

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS:—	Page
Craft Masonry.....	45
Royal Arch.....	48
Scotland.....	55
Provincial Grand Chapter of Devon.....	49
Freemasonry in Constantinople.....	49
Masonic Banquet at Morley Hall.....	49
Masonic Grand Master's Visit to India.....	50
Our Royal Grand Master.....	50
History of Freemasonry.....	50
Monsignore Nardi.....	51
Discussion on the Ballot.....	51
Death of Bro. W. Romaine Callender.....	51
DEATHS:—	
Congress of Masons at Lausanne.....	51
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.....	51
Royal Tew and Perrott.....	51
Bro. Burgess and the Mark Degree.....	51
Provincial Grand Lodge East Lancashire.....	51
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.....	52
Royal Grand Chapter.....	52
Supreme Grand Lodge of Gibraltar.....	52
District of Prudent Brethren Lodge.....	52
Centenary of a Chapter at Chester.....	53
Consecration and General Tidings.....	54
Masonic Meetings for Next Week.....	55
Advertisements.....	i. ii. iii. iv. 56

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

ALBION LODGE (No. 9).—This lodge met at the Regent's Masonic Hall on Wednesday, 12th January. Present: Past Masters E. Coste, H. S. Friend, S. Vallentine, W. Willy, E. W. Storr, J. S. Cater, S. Coste, J. A. Abbott, T. Moring. The visitors present were Col. Burdett, H. Pullen, P.G.S.B.; G. de Maid, P.M. 1328; E. B. Burr, 1158; D. H. Jacobs, 27; H. J. Lewis, P.M. 907; W. R. Best, P.M. 3; D. Dewarr, W.M. 1415; W. A. Littis, P.M. 27; C. W. Gray, P.M. 22; G. Haddock, 1364; T. R. Eames, W.M. 22; W. Black, W.M. 19. Bro. W. R. Marsh, W.M., having passed Bros. Elliott and Watson, then vacated the chair to Bro. S. Vallentine (an old P.M. of this lodge) as Installing Master, who proceeded to install Bro. E. Kimber, and completed the ceremony in the most impressive manner. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. W. T. Scott, S.W.; W. R. Lake, J.W.; F. McCarthy, S.D.; G. Robey, I.G.; T. Moring, Treas.; J. A. Abbott, Sec.; S. Coste, D.C.; J. Forbes, Org.; S. Vallentine, Treas. Benevolent Fund; and E. Coste, Stwd.; J. Rawles, Tyler. Bro. W. R. Marsh, the late W.M., was presented with a Past Master's jewel. The working of the lodge was most admirably carried out. On the closing of the lodge the brethren adjourned to banquet, which was all that could be desired. The musical arrangements were complete. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the charities not forgotten.

TEMPERANCE LODGE (No. 169).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the White Swan, Deptford, on Thursday, the 20th inst. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Dingle, who proceeded to pass Bros. Wilson and Hayward to the Second Degree, and Bros. Skidden, Craster, and Coles to the Third. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. G. Bolton, P.M. A Board of Installed Masters was opened, and Bro. T. Debac was installed. The officers are Bros. Neild, W.S. and Secretary; Denton, J.W.; Brown, P.M., Treasurer; G. Moore, S.D.; Preadham, J.D.; Cooper I.G.; and Goddard, Tyler. The selection of the W.M. appeared to give unbounded satisfaction to the brethren—indeed, Bro. Wild received quite an ovation. The ceremony of installation was performed and the addresses given with that accuracy and finish that always distinguishes Bro. Bolton's working. The Board of Installed Masters was unusually well attended, and amongst those present we noticed Bros. Tabblis, Bolton, Rosenstock, Pulley, Lettlicott, Brown, and Dingle, P.M.'s of the lodge; while the visitors included Bros. Dilley, Roper, Ball, Chapman, and Lightfoot, P.M.'s; and Bros. W. Andrews, W.M. of the Justice Lodge, 147; G. Andrews, P.M. 871, and H. Moore, P.M. 73; G. Macdonald, S.W. 1155; Fixture, J.W. 272; Lover, J.W. 1178; Syers, Secretary 13; Church, J.D. 147; Harries, D.C. 1426; Forge, D.C. 619; Hutchings, 147; C. Porter, 147; Lemon, 871; Bellamy, 91; Thomas, 871, and many others. After the ceremony the W.M. in the name of the lodge presented the I.P.M., Bro. Dingle, with a P.M.'s jewel, in recognition of his services during the past twelve months. Bro. Dingle, in suitable terms, acknowledged the presentation, and assured the brethren that he would always have the welfare of the lodge at heart. The sum of £5 was voted from the benevolent fund to a distressed brother, and an earnest appeal was made to the brethren on behalf of the widow and children of the late Brother Scarle. The brethren adjourned to the banqueting-room, where some sixty of the brethren and their visitors sat down. The W.M., in felicitous terms, proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Dingle, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," observed that they had worked through the different offices in the lodge together, and that he had always found Bro. Debac a most zealous and efficient officer, and he had no hesitation in saying that they had in their present W.M. a Mason well able to perform the onerous duties appertaining to that high office. The W.M., in reply, thanked the brethren for the great honour they had conferred upon him, and assured the brethren that it was his earnest desire to promote the welfare of Freemasonry in general, and the Temperance Lodge in particular. In proposing "The Health of the Visitors," the W.M. dilated on the great pleasure it always afforded the brethren of the Temperance Lodge to welcome the members of other lodges amongst them, as it showed that kindly feeling that should at all times characterise Freemasons. They had so many visitors that evening that they must forgive him if he did not dilate on their individual merits; but he felt greatly honoured by the presence of three eminent Preceptors in Masonry, Bros. Dilley, Macdonald, and Andrews. They had also among them

Bro. H. Moore, P.M. of the Mount Lebanon Lodge; Bros. Bellamy, Maltby, and many other distinguished Masons, who he was sure they were heartily pleased to see among them. Bros. Maltby, Moore, Dilley, Andrews, Macdonald, and Bellamy responded to the toast in appropriate terms. Bro. Dingle, in responding to the toast of "The Past Masters," thanked the brethren again for the jewel they had presented him with, and, alluding to the peaceful year of office he had enjoyed, suggested that in future the lodge should be called the "Temperance and Unanimity Lodge." Bro. Tibbals, the father of the lodge, also responded for the Past Masters, and in a very eloquent speech urged the brethren not to lose sight of the grand principles of Freemasonry, and trusted that the lodge would long continue in its present prosperous condition. "The Health of the Officers of the Lodge" having been duly honoured, the Tyler's toast brought the evening's proceedings to a conclusion. The evening's entertainment was greatly enlivened by some excellent songs by Bros. G. Moore, C. Porter, Denton, Dilley, and others.

LODGE OF SINCERITY (No. 174).—This lodge held its annual installation meeting on Wednesday, the 19th inst., commencing business at 3 p.m. There were present Bros. Moore, W.M.; Wells, S.W.; Hilyard, J.W.; Appleby, S.D.; Sedden, J.D.; Dunstan, I.G.; Webb, D.C.; Newton, P.M., Sec.; Rawley, P.M., Treas.; Miller, W.S.; Past Masters Lacey, Barlow, Buller, Tuck, and several other members of the lodge and visiting brethren. After opening the lodge with the usual Masonic prayer, and the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the business of the lodge commenced by raising Bro. Blaine, and then initiating Messrs. Wyld and Taylor, followed by the installation of Bro. Wells, S.W., to the chair of W.M. The ceremony was performed in a most impressive and imposing manner by Bro. Lacey, P.M., assisted by the well known, and most highly, and worthily appreciated Bro. Terry, Secretary for the Institution of Aged Men and Women belonging to the Fraternity. We are sure that those brethren who witnessed the ceremony for the first time will retain it in their hearts for many a long year. The W.M. then proceeded to elect his officers, which he did in rotation; Bro. Jones becoming D.C. Bros. Renton, Sec.; Rawley, Treas.; Bro. Miller, Wine Steward; and Berry, Tyler, were all re-instated in their former offices, so thoroughly have they gained the esteem and respect of all the brethren in the lodge, and those, whose name is legion, with whom they were acquainted out of their own lodge. The business of the lodge concluded with the payment of fees, distribution of certificates, &c., &c., and the brethren adjourned to banquet shortly after seven, the members having increased by this time to nearly 100. When the repast was ended the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and received, "The Queen," "The Prince of Wales," (Bro. Palmer, "God bless the Prince of Wales"), "The Pro Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale, and other Grand Officers," to which Bro. Banning, one of the Grand Officers responded; "The Initiates," to which they responded, and Bro. Batten sang "The Entered Apprentice;" "The W.M." (Bro. Batten, "The Old Musketeer"); "Visitors;" "I.P.M." (Air "She wore a wreath of roses," with variations most excellently rendered). The next was a very important toast, for it produced a reply of great interest to Masons, viz., "Our Masonic Institutions," coupled with the name of W.M. Wells, the Steward from Lodge 174 for the next festival, and Bro. Terry, the Secretary, who told us that at present there were 246 inmates in the old people's establishment, and room for only 28 more with 60 candidates, and he sincerely hoped that this state of things was not going to last, and that while he heartily thanked the Lodge of Sincerity for their contributions, always so cheerfully, largely, and consistently given, he still hoped that they would see what more they could possibly spare for so worthy a cause; that the three institutions cost £7000 a year and that though they managed to fill them, they were like Oliver Twist, always asking for more. During this and the previous toasts, replies, and harmonies, Bro. Newton, assisted by Bro. Lacey, collected over £25 for the W.M., as Steward, to take up to the coming festival, which, with what had been previously collected, would make a very handsome contribution. The toast of "The P.M.'s, Secretary, Treasurer, and Officers of the Lodge," being duly given and responded to, the Tyler's toast closed a very pleasant and satisfactory meeting.

LODGE OF TRANQUILLITY (No. 185).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on the 17th inst. at the City Terminus Hotel, under the presidency of Bro. J. H. Ross, assisted by the following brethren:—J. D. Barnett, S.W.; D. Posener, J.W.; G. S. Pare, S.D.; W. D. Bayley, J.D.; F. Crooker, I.G. The notice convening the meeting contained many items of business, which were accomplished with proficiency and expedition. Messrs. Simon Lowenthal and Frederick Upson, were initiated, Bros. Rowley, Schultze, Lerderer, and Davis passed, and Bro. Saillard raised. The business of the evening was the election of W.M. for the ensuing year, which fell unanimously upon the S.W., Bro. J. D. Barnett, whose genial, kind, and gentlemanly behaviour has endeared him not only to every member of the lodge but his large circle of friends. Bros. J. Peartree and Philip Levy were elected respectively Treasurer and Secretary for the 16th time; Bro. Rawles, Tyler. The Committee of the Benevolent Fund were re-elected, and Bros. P.M. Hart, and Solomon appointed Auditors. The sum of £10 10s. was voted from lodge funds to present the W.M. with a testimonial on his retirement from the chair. We understand the brethren intend supplementing this sum to make the present more substantial. Mr. Maurice Harris was proposed for initiation by his father, who, we understand, will initiate his son upon the next occasion of meeting. The members having adjourned to a frugal meal, to which ample justice was done, the W.M. gave the toasts with the considerable brevity and force. The visitors, of whom there was a goodly array, one and all testified

their pleasure with the very perfect rendering of the ceremonies and the harmonious feeling exemplified by the members of the lodge, and particularly in the election of the W.M., no other name being put in the box than that of the S.W. The W.M. elect could not find words adequate to express his appreciation of the high position to which he had been exalted, and though he was afraid he could not add much lustre to the lodge during his Mastership, yet he assured the members that no stone should remain unmoved to maintain its prestige. Bros. Pare and Bayley, as officers, spoke of the W.M. in glowing terms, who had devoted much of his spare time in fitting them to perform the duties they had the pleasure to fulfil, and if they should rise to the dignity of the chair it must be attributed to the ambition the Master caused in them by his many acts of kindness and labour of love. The brethren numbered upwards of forty, amongst whom were Past Masters: Bloomfield, Harfeld, Moss, Harris, and Constable; Bros. Smith, Gotthiel, Gluckstein, and others. The visitors were Bros. Brown, 1426; Lewis, 779; Jason, 879; Gompertz, jun., 869; Webb, 521; Jolliffe, 22; Mead, 141. Bros. Bayley, Webb, Gompertz, Barnett, and Constable contributed to the harmony and amusements of the evening. The installation in this lodge will take place on the 21st prox.

UNITED STRENGTH (No. 228).—An emergency meeting was held on the 18th inst., at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, for the purpose of clearing up the work of the present Master's year of office, that the W.M. elect, when installed, might commence with a clear programme. There was a necessity for so clearing the books of old work, inasmuch as that, notwithstanding a material increase in the joining and initiation fees, seven gentlemen stand as well and worthily recommended candidates for initiation, while several brothers are down for joining. The lodge commenced its work punctually to time, and all the officers were present, namely, Bros. While ("Freemason"), W.M.; Griggs, W.M. elect, S.W.; J. Hill, J.W.; Snare, S.D.; Halford, J.D.; and Percy, I.G. Three brethren initiated at the previous meeting were passed a degree, namely, Bros. Hanchet, Coles, and Adams. The lodge was raised, and the next degree was conferred upon Bros. Breinholt, Baker, Gedge, Bellott, and Holmes. The repetition of the ceremonies gave hard work to those actively engaged, and at the conclusion the lodge was closed down. Though only an off night the lodge had a goodly assemblage of the brethren present, and among others P.M. Joseph Crump, the Secretary for nearly a quarter of a century; P.M. James Terry, the Secretary of the Masonic Benevolent Institution, and P.M. Davies. After the lodge had been closed the brethren supped together, and "The Healths of the W.M. elect, the Master, and Past Masters" were cordially toasted. The lodge has so increased of late that it has almost overgrown its place of meeting, and the work of the installation day, when the outgoing Master will install his successor, and the new W.M. will initiate five candidates, will be performed in the small hall in order to facilitate the after proceedings.

BURDETT COUTTS LODGE (No. 1278).—The regular January meeting of this lodge was held on the 20th inst., at the Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, Bro. W. J. Crutch, W.M., presiding. Mr. Henry Fairbank and Mr. Charles William Davies were initiated, and Bro. William Cambden, of 901, was elected a joining member. The brethren who were candidates for the Second and Third Degrees did not attend. On the motion of Bro. James Terry, P.M., Treasurer, seconded by Bro. Berry, the sum of £10 was unanimously voted to be placed on Bro. G. Ward Verry's list for the Benevolent Institutions' Festival of next Wednesday week. Bro. Verry, in thanking the lodge for this gift, took occasion to inform the brethren who were not aware of it of the nature of the institution, the benefits it conferred on the aged of both sexes, and the small amount of subscription, 5s., which entitled subscribers to one vote; and he solicited the brethren to support him and enable him to take up a total which would sustain the prestige of the Burdett Coutts Lodge. He reminded the brethren of what the lodge had done hitherto in the cause of benevolence, and exhorted them after having put their hands to the plough not to look back. Bro. Verry also stated that the charitable association which had been formed four years ago for obtaining life governorships of the institutions for brethren by the payment of a shilling a week, had come to an end by effluxion of time, every member having obtained his life governorship. He was himself now a life governor of all three institutions, which he probably never would have been but for these associations. Therefore, he should wish all the other brethren to obtain that rank, and to give them that opportunity he informed them that another association would now start, to meet once every four weeks. Bro. Verry's appeals were at once responded to, several brethren putting their names on his list for 5s. each, and also enrolling themselves members of the association. After this, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to supper. When this was over, the loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and Bro. Terry proposed "The Health of the W.M." with spirit, brevity, and point. He selected the salient features of Bro. Crutch's Masonic career as his topic, informing the brethren that Bro. Crutch was the first initiate in the lodge, and also the first initiate of the lodge who had passed through the three chairs. His work that evening had shewn them what he could do, and they were all sorry that the candidates for passing and raising had not afforded them an opportunity of shewing what more he could do. At next meeting no doubt this would be done, and the brethren would then see that he combined in himself the excellencies of all the Masters who had preceded him. The W.M. said that if it gave a brother pleasure to propose a toast it gave the respondent pain to reply to it, because the proposer always eulogised him up to the skies when he knew very well he did not deserve it. Throughout the various offices that he (the W.M.) had held in the lodge he had

endeavoured to discharge his duties to the best of his ability, and by punctual attendance to set an example to the brethren, while duly supporting the W.M. What he had done in the past he hoped he should do in the future, and he trusted that at the end of his year of office the brethren would have the same kindly feelings to him as they then shewed. (Hear, hear). The great event of the evening then took place. It will be remembered that in July last the Baroness Burdett Coutts presented to this lodge three magnificent chairs made of oak and surmounted by her ladyship's arms. The chairs were those of the Master and two Wardens; but as the Baroness understood nothing of the peculiar construction of each of these chairs, which she intended to be strictly Masonic in build, she deputed to Bro. James Terry, the first Master of the lodge, and Bro. Verry, the Secretary, the supervision of their manufacture. This necessarily involved the expenditure of much time and labour, but the duties confided to these brethren were eminently successful in their result, as was also the ceremony of presentation by her ladyship, which was made in lodge, to which ladies were admitted, at Freemasons' Hall. Her ladyship on that occasion expressed her great satisfaction with the proceedings of the day, as also with the admirable arrangements that had been made, but especially with the great work of Freemasonry. In recognition of the efforts of Bros. Terry and Verry in executing the Baroness's wishes, the brethren of the lodge at a subsequent meeting passed resolutions by which they thanked them for what they had done. This was done by the lodge as a lodge; but the brethren as individuals thought that something more should be done as a testimony of their opinion, and that a souvenir of their appreciation of these brethren's efforts should be presented to them. A private subscription was therefore arranged, and a beautiful silver epergne was purchased for Bro. Terry, and a massive gold Past Master's and Secretary's jewel for Bro. Verry. The W.M. now rose to present both these testimonials, and addressing the brethren, he narrated the facts given above. Bro. Terry was the first brother to respond, and while modestly keeping any mention of himself as much as possible in the background, traced the history of the Burdett Coutts Lodge and his connection with it from the beginning. It appeared, however, that it was mainly to him that the lodge was indebted for its name, in which project he had the hearty co-operation and assistance of Bro. Henry Lloyd, P.M. Bro. Terry was entrusted with the application to her ladyship for permission to attach her name to the lodge, and this having been made, the baroness, then Miss Burdett Coutts, presented the lodge with the bible. When she was raised to the peerage she was desirous to shew to the lodge that she had not forgotten the lodge, and to give a mark of her appreciation of the honour which had been conferred on her by Her Majesty. Every brother who was in the lodge when the chairs were presented would always look back with feelings of pride and pleasure to the occurrences of that day, and the more so as it was the first time in the annals of Freemasonry when ladies were admitted to their proceedings. To himself the event gave a great amount of pleasure. He had been honoured by the W.M. with a request that he should preside; and to that worthy brother he felt under a deep debt of gratitude. Speaking of the handsome present that had just been made to him, he assured the brethren that he did not need it, and would have been happy if the amount of money subscribed for it, had been devoted to another purpose. Nevertheless, as it had been resolved that it should take its present form, he could but accept it with thanks, and he begged the brethren to believe that it would be preserved in his family as an heirloom, and as a memento of a very pleasing day in his life. His wife and family would prize it equally with himself. Bro. Verry thanking the brethren for the jewel of which he was the proud recipient, mentioned his connection with the lodge, and was pleased to feel that he had been in some measure a contributor to the present success of the Burdett Coutts Lodge. When he and Bro. Terry undertook the duties connected with the presentation of the chairs, they little dreamt that the gifts of the epergne and the jewel would be the result of their labours. Their great anxiety had been to do all they possibly could to make Lady Burdett Coutts's presentation at Freemasons' Hall a success; but, though it involved much labour and trouble, they were amply rewarded by the very successful issue. Every one who witnessed the presentation expressed unlimited satisfaction, and this was no slight reward. The toast of "The Masonic Charities," was acknowledged by Bro. Verry, as Steward for the Benevolent Institution's Festival, and Bro. Terry supplemented his remarks by saying that the institution was now giving annuities to 246 old men and old women, and there were 59 candidates on the list for next election. At the last committee there were 21 fresh applicants, all of whom had been in affluent circumstances. There were but 25 vacancies, and it rested with the brethren to say whether the number of annuitants should be increased. Last year the amount given in annuities were increased by £1500. At the festival he wanted to see £7500 collected, and at the election to put on 12 new annuitants. He hoped at the festival to announce Baroness Burdett Coutts as a Life Governor of the Institution. (Applause.) The remaining toasts were honoured, and the brethren shortly afterwards separated.

