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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

DERBY.—HARTINGTON LODGE (No. 1085).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Gower-street, on Wednesday, 6th inst. The brethren present were Bros. S. Pipes, W.M.; J. Worsnop, P.M.; W. Heathcote, S.W.; T. Gadsby, J.W.; M. H. Bobart, Treas.; Geo. Pipes, Sec.; Theo. Hills, S.D.; J. Heathcote, J.D.; J. H. Biggs, I.G.; Josh. Shaw, D.C.; G. F. Edwards, Organist; T. Slinn, Tyler; Hepworth, Manton, Butterfield, Johnson. Visitors: Bros. W. F. Cox, P.M. 1021; E. Woolf, 1474, W.M.; Geo. Cay, 731; Baldwin, 802. The lodge was opened at 7.15 p.m. The first business was to read the circular, after which the minutes of the last regular lodge, and likewise the lodge of emergency, were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Mr. J. H. Pragnell, who was duly elected. Bros Lane and Hill were next tested in the questions leading from the Second to the Third Degree, which being answered in an efficient manner, they retired for preparation. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. Bros Lane and Hill were then raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Masons in ancient and solemn form by the W.M. The lodge being resumed in the First Degree, Bros. Gore and Pragnell were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry by the W.M. Bro. S. Pipes was congratulated much for the very efficient manner in which he performed the whole of the ceremonies, it being rather an unusually lengthy programme for four ceremonies to be fully worked in the course of one lodge night. After the W.M. had received the hearty good wishes from the visiting brethren, the lodge was closed with prayer in perfect harmony and brotherly love. The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting-room, where a most substantial supper awaited them, after which the usual Masonic toasts were given, and most heartily received. The evening was enlivened with appropriate songs from the brethren. The Tyler's toast being given, the evening was brought to a close, general satisfaction being manifested by all the brethren present.

LANCASTER.—Rowley Lodge (No. 1105).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Rooms, Athenæum. The W.M., Bro. H. Longman, presided, and there was a good attendance of members, including several visiting brethren. The lodge having been opened in the First Degree with solemn prayer, the minutes of last regular meeting, and of emergency meetings, were read and confirmed. Bro. Thomas Bell having given proof of his proficiency as an Entered Apprentice, was entrusted, and retired, and the lodge having been opened in the Second Degree, he was re-admitted, and passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, the working tools being presented by the S.W. (Bro. T. Jackson). Bro. John Thomas Jackson was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, the working being effectively and solemnly gone through by the W.M., who also presented the working tools. The lodge having closed down, the usual proclamations were made, which elicited hearty responses from the visiting brethren, after which the lodge was closed with the peculiarities of the Craft.

MANCHESTER.—Lodge of Truth (No. 1458).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, September 2nd, at private rooms, Newton Heath. The minutes of last regular and emergency meetings were read and confirmed. The ballot for Mr. Duckworth proved favourable. Bro. Goodchilde was passed to the Second Degree by Bro. Caldwell, P.M. A letter was read from one of the members tendering his resignation, which was accepted. After the lodge was closed the brethren and visitors sat down to a substantial tea. The new Masonic song, "Friendship, Love, and Truth," composed by Bro. Batchelder, S.W., and dedicated to the Worshipful Master, Bro. Kent, and the members of the lodge, was sung by Bro. Nicholson with great success, and to the delight of the brethren, who are much pleased with their Senior Warden's composition. A pleasant and harmonious evening was spent, and the brethren separated about 9.30 p.m.

HALLIFORD.—Thames Valley Lodge (No. 1460).—This thriving and very excellent lodge met on Saturday, 2nd inst., being its last gathering for this year, emergencies excepted. Many of the brethren were absent, either being on the moors or abroad. President, Bro. J.

