearer, expressing their regret at being unable to attend. Bro. Batty, P.M. and Treasurer, proposed that the event should be commemorated by voting the sum of £20 to be placed on the list of Bro. Thomas, who was nominated to represent the lodge as Steward at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons; this was seconded and carried unanimously, as was also the proposition to present an extraordinary Past Master's jewel to the W.M., to mark the approbation of the brethren of his having so ably filled the chair for two consecutive years. There being no other business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquetting hall, being honoured by the presence of about 45 guests distinguished in the Craft. Amongst the number we noticed Bros. John Hervey, G.S.; J. C. Parkinson, P.G.D.; Rev. Dr. Brette, Francis Robinson, O. Hansard, Rev. P.M. Holden, Colonel Peters, Major Shadwell Clarke, Hyde Pullen, R. Wentworth Little, P.G.S.W. Midx; J. Sherrill, G.S.; John Boyd, P.G.P.; F. Binckes, P.G.S.; John Oliver, W.M., Granite; E. Letchworth, J. Terry, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; F. Hogard, H. G. Buss, P.G.T. Middlesex; Magnus Ohren, and others. The lodge being limited by its rules to 25 members, was well represented by Bro. Rooks, W.M.; Cockcraft, P.M.; Batty, P.M.; Thistleton, P.M.; Huguenin, P.M.; and representative from the Grand Lodge of Switzerland; F. T. Dubois, P.M.; J. Lewis Thomas, P.M.; Scarth, I.P.M.; Levander, P.M. and Secretary; Beattie, S.D.; Macaulay, J.D.; Powell, P.M. and I.G.; Lea, Hannan, H. A. Dubois, Giles, Le Pays, and Bailey. Illness prevented the attendance of the popular and esteemed W.M. elect, Bro. William Dyott Burnaby. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. G. Carter, assisted by Bros. Montem Smith, Lester, and Lawler, which gave great delight and satisfaction.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given in very appropriate terms by the W.M., who dilated upon the immense impetus given to Masonry by the advent of H.R.H. the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and alluded to his present tour in India as likely to have a most beneficial and enduring influence on the Craft. Bro. Hervey responded in his usual well chosen terms for the "Grand Officers." Bro. J. C. Parkinson proposed the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to St. Thomas's Lodge." He regretted that he was not better able to do justice to the toast, but acknowledged the pride he felt in being called upon to do honour to so distinguished a lodge, whose birthday they were then celebrating. He traced its history, as ascertained from its old minute books, by which, as an old Athol Lodge, it was proved to be in existence long before the date of its present charter in 1775. He mentioned many names amongst its members not unknown to fame. Conspicuously foremost was that of Dr. Johnson, and, coming down to our own day, the lamented Shirley Brooks and Albert Smith. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

The other toasts, in their order, were "The Visitors," proposed by the Master, and responded to by Bros. Major Shadwell Clarke and Hyde Pullen; "The Charities," proposed by Bro. James Lewis Thomas, P.M., and responded to by Bro. Terry; "The Master," proposed by Bro. John Hervey, G.S., and responded to by the W.M.; "The Past Masters," proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Bro. Batty, P.M. and Treasurer.

The spirit of the meeting was well sustained by each of the speakers, and it is not too much to say, that the speeches, which were not only strictly practical and suggestive, especially noticeable in the pathos which seemed to inspire the advocate of the charities, but at times attained and maintained the elevation of the highest eloquence.

The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close. Tea and coffee were served in the drawing-room, and the W.M., Wardens, and brethren of St. Thomas's Lodge were congratulated on the success of their centenary meeting. The Masonic body are not unreasonably proud of the prestige and increasing importance of this lodge, which has held on its undeviating path for more than a century, and to the outer world we can only echo the time-honoured motto of the lodge "Noli esse incredulus sed fidelis."