FINSBURY PARK LODGE (No. 1288).—The installation of Bro. R. Davies as W.M. of this lodge was performed on the 13th inst. by Bro. Stacey, P.M. of St. James's Union, and Preceptor of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction. The lodge is held at the Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sister's-road, and there were present Past Masters Thomas Meekham, I.P.M.; S. Price, Smith, and John Frost, Sec. The visitors included Bros. Charles Morton, R. Albert, Dunn, and S. Dickinson. The ceremony was worked in Bro. Stacey's best style, and was perfect in

ritual and language. The brethren afterwards partook of an excellent banquet, and the toasts usual on the occasion were given and responded to, full justice in language being done to the services of the Installing Master, to the merits of the new Master, and to the services of the Past Masters.

WOOLWICH.—Union Waterloo Lodge (No. 13).—This lodge, the mother lodge of all lodges in the Woolwich district, has at last begun to gather her children around her, and by a vigorous effort striven to revive the old and glorious traditions that were once so well and worthily hers among the Alma Maters of the Order. Her first effort has been directed to the revision of the rules of the lodge; and at the usual monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at the Masonic Hall, William-street, the principal business before the brethren was the receipt of the Revising Committee's report, and the sanctioning or amendment of such alterations as they recommended to the lodge, and after a lengthy discussion several important amendments were made, provision being especially made for a larger support of the Masonic charities by the raising both of the yearly subscriptions and the initiation fee. The time of the next installation was altered from March to July, and altogether the recommended alterations were well received by the brethren. The other business before the lodge was the initiation of Mr. W. W. Prophet, sail maker, of Deptford, which ceremony was most impressively rendered by Bro. T. J. Carnelly, the W.M. The following officers were present beside the W.M.:—Bros. G. Davies, P.M.; G. W. Reed, J.W.; J. Henderson, P.M. and Treasurer; H. Syer, Secretary; J. P. Moore, S.D.; J. Hutton, J.D.; N. Brown, I.G.; and B. Norman, Tyler. Bro. J. Keilly taking the S.W. chair in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Pownell. Among the visitors were Bros. A. Penfold, W.M. 913; E. De Salis, 1331; E. M. Fisher, 700; J. Coghlan, 898; C. Glazier, 700; P. Jorkey, 1107; and C. Joly, 913. After the lodge had been duly closed the brethren remained in the hall for refreshment, and passed a few social hours in harmony, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts being of course duly honoured.

PLYMOUTH.—Lodge Fortitude (No. 105).—The annual banquet of this lodge was held on the 10th inst. at Bro. Walters' Hotel, Union-street, the spread being one of a very substantial character and reflecting the highest credit upon the host. The W.M., Bro. Bunce, presided, and amongst a large and influential attendance were Bros. L. P. Metham, D.P.G.M. of Devon; Colonel Elliott, P.P.G.S.W.; S. Jew, P.P.G.T.; R. Rodda, P.P.G.R.; J. Way, P.P.G.T.; W. Whittle, P.G. Chap.; J. B. Gover, P.P.G.A.D.C.; H. Cochrane, P.G.J.D. of Cornwall; E. A. Davies, P.P.G.S. Works; C. Cooper, I.P.M.; Anthony, P.M.; R. B. Twose, P.M.; Hillson, P.M.; W. J. Thuell, P.M.; Ingram, P.M.; J. Curteis, P.M. 189; Avery, P.M. 70; H. W. Thomas, W.M. 70; J. Rendle, P.M. 1247; M. Williams, P.M. 105; J. Manning, P.M. 156; W. Coath, P.M. 89; A. Lethbridge, I.P.M. 159; R. Bird, W.M. 1550; D. Box, W.M. 156; J. H. Keats, S.W. 1247; S. Hynes, S.D. 1205; F. Bond, I.G. 1550; J. Gouley, 153; J. Trevan, 159; Husson, 70; R. L. Blight, 1205; C. Matten, D.C. 1205; J. James, S.W. 105; G. Hillson, S.D. 105; Harris, J.D. 105; Pinkham, I.G. 105; H. Davey, D.C. 105; G. W. Field, S.S. 105; C. H. Walters, J.S. 105; Northey, A.S. 1205; J. R. Horncastle, J. Northey, Woodcock, I. W. N. Keys, Jackson, Murch, W. Martin, J. Griffin, G. P. Reed, Preece, E. A. Lyons, Luscombe, R. Stancombe, Roach, and others. After dinner the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. That of "The Health of the esteemed Prov. Grand Master of Devon" was, as usual, drunk with considerable enthusiasm. A letter was read from the P.G.M. expressing his deep regret that the state of his health prevented him from accepting the invitation of the W.M. to be present. Bro. Whittle responded for the toast of the D.P.G. Master and in so doing he said it gave him great pleasure as a minister of religion, and as one who was, to a great extent, cut off from what was generally known as the pleasures of this world, to meet upon the common platform—none the less grand and glorious because it was common—of Freemasonry. It was on these occasions that they met free from all religious or political feeling—he meant the feeling of strife and opposition, for religious feeling they all had, and there was no true Mason who was not a man of religion; and being separated from these strifes, if there was a community in the universe where joy ought to be realised when assembled it was the community of Freemasons. He must say that in all his experience he had found no community equal to that for real, innocent recreation and pleasure. He counselled them all to be true to their principles, otherwise they would fail to carry out the grand objects for which their Order was founded. Bro. Cooper in complimentary terms proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and the toast having been very warmly received, Bro. Bunce, in responding, said he was anxious that the lodge should stand well in the estimation of the whole province, and that they should have a class of men amongst them of whom no one need be ashamed. Bro. Twose responded for "The Past Masters of the Lodge," Bros. Jew and Cooper for "The Treasurer and Secretary," and the other toasts were "The Senior and Junior Wardens, the Senior and Junior Deacons, and other Officers," "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," "Sister Lodges and Visiting Brethren," "Masons' Wives and Sweethearts," and "Our Poor and Distressed Brethren." The musical responses of the evening—instrumental and vocal—were ably conducted by Bros. C. Rodda and Jew. A very agreeable evening was spent.

GIBRALTAR.—Inhabitants Lodge (No. 153).—The annual installation meeting of the Inhabitants Lodge was held on the 3rd inst., when Bro. Barker, P.S. W., was placed in the chair of K.S., and the following brethren appointed to their offices:—Cunningham, S.W.; R. Gillmore, J.W.; Randall, S.D.; Conroy, J.D.; Collins,

Sec.; Hunt, Treas.; Brewster, Dir. of Cers.; Briggs, I.G. Paxton, Bacon, and Compton, members of committee, and Llamas, Tyler. Upwards of sixty brethren attended, among them Bros. Leslie, Vine, Franceri, P.M.'s. The lodge was opened in due form, when the report "Grand Lodge" was given. The D.G.M., Bro. Cornwell, attended by Bros. R. B. Hepper, D.G.S.W.; J. H. Haynes, D.G. J.W.; Glassford, D.G.J.D.; C. V. De Saury, D.G. Sec.; Imossi, G. Sup. of Wks.; Brewster, D.G.D. Cers.; Clarkson, D.G.I.G., were then received with due honours and conducted to the dais, after which the ceremony of installation was proceeded with, Bro. W. J. Henry, P.M. 30°, acting W.M., kindly officiating as installing officer. The ceremony being concluded, the D.G.M. was addressed by Bro. Henry, and the attention of the brethren drawn to the presence among them that evening of the highest Masonic authority in the district, together with a few remarks on the present hopeful signs in connection with the future of the lodge. The D.G. Master, in reply, made a few eloquent remarks as to the pleasure he felt at being among the brethren and the harmonious feeling prevailing, and congratulated them on the manner in which the ceremonies of the evening had been conducted. The D.G.M., accompanied by his officers, then retired, the brethren paying the usual honours. The ordinary business of the evening was then proceeded with, which brought the labours of the evening to an end. The lodge was then closed in due form.

PLYMOUTH.—Lodge Charity (No. 223) celebrated the festival of St. John on the 12th inst. There was a very pleasant gathering, and the occasion was marked by special features of interest. The lodge was opened in due and ancient form in the lodge-room, Union-street, Plymouth, the following officers being in their places:—Bros. E. Patten, W.M.; J. Dupre, I.P.M.; J. Moysey, S.W. pro tem.; J. Lewarn, J.W.; H. S. Hill, S.D.; T. Mair, J.D. pro tem.; R. Blight, I.G.; W. J. Yeo, A.D.C.; J. Ivey, O.; and M. Stevens, J.S. The brethren called off to refreshment, adjourned to Bro. H. Matthews's, J.D., Bedford-street, and partook of a most excellent luncheon, admirably served. About seventy sat down, the W.M. being supported by Bro. Metham, D.P.G.M. of Devon; Bro. I. Latimer, P. Prov. G.J.W.; Bros. Colonel Elliott, P. Masters, Wolf, Hifley, Browning, Witheridge, Phillips, Anniss and Cornish, of Charity; Dupre, of St. John's; and Stentiford, of Brunswick. All the officers of Charity were present. "The Queen" having been given, Bro. Latimer proposed "The W.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, G.M. of England and the Craft," with a reference to the Masonic welcome that had been accorded the Prince in India as indicative of the universality of Freemasonry. The toast was drunk, with a hope for his Royal Highness's safe return. In a speech, characterised by graceful compliment and eulogy, Bro. Dupre followed with "The R.W. the Rev. J. Huysie, P.G.M. of Devon, and Bro. L. P. Metham, D.P.G.M. of Devon." Bro. Metham responded, and in the course of his remarks touched upon the respective responsibilities of Masons to the calls of public life and the Craft. Afterwards he proposed "The W.M. of Charity," urging that all in his position should act on their own responsibility in the office, after having sought the aid of the counsel of the Past Masters. Bro. Patten appropriately responded. The Secretary announced that that day the P.G.M. had sanctioned the alteration of the bye-law, by which the lodge had increased its initiation fee to seven guineas. Accompanying the sanction was a letter congratulating the lodge on the wise step it had taken. The D.P.G.M. took occasion to remark on the great importance of lodges seeing the clearing-off certificate of every brother seeking to join. There had been a lamentable laxity in this respect in Plymouth lodges. Bro. Cornish gave "The I.P.M. of Charity," who, during his year of office, had conclusively shown that he had the interest of the lodge at heart. The W.M. pinned on the I.P.M.'s breast the Past Master's jewel voted by the lodge, and Bro. Anniss accepted it as an evidence—a jewel of infinitely more worth to him—that they felt the confidence reposed in him had been found to be not misplaced. The brethren had shown their interest in the lodge by a very large attendance. During his year of office retiring rooms had been added to their accommodation, and he hoped that ere long a scheme would be started for providing a handsome Masonic Hall for Plymouth. The W.M. proposed "The Treasurer and Secretary," and Bro. J. W. Cornish, the Treasurer, at the conclusion of his response, proceeded to present the Secretary with a handsome gold watch, voted by the lodge in recognition of the high ability and fidelity he had displayed in the office held for nine years. Bro. Browning feelingly responded, saying that the kindness and good-fellowship extended to him by all had more than amply repaid him. Bro. Wolf responded for "The Past Masters," proposed by the S.W. Bro. Hifley proposed "The S.W. and J.W. of Charity," and Bros. Boon and Lewarn respectively responded. Bro. Anniss proposed "The S.D., the J.D., and Assistant Officers of Lodge Charity," and Bros. Hill, S.D.; H. Matthews, J.D.; Blight, I.G.; Lavers, D.C.; Yeo, A.D.C.; Ivey, O.; Holland, S.S.; and Stevens, J.S. severally acknowledged the toast. Bro. Dupre, P.M. of the senior lodge (St. John's), responded for "Our Sister Lodges," proposed by P.M. Phillips. Bro. Latimer responded for "Our Visiting Brethren," proposed by P.M. Wolf. Bro. Latimer, proposing "Our Masonic Charities," spoke of the benefits of the Fortescue Fund of the Devon Province, and took occasion to deprecate the general scramble that sometimes took place in Grand Lodge to obtain a vote for institutions outside Freemasonry, when their own charities were in need of support.

GIBRALTAR.—Friendship Lodge (No. 278).—The installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. R. B. Hepper, took place on the 29th ult., Bro. B. Carver acting as installing officer. In spite of the frown of God Pluvius there was a good gathering of the brethren, among them the D.G.M., Bro. Cornwell, J. Francis, P.M.; J. Cortes,

P.M.; W. J. Henry, P.M. 30°; T. Haynes, P.M.; J. Haynes, W.M. 115; J. Ashton, P.M.; G. Bolland, W. J. Stanley, W. Glassford, C. V. De Santy. The officers appointed for the year are Bros. A. Patterson, S.W.; A. T. Preston, J.W.; H. Clavaresso, S.D.; M. Bensilum, J.D.; A. Aparicio, I.G.; E. Harrison, M.A., Sec.; Ward, Dir. of Cers.; J. Speed, Treas.; J. Peterkin, Tyler. The lodge may be congratulated on the selection of Bro. Hepper, and a successful year may be looked forward to.

LEICESTER.—St. John's Lodge (No. 279).—On the evening of the 5th inst. this lodge met in due form, pursuant to regular notice, for the purpose of celebrating the Festival of St. John, and to instal the W.M. for the year ensuing. Bro. J. W. Smith, the W.M., occupied the chair, and was supported by the following brethren, who occupied seats on the dais:—Bros. Kelly, R.W. P.P.G.M.; S. S. Partridge, P.G.S.; Rev. J. H. Smith, P.G. Chaplain; Stretton, P.M.; Soller, P.M.; A. Palmer, P.M.; Baines, P.M.; W. B. Smith, P.M., and Pro Grand Treas.; Thorpe, W.M.; Worthington, W.M. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Installing Master, Bro. Partridge, Provincial Grand Secretary, took the chair. Bro. Smith, the retiring W.M., presented the Master elect. Bro. C. S. Stretton read the ancient charge, and Bro. J. M. McAllister took the O.B. as Master for the year ensuing. A Board of Installed Masters was formed and the interesting and impressive ceremony of installation, was performed, and Bro. McAllister declared Master of the Lodge of St. John for the year 1876. The installation here concluded in solemn grandeur, and the thrilling effect produced by Bro. Partridge at this ceremony will be long remembered by all lovers of Masonry who had the good fortune to be present. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. G. Statham, S.W.; C. S. Stretton, J.W.; Rev. J. H. Smith, Chaplain; S. Cleaver, Sec.; Dr. Buck, S.D.; J. L. Jarndale, J.D.; Jessop, I.G.; Weare, and Cleaver, Stewards; Bembridge, and Dunn, Tylers. The Treasurer's account and report for the financial year was then read by Bro. Weare and adopted. A ballot took place for the Treasurer for the year ensuing, and the W.M. declared Bro. Gurden elected. The lodge was afterwards closed with the usual solemnities. The banquet followed; the W.M. presided, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to.

TEIGNMOUTH.—Benevolent Lodge (No. 303).—The annual meeting of the members of this lodge was held in the Lodge, Holland's-road, on Monday, 3rd inst., for the purpose of installing the W. Master elect, Bro. S. L. R. Templar. There was a good attendance of members, and there were eleven Past Masters present, some of whom came from Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay, Dawlish, and Newton. This ceremony was admirably performed by Bro. H. Walron, P.P.G.M., and after the installation the W. Master appointed the following brethren as his officers: C. H. Collings, I.P.M.; J. Kerstreman, S.W.; W. F. McIlwham, J.W.; G. H. Croydon, Chap.; J. Whidborne, Treas.; T. B. Gibbs, S.D.; Godfrey Lee, J.D.; F. Tomes, Sec.; De Courcy Dashwood, D.C.; G. Etheridge and W. R. Gilpin, Stewards; G. Norris, I.G.; P. Haggerty, Tyler. The finances of the lodge are in a good position, much progress having been made during the past year in clearing off a debt which had been incurred in the building of a new lodge. After the lodge had been duly closed the brethren adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where they partook of a very handsome banquet, provided by the I.P.M., Bro. Collings, who catered for the party most excellently. The chair was occupied by the W. Master, and the vice-chair by the S. Warden. After dinner the customary loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly responded to, and the evening was passed most agreeably.

ROCHDALE.—Probity and Freedom Lodge (No. 367).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 20th Jan., at the Bull's Head Hotel, Smallbridge. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Schofield. The first candidate for initiation was Mr. Wren (son of Bro. Wren, P.M., who has been a member of the lodge over a quarter of a century). Being under age, a dispensation from P.G.M. was read, and Bro. T. Baker Ashworth, P.M., then initiated him. Bro. Ashworth also initiated Mr. W. Hooson. Bro. J. J. Ashworth, I.P.M., afterwards initiated Messrs. Holt and Stansfield. There was one candidate proposed for initiation next lodge night, and the lodge was then closed. Supper was afterwards served by the host, Bro. McOwen.

CHESTER.—Cestrian Lodge (No. 425).—The annual festival of this old lodge was celebrated at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester, on Thursday, the 20th inst. The R.W.P.G.M. of Cheshire, Lord De Tabley, was present upon the occasion; and among the visitors were the following brethren:—Bros. E. H. Griffiths, P.G. Sec.; C. Dutton, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Lewis, P.P.G.S.D.; J. Taylor, P.P.S.B.; J. Cunnah, W.M. 721; E. R. Parr, W.M. 979; G. H. Wilson, P.M. 537; A. Walker, P.M. 1124; D. Sherratt, P.M. 9; R. J. Sisson, P.M. 721; H. Johnson, P.M. 721; J. M'Evoy, M.E.Z. 721; and others. The ceremony was performed by the Installing Master, Bro. J. Williams, P.S.G.D., in an impressive and masterly manner. Bro. J. M'Hatlie having been raised to the chair, appointed the following brethren as officers:—Dr. Taylor, S.W.; T. M. Lockwood, J.W.; the Rev. J. S. Darvill, Chap.; E. Minshull, Treas.; W. C. Hunt, Sec.; J. Knox, S.D.; J. G. Smith, J. D.; F. A. Dickson, I.G.; David Baines, Tyler. A banquet was afterwards held in the assembly room, when about ninety were present. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed by the W.M. In responding to the toast of the R.W.P.G.M., Lord De Tabley said he had looked forward with pleasure to again visiting that lodge, with whose historical associations, loyalty, and good works on behalf of Masonic charities, he was so well acquainted. He was pleased to find that the brother who had officiated that day as Installing Master, in a manner he had scarcely ever seen equalled, had been made an

officer of that Masonic Boys' School to whose funds the lodge had that day voted £25. He congratulated them upon the P.G. Cheshire Lodge responding to the call for the restoration of the old cathedral at Chester, and was pleased to be informed that the P.G. Lodge of West Lancashire was about to do the same. The W.M., in responding to the toast of his health, intimated his intention to promote the Masonic charities, and to create the office of W.M. of that lodge into a vice-presidency of the boys' institution, so that their lodge would be in the proud position of having a vice-patron and two vice-presidents of the institution among them. Speeches were delivered by Bros. H. Lloyd, P.M.; J. C. Robinson, I.P.M.; J. Williams, P.S.G.D., and others.