Llewellyn Jones, W.M.; W. T. Howe, S.W., P.M., &c.; T. Burdett Yeoman, J.W.; Sweetland, S.D.; Alcock, J.D.; D. Gowan, I.G. The lodge was opened in due form, and business was at once proceeded with. Bro. Thomas was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and Bro. Beaumont was passed. It is but a poor compliment to pay to the W.M., whose working is really and truly of a very superior character; not a blurr or slip marks his utterance of the whole ritual. In the experience of the writer of 15 years I have never heard the beautiful lectures and the whole of the three degrees worked with such precision and pointed enunciation. The W.M. positively entrances one; to say so is not adulation. The following lodge brethren were present:—Bros. Colonel Peters, P.M. and Founder; Dr. Brette, P.M. 1460, Treas.; Paas, P.M., Sec.; J. G. Marsh, P.M.; Stone, the host; Dunn, P.M., Townsend, P.M.; Hislop. Visitors: Bros. the Hon. O. G. Lambert, Southend; Leigh, Canonbury; Green, Star; and another brother whose name is forgotten, which he will please to pardon. Towards the closing of the lodge Bro. T. W. Howe, S.W., was unanimously elected to fill the chair as W.M. for the ensuing year, amidst hearty greetings. The W.M. paid the W.M. elect a fine tribute of praise by saying he did not know a brother who was more able to fill the chair he was about to vacate than Bro. Howe. He felt himself covered with honour by such a brother following upon his shadow. He was bound to compliment the brethren upon their choice. Bro. Howe replied briefly by saying his best thanks, and that he should be perfectly satisfied to follow in the footsteps of their W.M., whom he only wished to emulate—surpass was impossible. As a matter of right, that most excellent man and Mason, Bro. Paas, was re-elected Treasurer, who said so long as the brethren kept him in funds he should never complain, and that they would find he should always do his duty to them so long as they supplied him with the means. At present he had no complaint to lay against them from straitened circumstances. He thanked them for re-electing him and their sterling contributions. Bro. Woodcock was re-elected Tyler. The lodge was then formally closed. At the banquet, which followed immediately, grace was graciously said by the W.M. Credit was done to the well laden and groaning tables, with viands and wines of the choicest. Bro. Stone is a first-class host, and pays every attention to the wants and wishes of the brethren. The Ship at Halliford bears a good name, and worthily. The routine of toasts was given, and "The G.M." with enthusiasm. There was a significant and marked feeling of respect paid to the toast and health of the R.W.P.G.M., Col. F. Burdett. It is truly delightful to see, at all times, how the mention of his name is a sign for applause. Bro. Colonel Peters, in whose hands was placed this toast said that he did not think any Mason lived so fondly in the hearts of the brethren as did their R.W.P.G.M., and he assured the brethren that from expressions he had heard fall from his lips, that they were truly fatherly, having no favourites, but if you were true to your obligation all had his equal regard and respect, and for himself he believed that was the cause why the Province of Middlesex was so prosperous. (Hear hear, and that's true.) And let me say that I also feel proud to think that I was the founder and father of this most excellent lodge. Bro. Rev. Dr. Brette in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," paid him compliments of encomium, which are not often heard, and to which every brother present chanted, So mote it be. He had gained the highest respect of all present, and lived in their hearts, and if the lodge had been founded by Colonel P.M. Peters, no doubt its consolidation was owing to the chair being so admirably filled by the present W.M. In proposing that a Past Master's jewel (in open lodge) be presented to Bro. J. Jones, he could not find words sufficiently expressive of admiration towards him. In reply to the observation of Bro. P.M. Brette, the W.M. said it was very flattering to hear one's-self thus spoken of, but from their observations he heard that he, like a good soldier had done his duty. Upon the toast of "P.M." being proposed, Bro. Dr. Brette, in a very humorous and brief speech, set the brethren in roars of laughter, from the tone of voice in which he spoke. He said that it was all through his being a Past Master, and being put down along with the 'old' ones. He then drew the attention of the brethren to the charities, and who would be Stewards; there was no lack of brethren ready to fill these parts. At once the W.M. agreed, W.M. Elect Howe agreed, and P.M. Brette agreed. Thus the three charities are represented by Stewardships, and in less than five minutes the Worshipful Master announced that over one hundred guineas had been subscribed. There were but seventeen brethren present. This speaks well for this lodge; it is beyond praise. The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

MORECAMBE.—Morecambe Lodge (No. 1561).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Room, Morecambe-street, on the 1st inst., Bro. Captain Garnett, the W.M., presided, and there was a good attendance of members and visiting brethren. The lodge was opened with solemn prayer in the First Degree, and the minutes of previous meeting having been confirmed the ballot was taken for Bro. T. H. Tidswell, 469, who was unanimously elected a joining member. The ballot was also taken for Mr. N. J. Wane, which was unanimous, but owing to his being unavoidably absent his initiation was deferred to next meeting. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. T. Williams having given proficiency as a Fellow Craftsman was entrusted and retired. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, and Bro. Wilkinson having been re-admitted he was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, the working tools being presented by Bro. Longman, W.M. 1051. The lodge was subsequently resumed in the First Degree, when the usual procla-

mations were made, which elicited the hearty good wishes of visiting brethren, and the lodge closed in peace, love and harmony.