THE MASONIC AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

—We have received the seventh annual report of this company, and note with pleasure the progress which it has been the duty of the Directors to communicate to the members. The business is not so large as should be done by an office appealing to so influential a class as the Masonic body. The office is well conducted, and what is more, the assets are proportionate to the liabilities. From what has recently come to our knowledge, it appears that the business is rapidly extending, in fact, there is every reason to believe that the forthcoming year will be a most prosperous one. We, therefore, confidently call the attention of our readers, (most especially those who are about assuring their lives) to the special advantages afforded by the Masonic Life Office. The papers forwarded to applicants are worthy of the most careful perusal and consideration, hence we would recommend that application be made to the Managing Director of the Company for any required information, which we feel sure he will most cheerfully supply.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Each quarter of the year tests the constitution, and discovers its weakest link. By the variable temperatures of the present season, the human system is severely tried; chest complaints, disordered digestion, and biliousness are generally more or less frequent. The wisest will save both pain and hazard by the early use of these infallible remedies. Holloway's Ointment, well rubbed upon the skin nearest the seat of disease, exerts most wonderfully purifying powers, never fails in expelling all noxious matters and removing all temporary obstructions, thus restoring healthy action to the organ. While the Ointment gently re-arranges disordered action, Holloway's Pills should be taken to remove all contaminations from the blood.—A.D.T.

FREEMASONRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS.—At the annual communication of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Illinois, held at Chicago, on 5th, 6th, and 7th of October, the following Grand Officers were elected and installed to serve for the ensuing Masonic year:—G. E. Lounsbury, M.W.G.M.; J. Robbins, R.W.D.G.M.; W. J. A. De Lancey, R.W.S.G.W.; Henry E. Hamilton, R.W.J.G.W.; Harrison Dills, R.W.G. Treasurer; John F. Burrill, R.W.G. Secretary. The communication was a harmonious one, and showed the condition of Masonry throughout the Grand Jurisdiction to be very prosperous.

GRAND LODGE OF MONTANA.—At the annual communication, held at Radersburgh, October, 5th, 6th, and 7th, the following officers were duly elected and installed, to serve for the ensuing Masonic year:—Bros. Harry R. Comly, Helena, M.W.G.M.; J. M. Knight, Virginia City, R.W.D.G.M.; J. S. Mendenhall, Bozeman, R.W.S.G.W.; R. T. Kennon, Deer Lodge, R.W.J.G.W.; Henry M. Parchen, Helena, R.W.G. Treas.; Cornelius Hedges, Helena, R.W.G. Sec.

GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.—On the 1st ult. the following brethren were elected Grand Officers for the ensuing Masonic year, beginning on St. John's Day next:—Robert Clark, of Philadelphia, R.W. Grand Master; James Madison Porter, of Easton, R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Michael Nisbet, of Philadelphia, R.W. Senior Grand Warden; Samuel B. Dick, of Meadville, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Thomas R. Patton, of Philadelphia, R.W. Grand Treasurer; John Thomson, R.W. Grand Secretary.

BENEVOLENT LODGE—THREE SCORE AND TEN.—This old and distinguished lodge observed the ceremonial of the annual election and installation of officers. The occasion was marked by circumstances of more than ordinary interest. That harmony which has always characterized its history was universal, and the very large attendance of membership evinced a devotion and zeal which has ever been a prominent feature in this time-honoured organisation. A most pleasing episode preceded the installation ceremonies in the formal reception by the Grand Master of New York, who presided, of R.W. Wm. H. Davis, Past Master of this lodge, as representative near the Grand Lodge of New York, of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Indiana. Grand Master Thorne took occasion to say that he considered the selection of R.W. Bro. Davis not only as a compliment to the Grand Lodge of New York, and reflecting credit upon Benevolent Lodge in the person of one of its oldest Past Masters, but alike justifying the good sense, appreciation, and intelligence of the appointing power which had conferred this distinguished honour. The Grand Master's address was exceedingly felicitous, and most cordially received. R.W. Bro. Davis, in reply, remarked that since he had become a member of the fraternity he had adopted the axiom that it was un-Masonic to seek or decline office; that the high compliment which he had received, and to which Grand Master Thorne had referred in such kindly words, came to him unsolicited; and while he felt that some one more worthy might have been named to fill the place, yet he had accepted it with a full determination to do justice, so far as his humble abilities might permit, to the honourable trust confided to his keeping, to the end and purpose that the Grand Lodges of New York and Indiana might neither regret their diplomatic association. The installation ceremonies having been concluded, the goodly company adjourned, by invitation of the representative of Indiana, to the Ashland House, where mine host Brockway did the agreeable in his most recherche style; and at a late hour the company retired in good order and condition.