HITCHIN.—Cecil Lodge (No. 449).—The Cecil Lodge met on the 13th inst., at the Sun, Hitchin, Bro. William John Fitch, W.M., presiding. This worthy brother, having opened lodge, deputed his duties to Bro. H. Lloyd Thomas, P.M., who proceeded immediately to instal Bro. Richard Shillitoe as W.M. The ceremony was performed in a style which was remarkable for its completeness and impressiveness from its opening to the last of the charges; and the Installing Master was greeted with the applause of the brethren on his concluding. The W.M. appointed Bros. George D. Groom, S.W.; Geo. H. Smith, J.W.; R. R. Shillitoe, P.M., Treas.; W. J. Fitch, P.M., Sec.; Armigel Wade, S.D.; Joseph Hargreaves, J.D.; and Francis Shillitoe, I.G. To the great regret of the brethren, Bro. John Sugars, who has been Honorary Secretary of the lodge for more than thirty years, was, through serious illness, unable to accept a renewal of his appointment. There are in this lodge some brethren who are very old members, and among others the Treasurer, Bro. Shillitoe, the father of the present W.M., is the oldest living P.M. of the lodge. The work of the lodge was followed by one of Mr. Hill's admirable banquets, and a very delightful evening, in which each brother vied with every other to contribute to its success.

SEACOMBE.—Combermere Lodge (No. 605).—This lodge celebrated its annual installation festival at the Seacombe Hotel, on Thursday, the 20th inst. Amongst those present were Bros. J. P. Platt, P.P.J.W.; T. Platt, P.P.G.J.D.; Dr. Spratley, P.P.G.S.D.; Dr. Lambert, P.M. 537; Laidlaw, P.M. 477; J. G. Adam, W.M. 477; D. Fraser, I.P.M.; L. Ellis, P.M. 1289; J. Ridhalgh, P.M. 1276; J. Radcliffe, P.M. 477; and others. The lodge was opened by Bro. E. J. Hadden, W.M., who was supported by a full complement of officers. Bro. Dr. S. Spratley, P.P.S.G.D., subsequently took the chair, and installed Bro. Matthew C. McNeerney as W.M. for the ensuing year in a remarkably effective and impressive manner. The officers invested were Bros. E. J. Haddon, I.P.M.; J. T. Lee, P.P.G.S. of Werks, M.C.; T. Shaw, S.W.; E. Jones, J.W.; J. Shillitoe, P.M., Treas.; T. Leighton, P.M., Sec.; W. Parry, Org.; J. Jones, S.D.; T. Gregory, J.D.; J. A. Cleator, I.G.; Harris, S.S.; Roberts, J.S.; and Holtaway, Tyler. Before the lodge was closed a valuable Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Haddon by Bro. Ellis Davies, P.M. in the name of the members of the lodge. At the conclusion of the business, the brethren sat down to a capital banquet. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given by the W.M. It was incidentally stated that the annual performance in aid of the Cheshire Masonic Educational Institution will take place at the Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, on the 23rd and 24th February, under the management of Bros. Asher, Radcliffe, and Lees, "Macbeth" and "The Two Polts" being the promised pieces.

DEVIZES.—Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity (No. 663).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place at the Town Hall, Devizes, on Tuesday last, the 18th inst., when Bro. T. Barker Fox, the S.W. for the past year, and W.M. elect, was duly installed by Bro. W. Nott, P. Prov. G. Reg. Wilts, and P.M. of this lodge, in the presence of the following Installed Masters:—H. I. Ward, W.M. 663; the Rev. T. F. T. Ravenshaw, P.G. Chap., P.M. 663; J. H. Chandler, P.M. 663; J. Chandler, P. Prov. G.S.W. Wilts, P.M. 663, &c.; the Rev. H. Richardson, P. Prov. G. Chap. Wilts, P.M. 663; T. H. Chandler, P.M. 355; C. Milson, P.M. 53, P.G.J.W. Somerset; R. de M. Lawson, P. Prov. G.S.W. Wilts, P.M. 632; Thos. Waite, P.M. 144; and W. J. Mann, W.M. 632. After the ceremony of installation had been completed, the W.M. appointed and invested the officers for the ensuing year, the list of whom was as follows:—H. I. Ward, I.P.M.; J. W. Burman, M.D., S.W.; J. Parker, J.W.; Rev. H. Richardson, M.A., Chap.; D. A. Gibbs, P.M., Treas.; W. Nott, P.M., Sec.; W. H. Burt, S.D.; H. Howse, J.D.; T. Ford, I.G.; Thos. Waite, P.M., M.C.; W. Day and S. Badham, Stewards. Addresses to the officers on their investiture, and explaining their several duties, were delivered by the Rev. H. Richardson, P.M., and the usual ones to the W.M., brethren, &c., by the Installing Master. A ballot took place for Bro. W. E. Fulford, of Lodge of Israel, 205, as a joining member, and proved unanimous in his favour. Two candidates for initiation having been proposed for ballot at the next meeting, the lodge was duly closed, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet at the Crown Hotel, to which Bro. Watson Taylor, of Erlestoke Park, had, with his accustomed liberality, contributed a supply of venison and game.

LIVERPOOL.—Alliance Lodge (No. 667).—The annual installation meeting in connection with this lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, Liverpool, on Tuesday, the 18th inst., and no more popular brother has been placed in the chair for a long time than Bro. John E. Jackson, the W.M. elect, by the unanimous voice of the brethren. There was a very large gathering of Masons, including P.G. Officers, W.M.'s, and P.M.'s of other lodges. The chair at the opening was occupied by Bro. T. Ockleshaw, W.M., and among those present were Bros. W. Bulman, P.M.; J. E. Skillicom, P.M.; W. Doyle, P.P.J.G.D., P.M., Treasurer; J. E. Jackson, S.W.; G.

S. Willings, J.W.; J. Ellis, Secretary; H. Firth, S.D.; T. Peake, I.G.; D. Lloyd, S.; J. Bentham, J. Douglas, W. J. Chapman, J. Bowyer, J. Pascoe, W. Richards, J. Mellon, J. Norminton, H. Jones, W. E. Birks, J. Bailey, R. Dawkins, T. Mason, J. Parkin, W. T. Barry, J. Archdeacon, R. Foulds, R. S. Hudson, W. Ladyman, W. Brittain, A. Buckmill, D. S. Buchanan, and others. The visitors included Bros. J. T. Callow, W.M. 1505; T. Paul, 823; J. R. Smith, P.G. Reg.; J. Gallagher, P.M. 1011, W.M. 1459; W. T. Cox, P.M. 1021; J. Bluck, 1393; P. B. Gee, W.M. 1264; D. Jones, P.M. 155; D. Wainwright, 220; R. Brown, W.M. 241; H. Pearson, P.M. 246; W. Forrester, 1035; S. Jacobs, 241; J. Bell, W.M. 1356; G. Turner, P.M. 823; J. P. Bryan, 1035; J. A. Muir, 823; J. Skeaf, P.G.O.; J. Pemberton, P. G.S.; A. Cotter, J.W. 1264; A. Morrison, J.W. 1570; W. T. May, P.M. 1393; T. Clark, P.M. 673; G. Hutelin, S.W. 241; R. R. Martin, P.M. 1094; H. M. Molyneux, P.M. 823; A. Winkup, P.M. 1356; and J. Goodacre, P.M. 1086. After one initiation and the transaction of some formal business, the position of Installing Master was taken by Bro. W. Doyle, P.P.G.J.D., P.M., Treasurer, who placed Bro. J. E. Jackson in the chair of W.M. in a remarkably efficient manner. The following were invested officers of the lodge:—Bros. T. Ockleshaw, I.P.M.; G. S. Willings, S.W.; J. Ellis, J.W.; W. Doyle, re-elected Treasurer; H. Firth, Secretary; T. Yeatman, Organist; H. Gregory, S.D.; T. Peake, J.D.; D. Lloyd, I.G.; C. Bentham, S.S.; R. Douglas, J.S.; and Monk, Tyler. An excellent banquet was subsequently served by Bro. Ball, P.G. Tyler, and during the evening a handsome P.M.'s jewel was presented to Bro. T. Ockleshaw, I.P.M. An excellent musical programme was furnished by Bros. A. Child, J. P. Bryan, J. Queen, H. J. Atkinson, J. A. Muir, W. Forrester, and R. N. Hobart, Bro. J. Skeaf, P.G.O., presiding at the pianoforte. It is doubtful whether the brethren have ever had such a musical treat as this, and as a consequence every one was in ecstasy with the lovely glees, catches, &c., given by these capital-voiced brethren. The speeches during the evening were very pithy and to the point, and the lodge was closed at a comparatively early hour, after a thoroughly enjoyable evening, under the promising rule of Bro. J. E. Jackson, the W.M.

CHACEWATER.—Boscawen Lodge (No. 699).—This lodge held their annual festival on Tuesday, 4th inst. The lodge was closed at 1 p.m. The W.M. elect, Bro. C. Rapson, was duly installed into the chair by W. Bro. J. Niness, P.M., P.P.G.R., who acted as Installing Master throughout. The other P.M.'s present were:—Bros. J. Paull, P.P.G.S.D.; Rev. G. L. Church, P.P.G.C.; S. Mitchell, P.P.G.S.; Jas. Holman; Jno. Chegwidden, and Bro. Heath (Druids). The W.M. having been regularly proclaimed and saluted, he invested the following officers: Bros. W. T. Davey, I.P.M.; F. J. Lee, S.W.; N. Pascoe, J.W.; J. Paull, P.M., Sec.; J. Edwards, Assistant Sec.; J. Niness, P.M., Treas.; Rev. W. A. Blake, Chap.; J. Jackson, S.D.; J. T. Hooper, J.D.; O. Matthews, Org.; G. C. Hancock, D.C.; W. Bennett, and J. Tregony, Stewards; T. Chinnock, I.G.; and W. Lean, P.P.G.T., Tyler. Bro. Rev. G. L. Church was appointed Steward to the Cornwall M.A. and B. fund. The Treasurer having read the annual statement, a credit balance of about £200, the present number of members being 126, the lodge was closed. The annual banquet, provided by Bro. N. Paull, was presided over by the W.M. and attended by sixty brethren. In addition to the above-named, the W.M. was supported by Bros. E. T. Carlyon, P.G. Sec.; T. Solomon, P.P.G.S.W.; W. H. Jenkin, P.P.G.S.W.; S. G. Moyle, P.P.G.S.; W. P. Hugoe, P.P.G.S.; W. Bray, P.M. 699; Rev. Gillan (Tregulow); W. Lidgley (Druids), &c. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, accompanied by appropriate music. That of the Prov. G. Master, given by Bro. W. H. Jenkins, and acknowledged by Bro. Rev. G. L. Church, was heartily received, as was also that of the Prov. D.G.M., and the other P.G. Officers, by Bros. W. P. Hugoe and J. Paull; much applause greeted the toast of "The W.M." by Bro. W. T. Davey. "The Visitors," was ably given by Bro. W. Bray, and responded to in interesting speeches. "The Masonic Charities," by Bro. Church, and acknowledged by Bro. J. Niness, afforded an opportunity of urging the brethren to renewed support of the great Masonic Institutions.

MAZAGON.—Lodge Concord (No. 757).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Mazagon, on Saturday, the 18th December, 1875. Present:—Bros. W. C. Rowe, W.M.; G. R. Henderson, I.P.M.; B. Robinson, P.M.; F. Burdett, as S.W.; W. Fearn, as J.W.; F. Burdett, Treas.; O. Tomlinson, Sec.; J. Spiers, S.D.; W. G. Davie, J.D.; J. Luke, D.C.; J. E. Tyers, Org.; J. F. Grew, Steward; L. Thomas, I.G.; J. W. Seager, Tyler. Members: Bros. W. E. Craddock, G. F. Cardewell, W. W. Wilson, J. Armstrong, J. A. da Gama, J. Jones, J. Anderson, W. Hobbs, T. W. Brownnut, H. Watson, J. Gerson da Cunha, S. Needs, and others. Visitors: Bros. T. Counsell, W.M. 1100, E.C.; S. N. Cooper, W.M. 1189, E.C.; J. E. Baird, 351, S.C.; W. Martin, 1100, E.C.; W. Cattrall, 1100, E.C.; T. C. Lafond, 1100, E.C.; T. Lafond, 1100, E.C.; F. K. Patrick, 1189, E.C.; D. M. Cooper, 1189, E.C.; T. Thompson, 1100, E.C.; C. Parker, 1100, E.C.; R. Shackie, P.M. United Mariners, 30, E.C.; and Thomas Eison, 739, E.C. The lodge was opened at 6.15 p.m. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The minutes of the emergency meeting of the 7th December, 1875, were read and confirmed. The minutes of the last meeting of the Permanent Committee were read and adopted. The W.M. then stated, that in consequence of the dispensation not being sanctioned to raise Bro. T. W. Brownnut, S. Needs, and J. A. da Gama to the Third Degree he would not be able to confer that high honour on them this evening, but would arrange an emergency

meeting to raise them, in accordance with the Book of Constitutions, at the earliest possible date. The ballot was then taken for Mr. James W. Watson, senior assist. to Supt. H.M. Common Jail, Onecarry, candidate for initiation, and announced duly elected. The ballot was then taken for Bro. G. C. Taylor, of Lodge St. Andrew in the East, No. 343, S.C., and announced clear. Mr. J. W. Watson was duly initiated. Bro. John Armstrong was raised to the degree of a Master Mason. The W.M. then explained the Third Tracing Board, and presented the working tools of a M.M. to our newly-raised brother. The election was then taken for the W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year. W. Bro. G. R. Henderson, I.P.M., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. F. Burdett was unanimously elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. Bro. J. W. Seager was unanimously elected Tyler for the ensuing year. The Grand Lodge certificates of Bros. O. Tomlinson, W. G. Davie and J. E. Tyers were then duly signed and delivered in open lodge. A letter from the W.M., Wardens, and Secretary of Lodge Hindpool, No. 1225, E.C., was then read, stating they had, as requested by this lodge, duly passed and raised Bro. R. Sowden. The W.M. then suggested a letter of thanks be written in the name of the lodge to the W.M., officers, and brethren of Lodge Hindpool for the favour conferred on this lodge. This was carried by acclamation. A letter from Bro. F. G. Sweeny, tendering his resignation to the lodge, and asking for a clearance certificate, was then read, and his resignation accepted with regret. A letter from Bro. R. Sowden, 44, Crelling-street, Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire, England, tendering his resignation, was then read, and his resignation accepted with regret, and the Secretary directed to forward him, an E.A. clearance certificate, and send Grand Lodge certificate fees to the W.M. of Hindpool Lodge, No. 1225, E.C., and ask him to make application for Bro. R. Sowden's Grand Lodge certificate, and deliver the same in due course. A letter from the W.M., authorising the Treasurer to pay Rs. 20 to a distressed brother, enclosing a donation of Rs. 10 from himself, was then read and put to the lodge, and carried by acclamation. The Secretary was then requested to arrange an emergency meeting as early as possible, in accordance with constitutions, for the purpose of raising Bros. T. W. Brownutt, S. Needs, and J. A. da Gama. W. Bro. B. Robinson, P.M., proposed, and W. Bro. G. R. Henderson, I.P.M., seconded, Bro. W. Ollroy as a joining member. The Secretary was then requested to write to the W.M. of Lodge Friendship and Harmony, No. 1270, E.C., for Bro. H. Hobbs' Grand Lodge certificate.

An emergency meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Mazagon, on Tuesday, the 7th Dec., 1875. Present: Bros. W. C. Rowe, W.M.; B. Robinson, P.M.; F. Burdett, as S.W.; W. Fearn, as J.W.; F. Burdett, Treas.; O. Tomlinson, Sec.; J. E. Tyers, Org.; J. Luke, M.C., as S.D.; W. G. Davie, J.D.; L. Thomas, I.G.; J. W. Seager, Tyler. Members: Bros. J. May, E. Lucas, W. E. Craddock, J. F. Grew, W. W. Wilson, J. Armstrong, S. Needs, T. W. Brownutt, J. Middleton, F. Lean, J. A. da Gama, H. Watson, and others. Visitors: H. Bennet, 710, E.C.; and others. The lodge was opened at 8.10 p.m. The summons convening the meeting was read. The dispensation to hold this meeting and to pass Bros. T. W. Brownutt, J. A. da Gama, and S. Needs to the Second Degree was then read. The W.M. then asked for information if the time (7 days) had elapsed since the said brethren were initiated, and the Secretary showed the said brethren were initiated on the 20th Nov., 1875. Bros. T. W. Brownutt and Samuel Needs were passed to the Second Degree; and Bro. F. A. da Gama was passed to the Second Degree. Bro. J. F. Grew proposed, and Bro. L. Thomas seconded, Mr. J. W. Watson, sen. asst. to Supt. H.M. Common Jail, Onecarry, as a candidate for initiation. Bro. E. Lucas proposed, and Bro. Burdett seconded, Bro. George Taylor, No. 343, E.C., as a joining member.

CONSTANTINOPEL.—Bulwer Lodge (No. 891) held its anniversary in the Masonic Temple, Pera, on the evening of Thursday, January 13th. The minutes of the last regular lodge were read and confirmed. The first business was to ballot for Bro. Yorgerson as joining member, who was unanimously accepted. The principal business of the evening was to instal Bro. W. Keay, W.M. elect, as successor to W. Bro. Temple. Here W. Bro. G. R. Warren, P.M., took the chair in the East as Installing Master, which he has done many times before, and as usual very ably performed the ceremony of installation, in the presence of a large number of members of the Craft of Constantinople. Amongst the distinguished visitors, although members of the lodge, were W. Bros. Laurie, P.D.D.G. Master; Pears, D.G.R.; Hopper, D.G. Sec. of the D.G. Lodge of Turkey; W.M. and Wardens of the Italia Resorts; W.M. and Wardens of the Lodge Oriental, Wardens of the Lodge Pesdos; also many other visitors from other lodges. The newly Installed Master invested his officers as follows:—Bros. O. Dingler, S.W.; Hallenstine, J.W.; Keppen, Treas.; Donald, Sec.; Yorgerson, S.D.; W. Morris, J.D.; W. Harvey, I.G.; Magyania, Org.; Gingell, Tyler. The W.M. then rose and thanked the brethren of the lodge for the honour that had been conferred upon him, in a short but eloquent address, trusting he should receive every support from the brethren of the lodge throughout his year of office. The brethren adjourned to banquet, W.M. took the chair. The usual Masonic toasts were given, and heartily responded to by one and all.

WORKSOP.—The Pelham Lodge (No. 939).—The brethren of this prosperous and united lodge met on Thursday, the 20th of January, at their rooms in the Corn Exchange, Worksop, for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect (Bro. the Rev. F. Vernon Bussell, M.A.). The lodge was opened by Bro. J. Baxter, P.M., the first business being to initiate the Rev. William John Humble, clerk in holy orders; after which Bros. King

and Tomlinson were passed to the Second Degree. The ceremony of installation afterwards took place, the installing officer being Bro. Joseph Allen, P.M. of the Lodge of Peace (No. 149), Meltham, West Yorks—a brother conspicuous for that fervency and zeal in the conduct of the ceremonies of Freemasonry without which no Master can preside over a lodge with credit to himself or complete satisfaction to his brethren. Bro. Allen having required and received from the W.M. elect the usual assent to the ancient laws and regulations, dismissed the brethren below the chair and opened a Board of Installed Masters (12 being present). Bro. Bussell was then installed in the East with the customary honours, after which the brethren were re-admitted, and the newly installed successor to K.S. was saluted in due and ancient form. The working tools of the three degrees were presented by Bro. Ensor Drury (P.M. of the Royal Brunswick Lodge, Sheffield, and P.P. G.W. West Yorks) in his usual masterly style, which is peculiarly his own, and which never fails to render most deeply impressive those Masonic ceremonies in which he takes a part, be they those of the Craft or of the Royal Arch Degree. The ceremony being ended, Bro. Bussell appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. A. J. F. Bussell, I.P.M.; William Mallender, S.W.; William Allen, J.W.; Rev. H. A. Steel, Chaplain; Edward Baxter, P.M., Hon. Secretary; P. Lowe, S.D.; Thomas Henderson, J.D.; John Appleton, I.G.; William H. Caparn, Organist; and T. Mallender, Tyler. The brethren afterwards banqueted together at the Lion Hotel, being excellently catered for by the worthy host, Mr. R. Morris. The Worshipful Master occupied the chair, supported by Bros. the Rev. Canon Maltby, W.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge (402), Nottingham; Rev. E. Hawley, vicar of Worksop, and Past Chaplain to the Pelham Lodge; William Newton, P.P.G.W. Notts; Edward Baxter, P.P.G.W. Notts; Ensor Drury, P.P.G.W. West Yorks; Thomas Webster, P.P. G.D. Notts; Henry Ecroyd, W.M. of the Royal Brunswick Lodge (296), Sheffield; Thomas Harrison, P.M. of the Goderich Lodge (1211), Leeds; Rev. J. R. U. Elliott, of the Yarborough Lodge (422), Yarborough; Edward C. C. Hart and Robert Raines, of the Minerva Lodge (250), Hull; and others. After the loyal toasts, "The Health of the Worshipful Master" was proposed and ably responded to by Bro. Bussell, who gave the toast of "The Visiting Brethren," coupling with it the names of Bros. the Rev. Canon Maltby and Henry Ecroyd. Other speeches followed, in which allusion was made to the present unsatisfactory state of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Nottinghamshire, which is now to all intents and purposes in abeyance, owing to the Prov. Grand Master—the Duke of Newcastle—neglecting the duties of his most important office. No Prov. Grand Lodge has recently been held, and thus the progress of Craft Masonry in the Province of Nottinghamshire has been seriously affected, and the brethren cut off from all participation in provincial honours, to which every Past Master ought to aspire. The Past Prov. Grand Officers present cordially united in the expression of regret at this state of things, and it is to be hoped that our Royal Grand Master will be pleased to appoint an active and working Prov. Master, for this neglected but truly Masonic province. "The Health of the Newly-Initiated, Bro. Humble," was proposed, and responded to in a pleasant speech, in which Bro. Humble congratulated himself on having been initiated on the occasion of the installation of his old schoolfellow and college-friend, Bro. Bussell. He had hitherto considered that the principal events in a man's life, were three in number, viz. his birth, his marriage, and his death. From this time forward he should add a fourth to the list, viz. his initiation into Freemasonry. Songs and recitations were afterwards given by Bros. Rev. E. Hawley, the worthy vicar; J. Allen, P.M.; William Mallender, S.W.; Rev. W. J. Humble, J. Baxter, P.M.; and others; and an unusually pleasant evening was closed in order, harmony, and brotherly love. "Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again."

SOUTHEND.—Priory Lodge (No. 1000).—The annual festival of this lodge took place on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at the Middlesex Hotel, Southend. Bro. A. Lucking, P.M. 160, Prov. A.G.D.C., W.M., presided. After the lodge had been opened and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, the W.M. passed Bro. B. Mackie to the Second Degree, and afterwards in a very able and impressive manner installed Bro. E. E. Phillips, S.W., P.M. 379 (who had been unanimously elected at the previous meeting), as the W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. H. Rowley, P.M., P.P.S.G.D., acting as Dir. of Cer. The Board of Installed Masters consisted of thirteen brethren. After the W.M. had been saluted and proclaimed, he invested as his officers V.W. Bros. Rev. S. R. Wigram, P.M. and P.Z. 214, Grand Chaplain; S.W.; W. Frost, J.W.; F. Wood, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., Treas.; J. A. Wardell, P.M. 160 and 1000, P.P.J.G.D., Sec.; Rev. T. W. Herbert, P.M., P.P.G. Chap.; W. Chaplin, S.D.; W. P. Belliss, J.D.; W. Chignell, I.G.; J. C. Johnstone, P.M. 20 (I.G.), D.C.; G. R. Dawson and A. F. Godward, Stewards; H. Mountain, Tyler. The newly Installed W.M. then proceeded to initiate the Rev. H. Hayes, Messrs. Briggs, and W. H. Lockety into the mysteries of the Craft, the ceremony being admirably performed, and received the well merited applause of the brethren. Bro. Rev. S. R. Wigram, Grand Chaplain, delivered the charge to the initiates. Bro. A. Lucking received a cordial vote of thanks for the manner in which he had performed the duties of Installing Master, who having acknowledged the compliment, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, presided over by the W.M., Bro. E. E. Phillips. Besides the before mentioned there were present Bros. J. R. Hemmann, P.M., P.J.G.D.; S. Cox, P.M.; Harris, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; Rev. H. J. Hatch, S.W. 160, Prov. G. Chaplain; F. V. Jillings, W. Waterhouse, J. Shepherd, G. F. Jones, G. J. Glasscock, H. Luker, W. Allen, jun., C. Serbett, G. Berry. Visitors: Bros. Rev. Harris, P.P.G.

Chaplain; J. Reeve, W.M. 160; E. Bonner, S.D. 95; E. Kemp, W.M. 1024; De L'Anderson, 654; A. C. Carter, 697; Chas. Relph, P.M. 77 and 188, P.P.S.G.D. Kent; T. King, 160; J. C. Underwood, 160; S. G. Fairtlough, P.M. 1073, P.D.G.D. Malta; J. Weston, 25 (I.C.); J. Pritchard, E. C. Riley. During the evening the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. The W.M. on behalf of the lodge presented the I.P.M. with a P.M.'s jewel. The I.P.M. thanked the brethren for their kindness. The intervals between the toasts were agreeably sustained by some excellent singing by the W.M., Bros. Rev. H. J. Hatch, De L'Anderson, Bonner, Ryley, Briggs, and others. The Tyler's toast terminated the proceedings at a late hour, and the brethren separated, looking forward to a successful year of office under the rule of the new W.M.

KESWICK.—Greta Lodge (No. 1073).—The annual meeting of the above lodge was held in the lodge room, Court Buildings, Keswick, when Bro. the Rev. F. R. Rutherford, P.M., P.G.A.C., was duly installed by Bro. J. Wood, P.M. 1073, P.P.G.O. The interesting ceremony attracted a good muster of the brethren. The following brethren were appointed officers for the ensuing twelve months:—Bros. T. Usher, I.P.M.; J. D. Wivell, S.W.; W. Lamonty, J.W.; J. Wood, P.M., Sec.; P. T. Freeman, P.G.O., Org.; D. Pape, S.D.; C. H. Williams, J.D.; R. P. Hunter, I.G.; J. Wales, Treas.; W. Hodgson, D.C.; C. Thompson, Tyler. The annual banquet was held at the Royal Oak Hotel, and was served up in the well-known style that Bro. Armstrong and Mrs. Armstrong are justly celebrated for. A delightful evening terminated about ten o'clock.

BARNESLEY.—Lodge Friendly (No. 1513).—On Thursday, the 6th inst., the installation of Bro. Braithwaite as W.M. of this lodge took place, followed by the celebration of the Festival of St. John. The lodge was opened at 2.30 p.m. by Bros. R. Carter, P.P.G.W., W.M.; Hesketh, W.M. 361, as S.W., and Braithwaite, J.W. Among the brethren present were Bros. the Rev. H. J. Day, rector of Barnesley, Chaplain; Gratton, Unsworth, Bankes, Lane, Sutton, Marsden, Ormsworth, Bustard, Lawrance, Shepherd, Morris, Watson, Hutchinson, Jackson, Burnley, Alderson, Booth, Clarkson, Kell, and the following visitors:—Bros. Woodhead, P.M. 652 and 1462; Seed, 1302; Firth, P.M. 1302; Smith, P.G.S. of West Yorks; Taylor, P.M. 1007; Smith, P.P.S.G.D., and P.M. 290; Barrett, 1302. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. W. Smith, P.P.S.G.D. of West Yorks, Installing Master. Bro. Braithwaite, W.M. elect, being presented, and having given assent to the ancient laws and regulations, was duly installed. The ceremony under the able hands of our worthy Bro. W. Smith lost none of its natural impressiveness. On the re-admission of the brethren, and the customary salutations having been rendered to the newly installed Master, he proceeded to make the following appointment of officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. J. H. Gratton, S.W.; W. Unsworth, J.W.; Rev. H. J. Day, Chaplain; J. H. Watson, Treasurer; T. F. Shepherd, Secretary; J. Sutton, S.D.; W. H. Chambers, J.D.; S. Clarkson, I.G.; J. Morris, Organist; Bankes and Alderson, Stewards; and Smith, Tyler. The W.M. upon the investment of the officers made a few remarks pertinent to the duties devolving upon each of them. The business of the lodge was brought to a close at 4.30 p.m., and the brethren afterwards sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided for them in their handsome lodge room at the King's Head Hotel by the well known host, Mr. T. Smith, the W.M. presiding. He was supported on his right by the I.P.M., Bro. Richard Carter, P.M. 61, P.P.G.W. of West Yorks (Mayor of Barnesley), and Bro. H. Smith, Provincial Grand Secretary of West Yorks; and on the left by Bro. Alderman Taylor, of Manchester, P.M. 1007, and several P.M.'s of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Provinces, the newly-elected Wardens taking their respective positions at the festive board. The customary Masonic and other toasts were duly proposed and honoured by the brethren, who separated after having thoroughly enjoyed this their first Festival of St. John.

Royal Arch.

MOUNT LEBANON CHAPTER (No. 73).—The regular meeting of this chapter was held on Thursday, 13th inst., at the Bridge House Hotel. Comps. J. H. Budden, M.E.Z.; H. A. Dubois, H.; J. W. Baldwin, J.; T. J. Sabine, P.Z., Treas.; F. Walters, P.Z., S.E.; J. T. Moss, P.Z., and others opened the chapter. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Comp. J. Mason, 177 and 1194, was unanimously elected a joining member. The bye-laws having been read, the elections were proceeded with. They were unanimous in favour of Comps. H. A. Dubois, M.E.Z.; J. W. Baldwin, H.; John Mason, J.; T. J. Sabine, P.Z., re-elected Treas.; F. Walters, P.Z. re-elected for eleventh time S.E.; B. Isaacs, S.N.; J. C. Mason, P.S.; Laing re-elected Janitor. The Auditors were elected, in addition to those provided for in the bye-laws. The usual five guinea P.Z.'s jewel was unanimously voted to Comp. John Henry Budden, M.E.Z., for his services rendered to the chapter. The ballot was unanimous in favour of the admission of all the candidates for exaltation. Unavoidable circumstances prevented them from attending. Several candidates were proposed for exaltation at next meeting. The chapter was closed. Refreshment followed labour. Visitors: J. Griffin, P.Z., 79, 933; J. Mason, 177, 1194; H. Cutress, 1326.

LION AND LAMB CHAPTER (No. 102).—The January meeting of the above chapter was held on Wednesday, the 19th inst., at the City Terminus Hotel. The chapter was opened by Comps. H. Muggeridge, P.G.S.B., as Z.; George Newman, H.; F. D. R. Copestick, J.; King, P.Z.; Garrod, P.Z.; Kenning, P.Z.; and Lucking, J. Comps. present: H. Birdseye, J. Copestick, Ar-

kell, Chapman, Cheese, Cox, Barker, Yeoman, Phythian, Storr, Kent, Hooton. Visitors: Comps. Pearse, Leard, Garrod, P.Z.; Lucking, Wardell, Dubois, Kingston, and others. Bro. Alfred Durrant, W.M. Lewis Lodge, 1185, was exalted. Comp. Henry Muggeridge, P.G.S.B., then installed the Principals for the year. Comps. George Newman, M.E.Z. 1056, as M.E.Z.; F. D. R. Copestick, H.; H. Birdseye, J.; Kenning, Treas.; Fellowes, S.E.; Jones, S.N.; Arkeil, P.S.; Chapman, 1st Assist.; Gilbert, Janitor. The companions dined together, the usual toasts being given and honoured. Comps. H. Muggeridge, H. Cox, Chapman, Phythian, H. Birdseye, and others contributed some good songs and recitations, adding considerably to the pleasure of the evening.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Chapter (No. 41).—At a regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 18th, at the Masonic Hall, the chapter was opened punctually at 7.30, the First Chair being occupied by Ex. Comp. J. Parfitt, Z., the Second by Ex. Comp. G. Parfitt, P.Z., acting as H.; the Third by Ex. Comp. Dr. Hopkins, P.Z., acting as J., in the absence of the proper officers owing to illness. There were also present the following P.Z.'s:—Rubie, Reeves, Keene, Mann, Moutrie, Wilton, and Tudor Trevor, of the Chapter of Perseverance, Bombay. The following companions were afterwards admitted:—Hill, E.; Hearne, N.; Brown, Pr. Soj.; Young, Sen. Soj.; Falkner, Jun. Soj.; Howse, Davis, Dutton, Brooke, Gazzard, Bigwood, Jun. The minutes were read and confirmed, and the bye-laws were also read. A ballot was taken for Bro. Packer, which was unanimous in his favour. Bro. Gummer was admitted, properly prepared for exaltation, having been previously balloted for. As far as the O.B. the ceremony was performed by the M.E.Z., when his chair was taken and the duty completed by Ex. Comp. Dr. Hopkins, P.Z., who also gave the Historical, Symbolical, and Mystical Lectures, of which those present expressed their approval by acclamation; and on the proposal of the M.E.Z., seconded by the acting H., a cordial vote of thanks was passed for the assistance thus rendered. Comp. Hill most efficiently discharged the duties of Principal Sojourner in the ceremony. A report of the Committee appointed to examine into the condition of the furniture and robes was presented, and arrangements were agreed upon in reference to the proposed renovations. No other business offering, the chapter was closed at 9.30.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF DEVON.

A special Provincial Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Devon was convened yesterday at Newton Abbot. Ten years since Newton considered that in addition to its other institutions it ought to possess a Masonic lodge, and the matter was accordingly submitted to the Masonic authorities of the province, subsequently to the Grand Lodge in London, and eventually Lodge Devon, No. 1138, was duly instituted, dedicated, and consecrated. Since then a suitable suite of lodge-rooms, forming a handsome addition to the buildings of the town, has been erected for Masonic purposes in general, and the use of Devon Lodge in particular. With the prosperity and progress of Freemasonry in the town has sprung up among the brethren of Devon Lodge a desire to add to their lodge the honours of a Royal Arch Chapter. The following companions were accordingly elected as the first officers of the chapter:—Ex. Comps. the Rev. Robert Bowden, Z.; Captain F. D. Bewes, H.; P. D. Michelmore, J.; Comps. F. Pratt, S.E.; Bickford Prowse, S.N.; Ex. Comp. H. G. Beachey, P.S.; and J. Saunders was nominated as the first S. The consent of the P.G. Superintendent was obtained, and at a recent quarterly convocation of the Grand Chapter the usual petition was presented, and a warrant granted containing the names of the companions mentioned as the officers empowered to open the new chapter. Yesterday over seventy of the companions of the province attended the Provincial Grand Chapter to take part in the dedication and consecration of the Devon Chapter. Among those present were the Rev. John Huyshe, M.A., the Provincial Grand Superintendent, who presided; J. W. Keyworth, P.G.J.; W. G. Rogers, P.S.E.; Dr. Woodgates, P.G. Reg.; Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzgerald, 189; the Rev. Robert Bowden, P.Z. 710; Captain R. Dawkins, R.N.; Adams; Captain E. W. Fawcett, R.N.; Calpe; J. Harris, P.P.G.T.; Commander W. E. Stone, R.N.; P.P.G. Reg.; J. Heath, P.P.G. Reg.; E. A. Davies, P.P.G. Reg.; W. Joll, P.P.G., first S.; T. Dand, P.P.G.B.B.; H. G. Beachey, P.Z. 710; B. Prowse, first S., 710; S. B. Colston, P.P.G. S.B.; G. Barry, J. 248; R. Lamswood, S.E. 248; W. B. H. Maye, J. 710; J. P. Phillips, Z. 223; C. H. Law, P.Z. 92; W. T. Maynard, P.P.G.P.S.; A. Bodley, P.G.B.B.; W. Haynes, P.Z. 106; P. D. Michelmore, H. 710, P.G. Supt.; S. N. Burden, P.G.S.N.; G. W. Ormerod, Z. 303; S. Loram, J. 303; T. Perry, H. 328; W. Easton, P.Z. 112; P. Sherwin, H. 106; W. Bishop, Z. 106; J. J. Drake, 303; W. Ball, 303; M. L. Brown, 303; F. C. Frost, 70; T. Morgan, 189; S. Templer, P.S. 303; J. Hammick, 248; J. Crocker, 710; J. E. Saunders, 710; W. L. Blanchard, 112; J. Rogers, P.G.A., Janitor. At first all went merry as a marriage bell, but a dilemma soon occurred, one of the high contracting parties having declined to attend. This was Captain Bewes, the H. elect, and a deputation under the leadership of Comp. Stone was at once organised and despatched to the companion's residence. In half an hour the gallant commander returned with the announcement that Captain Bewes could not be prevailed upon to alter his decision. The Provincial Grand Superintendent stated that in all his experience of Masonry this was the first time he had witnessed such conduct. As Captain Bewes was recorded on the Grand Chapter warrant as the H. the business could not proceed. The companions would have to elect another H., and the matter must be submitted to the Grand Chapter. It was rumoured that Captain Bewes had not received notice until

that morning of his attendance being required at that meeting early in the afternoon. If that was the case an awkward dereliction of duty must have occurred somewhere. Comp. P. D. Michelmore was nominated to the vacant office of H., and Comp. F. Pratt nominated J. This closed the proceedings. A large party of the companions dined together at the Queen's Hotel in the evening.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF GIBRALTAR.