A Grand Templar parade is announced to take place at Philadelphia during the Centennial celebration, to which each State is expected to contribute at least one Commandery. There is no reason why such a project should not prove a success.

The corner-stone of the old Masonic Hall at Halifax, which was laid by Queen Victoria's father, in 1800, has been exhumed, with the inscription in a fair state of preservation. It will be built into the wall of the new Temple, whose corner-stone was laid on the 31st of October.

Illinois contains over 39,956 affiliated Master Masons. There were 2700 initiations last year, and nearly 1000 applicants were refused admission into the fraternity. This state of affairs in the only State which can support an anti-Masonic journal speaks volumes for the popularity of the Craft.

Bro. Foster Pratt has resigned the editorial chair of the "Michigan Freemason," and has been succeeded in that capacity by Bro. W. J. Chaplin.

TIDINGS FROM DISTANT LANDS.—Through the kindness of Worshipful Bro. Wm. Fowler, Master of Metropolitan, 273, of New York, we were able to lay before our readers an evidence of the universality of Freemasonry, in the form of a notice of the election of lodge officers in a thriving lodge in South Africa, but under what jurisdiction it received its authority we cannot say. This will prove of interest from the fact that we have here, abbreviated, some titles of officers entirely new to us. The Lodge Aurora, East of Pretoria, S. A. Republic, list of officers for the ensuing Masonic year:—Bros. P. A. J. Kirsten, S.P.R.W. Master; J. R. Lys, S.P.R. Dep. Master; J. W. Henshall, M.M. Senior Warden; J. F. De Beer, M.M.

Senior Warden; J. C. Preller, S.P.R. Orator; J. C. Krogh, Sec.; F. C. Rex, M.M. Treas.; C. Moll, Senior M.M. Amb.; W. R. Meintjes, M.M., M. of C.; T. W. Beckett, M.M. Alm.; S. J. Meintjes, M.M. Prep.; F. C. Rex, M.M., M. of M.; J. P. Sleightholm M.M., In. G.; Vetalis Von Musa, O.G. and T.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The last meeting of the General Committee for the year 1875 was held on Thursday afternoon, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. J. A. Rucker presided. The Committee was very fully attended. There were also present Bros. Thomas W. White, H. Browse, W. Paas, John Symonds, H. W. Hemsworth, Benjamin Head, John Boyd, H. A. Dubois, Thomas Massa, A. H. Diaper, George King, jun., H. Massey ("Freemason"), H. M. Levy, Walter Wellsman, Thomas Bartlett, George Sinclair, Robert B. Webster, Edward Clark, J. J. Wilson, F. G. Baker, Griffiths Smith, F. Binckes, W. H. Main, R. Sanford, E. H. Thiellay, and R. Wentworth Little, (Secretary).

On the motion of Bro. Benj. Head, seconded by Bro. J. Symonds, a recommendation was made to the next Quarterly General Court, that twenty guineas be presented to Miss Moss, the third governess of this Institution, on her leaving, she having been elected head governess of the British Orphan Asylum.

Authority was then given to the Chairman to sign cheques for salaries.

The petitions of candidates for election were afterwards taken into consideration, and they were numerous. Several were put on the list for next election, but several others were deferred, the candidates shewing lamentable deficiency in power to read, although above eight years of age. Some, however, though much younger, exhibited a marvellous facility in reading.

The Secretary reported that there would be eleven vacancies in the school for next period of election.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the Chairman, and the brethren separated.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

On the evening of the 17th ult., after the meeting of the House Committee, the members repaired to the dining hall, where the whole of the pupils were assembled, with the head and assistant masters and matron, and presented a vote of thanks, beautifully inscribed on vellum, appropriately illuminated, and bearing the autograph signatures of the pupils forming the leading members of the various cricketing "elevens," to Bro. Edward J. Page, who for many years has carefully supervised and kept in order the bats, balls, wickets, &c.

The testimonial originated entirely spontaneously with the boys themselves, and on that account was especially gratifying to the recipient, who expressed himself in warmly appreciative terms of the unexpected recognition of what he had done in providing to a small extent the means of recreation of the pupils of an institution in which he felt so deep an interest.

The inscription on the testimonial was as follows:—

"Presented by the Pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to W. Brother Edward J. Page, P.G. Stl., P.M. No. 23, 1381, &c., in testimony of their gratitude for his kindness in providing them, for several years, with the means of outdoor recreation, especially those required for football and cricket."

There were present, in addition to those mentioned above, Bros. W. C. Moutrie (Chairman of the day), B. Head, W. Paas, H. Browse, W. Roebuck, J. Wordsworth, S. Rosenthal, R. W. Stewart, George Plucknett (Treasurer), with F. Binckes (Secretary).

Bro. James Terry, Sec. R.M.B.L., was also present, and received a vote of thanks for having given effect to the wishes of the subscribers by the production of so beautiful a specimen of writing; the frame by which it was surmounted being at the same time much admired.

The ringing cheers from young lungs which accompanied the presentation must have afforded Bro. Page the best evidence of the hearty and genial thankfulness with which his generosity was acknowledged.

THE RED CROSS.

In continuation of the list given under this heading in our issue of the 18th ult., we add the following names of workers under the Red Cross, during the Franco-German war, extracted from the published "Report of the Operations of the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, 1870-71."—*Alfred Anderson*, Aug. F. Andresen, Duret Aubin, M.D.; Marcus Beck, M.B.; F. G. Bennet, R. Bingley, Byron Blewett, M. Blok, Edward Bovil, J. L. Boylan, J. C. Bushman, Rev. J. W. Butler, Hon. Reginald Capel, W. D. Chapman, Hugh Clark, B. B. Connolly, M.B.; Arthur Dorin, Douglas Duke, A. S. Duncan, E. Engelhardt, Captain Jas. Gildea, A. S. Grant, Geoffrey C. Hall, W. Hardwicke, M.D.; R. W. Harris, W. S. Heardman, Frederick Hewett, W. C. Hinton (late 25th foot), J. C. Hirschfield, Sir Paul Hunter, Bart., R. H. Hutchings, James Inglis, F. Junter de Langeegg, M.D.; Ralph N. James, A. F. Jerningham, J. F. Jeune, J. Roberts Job, W. Kane, M.D.; James D. LeCru, Austin H. Lee, Robert Lightfoot, M.D.; R. H. Lloyd, Frank Lungley, A. B. Lyman, W. W. Lyman, F. Mansfield, Alfred Markheim, John McIntosh, John Murray, M.D.; Captain Richard Nevill, W. F. Norman, A. T. Norton, R. W. Parker, Rev. Reginald Porter, W. S. Pratt, A. R. R. Preston, O. W. Rawson, Charles Ryan, H. A.