The general meeting of this lodge was held at the Friendship Rooms, on Wednesday, 29th Dec., the attendance being rather under the usual average. The D.G.M., Bro. G. F. Cornwell, and Bro. G. Gilbard, D.D.G.M., presided, and the following brethren were appointed or elected as officers for the ensuing year:—R. B. Hepper, D.G.S.W.; J. H. Haynes, D.G.J.W.; Barker, D.G.S.D.; Glassford, D.G.J.D.; C. V. De Santy, D.G. Sec.; W. J. Henry, D.G. Treas.; Clarkon, D.G.J.D.; Brewster, D.G. Dir. of Cers.; Bensilum, D.G. Purst.; Balland, D.G. Swd. Br.; J. B. Invossi, D.G. Sup. of Wks. After the transaction of the usual business, the D.G.M. had the pleasing duty of presenting a silver inkstand to the late D.G. Sec., Bro. R. B. Hepper, as a testimonial in recognition of the services rendered by him to the lodge. A few well chosen words from the D.G.M. brought the proceedings to an end, and the lodge was closed in proper form. It is to be regretted that the meetings of this lodge are held at an hour that precludes many brethren from attending. Were the meetings held during the evening double the number would without doubt assemble to do honour to the occasion.

FREEMASONRY IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

On the evening of Thursday, the 23rd December, the brethren of Lodges Leinster, No. 166, I.C., and Caledonian, No. 489, met together in the Masonic Temple, Hasskieu, the purpose being the installation on the same night of office-bearers for both lodges. This arrangement was deemed advisable, and most fraternally acceded to by the brethren of both, for the following reasons:—1st. Convenience. Many brothers located far from the place of meeting, but, desirous of being present with both, could not find it convenient to do so—hence this unity. 2nd. Economy—not niggardly economy—but of that kind which prompts good men and true to count the cost, have all things decent and in order, and when the reckoning is made, a balance, if any, to the poor and needy, so as to endorse the greatest of all great principles—charity. And 3rd. The final and grand reason was brotherly love—that others might know, though our banners hailed from separate and distinct towers, our aims and hearts were one. The Caledonian was constituted first as a lodge by W. Bro. W. Dorrell; who, the usual preliminaries over, in the most impressive and solemn manner installed the officers for the year 1876:—Bros. H. T. Rand, W.M.; J. Blair, S.M.; R. McGill, D.M.; J. Noble, S.W.; W. Morrison, J.W.; D. Chalmers, Treas.; D. Fraren, Sec.; T. C. Lucker, S.D.; G. Sutherland, J.D.; D. Beith, I.G.; C. Robson, Org.; D. Hayne, M.C.; and Alex. Scott, Tyler. Installation over, W. Bro. Rand, in terse, but complimentary terms, thanked the brethren for the high position they had placed him in, and congratulated P.M. Bro. Dorrell for the very efficient manner he had discharged so onerous and important a duty. Bro. Dorrell's reply was succinct and appropriate. The lodge was then closed in due form, and the Leinster was opened by solemn rite, W. Bro. Ite presiding. As in the former lodge, business over, labour was proceeded with, and again the interesting ceremony of installation began, W. Bro. Ite having, in a manner creditable to himself, and most gratifying to the brethren present, performed all the duties devolving on Installing Master. The office-bearers of Lodge Leinster for the year 1876 are:—W.M. Bro. J. J. Dunn, who, following the Irish ceremony (per Constitutions) very Masonically installed his officers, viz.:—Bros. T. Dickenson, S.W.; T. Johnson, J.W.; W. Ite, P.M., Treas.; H. Wetherill, P.M., Sec.; Jas. Blair, S.D.; Geo. Saunders, J.O.; B. Brooker, I.G.; Dorrell, P.M., D.C.; and P. Flucker, P.M., Tyler. W. Bro. Dunn, in conclusion, fraternally for himself and his lodge, spoke of their indebtedness to P.M. Bro. Ite for the able manner he had discharged his duty. Bro. Ite's reply was pointed and brotherly. Both lodges were honoured by the presence of numerous visiting brethren, and the not least interesting feature of the night's labour was in the attendance of no less than ten Past Masters, "each racing with each" in fraternal fellowship and goodwill to make all things "square." The brethren adjourned, after formally closing, to Bro. J. Rane's "British Restaurant," by whom a banquet was prepared, consisting of every delicacy British taste and Eastern ingenuity could devise or cater for. W. Bro. Dunn, and in the lamented absence of W. Bro. Rand, P.M., Bro. McGill, for the nonce, occupied the chair in the E., while Bros. Dickenson and Noble ably assisted alternately in the S. The toasts from the first division were loyal, Masonic, and patriotic, while the other three quarters of the sphere, kindly and appropriately spoke of home, kin, and the altars which our fathers worshipped at, regardless of creed, colour, or status. Perhaps in the annals of the Craft, when its history in the capital of the "Star" and the crescent shall be written by some wandering scion of a second "Old Mortality," ransacking and furbishing up from the archives of Scottish 489, or Irish 166, the not least interesting chapter in the Masonic tome, and dedicated to the "Imperial" occupants of the throne by the Marquis of Marmora's sweet waters, will be the union at the close of the year 1875 of the Thistle and the Shamrock in the Suburban District, Hasskieu, near to the once smokeless city.

MASONIC BANQUET AT MORLEY HALL.

Morley Hall, the seat of Bro. J. Bathurst Graver Browne, Esq., was on Tuesday evening the scene of a very novel and interesting gathering. Having been recently installed W.M. of the Doric Lodge, Bro. Browne, with that generosity and genial kindness for which he is distinguished in every relation of life, and in none more conspicuously than that of Masonry, gave a grand banquet to the brethren of the lodge. Held under such circumstances, a lodge without legal warrant and the doors of which were open wide, so that the uninitiated could peer within, necessity was made a virtue, and the mystic ceremonies of the Craft were dispensed with; but an ample compensation for them was found in the warm-hearted welcome accorded to all by the worthy host and his amiable lady, who were most solicitous for their pleasure and enjoyment, and in the dinner table being graced by the presence of Mrs. G. Browne, Lady Stracey, and one or two other ladies. The dining-room presented a charming appearance on the seats being all occupied, and the lodge banner was placed immediately behind the chair. Nothing could have been more highly successful in every point of view, and the pleasure of the evening will long be remembered by those present. The W.M. was supported by several visitors, including Bro. Sir H. J. Stracey, Bart., Bro. Lieut.-Col. Bignold, Bro. D. Stracey, Messrs. Charles, Reginald, and F. Bignold, and the other guests were as follows:—Bros. S. Barrell, S.W.; J. Plowman, J.W.; J. Parker, S.D.; J. Utting, I.G.; Rev. F. B. DeChair, Chap.; W. Standley, jun., Hon. Sec.; E. Beeston, P.M. and M.C.; Caudall Clarke, P.G.R.; D. W. Hughes, Rev. D'Arcy Preston, H. J. Martin (Cabbell), W. W. Clarke, A. Davey, H. Feltham, S. T. Cann, J. B. Pearce, W. Elliott, T. G. Colman, J. R. Wellington, J. Hare, A. Death, J. Ringer, C. Hipperson, T. W. Cross, W. Evans, J. Harrison, A. Hart, F. Winfield, W. Barker, C. H. Wright, H. Hipperson, J. Dickerson, F. Winfield, F. P. Atkins, W. Patrick, C. Cowell, and others. The Prov. G.M., the Hon. F. Walpole, M.P., and the D. Prov. G.M., Bro. A. M. F. Morgan, received invitations, but were unable to be present. After dinner, and the ladies having withdrawn, a few toasts were duly proposed and honoured, and interspersed with some vocal music.

The W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was drunk with true Masonic enthusiasm.

The W.M. said he had now to give "The Prov. Grand Master, the Hon. F. Walpole, M.P., and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Norfolk."

Sir H. J. Stracey returned thanks.

Bro. the Rev. F. B. DeChair, in giving the toast of the evening, "The Worshipful Master of the Doric Lodge and the Kind and Hospitable Entertainer of this Evening," remarked that all who knew Bro. Graver Browne were well aware of his great amiability of disposition, and how he was renowned all the country round for his kindness of heart, and his unbounded hospitality. (Loud cheers.) This was not an occasion in which to trespass on their time by making a long speech, but they would allow him in their name to return their most sincere thanks to Bro. Graver Browne for the hospitality he had extended towards them, and for the opportunity he had afforded them of meeting under his roof; at the same time sincerely wishing him a long life of health and happiness, with a retention of the honoured name he now enjoyed for genial and unbounded kindness in every sense of the word. The toast was drunk with honours, which were led by Bro. De Chair.

The W.M., after a renewal of cheering, returned thanks.

Bro. Col. Bignold gave the next toast, "Prosperity to the Doric Lodge."

Responding to the toast, the W.M. said that the true spirit of Masonry animated the brethren of the Doric Lodge, and the best wish that he could express towards the Craft generally was that every lodge would emulate the Doric, and show the same high regard for the great aims and objects of the institution. (Cheers.)

The toast of "The Ladies" having been responded to in very effective terms by Bro. Charles Bignold, the W.M. said there was one toast which had been forgotten, but which he must propose, "The Press," because in those countries where the press was fettered there was an absence of that freedom among the people which was the proudest boast and most cherished heritage of Englishmen. A free press was the greatest safeguard against oppression and injustice; and it was in the truest sense a bulwark of the State. Indeed, he believed that had the press in France been free, the empire would not have been overthrown, but would have lived to this day, and that unhappy country would have saved the humiliation and internal strife which she had experienced within the last few years. (Hear, hear.) He had great pleasure in coupling with the toast the health of Bro. Martin, whom he was always pleased to welcome at Morley.

Bro. Martin having returned thanks, some time was spent in pleasant conversation, and the party broke up.

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

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Influenza, Bronchitis, Asthma, and kindred complaints, too frequently present themselves as a fierce and pitiless plague at the fall of the year, and little less deplorable is the fact that with darkening days and changing temperatures the digestion becomes impaired, the liver disordered, and the mind despondent, unless the cause of the irregularity is expelled from the blood and body by an alterative like these PILLS; they go directly to the source of the evil, thrust out all impurities from the circulation, reduce distempered organs to their natural state, and correct all defective or contaminated secretions. Such easy means of instituting health, strength, and cheerfulness should be instantly available to check the first symptoms of approaching illness.—ADVT.

TO OUR READERS.

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

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Answers to Correspondents.

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

The following stand over:—

West Kent Lodge, 1297; Lodge of Israel, 205; Metropolitan, Lodge 1507; Ivy Lodge, 1441.

Bro. Tudor Trevor's letter in our next.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Garden Oracle and Horticultural Year Book, 1876. Edited by Shirley Hibberd.—W. H. and L. Collingridge, 117, Aldersgate-st.

"Our Young Folks Weekly Budget."

"Food and Fuel Reformer."

"Michigan Freemason."

"Keystone."

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 1876.

OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO INDIA.

By a mistake of the telegram, Madras was substituted for Lahore in our last article. H. R. H. has been in the North Western Provinces, and has visited Lahore and Sealote. He has been well received by all classes of the gallant Sikhs, and has enjoyed a native reception and some hunting. He is very well, but has experienced benefit by the change from Delhi to the cooler atmosphere of Lahore. Some of his suite have been, as the French say, "un peu indisposé," but are now convalescent. His Royal progress continues to be a great success. He is now at Agra.

MONSIGNORE NARDI.

Monsignore Nardi, whom the "Times" terms, and probably justly, "one of the ablest men about the Court of Rome," has just devoted two columns of the "Voce della Verita" (is the name intended for a sarcasm?) to a highly laudatory sketch of our late Grand Master the Marquis of Ripon. We should have very little to do, indeed nothing, with this ornate apology for the last great "victim of papal fascinations" had it not been, that Monsignore Nardi, "thorough man of the world as he is," and knowing we feel sure much better, has made a thorough goose of himself when talking of the Freemasons, of whom, by the way, the Church of Rome professes to know all the secrets. Noticing Lord Ripon's connexion with Freemasonry, Monsignore Nardi, though detesting all secret societies, and the Masons above all, acknowledges that English Masons are quite different from Italian, German, Swiss, Spanish, and Brazilian. "As there is one species but many races of men, so it is with the Masons, who, it appears, in England are chiefly given to eating, drinking, and merry making, although they occasionally do harm and are in general enemies of our Church." If this is all Monsignor Nardi could say, we fancy many Roman Catholics will agree with us, that in this respect, as in many others in daily life, the old proverb is most true which declares the "least said the soonest mended." It appears as the

"Times" puts it, "That the Marquis looks back regretfully to the Craft he has been obliged to renounce, and has a weakness to be treated with a gentle hand. This account of the brotherhood must have Lord Ripon's concurrence—indeed, by the expression 'it appears' one may almost suppose that his lordship has stated in equivalent terms the only business English Masons ever meet for. They meet, if we are to believe Monsignore Nardi and his informant, to eat, drink, and be merry in old English fashion; and it is only when they are sufficiently sober or sufficiently inebriated that they do a little harm, the Church of Rome being, of course their pet aversion. Monsignore Nardi thinks this the best apology he can make for certainly the greatest man, by common measure of human greatness, that Rome has acquired from us since the days of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, he refers to. This man, whose advent is a sign of the conversion of England and the world, has, it seems, for the best part of his life, been rising step by step to the highest position in a society claiming all-important secrets and an unknown antiquity, but all the time doing nothing but eat and drink, and sometimes misbehaving themselves accordingly. This, it seems, is the best thing to be said for Lord Ripon, and the best recommendation Monsignore Nardi can give him to the regards of Roman society." And then the next question comes. Are these views Lord Ripon's real views? we will not ask are they worthy of him? We have heard him over and over again in eloquent language declare his belief in the noble purposes and great objects of Freemasonry. We cannot believe that he would thus libel an Order which trusted in him, and followed him with unwavering loyalty to the last. We prefer to believe that the opinions expressed are Monsignore Nardi's own, characteristic as they are of the real or helpless ignorance of the Roman Curia as regards Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry, and not in any way Lord Ripon's. If they were we, should say at once with the "Times":—"If Lord Ripon allows Monsignore Nardi's account of Freemasonry to pass without any protest on his part, it will be fair to assume, not only that he regards it as true, but that it is the apology—the confession we should rather say—he made on entering his new Communion and presenting himself to its Chief. Outsiders in general will certainly attach this significance to the pompous eulogy in which the Marquis's arrival at the Court of Rome is trumpeted to the world. In this case it will devolve upon the English Freemasons, not to disclose any secret, but to assure the world that they do something more than eat, drink, and be merry, and are something more than a 'Goose Club'—the apology actually offered for them at Rome some years ago by a distinguished English Prelate of the Roman Church. What we read in our Roman contemporary sounds very like a betrayal of secrets—that is, a confession that there is no secret at all—inconsistent as that may seem with the devoted membership of a British statesman. If what the Monsignore says be true, then a bubble has burst, and it is the Marquis of Ripon's honesty, or self-reproach, which has told the world what it has so long suspected. It would, however, be interesting to know whether the Marquis has given the same account of the other bodies in which he has served, and over which he has presided. Has he been able to inform Monsignore Nardi that in the War Office, the India Office—nay, in Her Majesty's Privy Council—they do nothing but eat, drink, and make themselves merry? If he could say this of the Joint High Commission on the Alabama Claims, it might afford some clue to the results. If the Marquis is in a candid mood, perhaps he would throw some light on the mysteries of official administration which so often puzzle the world, and seemed to admit only of the sort of explanation given of the great Masonic mystery." Perhaps the best way to treat the last unjust and undeserved caricature of Monsignore Nardi will be either with a hearty laugh or with silent contempt. We are accustomed to the "chaff" of the "Times," we can well bear it, and we take it exactly at what it is worth—namely, the algebraic "unknown quantity." We may possibly recur to the subject of Monsignore Nardi's oration.

THE HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY.

Though in our humble opinion the time for writing a complete and true history of Freemasonry has not yet arrived, inasmuch as we are still only on the threshold of enquiry after all, we yet always gladly welcome all the "waifs and strays" cast up here and there from time to time on the great open shore of Masonic Archæology. We have recently congratulated our Masonic reading public on Bro. Fort's very interesting and scholarly work. We have properly praised Bros. Todd's and Cowling's unpretending but valuable history of the York Grand Lodge and the York Lodge, and we have now to record with appreciation and approval Bro. Kenneth Mackenzie's "Preliminary Sketch of the History of Freemasonry," which appeared in the columns of the "London and Provincial Newspaper" of the 8th January. Bro. Mackenzie's contribution is only a preliminary sketch, and can only be treated as such, but we heartily agree with the general outline he has thus limned for his readers of the true annals of our Order. Bro. Mackenzie adopts the "Guild Theory," as it is called, and which, having ourselves upheld for many years, "in season and out of season," and almost "totidem verbis," with Bro. W. J. Hughan, we are glad to see it submitted in its general proposition to Masonic students. Those of us who are most friendly to the Guild Theory, who may be said to have originated it practically in this country, at any rate of later years, are equally most sensible of many difficulties attendant on it. Indeed, no account or explanation of Freemasonry can be free from some objections, owing alike to its very "raison d'être" and its peculiar organisation and system. But in the choice of difficulties, the Guild System has always appeared to us the least objectionable, and the most easily defended. And when we have said this, we have nearly said all we can say about it critically. It is but fair to remark that those who advocate the Guild Theory are not all of one school. There are those who, like Bro. Findel, would limit the Guild Theory to the 12th century. There are those who admit the Guild Theory, but make the revival of 1717 an adaptation for speculative and social purposes of the terminology and customs of the operative guilds. While there are those again who look upon the Speculative Grand Lodge of 1717 as the lineal descendant of revived, and continuation of the Operative Grand Assembly. It appears to us that Bro. Mackenzie hardly set sufficient store by the evidence arising out of Elias Ashmole's Masonic Memoranda. It is quite clear to us that neither Nicolai's theory nor that of Lessing's, however ingenious, can meet the demands of accurate and exhaustive criticism. Nicolai's view that Freemasonry sprung from the author of the "Nova Atlantis," as an hermetical society with Ashmole and others, is no more tenable than that Sir Christopher Wren is the founder of modern Masonry. Both theories are very imaginative, but very unhistoric. The facts recorded by Ashmole, and especially when taken in conjunction with those mentioned by Dr. Plot in 1682, serve to shew, that in the 17th century a Masonic body identical with our own existed in England. Of its actual conditions or system we are at present unable distinctly to speak, but we do not despair of yet obtaining more light upon the subject. But this one thing is clear. The society of "Freemasons," to which E. Ashmole belonged, is not identical with the "Masons' Company of London," but is an organization "sui generis." And for this reason. The records of the Masons' Company show us, that the meeting which Ashmole mentions in 1682 at Masons' Hall was not a meeting of the Masons' Company, whose meeting for that year is duly mentioned in minutes still extant, and that Elias Ashmole was not a member of the Masons' Company. All the names mentioned however by E. Ashmole—with, we believe one exception—have been found to be members of the Masons' Company. Hence, the meeting of March 10, 1682, was a meeting of a "Society of Freemasons." Robett Padgett, who declares himself "Clerk of the Worshipful Society of Freemasons, of the City of London, in 1686," four years later, was not Clerk to the Masons' Company. Hence,

the "society" to which he belonged has yet to be verified. It has been suggested that the "society" or lodge, was the precursor of the Antiquity Lodge, but this, though a most ingenious surmise, is so far only a surmise. We have said enough to demonstrate the importance of further enquiry, before we can pronounce definitely on many points of Masonic archæology, the "vexata quæstio" of the grades or degrees among others, for instance. The whole 17th century English Freemasonry is practically still a "terra incognita" to us, and until we can throw a little more light upon it than we now possess it appears impossible to us to express any dogmatic opinion, or to come to a clear conclusion on many points upon which much has been written and said, but very little is known.

DISCUSSION ON THE BALLOT.