Reeves, Alexander Rettich, James Rodger, M.B.; Foster Rugg, Captain J. Cecil Russell (10th Hussars), H. Sandwith, M.D., C.B.; Charles Sartoris, Eugene Sauvage, John Scott, W. Schodts, H. Sewill, A. Barton Smith, Thomas E. Smith, G. D. P. Thomas, F. A. Thomas, W. J. Tyler, W. Ward, George Warriner, W. G. Watson, W. Woodham Webb, M.D.; Thomas A. Wethered, John F. Williams, Hon. Charles Lihdley Wood, John Wymann, Lieutenant Allatt (46th foot), Lieutenant-Colonel Berrington, John Blundell, Captain Brenton Casey, Colonel J. W. Cox, C.B.; M. Goodenough, Captain Charles Knowles (67th foot), L. G. Leslie, H. M. Merridew, James Molloy, Captain Norman Ainacke, M. Vaillant, Captain C. F. W. Wedderburne, William Wilcox, Major-General Sir Vincent Eyre, K.C.G.; Colonel N. Elphinstone, S. Couttolenc, Lieut. Dowling, 34th Foot; Lieut. R. E. C. Jarvis, 67th Foot; Lieut. J. F. E. Knox, 67th Foot; Stephen S. Lee, Miles T. Ferris, Captain Charles Trench, R.A.; Captain C. L. Harvey, 71st Highlanders; Major Lewis, J. F. Jones, Aug. Kleinmann, C. G. M. Thomas, G. D. P. Thomas, Deputy-Inspector General of Hospitals, Thomas Guy, M.D.; Surgeon T. Ball, R.A.; Staff-Surgeon J. Jameson, M.D.; Staff-Surgeon Julius Wiles, Staff-Assistant Surgeon J. V. T. Malcolm, M.D.; Assistant Surgeon MacRobin, Assistant-Surgeon H. F. L. Melladew, M.D.; Assistant-Surgeon Sandford Moore, M.B.; Staff-Assistant Surgeon J. L. Power, W. E. B. Atthill, Henry Bonham Carter, Colonel the Hon. W. J. Colville, Chas. A. Cooper, Robert W. Edis, J. C. Galton, Rt. Hon. Sir Percy Herbert, K.C.B.; A. C. Horner, Capt. Herbert de Kantzow, R.N.; A. Kirkman Loyd, D. Chas. Mayo, Geo. Milson, B. M. Reichel, H. Rundle, T. T. Pratt, Catteron Smith, Capt. Leopold Swaine, Thos. Wildon French, William Forster, E. K. Korke, M. Moss, M. Gérard, F. F. Langstaff, M. Gandin, M. Albrecht, M. Niessen, and Commissionaires Barrett, Bertand, Carty, Connell, Cowell, Laws, Lee, Love, Mc Keown, Norris, Sonder, Willis.

Ladies:—H.R.H. Princess Christian, the Marchioness of Lothian, the Lady Agnes Frank, the Hon. Mrs. Lloyd Lindsay, Lady Lechmere, Miss Nightingale, Miss Stanley, Miss Granville, Miss de Winton, Mrs. Alsager, Miss E. A. Barclay, the Lady Superior of All Saints, and Sisters Catherine, Cecilia, Charlotte, Eliza, Emily, Helen, Mary, Ann, and Rosamond; the Hon. Mrs. Capel, Mrs. Chater, Miss M. Goodman, Mrs. Hotteman, Miss Hornby, Mrs. Mason, Miss Z. Veitch.

FREEMASONRY IN AUSTRALIA.

The annual installation meeting of the Yarra Yarra Lodge, No. 714, E.C., took place at the Myrtle Hotel, Coventry-street, Emerald Hill. Bros. T. H. Lempricre, D.G.S.; L. H. Hart, D.G.S.D.; M. Krakowski, W.M. King Solomon Lodge; D. A. McNicoll, W.M. Australasia Lodge; and several P.M.'s were present. After the ordinary business of the lodge had been concluded, the W.M., Bro. J. Whiteman, vacated his chair, and Bro. H. W. Lowry, P.D.G.S.W., proceeded to install Bro. A. Hart as Worshipful Master of the Yarra Yarra Lodge for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Lowry. The following officers were then installed:—Bros. C. Dungey, S.W.; Wm. Marshall, J.W.; J. McCutcheon, Treas.; R. L. Brown, Sec.; Thomas Ford and G. Oldham, S.D.; and J.D.; J. Harding, I.G.; and Levey, Tyler. At the conclusion of the ceremony the brethren adjourned to the Mechanics' Institute, where the annual banquet was prepared under the direction of Bro. Gibson. Nearly one hundred sat down. The room was decorated with flags and evergreens and the tables with flowers and other ornaments. One particular feature was a group of new and handsome silk flags showing the crest of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as head of the Masonic fraternity, exhibited for the first time by Bro. Gibson, they having only recently arrived in the colony. The chair was occupied by the W.M., and vice-chairs by the S.W. and J.W. respectively. The following are a list of the toasts:—"The Queen and the Craft," "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England," "District and Provincial G.M.'s and their officers," responded to by Bro. L. H. Hart, P.M., on behalf of the English Constitution, and Bro. P.M. J. Cahill for the Scotch. "The Installing Master, Bro. Lowry," acknowledged on his behalf by Bro. Whiteman (his delicate health precluding him from staying to participate in the banquet). Bro. Whiteman then proposed "The Worshipful Master, Bro. A. Hart." In a few succinct remarks the W.M. responded. He then gave "The P.M.'s of the Yarra Yarra Lodge," which was acknowledged by Bros. Whiteman, Cahill, Feote and Exon. Bro. P.M. Cantor responded to "The Visitors;" and to the toast of "The Officers of the Lodge," they individually responded. "Our Musical Brethren" was then proposed by the W.M. and acknowledged by Bro. Braim. The proceedings were enlivened by several quartettes and part songs rendered by members of the Combermere Lodge choir (Bros. Braim, Kaye, Trowell, Lamble, Straker, D. Madden and Hornidge), assisted by Bros. Exon and T. Ford.

A very successful meeting of the "Lodge of Emerald Hill, Melbourne," under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, was held at the George Hotel. The following were elected as the first officers of the lodge:—Right Worshipful Master, Bros. R. P. Negus; Joseph Cahill; W.S.M., D. McNicoll; W.S.W., Wm. Marshall; W.J.W., Thomas Ford; Treasurer, James H. Horner; Secretary, A. L. Krone; S.D., J. Robertson; J.D., C. Dungey; I.G., W. Smitham; Tyler, L. Levey.

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

Masonic and General Tidings.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—On Monday last the number of visitors was 47,000. We are informed that the directors are about to make an important change in the price of admission to the Palace. On and after Saturday next the rate of admission on ordinary Saturdays will be 1s., and on ordinary Mondays on and after Monday next, January 3rd, the admission will be 6d. The railway fares will be greatly reduced on and after January 1st, for all days; and on Mondays visitors to the Palace will be able to travel from all London stations on the London, Brighton, and South Coast and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways, the return tickets, together with admission to the Palace, being 1s.

Mr. Cross visited Liverpool on Wednesday, and unveiled, in St. George's Hall, a memorial statue of the late Mr. S. R. Graves, who represented the borough in Parliament from July, 1865, until his death three years ago.

A telegram from Rangoon announces that a Masonic address to the Prince of Wales will be sent from all the lodges in Burma in a silver casket of finest Burmese manufacture.

The amount collected by the Grand Orient of France for the Inundation Relief Fund had on the 12th ult., reached the large amount of 64,000 francs.

Miss Moss, of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, having been elected Head Governess of the British Orphan Asylum, Mackenzie-park, Slough, will enter upon her new duties about the 3rd of January. The House Committee of the Girls' School have appointed Miss Emily Redgrave (who has been trained by Miss Davis) an Assistant Governess in the place of Miss Moss.

ALEXANDRIA PALACE.—The report of the directors of the Alexandria Palace Company shows that the net profit on the six months' working was £23,024. The directors state that they have every reason to congratulate the shareholders upon the results of the first season's operations. The total number of the visitors during the half-year was 1,307,857.

The "Liberté" publishes the following interesting piece of information: "Mr. Stone, the late Lord Mayor who came to Paris at the opening of the Opera, revels in honours. France sent him the cross of a Commander of the Legion of Honour, and his Government has appointed him Justice of the Peace of Hastings, an honorary office hitherto reserved for members of the Royal family.