In answer to a brother who raises one or two important questions, we beg to say that the object of the ballot being clearly to ensure both freedom and secrecy of voting, all discussion in open lodge on the result of a ballot is, in our opinion, highly irregular, and ought to be stopped at once by the W.M. In many lodges, one of the bye-laws specially, forbids any discussion or disclosure, or attempted violation of the secrecy of the ballot, and such law ought to be, we think, in all lodge bye-laws. An enforced ballot is a very difficult question, as it is quite clear to us, that no bye-law of a private lodge can compel all the members to vote by ballot, "nolentes volentes," as any brother, we apprehend, has a right to decline to vote on some ground or reason sufficient and good to himself. There is no law possible, if not laid down by the Book of Constitutions, which can force a member to vote. But equally the very object of the ballot is done away with if any discussion is allowed upon it. We do not say that no circumstances will justify a discussion, but they must be, and are, happily, very rare indeed. We shall be glad to publish any temperate letter on the subject, as the matter is a very important one, in our opinion, for the best interests of lodges.

DEATH OF BRO. W. ROMAINE CALLENDER, M.P.

We regret to learn of the death of Bro. W. Romaine Callender, which sad event took place on Saturday last, at St. Leonards, where our popular and much-respected brother had been for some weeks, in the hope of regaining his health. Bro. Callender was a Past Grand Deacon, and Deputy Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire; was also Deputy Grand Mark Master Mason for the Grand Mark Lodge of England, Intendant General Red Cross for the province of South Lancashire, and a member of the 31^o. Bro. Callender, who was in his 51st year, was returned for Manchester at the general election of 1874, when he was second on the poll, with 19,649 votes, 314 over the number given for Sir Thomas Bazley, M.P., and 920 more than were recorded for Mr. Jacob Bright, whose seat he secured. The deceased gentleman was one of the most active promoters of the revival of Conservatism in Lancashire, and entertained Mr. Disraeli and the late Viscountess Beaconsfield when the present Premier visited Manchester in April, 1872.

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.]

BROS. TEW AND PERROT.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—
In reply to the questions put by "Fairplay" in your paper of 22nd inst., I state,
1. I know nothing more of the Report of the "Boys' School Investigation Committee of the Province of West Yorkshire" than is recorded in the report of the proceedings of the General Committee of Saturday, 1st inst., given in your issue of the 8th inst.
2. I have not been examined, neither has any "member of the House Committee," nor, so far as I am aware, has "any brother who knows anything really about the School at all."
It is true I received on 10th January a letter signed "J.

Quarterman, Secretary of the W.Y. Committee," with a paper signed by nine brethren, "Life Governors of the Boys' School and members of the Committee of Investigation appointed by P.G.L. of W.Y.," asking for explanations under four heads. This communication I answered to the effect that I was precluded by the resolution of the General Committee from recognising the—so called—"West Yorkshire Committee of Investigation;" and that Bro. Quarterman not being a contributor to our funds, I could not admit his right to demand information which would have been readily at his service had he been qualified to ask for it.

I am, dear Sir and brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,
FREDERICK BINCKES,
Secretary R.M.I.B.

MASONIC CONGRESS AT LAUSANNE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I do not know if your attention was directed to the congress of deputies of all Masonic Grand Lodges, which was held in the month of September last year in Lausanne, in Switzerland, during three weeks. It published a manifesto against so many defamatory attacks which ignorant outsiders, and particularly Catholics and Jesuits, used to divulge from their hotbed of Rome. I found the manifesto in the "Augsberger Allgemeine Zeitung," and having translated it from German into English, I beg to send it to you for publication in your valuable "Freemason," if you have not done so already. I do this somewhat tardily, but I received the above mentioned newspaper only lately from Germany. At the same time I hope you will excuse if my English, is not quite right; being only two years in England and never having spoken English before, perhaps you will set it right. The manifesto says thus:—"At the moment the congress examines most diligently and attentively the old Institutions of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and wishes to preserve with piety and esteem the wise laws of this rite; at the moment the congress liberates Freemasonry of all its superfluous fetters, and wills that Freemasonry shall be permeated by the spirit of freedom which enlivens our age; at the moment the congress unites the Freemasons of the whole globe in a union which is based fundamentally never to be shaken—in such a moment the congress cannot separate without having answered by a plain and convincing manifesto to the calumnies and condemnations which were divulged against Freemasonry. Therefore the congress publishes officially the principles of Freemasonry proposed, accepted and represented by the congress as follows:—Freemasonry proclaims, as it has always done since its first origin, the existence of a creative being called by the name of the Great Architect of the Universe; it sets no limits to the investigation of truth; it guarantees all who join it this freedom, but it wants this freedom also for itself from all. Freemasonry, therefore, is attainable by men of every nation, rank, and confession; it forbids in all its lodges every political and religious discussion; it admits as member every free and honest man, and does not even care whatever his religious or political views may be; its goal is to fight against all intolerance, and it is a school for life founded on reciprocity, the programme of which is the following:—"To obey the laws of the country, to live according to the laws of honour, to exercise justice, to love one's neighbour and to work incessantly for the welfare of mankind."

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours,
J. T. STRAUSS,
Member of the Harmony, 600, Bradford.

BRO. BURGESS AND THE MARK DEGREE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I learn from Bro. Binckes's letter in the "Freemason" of Jan. 22 that my claim to be re-installed in the Mark Degree was not suppressed from the knowledge of the Mark Grand Lodge held on the 30th November last. Why Bro. Binckes has withheld this information from me until now I am at a loss to conceive; but the facts remain. 1st. That the Mark Grand Secretary's letter to me, dated the 3rd December, made no mention of my claim having been before Grand Lodge on the 30th November. 2nd. That the printed agenda paper of business for that day, sent to me by Bro. Binckes on 3rd December, contains no reference to my claim as part of the business for consideration. 3rd. That the published report of proceedings of 30th November likewise contains no such reference. 4th. That Bro. Binckes in his correspondence with me since 3rd December has neither directly nor indirectly informed me that my claim had come before Mark Grand Lodge. A day or two ago I casually met a brother who was present on 30th November, and then for the first time I learned privately that I was mistaken in supposing that my letter had been suppressed. I had written to you to state this, but as my communication was evidently too late to appear in that day's "Freemason," I did not send it on.

I fail to understand why my claim should have been referred to the General Board. It was Mark Grand Lodge which expelled me, and to the same body I addressed my appeal for re-installation. The claim should, I contend, have been then and there adjudicated on. To transfer its consideration to another body is not a fair way of dealing with it, because if a wrong has been done, properly feeling should actuate a desire to make immediate reparation, instead of continuing the wrong for another six months.

The General Board (to whom my letter was not addressed) now charges me with making in it accusations against "absent Mark Masters." Absent from what? The persons to whom I referred are members of Mark Grand Lodge, and it was their duty under the Constitutions to be present at its meeting. This new charge is the more remarkable because the pith of my claim for restoration is

that, contrary to Article 13 of the Constitutions, I have been expelled in my absence, and without any opportunity of a hearing having been afforded to me.

The principles of the Temple seem to have obliterated all sense of fair play from "the rulers and executive" of the Mark Degree of Freemasonry; and it becomes doubtful whether it is worth while to fight for restoration to a body which has so evidently lost all self-respect and independence.

Faithfully yours,
CHAS. J. BURGESS.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Noticing the appeal of Bro. Fellowes for the Institution of Aged Masons and Widows, and the result of the appeal up to the present moment does not at all surprise me. Everybody knows we are a rich and influential body, and can carry out any scheme for charity we once commence to the perfect satisfaction of the Craft.

Bro. Fellowes has a good and large heart undoubtedly, but I consider our institutions and charities ought to depend on the Craft alone, and not to make appeals to outsiders. I say outsiders—Masons' wives, mothers, and daughters—do not confine the subscription list to themselves, but make applications among their friends. This is not what we want—anything started like the appeal of Bro. Fellowes. I am not surprised at its non-success, I know that Masons feel some pride that the excellent charities are supported by Masons only; we have done it, we can do it, and we will do it again, if the members of the family of a brother desire to contribute to any of charities they can do it through him. True Masons' widows and children feel the benefit of our institutions, but being outside of the Craft they do not feel so strong, perhaps, on the point, knowing as they do how well the charities are supported by the brethren, and been so well conducted hitherto.

The brethren ought to rejoice at the institutions being supported by the Craft alone, and with feelings of pride support them. Every appeal to the Craft has been nobly answered, and will be again to any motion brought forward in the proper course of business, and I consider the efforts of a single brother (noble and generous they may be) ought to be done through his lodge without appealing outside himself. Supposing there are six vacancies and 30 to fill them, we can do it, if it is thought proper by the officers to bring it forward for the benefit of the Craft. We can do anything if properly brought before us.

I think Bro. Fellowes will agree with me that we are strong, rich, numerous, and powerful enough to support our institutions and charities, without appealing to any but Masons themselves, all the more glory to us.—Yours most faithfully and fraternally,
A MASTER MASON.

PROV. GRAND LODGE OF EAST LANCASHIRE.

A special meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held in Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday, 18th of January, for the purpose of confirming the following resolutions passed at the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Heywood on the 3rd November, 1875, viz:—

1. "That an institution to be called 'The East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution' be and is hereby established in this Province."
 2. "That the bye-laws and regulations now presented by the committee be and are hereby adopted as the bye-laws and regulations of the said institution."
- There was a numerous attendance of the brethren, amongst others present being Bros. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, R.W. Prov. G. Master; J. L. Hine, P. Prov. G. Warden, as Dep. Prov. G. Master; J. T. Dugdale, Prov. S.G. Warden; C. H. Coates, Prov. J. G. Warden; T. G. Parker, P. Prov. G. Warden; Thos. Glaister, P. Prov. G. Warden; C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, P. Prov. G. Warden; Jno. W. Maclure, P. Prov. G. Warden; James A. Birch, P. Prov. G. Warden; Jno. G. Smith, P. Prov. G. Warden; Rev. F. A. Cave-Browne-Cave, Prov. G. Chaplain; Rev. C. J. Bowen, P. Prov. G. Chaplain; Samuel Statham, Prov. G. Treas.; John Barker, P. Prov. G. Treas.; Charles Heywood, P. Prov. G. Reg.; John Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec.; Peter Royle, M.D., Prov. S.G. Deacon; G. P. Brockbank, P. Prov. G.D.; Herod Turner, P. Prov. G.D.; W. H. Prince, P. Prov. G.D.; Jno. S. Veevers, P. Prov. G.D.; Isaac W. Petty, P. Prov. G.D.; Thos. Croxton, P. Prov. G.D.; Thos. Rose, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Thos. Entwisle, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Robt. Whittaker, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Thos. Grime, Assist. Prov. G.D.C.; C. M. Jones, P. Assist. Prov. G.D.C.; Thos. Taylor, Prov. G. Swd. Bearer; Henry Maiden, P. Prov. G. Swd. Bearer; Wm. Barlow, P. Prov. G. Swd. Bearer; J. W. Taylor, P. Prov. G. Orgt.; and others.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form, after which, on the proposition of the R.W. Prov. G. Master, the resolutions as above stated were unanimously confirmed.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then duly closed, and the first general meeting of the new institution was held under the presidency of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master.

The objects of the institution are the education and advancement in life of children of indigent or deceased Freemasons of the Province of East Lancashire, and to afford relief or assistance, where considered desirable, in aid of Freemasons and their families in the said province, and generally to promote the cause of Masonic charity. The constitution of the society consists of a President (the Rev. Prov. G. Master, for the time being), Trustees, Patrons

Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Life Governors, and annual subscribers. A donation of fifty pounds by one payment, or in sums of not less than five pounds each, constitutes the donor a Patron, entitled to fifty votes at all elections of children. A donation of twenty pounds by one payment, or in sums of not less than five pounds each, constitutes the donor a Vice-President, entitled to twenty votes at all elections of children. A donation of five pounds constitutes the donor a Life Governor, entitled to five votes at all elections of children. An annual subscription of five shillings entitles the subscriber to one vote at all elections of children.

The business transacted at the meeting was the appointment of Bro. Wm. Birch, P. Prov. G. Warden, as a Trustee in addition to the R.W. Prov. G. Master and the W. Dep. Prov. G. Master; the appointment of Bro. Jas. A. Birch, P. Prov. G. Warden, as Treasurer; and of Bro. Chas. Heywood, P. Prov. G. Reg., as Honorary Secretary. The following fifteen subscribers were also appointed members of the General Committee, viz.:—Bros. J. L. Hine, George Mellor, R. H. Hutchinson, C. H. Coates, John Tunnah, John Barker, G. P. Brockbank, Isaac W. Petty, J. L. Barrett, Hy. Maiden, C. M. Jones, Edwin Hardon, T. J. Hooper, Thos. Blackburne, and Benj. Smith.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Committee (appointed by Prov. Grand Lodge) for their services in preparing the bye-laws and in organizing the institution.

A subscription list was opened in the meeting for the purposes of the institution, the R.W. Prov. G. Master (Col. Starkie) heading the list with a donation of £100, and the total amount promised at the meeting exceeded £1000, thus evincing the zeal and energy with which the cause of the institution is being supported by the province.

CENTENARY OF THE LODGE OF PRUDENT BRETHREN, No. 145.

The centenary of this lodge was celebrated on Tuesday evening at Freemasons' Hall. So great an event as the attainment of the age of 100 years was not likely to be allowed to pass by without some especial notice, particularly by brethren so enthusiastic in the cause of Masonry as the Lodge of Prudent Brethren. Consequently they combined to make the event memorable in the annals of the Craft, and they gathered together, members and visitors, to the number of about 200. The original intention was to have many more, and for that purpose they endeavoured to secure the large hall of Freemasons' Tavern. But the Robert Burns festival always occupies that room on the 25th January, and the Crown-room only was at the service of the lodge. As this will only accommodate a couple of hundred persons, the arrangements had to be restricted to that number; but even with them there was no fear of the event being otherwise than successful. The arrangements had occupied several brethren's time and attention for a considerable period previously; but these brethren were well rewarded by the result.

Lodge was opened in the Zetland-room, which presented its ordinary appearance, there having been no attempt at any kind of decoration.

At half-past five lodge was opened by Bro. Geo. Purkess, W.M., assisted by Bro. E. H. Thiellay, S.W.; Bro. Mould, J.W.; the other officers, Colonel Burdett, Bro. Joshua Nunn, Bro. Cottebrune, and others. Bro. Thomas Bull, P.M., acted as D.C.

Shortly after the opening of the lodge Bro. John Boyd presented to the W.M. the centenary warrant for the lodge, issued by Grand Lodge, and authorising the brethren so long as they were members of the lodge to wear a centenary jewel. After this Bro. John Boyd was deputed by the W.M. to take the chair and instal the incoming Master.

Bro. Boyd then took the chair, and Bro. Bull presented to him Bro. E. H. Thiellay, Senior Warden, for installation, when Bro. Boyd installed him in due form. The following brethren were invested as officers:—Bros. Mould, S.W.; Haslett, J.W.; John Boyd, P.M., Treasurer; G. S. States, P.M., Secretary; Manby, Assistant Secretary; Hughes, S.D.; Leggett, J.D.; Lewis, I.G.; Lyster, D.C.; Wilkinson, A.D.C.; Torrie, W.S.; and Grant, Tyler. After the delivery of the addresses the lodge was called off, and the brethren adjourned to the tavern, where the Crown-room was beautifully and tastefully prepared for their reception. There was a nice show of flowers on the tables, and two of Rimmel's perpetual fountains. Every brother had had his place assigned to him previously, and as it was shown on a diagram before he entered the room he had no difficulty in finding his place, and thus all confusion was avoided. The brethren present were:—B. Swallow, W.M. City West; Pendlebury, P.M.; Phythian, P.M.; Welshman, P.M.; Swanborough, P.M.; C. A. Long, P.M. 25; J. Cox, W.M. Grosvenor; Smith; Venn, P.M. Gihon; J. Lewis Thomas, P.M. St. Thomas's; Thomas Lane, P.M. (of Eastbourne); Charles Martin, W.M. Globe; R. W. Little, P.M., Secretary Girls' Institution; Charles Duke, P.M. 40 (of Hastings); Dr. Trollope, P.M. 40 (of St. Leonards); the Rev. Dr. Thompson, Chaplain Girls' Institution; Herbert Dickets, P.G.S., P.M. 25, &c.; Frederick Binckes, P.M., G.S.L., Secretary Boys' Institution; Henry Norman, P.M., G.S.L.; Dr. Croucher, S.W. 40 (St. Leonards); H. Buss, P.M.; Colonel Peters, Bank of England Lodge, P.M. Thames Valley Lodge; J. Jermyn Boyd, 23; T. W. C. Lentz, 23; Mills, Grosvenor; Amor; Douglas, 23; Kirkby, Matthews, Belgrave, F. Godfrey, Grosvenor; Moody, P.M. Great Northern and Great City; Rev. M. Holden, City of Westminster; H. Reed, P.M.; H. M. Levy, P.M. Joppa; H. Massey, P.M. ("Freemason"); David Jacobs, P.M. Egyptian; J. Terry, P.M., Provincial Grand Standard Bearer Herts; J. T. Moss, P.M.; F. Walters, P.M.; P. Naylor, C. States, Distin, Carter, P.M.; John Constable, P.M. 185; C. Hammerton, P.M.; George Kenning, P.M. Lion and Lamb, 192; Captain Phillips, 33; Major Shadwell Cierke, 33; Charles Cottebrune, P.G.P.; Thomas Cubitt, P.G.P.; Joshua Nunn,

P.G.S.B.; Colonel Creaton, P.G.D.; John Hervey, P.G.D., Grand Secretary; Colonel Francis Burdett, P.G.W., Prov. G.M. Middlesex; Charles Ashenden (M.R.B.S., Hastings).

Letters of apology for absence were received from Lord Carnarvon, Lord Shrewsbury, the Rev. C. J. Martyn, Bros. E. J. McIntyre, Q.C., W. Digby Seymour, Q.C., and John Monckton, P.G.D. (Town Clerk). All these letters expressed the regret of the writers, and wished every success to the lodge.

At the conclusion of the banquet the toasts were proposed, and a selection of music was given in the intervals by Bros. Geo. Carter and Theo. Distin, Madam Osborne Williams, and Miss Matilda Scott. After the health of the Queen and the Grand Master had been given, that of "Pro Grand Master, &c.," was proposed, and Col. Burdett replied in a speech in which he revived the recollection of the brethren as to the Earl of Carnarvon's administrative powers, and the skill with which he managed the concerns of the Craft. As long as he was in the position which he now held Freemasonry would continue to flourish throughout the country. A similar compliment he paid to Lord Skelmersdale.

Bro. Hyde Pullen proposed "Prosperity to the Lodge," a toast which he said he felt almost unequal to give properly. He therefore claimed the brethren's special indulgence. The brethren were aware that this was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of its existence. The lodge had travelled for 100 years, and each year during its passage had been marked by some one kindly event doubtless in the working of the lodge. The lodge was one of the old Athole Lodges, and so worked until the Union in 1813, when it became the Prudent Brethren Lodge. The brethren worked it and carried it on thoroughly and well. He believed the first meetings were in the West End, but the lodge was afterwards removed to the East, to Bethnal Green. It was afterwards taken to Belgrave Square, when Belgrave Square was not what it is now. It was now held at Freemasons' Hall, and it had much changed during its existence. But there was this to be said, that whatever changes it had undergone the brethren had worked their way steadily, modestly, firmly. At one time they were very, very much reduced in numbers, but still they went on holding their meetings; there was no break or cessation. Therefore it was that they were now celebrating their centenary. It was mysterious to contemplate these many years. He could fancy the brethren showing many acts of kindness during that time, stretching out a helping hand to many a brother, and assisting him to overcome his difficulties. He could conceive the brethren never halting to render assistance, that the heart had been opened over and over again to receive the kind expressions, or the sympathetic feelings, which were exhibited when a brother had poured forth his distresses. In that time the kind hand must have been extended many and many a time, and much good must have been done. These were the qualities that he was sure had actuated members of that lodge years and years ago. But still there was no tale about it. Everything had been done modestly. The whole of the work had been to convey the lodge onwards, and the brethren had succeeded in doing so. He could well conceive many brethren having housed the wretched, visited the sick, administered comfort, relieved pain, and done all in their power to do to assuage suffering; and when a poor brother's spirit had been passing away into the valley of the shadow of death, had sat by his bedside and cheered his way, and afterwards assisted his widow. Many a time and oft must this have been the case in such an old lodge. Unless such had been the case the lodge could not have arrived at its present age, or to the position to which it had attained. It was by such acts, as these the brethren had been held together. Such acts had united them as a lodge. They had banded themselves together for the performance of such deeds. There was one little record in the minutes he would refer to. There was a resolution passed in the old days of the lodge that every visitor should pay a fee of 2s. towards the general expenses. To him it had a most significant meaning. It told him most distinctly and absolutely that these brethren of the lodge were given to feelings of hospitality. They were always pleased to see visitors, and yet that the visitors were ready to help their cause. He trusted that the lodge might long go on and prosper, and that it might celebrate many more such events as the one it celebrated that day.

Col. Burdett proposed "The Health of the W.M." He said he had known Bro. Thiellay from the commencement of his Masonic career. He had been through every office of the lodge, which he believed very few brethren could say of the lodge in which they had been initiated. He had always found him a most zealous and earnest Mason, doing his work thoroughly. He was confident that he would continue in that course, and he would not be surprised when Bro. Thiellay left the chair that all the brethren would be satisfied with the efficiency which he had displayed.

The W.M. responded. He had been much impressed with the honour that had been conferred upon him by placing him in the dignified position of W.M. It was the crowning point of his Masonic aspirations to be the Master of his mother lodge. The Prudent Brethren Lodge was exemplary for its concord, and unsurpassed for its good fellowship and general harmony. He was deeply grateful for the confidence thus reposed in him, and he would give his best attention to the functions of his office. He might have some shortcomings, being of foreign origin, but the brethren would extend to him some consideration, and at the end of his term he hoped to resign his trust into the hands of his successor as pure and unswayed as he had that day received it from the I.P.M. He had now to perform a very pleasing duty. Although he felt his inability to do proper justice to his throne, he would give way to nobody in the esteem he had for Bro. Boyd. He could not attempt to relate the many good services rendered by that brother to the Craft; but he could say that Bro. Boyd had been a

most active member of the lodge for upwards of a quarter of a century, holding office as W.M. for two successive years, and discharging the duties of Treasurer also for many years. The lodge was honoured by being associated with such a distinguished member of the Craft, who was also a Past Grand Officer. (Cheers.) In the name of every member of the lodge, he begged to present him with a silver service, as the oldest member of the lodge, as a token of their fervent esteem; and also a gold centenary jewel. (Cheers.) He might add that the ceremony of installation had been given by Bro. Boyd to the general satisfaction of the brethren, and that the arrangements for the festival, which had largely devolved upon Bro. Boyd, were also entirely satisfactory. He trusted Bro. Boyd would long live to enjoy these tokens of the brethren's esteem, and to remember that eventful day. He then read the inscription on the silver salver which formed part of the service, the aggregate weight of which was nearly 200 ozs.: "Presented to Bro. John Boyd, Past Grand Pursuivant, Past Master, Past Z., by the members of the Lodge of Prudent Brethren, as a token of their sincere regard, and as a mark of their great appreciation of the many services rendered by him to the lodge of which he is the Father, January 25th, 1876." The toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm.

Bro. Boyd, who was much affected, in replying said he might as well at once acknowledge that the brethren had placed him in considerable difficulty. He had had the honour of replying a good many times in various capacities, sometimes as a Grand Officer, sometimes as P.M., sometimes as Treasurer, sometimes as a Steward for the Charities. To-night he was placed in a different position, and it was very difficult for him to express fully his feelings in being presented with such a handsome silver service, and the centenary jewel. In the fulness of his heart he thanked them. He could only say, thank you. He hoped that it would have an effect both on the members and visitors, by proving to them that it was impossible for a lodge to deserve the name of Prudent Brethren, which this lodge most certainly did, unless they could keep a secret. Now this testimonial he found had been in agitation about a twelve-month; but so strictly was it kept private, that it was only recently that any one of the brethren had opened their lips to him about it. He looked upon it as a gift doubly and trebly enhanced by that secrecy. By this it had a greater charm for him. The whole proceedings of the evening had been exceedingly pleasing to him.

Bro. Boyd then proposed "The Visitors," to which toast Bros. John Hervey, G.S., and Col. Creaton, P.G.D., responded; both however, very briefly, on account of the lateness of the hour.

Bro. Thomas Bull, P.M., proposed "The Masonic Charities," and referred to the support which the lodge had always extended to those institutions, and which he hoped and believed it would extend in the future.

Bro. James Terry, Prov. G.D.C. Herts, responded, and made special allusion to the fact of more than £30,000 having been collected during last year to the three charities. He also called attention to the circumstance of the greatly increasing number of candidates for relief, which he could not but feel would in future become larger instead of smaller. He advised every member of the Craft to give a small donation, which would then enable the managers of the institutions to relieve all candidates. 8000 additional Masons were made every year. He knew the charities had the sympathies of the brethren and their most cordial co-operation in this lodge. Bro. Purkess, I.P.M., was Steward for the Benevolent Institution, and he exhorted the brethren to give him hearty support and send him up with a good list.

The W.M. then proposed "Bro. Purkess' Health," and presented him with a Past Master's and centenary jewel.

Bro. Purkess, in reply, after thanking the brethren for the gift, also reminded the brethren of his Stewardship, and appealed to the brethren to support it.

The remaining toasts were afterwards given. Lodge was resumed and closed, and the brethren separated, after having spent a most delightful evening.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The General Committee of this Institution met on Thursday at Freemasons' Hall. Col. Creaton, V.P., presided. There were also present Bros. Benj. Head, Thomas W. White, Raynham W. Stewart, H. A. Dubois, Thomas Massa, John Boyd, Henry Browne, A. H. Tattershall, S. Rawson, Magnus Ohren, W. Stephens, Robt. B. Webster, Collard Meutrie, Dr. Ramsay, Hyde Pullen, H. Massey ("Freemason"), W. Roebuck, A. H. Diaper, Dudley Rolls, W. H. Hemsworth, Major Finney, Robt. Kenyon, T. F. Peacock, and R. W. Little, Sec.

After the reading and confirmation of the minutes, the Chairman said he was very glad that the Audit Committee had recommended to the General Committee that the salary of the Secretary (Bro. Little) should be raised £50 a year. The duties of the office had very much increased, and they had been discharged, as the brethren all knew, with zeal and fidelity. He therefore, gave notice that he would move at the next Quarterly Court. "That in consideration of the increased work in the office, and the large augmentation of the receipts of the institution, the salary of the Secretary be raised £50 per annum, commencing from 1st January, 1876." He further stated that on account of the above increase in the duties of the office, he gave notice that he would move that the salary of Bro. Hedge's, Bro. Little's clerk, be raised £20 a year.

Both these announcements were received with cheers. One petition was then received, one child was withdrawn from the list of candidates, and Bro. Matier's motion, similar to that given at the Boy's School, was read, prior to its being considered at the Special Joint Court of the two Institutions.

The committee then adjourned.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the paper of business before Grand Chapter next Wednesday, which will meet at seven o'clock p.m.:

The minutes of the last quarterly convocation to be read for confirmation.

The Report of the Committee of General Purposes to the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England:—

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 20th October, 1875, to the 18th January, 1876, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To balance Grand Chapter	149	10	7
" " Unappropriated account	156	5	11
" " Subsequent receipts	371	19	9
	£677	16	3
By disbursements during the quarter	165	1	4
" " Balance	349	9	6
" " in unappropriated account.....	103	5	5
	£677	16	3

which balances are in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Chapter Committee beg to report that the Grand Scribe E. officially announced the lamented death of Comp. John Savage, P.S.B., their President, which intelligence was received with very deep and sincere regret.

The Grand Scribe E. further announced that the M.E. Prov. First Grand Principal had appointed Companion Lieut.-Colonel Creaton, P.S.B., President, in the room of Companion Savage, deceased, and Companion Robert Second Assistant Sojourner, to fill the vacancy caused by his death.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petitions:—

From Companions William Lawrence Twentyman, as Z.; William John Doveton, as H.; Richard Nathan Hubbersty, as J.; and ten others, for a chapter to be attached to the Lodge of the Rock, No. 260, Trinchinopoly, to be called "The Rock Chapter," and to meet at Trinchinopoly, Madras, East Indies.

From Companions Charles Godtschalk, as Z.; James Jackson Avery, as H.; Henry William Thomas, as J.; and ten others, for a chapter to be attached to the Dundas Lodge, No. 1255, Plymouth, to be called "The Dundas Chapter," and to meet at the Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth, Devonshire.

From Comps. Henry Griffiths, as Z.; William Henry Lloyd, as H.; Thomas Waite, as J., and six others, for a chapter to be attached to the Kennard Lodge, No. 1258, Pontypool, to be called "The Kennard Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Pontypool, Monmouthshire.

From Comps. Perceval Alleyn Nairne, as Z.; William Viner Bedolfe, as H.; James Hadland Vockins, as J., and seven others, for a chapter to be attached to the Sphinx Lodge, No. 1329, Camberwell, to be called "The Sphinx Chapter," and to meet at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell.

The foregoing petitions, being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have further to report that they have received petitions:—

From Comps. Richard Miles Roberts, as Z.; Richard William Hoskins Giddy, as H.; Francis Henry Samuel Orpen, as J.; and seven others, for a chapter to be attached to the Richard Giddy Lodge, No. 1574, Kimberley, South Africa, to be called "The Richard Giddy Chapter," and to meet at Kimberley, South Africa.

This petition is regular, excepting that the proposed J. is not yet registered as an Installed Master.

From Comps. Gabriel Joshua de Cordova, as Z.; Osmond Dilgado, as H.; David Bamed, as J.; and nine others for a chapter to be attached to the Phoenix Lodge, No. 914, Port Royal, Jamaica, to be called "The Phoenix Chapter," and to meet at Port Royal, Jamaica.

This petition is also regular, excepting that the lodge recommendation is not attached thereto.

The Committee therefore recommend that, subject to the proof of the proposed J. being an Installed Master in the case of No. 1574, and the recommendation of the lodge in the case of No. 914, which have both been written for, being respectively received, the prayers of these petitions be granted.

It having come under the notice of the Committee at their meeting on the 20th October, 1875, that Comp. Price, who was one of the petitioners for a chapter to be attached to the Royal Lebanon Lodge, No. 493, Gloucester, and who had been exalted in the Foundation Chapter, No. 82, Cheltenham, as far back as the 10th October, 1866, had not been registered until October, 1875, the Committee directed the three Principals of the chapter to be summoned to account for the neglect, and to produce their books and charter, dispensing, however, in the first instance, with the personal attendance of the Principals.

The Committee regret to say that, on an investigation of the books and registry book of Grand Chapter, a most inexcusable amount of laxity appears to have prevailed in the registration of companions exalted in the Foundation Chapter, companions exalted in 1865-6 and 7 not being registered until 1869; one exalted in 1863 and one exalted in 1866 were not registered until 1870; three exalted in 1859, one in 1863, and one in 1865 were not registered until 1871; and, without going through the whole list, it would almost appear that no companion was registered until his certificate was required for some special purpose.

The Committee therefore, to mark their sense of the great irregularities which have prevailed in the Foundation

Chapter, and its total disregard of Art. 20, page 19, of the Royal Arch Regulations, Edition 1869, or Art. 64, page 21, Edition 1875, which requires a regular return from each chapter once in every year, have inflicted a fine on the chapter to the extent of three guineas.

The Committee hope and believe that the business of the chapter for the last year or two has been conducted with more regularity, so far as relates to the registration of its members."

(Signed) JOHN CREATON,
President.

CONSECRATION OF A NEW CHAPTER AT CHESTER.

On Monday, the 17th inst., the ceremony of consecrating the Cestrian Chapter (No. 425) of Royal Arch Masons was performed, in an impressively solemn manner, by the Rt. Hon. Lord de Tabley, R.W.P.G.S. Cheshire, assisted by his provincial officers and Comp. Mugeridge, P.G.S.B. England, at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester. The following were appointed principals and officers of the chapter:—Comps. Horatio Lloyd, M.E.Z.; J. C. Robinson, H. and Treas.; J. O. Bury, J.; T. M. Lockwood, S.E.; J. Taylor, S.N.; and A. G. Smith, P.S. Among the companions present were the following:—C. Dutton, P.G.H.; S. Spratley, P.G.J.; G. W. Latham, P.G.S.E.; W. Goodacre, P.G.P.S.; W. R. Bachelor, P.G.F.A.S.; W. Fair, P. Prov. G.S.B.; C. S. Coates, P.G.C.S.; J. Whitlow, P.G.S.B.; R. Newhouse, P.G.D.C.; J. S. Darvill, J. A. Birch, P. Prov. G.J.; D. Thomas, M.H. 721; J. Boves, P. Prov. G.S.B. West Lancashire; J. Salmon, 721; J. Ormiston, 368; R. J. Sisson, 721; J. J. Cunah, 721; and others. The proceedings concluded with a banquet.

Scotland.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. John (No. 31).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held within their hall, 213, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on Tuesday evening, 17th inst. The W.M. Bro. D. M. Neilson, presided, with Bros. Sellars, S.W.; Brownlie, J.W.; and John Dick, Secretary, in their respective places. The lodge having been opened the following brethren were passed to the Degree of F.C. by Bro. Thomas B. Bell, S.M.:—James Hamilton, Alex. Govans, John Park, Samuel Palmer, David Gardiner, Robert S. Donaldson, John Riddell, A. Ramsay, Alex. Smith, and John Adams. At the same time Bro. Natham, from Lodge Marie Stuart, No. 541, also received the same degree on behalf of that lodge. At the regular meeting of the lodge, which immediately followed the sederunt being the same, two approved candidates were initiated into the Order at the hands of Bro. William Bell, I.P.M. The lodge thereafter went on to harmony. The agreeable character of the meeting was much enhanced by the presence of Bros. Stenbridge, Ray, and Robert Fraser, the well-known professional vocalists.

COLTNESS.—Lodge St. Mary's (No. 31).—The annual meeting of this lodge took place in Bro. Scott's hall, on Monday, 27th ult., to celebrate the festival of St. John, and elect office-bearers for 1876. The lodge was opened by Bro. Kelso, W.M., when the report of the Auditing Committee was read and approved. Mr. David Cumming, who was proposed at last meeting, was initiated in the E.A. Degree by Bro. Brownlie. The election of office-bearers was then proceeded with, when the following were duly elected:—Bros. R. Kelso, W.M.; Charles Gilchrist, P.M.; R. Shaw, D.M.; S. Naismith, S.M.; A. Brownlie, S.W.; J. Barr, J.W.; J. Scott, Treasurer; M. Walker, Secretary; W. Forrest, Chaplain; W. C. Wilson, B.B.; D. Shaw, S.D.; J. Moore, J.D.; J. A. Frost, S.S.; E. Naismith, J.S.; C. Fisher, S.B.; J. Jackson, I.G.; T. Bradwood, Tyler. The election over, about forty of the brethren sat down to a banquet provided by Bro. Scott, and a very happy evening was spent. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to.

STONEHAVEN.—St. John's Lodge (No. 65).—On Monday, the 27th ult., the election of office-bearers of this lodge took place at Stonehaven, when the following members were elected, namely:—W.M., J. Crockatt; P.M., J. Thom; S.W., R. B. Tawse; J.W., J. R. Wilson; S.D., J. Chisholm; J.D., J. Murray, jun.; I.G., G. Tawse; Chap., G. S. Caird. After the business of the lodge was over the brethren sat down to an excellent supper, laid in their hall, Arbutnott-street, where a very agreeable evening was spent, under the chairmanship of Bro. Crockatt, assted by Bro. R. B. Tawse as croupier.

PARTICK.—Lodge St. Mary (No. 117).—A meeting of this lodge was held in their new hall, Douglas-street, on Friday evening, the 14th inst., Bro. William Wylie, W.M., presiding, Bro. David Peacock, S.W., and Bro. Andrew Agnew, J.W. There was a large turn out of members. The lodge having been opened, Bros. George T. Trotter, Alexander Goudie, James Jamieson, Samuel Blackstock, John McKenzie, John Reid, Donald Bain, John McConnachie, David Forsyth, Allan McKay, and Robert Ramsay, were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by Bro. Wylie, W.M.

PAISLEY.—St. Mirren's Lodge (No. 129).—The annual festival of St. John of the brethren of Paisley St. Mirren's Lodge, No. 129, took place on Monday, 27th ult., in the hall, at which there was a goodly attendance. The chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. H. S. Edmonds, who was supported by the Depute Master, Bro. T. Bustard, P.M.'s Bros. A. McLeod, J. Gilmour, A. Wallace, and J. Carswell; Bro. A. McPherson, Sec.; P. Blair, Treas. The S.W., Bro. Gemmill, and the J.W., Bro. Fisher, were in their respective places. The lodge having been opened, an excellent dinner was partaken of. Thereafter the loyal toasts were given, as also those of the G. Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the P. Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, by the R.W.M. Bro. G. Fisher gave

"The Army, Navy, and Volunteers." The W.M., in proposing the toast of the evening, said it was with satisfaction that they viewed year after year the continued prosperity of the lodge. During the past year they had added to the roll twenty-four affiliated members. The income had been in excess of the expenditure, the latter having been during the past unusually heavy, owing to repairing and redecoration of the hall. With all that they had not been unmindful of those who by misfortune had been reduced in circumstances, and in all such cases the brethren had subscribed liberally. Referring to the proposed Masonic Benevolent Institution, he expressed the hope that by next year it would be in working order. Its objects were to provide halls in the Scottish Universities to receive and maintain, clothe and educate, the sons of Freemasons of every religious denomination, who were in needful circumstances; also to provide schools for girls in similar circumstances; and also to provide an asylum for destitute Freemasons and their widows, or annuities to maintain them. The Chairman concluded by saying that it must be with satisfaction that the members of St. Mirren's heard that Bro. Gilmour had tabled a motion for the increase of the funds payable to the benevolent funds from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d., and he expressed the hope that it would be carried. During the evening deputations were sent to Lodges Renfrew County Kilwinning, No. 370, Houston St. Johnstone, No. 242, and Renfrew Prince of Wales; and deputations were received from these lodges respectively, and also from Lodge Dalmar St. John's, No. 543.

KILBARCHAN.—Lodge St. Barchan (No. 156).—On the evening of Monday, the 27th ult., this lodge met in their hall there to celebrate the festival of St. John. After the lodge had been opened by Bro. Cunningham, P.M., the brethren formed a torchlight procession, accompanied by a brass band, and, according to use and wont, met their recently-elected W.M., Bro. W. Lewis. They then preambulated the various streets of the village, and returned to the lodge, where the W.M. took the chair, and called the brethren from labour to refreshment. Thereafter a very pleasant evening was spent, with repartee, combining to make everything agreeable.