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.

Bro. Captain Webb has been presented with the gold medal of the Stoke-upon-Trent Athletic Club and an address of congratulation from the Potteries. In reply he said there was not one man in a hundred in the merchant service who could swim, but swimming ought to be part of the education of every child in the kingdom.

Her Majesty's New Year's Gifts will be presented this day (Saturday), in the Riding School of Windsor Castle, in the presence of the palace authorities and local clergy.

We regret to learn that Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Provincial Grand Master, while out with the North Warwickshire hounds, has been thrown from his horse while clearing a fence, and seriously shaken. The accident was caused by the horse's foot getting entangled in a wire. His lordship fell heavily on the embankment, and was picked up partially unconscious. After resting for some time in a cottage, his lordship was sufficiently recovered to be sent home to Stoneleigh Abbey in a conveyance.

The St. James Lodge, Enfield, will be consecrated on the 12th inst., by Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, G.S.W. Middlesex.

Bro. His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, who was on Wednesday last on his way to Malaga, was obliged to return to Gibraltar on account of the bad weather prevailing at sea.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS
For the Week ending Friday, January 7, 1876.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1.

General Committee, Boys' School, at 4.
Lodge 1559, New Cross, New Cross Hall.

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, JANUARY 3.

Lodge 12, Fortitude & Old Cumberland, Ship & Turtle.
" 25, Robert Burns, F. M. H.
" 72, Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hot, Fleet-st.
" 144, St. Luke's, M. H., Basinghall-st.
" 188, Joppa, M.H., Masons' Avenue.
" 1319, Asaph, F. M. H.
Chap. 28, Old King's Arms, F. M. H.
Mark Lodge, 139, Panmure, Balham Hot., Balham.

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, JANUARY 4.

Colonial Board, at 3.
Lodge 7, Royal York of Perseverance, F. M. H.
" 101, Temple, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
" 172, Old Concord, F. M. H.
" 765, St. James's, Bridge House Hot.
" 1298, R. Standard, Wellington Club, Upper-st., N.
" 1381, Kennington, Surrey Tav., Kennington Oval.
" 1397, Anerley, Thicket Hot., Anerley.
" 1472, Henley, Three Crowns Hot., Woolwich.
General Meeting, Surrey Masonic Hall Company, 2, Gresham Buildings.
Mark Lodge 1, St Mark's M.H., Masons' Avenue

INSTRUCTION.

Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
Domatic, Surrey M. H., Camberwell New-road.
Faith, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-st.
Prince Fredk. Wm., Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
Dalhousie, King Edward, Triangle, Hackney.
Prosperity, Gladstone Tav., Bishopsgate-st. Within.
St. Marylebone, British Stores Tav., St. John's Wood.
Constitutional, 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, JANUARY 5.

Lodge 511, Zetland, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
Chap. 55, Constitutional, Private Rooms, Leytonstone.

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, JANUARY 6.

Lodge 45, Strong Man, M. H., Masons' Avenue.
" 192, Lion and Lamb, Terminus Hot., Cannon-st.
" 227, Ionic, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
" 231, St. Andrew's, F. M. H.
" 538, La Tolérance, F. M. H.
" 554, Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
" 1360, Royal Arthur, Club, L. H., Wimbledon.
" 1445, Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., E.
" 1539, "Surrey Masonic Hall."

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., Albion-rd., Dalston.
Doric Chapter, Three Cranes Tav., Mile-end-road.
Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7.

Lodge 890, Hornsey, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-street.
Chap. 3, Fidelity, London Tav., Bishopsgate.

INSTRUCTION.

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

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 8, 1876.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3.

Lodge 113, Unanimity, Assembly R., Bull Hot., Preston.
" 1045, Stamford, T. H., Altrincham.

" 1051, Rowley, M. H., Athenæum, Lancaster.
" 1264, Neptune, M. H., Liverpool.
" 1380, Skelmersdale, Queen's Hot., Waterloo.
Everton L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4.

Lodge 673, St. John's, M. H., Liverpool.
" 995, Furness, Masonic Temple, Ulverstone.
" 1256, Fidelity, Bridge Hot., Poulton-le-Fylde.
" 1476, Blackpool, Clifton Arms Hot., Blackpool.
Chap. 203, St. John of Jerusalem, M.H., Liverpool.
Merchants' L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5.

Lodge 730, Ellesmere, Royal Oak Hot., Chorley.
" 1013, Royal Victoria, M. H., Liverpool, at 6.
" 1335, Lindsay, 20, King-st, Wigan.
" 1354, Marquis of Lorne, M. R., Leigh.
De Grey and Ripon L. of I., 80, North Hill-st.
Downshire L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6.

Lodge 249, Mariners, M. H., Liverpool.
" 1473, Bootle, Molyneux A. R., near Liverpool.
" 1476, Blackpool, Clifton Arms Hot., Blackpool.
Chap. 758, Bridgewater, M. H., Runcorn.
Alpass Preceptory, 123, M. H., Liverpool.
St. John's L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7.

Lodge 680, Sefton, Adelphi Hot., Liverpool.
" 1375, Architect, Didsbury Hot., Didsbury.
" 1387, Chorlton, M. R., Chorlton-cum-Hardy.
" 1505, Emulation, M. H., Liverpool.
Duke of Edinburgh L. of I., M. H., Liverpool.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 8, 1876.
All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5.

Lodge 0, Mother Kilwinning, M. H., Kilwinning.
" 4, Glasgow Kilwinning, 170, Buchanan-st.
" 21, Old St. John, M. H., Lanark.
" 86, Navigation, Commercial Hall, Troon.
" 117, Partick St. Mary's, M. H., Partick.
" 126, St. Andrew, George Hot, Kilmarnock.
" 128, St. John, M. H., Shettleston.
" 166, St. John, 29, Graham-st., Airdrie.
" 198, Royal Arch, King's Arms, Maybole.
" 354, Caledonian Railway, 30, Hope-st.
" 442, Neptune, M. H., Ardrossan.
" 571, Dramatic, 213, Buchanan-st.
Chap. 87, Shamrock and Thistle, 12, Trongate.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6.

Lodge 11, St. John, King's Arms, Maybole.
" 22, St. John's Kilwinning, George H., Kilmarnock.
" 27, St. Mungo, 213, Buchanan-st.
" 149, St. Andrew, M. H., Irvine.
" 157, St. John, Main-st., Beith.
" 165, Royal Arch, King's Arms, Ayr.
" 202, St. Clement's, Trades Tav., Kilmarnock.
" 320, St. John Royal Arch, M. H., Ardrossan.
" 370, Renfrew, M. H., High-st., Paisley.
" 465, St. Andrew's, M. H., Garngad Road.
" 556, Clydesdale, 106, Rose-st., S.S.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7.

Lodge 114, Royal Arch, M. H., Cambuslang.
" 116, Royal Arch, Council H., Rutherglen.
" 135, St. James', Crown Inn, Tarbolton.
" 175, St. John, St. John's H., Greenock.
" 215, St. Andrew, Avondale Inn, Strathavon.
" 217, Cumberland, Kilwinning, T. H., Port Glasgow.
" 242, Houston, Cross Keys Hot., Johnstone.
" 248, Lockhart St. John, M. H., Carnwarth.
" 275, Shamrock and Thistle, 22, Struthers-st.
" 360, Commercial, 30, Hope-st.
" 408, Clyde, 170, Buchanan-st.
" 459, Kelburne, Cumbrac Hot., Millport.
" 512, Thorntree, M. H., Thornliebank.
" 551, Clydesdale, Royal Hot, Larkhall.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8.

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

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 8, 1876.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4.

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6.

Lodge 97, St. James, High-st., H., Writers'-ct., High-st.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7.

Chap. 56, Canongate, Masonic Hall, John-st.