MAUCHLINE.—Lodge St. Mungo (No. 179).—On Thursday evening, the 13th inst., the brethren of this lodge held their anniversary in the London Hotel. There was a good number of the members present. After dinner the lodge was duly opened, when the following brethren were installed into office, viz.:—Bros. T. Harvey, solicitor, W.M.; R. Armour, P.M.; J. Reid, D.M.; A. Pollock, S.W.; D. Laurie, J.W.; G. Campbell, Treas.; J. Reid, Sec.; Rev. G. Fairlie, Chap.; G. Lambie, S.D.; J. Killen, Steward; R. Lennox, I.G.; and J. Learie, Tyler. Bro. R. Armour, on retiring from office, was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel and a purse of sovereigns. The jewel was presented by Bro. J. Reid, D.M., and after spending a happy evening the brethren closed the lodge in due form. The jewel was supplied by Bro. George Kenning, 9, West Howard-street, Glasgow.

CARLUKE.—St. John's Lodge (No. 187).—The annual election of office-bearers of this lodge took place on Monday, 27th ult. The following elections were made:—Bros. T. Sommerville, W.M.; Campbell, P.M.; W. Findlay, S.M.; A. Moffatt, J.W.; J. Gray, Sec.; R. Finlay, Treas.; A. Hamilton, D.M.; H. Robertson, Substitute; P. Edmond, S.D.; W. Campbell, J.D.; J. Moffat, I.G.; W. Gegg, S.S.; R. Moffat, J.S.; A. Marshall, Chap.; J. Sommerville, S.B.; A. Bankier, Tyler. The brethren of the lodge sat down to supper in the Black Bull Inn, Carluke, Bro. Campbell, P.M., in the chair.

BALLATER.—St. Nathallan's Lodge (No. 259).—The annual general meeting of the brethren of this lodge was held in the Albert Memorial Hall on Monday, the 10th inst. After initiation of several new members the brethren proceeded to the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, when the following were elected:—Colonel J. R. Farquharson, of Invercauld, W.M.; J. Reid, P.M.; J. Deavy, D.M.; Dr. Beattie, S.M.; W. Coutts, S.W.; D. Mitchell, J.W.; J. Pringle, Treas.; L. Ritchie, Sec.; C. Milne, S.D.; J. Donald, J.D.; J. Stephen, Chap.; W. Lowe, S.S.; D. Wilkie, J.S.; J. Ingram, I.G.; and J. Coutts, Tyler. After the election the brethren formed in order, and marched to Monaltrie House, one of the country seats of Colonel Farquharson, headed by Bro. McHardy, who played on the bagpipes; thence they marched to Invercauld Arms, where the brethren, to the number of fifty, sat down to dinner. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and cordially responded to. To the toast of "The Sister Lodges," Bro. Dinnie, of St. John's Lodge, Aboyne, suitably replied. A spirited ball was opened in the hall at half-past nine o'clock, and kept up until an advanced hour in the morning. Music was supplied by the Brothers Blair, ably assisted by Anderson and Ingram.

ROTHESAY.—Rothsay St. John's Lodge (No. 292).—The Rev. R. G. Weldon, Honorary Chaplain of this lodge, preached to the brethren on Sabbath evening, 26th ult., in the Episcopal Church, to a full congregation. The sermon is to be printed. St. John's anniversary was celebrated on Monday evening in the Victoria Hot., when about eighty brethren supped together. The brethren paraded the town by torchlight, and were headed by the new Rothsay brass band.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. Clair (No. 362).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in their hall, 25, Robertson-street, on Monday evening, the 10th inst. Bro. W. J. Hogg, W.M., in the chair; Bro. A. Rutherford, sen., S.W., and Bro. C. Galletly, J.W. There were also present:—Bros. G. Thallon, P.M.; R. Glass, D.M.; W. Pascoe, Treas.; G. Fraser, Sec.; W. Galbraith, S.D.; Mack Fox, J.D.; A. Taylor, Org.; A. Bowie, Chap.; R. Genese, 362; J. Henderson, 31; R. Kearney, 86; J. Melville, 173; J. Annand, 465; and W. Ferguson ("Freemason"). The lodge having been opened and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for holding the annual festival, in the latter end of February

next. Mr. A. Rutherford, jun., was initiated into the mysteries of the First Degree of Freemasonry by Bro. W. J. Hogg, W.M.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Union (No. 332).—A meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 170, Buchanan-street, on Monday evening, the 17th inst., Bro. D. McKirdy, W.M., in the chair, supported by Bros. J. B. McNair, I.P.M.; J. M. Innes, S.W.; H. Apperson, J.W.; John Laird, Treas.; and J. H. Gill, Sec. The lodge was opened and the Secretary read the minutes of last meeting, which were approved of. Mr. Robert Carnachan was initiated by Bro. McKirdy, W.M. After disposing of other minor business, the lodge was closed.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. George (No. 333).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, on Wednesday evening, 12th inst. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. Thomson, W.M., Bro. J. Winton, P.M., presided; Bro. J. Forsyth, S.W., and Bro. R. Anderson, J.W. There was a fair attendance of members and visiting brethren present, among whom were Bros. J. Findlay, S.M.; A. Dunn, Treas.; Archd. McIntyre, Sec.; T. Stewart, P.M.; A. Boyd, S.D.; T. Hill, J.D.; J. Stewart, 360; and W. Ferguson ("Freemason"). Three gentlemen were initiated into the First Degree by Bro. Findlay, S.M., viz.:—Messrs. R. Hunter, J. Cormack, and J. R. Adams. It was afterwards agreed to hold the annual festival on the 24th of March, and a committee was appointed for that purpose.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Caledonian Railway (No. 354).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 30, Hope-street, on Wednesday evening, 19th inst., Bro. James Shaw, W.M., presiding; Bros. Adam B. Ferguson, S.W.; and John Harley, J.W.; there were also present Bros. A. A. Smith, P.M.; R. W. Lean, Sec.; D. Leitch, S.D.; James Harley, J.D.; D. Reid, P.M. 465; James Duthie, 219; R. Walker, jun., Sec. 541; Robt. Fraser, 413; and Wm. Ferguson, ("Freemason"); and others. The lodge having been opened the Secretary read the minutes of a meeting of the lodge committee, held on the 17th inst., to consider the resignation of office by the W.M., of which he had given notice at last regular meeting. After minor business had been transacted, the W.M., Bro. Shaw, said it was now his duty to place his resignation in the hands of the P.M. of the lodge, and he begged to do so accordingly. Bro. A. Arrick Smith, P.M., said he had been very sorry to hear of Bro. Shaw's intention to resign the chair. He (Bro. Smith) should be very happy should he yet see fit to continue, but if not, it was his duty in the absence of the I.P.M., Bro. W. Montgomerie Neilson to accept of the resignation, which he did with deep regret, and he thought the least thing they could do was to minute a vote of thanks to him for his conduct in the chair for a period of two years and the portion of a third year. He had formally to move that Bro. Shaw's resignation be accepted. Bro. James Reid said that if it must be done, he had, with great reluctance to second the motion, which was accordingly passed. The lodge then proceeded to the arrangement of office-bearers entailed by Bro. Shaw's withdrawal. Bro. A. B. Ferguson, S.W., was elected to the Office of W.M. Bro. John Harley, J.W., to the Office of S.W., Bro. Colin McKenzie, to the Office of J.W., and Bro. James Reid to the office of Jeweller, vacated by Bro. McKenzie. The lodge thereafter adjourned to refreshment.

PAISLEY.—Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge (No. 370).—This lodge met on the 16th ult., when the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Bros. John Marshall, W.M.; James Anderson, P.M.; Richard McGibbon, S.W.; Mark Cook, J.W.; James Lee, Treas.; John Nicholson, Chaplain; John Gordon, Archt.; Charles Galbraith, S.D.; John Harkness, J.D.; John Lyle, Jeweller; Matthew Gilmour, S.S.; John Heiton, J.S.; Duncan McCullum, Org.; Wm. Niven, S.B.; Edward Morrison, B.B.; Peter Fulton, I.G.; Thomas Cochrane, Tyler. After the election the retiring R.W.M. duly installed Bro. John Marshall as W.M. After some conversation it was agreed to celebrate the Festival of St. John in their lodge on Monday, the 27th ult., on which evening the lodge met for that purpose. At seven o'clock the W.M. took the chair, supported on the right by Bro. John Barr, from New Zealand, and P.M. Jas. Anderson; and on the left by Bro. J. A. MacKean, P.M.; and Bro. Geo. Masson. There was a goodly attendance of members of the lodge, and representatives from Paisley St. Mirren's and St. John's, Greenock. The company partook of a substantial supper, served in his usual good style by Bro. Sinclair. After the cloth was removed, the Chairman and others gave the toasts, "The Queen," "The Craft," "The Prince and Princess of Wales," "The Grand Lodge of Scotland, England, and Ireland, with their respective Masters," "Provincial Lodge of Renfrewshire East," coupled with Colonel Campbell, Provincial Grand Master, replied to by Bro. R. McGibbon, which were all duly responded to, the toasts being intermingled with songs and recitations. The Chairman then referred to the financial state of the lodge, and said that it was in a pretty good condition, and hoped that in the ensuing year it would not be in a less prosperous condition. The W.M. then called upon Bro. Ex-Bailie Masson, who in a neat and appropriate speech presented a handsome silver tea-service with the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. James Anderson, P.M., by Lodge R.C.K., 370, 1876, as a token of respect, and in acknowledgment of his past services and good work for the benefit of the lodge in the various offices he had filled, and more especially during the past three years as W.M.," which was very feelingly replied to by Bro. James Anderson. Bro. John Barr, New Zealand, gave several pieces in prose and verse of his own composition, which were all exceedingly well received, especially "The Pedigree of the Clan," and "The Tinker's Wedding." Bro. McGibbon rendered effectively several sentimental songs. Bro. Lewis caused great laughter by the comic song, "The

Ark." "The Auld, Auld Wife," from W.M., was also very well received. Before closing the lodge resolved to go on with good work, and not to stop "Till man to man, the world o'er, would brothers be and a' that."

CATRINE.—St. John's Catrine (No. 497).—On the evening of the 27th ult., the brethren of the above lodge celebrated St. John's day by having supper in the Crown Hotel Hall. The brethren assembled in their lodge-room, from whence, preceded by the Bleaching Works Brass Band, they went in procession through the village. After arriving in the hall, the lodge was opened in due form, and the brethren having been called from labour to refreshment, an excellent supper was served up by mine host, Bro. T. Drysdale, in a style which gave the utmost satisfaction to all. The cloth having been removed the R.W.M. (Bro. C. McDonald) gave in succession "The Queen," "The Prince of Wales," and "The Three Grand Lodges," which were duly honoured. During the evening "St. James, Tarbolton, 135," was given, coupled with Bro. Alex. McCall, and "St. John's, New Cumnock, 334," coupled with Bro. P. Milligan, was given, and duly honoured and acknowledged. Toast, song, recitation, and sentiment filled up the remainder of a pleasant evening. Toast and sentiment from the W.M., also Bros. Hair, Montgomery, Hamilton, Brown, Meikle, and Hood; songs from Bros. Gemmell, Mearns, Gillies, and Stirling; and recitations from Bros. McDonald, Drysdale, Meikle, and Hood. After "Auld lang syne," and high twelve having been indicated, the lodge was closed in due and ancient form, about sixty sitting down to supper.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Clyde (No. 408).—A meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, 170, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on Friday evening, 21st inst. Bro. William Harper, W.M. in the chair. Wm. Bilsland, S.W.; W. S. Williamson, S.D., acting J.W. Present: Bros. Duncan Downie, P.M.; John Buchanan, P.M.; John McInnes, S.M.; Wm. Anderson, Treas.; Alex. Cross, Sec.; John Bannerman, D.M. 73; Malcolm Stark, 419; and W. Ferguson, ("Freemason"). On the lodge being opened and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. Peter McMillan was passed to the Fellow Craft Degree by Bro. Harper W.M. No other business of importance was brought forward.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Glasgow (No. 441).—This lodge met in the Masonic Hall, 22, Struthers-street, Calton, on Tuesday evening, the 11th inst., Bro. J. Wood, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. Taylor, P.M.; P. McNancy, S.W.; J. Neagle, J.W.; Martin, Treas.; and Goldie, Sec. Among others present were Bros. E. Arthur, Mother Kilwinning; G. W. Wheeler, 73; A. Gillen, 129; and W. Ferguson ("Freemason"). The lodge was opened and the Secretary read the minutes of the two previous meetings, which were adopted. Mr. C. W. Marlow was initiated by the W.M., and Bro. W. Alexander passed by Bro. W. Taylor, P.M. Bro. W. B. Fisher, M.M. Lodge St. James, Newton Ayr, No. 125, was affiliated a joining member.

MILLPORT.—Kelburne Lodge (No. 459).—The ancient festival was celebrated in the Cumbrae Hotel on Monday, 27th ult., by the brethren of this lodge. About half-past six o'clock a grand torchlight procession was formed, and marched through the burgh to the merry strains of the band of the 2nd Bute Artillery. At eight o'clock a large company sat down to an excellent supper in Mrs. King's hall. The chair was occupied by Bro. M. Swan, W.M., Bro. J. Cunningham, S.W., acting as Croupier. The usual loyal toasts were ably given from the chair, and heartily responded to. Dr. MacGowan, in a humorous speech, gave "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," which was acknowledged by Sergeant Gibb. The toast of "The Millport Bailies and Commissioners" was enthusiastically received, and ably responded to by Bailie Robertson. "The Press" was replied to by Bro. R. W. Brown, and "The Chair" by the W.M. Altogether a pleasant evening was spent, the proceedings being much enlivened by the music of the band and the singing of the brethren.

UDDINGSTON.—A large and influential meeting was held on Tuesday evening, the 18th inst., in Mr. Buce's schoolroom, Bro. McMurdo in the chair, when it was resolved to apply to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for a charter constituting a Masonic lodge, to be held in Uddingston, and dedicated to St. Bride, the patron saint of Bothwell. Twenty-four candidates having been enrolled for initiation, the meeting elected the following office-bearers, viz.:—Bros. Easton, W.M.; Wilson Walker, S.M.; Halkett, S.W.; J. Baird, jun., J.W.; Shoot, Treas.; Crawford, Sec.; J. Walker, S.D.; Robertson, J.D.; Bryden, S.S.; Watson, J.S.; Ruddoch, I.G.; and Wray, Tyler.

COCKBURN'S UNITED SERVICE AGENCY SOCIETY.—On several occasions reference has been made to the usefulness of the Cheque Bank system for small amounts, the origination of which system is claimed by Cockburn's United Agency Society, established 1871. After five years' experience, and in complete working order, special advantages are stated, viz., the allowance of 2½ per cent. annually, at Christmas, on the minimum monthly balance in even ten pounds of all accounts then open. COCKBURN'S GUARANTEED CHEQUE BOOKS are issued in amounts from £1, £3, £5 to £100; and the attention of officers of both services, travellers and residents at home, the Colonies, India, America, and Continental States, in addition to securing guaranteed cheques is directed to the society's undertaking the several duties of AGENCY business; offering to the members, at an economic rate, advantages unattainable by other medium. On application to the chief office, 41, Haymarket, S.W., every information is afforded.

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.

A movement has been initiated among the Freemasons of East Lancashire, for establishing "a systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution." At a recent meeting held at the Masonic Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester, the Prov. G.M. (Bro. Le Gendre Starkie) introduced the subject to the brethren, and a code of regulations was considered and approved of. The objects of the institution were defined to be the "education and advancement in life of children of indigent or deceased Freemasons of the province, and to afford relief or assistance where considered desirable in aid of Freemasons and their families in the said province, and generally to promote the cause of Masonic charity." It was decided to elect annually, from the general committee, a certain number of members to act as an education committee, whose duty should be to supervise the education of all children elected on the institution, select schools for them, arrange terms, and require reports from schoolmasters, parents, and guardians. It is provided that in case of any child exhibiting peculiar talent for a particular branch of education calculated to be practically useful in after life, instruction shall be provided accordingly, and a sum of £20 awarded to any deserving pupil on finishing the educational course. There was a large attendance of Masters and Past Masters of the various lodges in the province, Bolton, Bury, Burnley, Accrington, and Preston being among the towns represented. The Prov. G.M. headed the subscription list with £100. It was also suggested that each brother in the province should, through his lodge, subscribe not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, to the fund.

For a number of years there has been a talk of forming a lodge in the neighbourhood of Neston and Parkgate, several miles from Birkenhead, for the convenience of numerous brethren resident in that district. Nothing definite, however, was done in the matter till last August, when a preliminary meeting was held in Bro. Acton's Union Hotel, Parkgate, with the view of establishing a Craft lodge in the neighbourhood. At a well attended meeting it was agreed upon to present the required petition to Bro. the Rt. Hon. Lord de Tabley, R.W.P.G.M., for the purpose of obtaining the warrant to constitute the lodge, to be called the Dee Lodge. The warrant has been obtained, and it is expected the lodge will be consecrated next Thursday, 3rd February, by Lord de Tabley. The Master elect is Bro. T. Chesworth, P.M., and the Secretary Bro. N. J. Lewis, 193, Rothes Maryshire. The lodge will hold its meetings at the Union Hotel, Parkgate.

We ("Figaro") hear there is every likelihood that Sir N. M. de Rothschild, M.P. for Aylesbury, the heir of the late Sir A. de Rothschild, will, though a Liberal, be raised to the peerage by Mr. Disraeli. The same journal states that Sir Anthony de Rothschild's fortune, in realty and personalty, nearly reaches ten millions sterling.

Bro. J. D. Allcroft, the treasurer of Christ's Hospital, has, at his own expense, leased, for the recreation of the Blue-coat boys, a field leading from Dulwich to Herne Hill.

A number of the citizens of Dublin have resolved to forward to the Queen a request that she might visit the Irish capital this year.

A telegram from Vienna announces that Bro. Alderman Stone, late Lord Mayor of London, has been made a Knight Commander of the Order of Francis Joseph, by the Emperor of Austria. Upon Bro. Vine, secretary to the Lord Mayor, the Gold Cross of Merit has been conferred.

It is stated that in consideration of the painful circumstances under which the late Commodore Goodenough, C.B., lost his life at Santa Cruz, while in the execution of his duty, the Treasury has sanctioned the award of a special pension of £300 per annum to the widow of this lamented officer.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES.—One of her Majesty's couriers passed through Dover on Wednesday, en route for Copenhagen, to make arrangements for the return of the Princess of Wales. Her Royal Highness is expected to arrive at Dover on or about Feb. 4.

The fifteen sections will be worked by Bro. Mark Gross, at the Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction, on Wednesday next, at 7 o'clock, at the Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston.

Bro. T. W. Boord, M.P. (320), for the Borough of Greenwich, has announced his intention of addressing his constituents at Woolwich on February 1st, and at New-cross, February 3rd.

The Fifteen Sections will be worked at the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction No. 1507, 269, Pentonville-road, on Monday, February 7th, at 6.30 p.m., by Bro. J. R. Stacey, P.M. St. James's Union Lodge, Preceptor of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, No. 1056, and brethren from the lodge. The brethren of one lodge will thus visit the brethren of the other. The chair will be taken by Bro. T. A. Adams, P.M., P.G.P.

A Re-union of Knights Templar, we are informed by an official circular from the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, will take place in the City of Philadelphia, on the 30th May, 31st May, and 1st June of this year. A Grand Templar parade will be announced on the latter date.