Royal Arch.

LANCASTER.—Rowley Chapter (No. 1051).—The regular meeting of this chapter was held on the 21st ult., in the Masonic Rooms, Athenæum. There were present Comps. E. Airey, M.E.Z.; Heald, H.; E. Simpson, P.G.S.B., as J.; Dr. Moore, P.G.S.B. of E., as E.; H. Longman, S.N.; W. Hall, P.S.; J. Ellenshaw, First Asst. Soj.; J. J. Crokell, Second Asst. Soj.; P. Dickinson, and others. The ballot having been taken for Bro. K. A. Stansfeld, he was unanimously elected, and being present was, with Bro. R. Wolfenden, who had been elected at a previous meeting, duly installed to the degree of R.A. by the M.E.Z., the mystic and histrionic lectures being delivered by Comp. Dr. Moore, and the symbolical by Comp. Heald.

Knights Templar.

PRESTON.—Preston Preceptory.—An emergency meeting of this preceptory was held in the Masonic Rooms, at the Bull Hotel, on the 29th ult. Bro. W. W. Cottam, the Eminent Preceptor, presided, and the other officers present were Sir Knts. Airey and Harding, as Croupier and Marshal, and Capt. White as Equerry. There were also present P.E.M.'s Galloway and Worsley, Sir Knights Barnes and Helme, and others. The eminent Sub-Prior, Sir Knt. Beswick Roys, was also present, and conferred the degree on Bro. Capt. Sykes. Comp. Bro. Lieut. Fletcher (84th Regt.) having been balloted for was unanimously elected and duly installed a Knight of the illustrious Order. The preceptory was afterwards closed with all the formalities of the Order, and the brethren subsequently banquetted together. We understand that this Order is in a very flourishing and prosperous condition in this district.

Mark Masonry

PANMURE LODGE (No. 139).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Balham Hotel, Balham, on Monday, September 4th, 1876. There were present Bros. C. Pulman, W.M., in the chair; Thos. Poore, I.P.M., P.P.G.S.; John Read, P.G. Org.; Platt, P.M.; George Silby, P.M. and Treas.; Daniel Trusley, S.W. and W.M. elect; M. S. Larham, J.W.; Wm. Poore, M.O.; M. Speigal, S.O.; John Wolmsley, J.O.; James J. Joseph, R. of M.; C. P. McKay, Sec.; John Thos. Gibson, S.D.; William Ackland, J.D.; Wm. McMurray, I.G.; Hardcastle, Steward. There were also present the following brethren:—W. S. Gaskett, W. Mitchell, J. S. Sinclair, Girder, Joshua Taylor, T. J. Baker, Wm. B. Miller, J. Barney, and Bro. Thos. Baysan, visitor. The lodge was opened by Bro. Charles Pulman, W.M., who was ably assisted by Bro. Read, P.G. Org., and by the much respected I.P.M., Thos. Poore, P.P.G.S. The minutes of the previous lodge were clearly read by Bro. Charles P. McKay, Secretary, who gave an interesting and prosperous account of this flourishing M.M.M., Lodge from its foundation to the present date. Bro. S. B. Harvey, of Royal Jubilee Lodge, 72, and Bro. Herman Plattner, of Lodge 1226, being candidates for the honourable Degree of Mark Masters, were duly balloted, and unanimously elected and regularly passed, the ceremony being ably performed by the retiring W.M. A Board of Installed Mark Masters was then formed, and Bro. Daniel Trusler was duly installed into the chair by Bro. P.M. Thomas Poore in a very pleasing, perfect, and impressive manner. The brethren being re-admitted, the ceremony of salutation was beautifully carried out under the direction of Bro. Installing Master, Thos. Poore, P.P.G.S. The W.M. having received the congratulations of the brethren, immediately proceeded to invest his officers as follows:—Bro. Mark Samuel Larham, S.W.; William Poore, J.W.; Manna Speigal, M.O.; John Walmsley, S.O.; John Thos. Gibson, J.W.; Chas. Palmer McKay, Secretary; James John Joseph, Reg. of Marks, William Ackland, S.D.; William McMurray, J.D.; W. B. Miller, D. of C.; Steven Hardcastle, I.G.; P.M. John Read, Organist; Walter Mitchell, Wine Steward; J. Sinclair, Steward; Grant, Tyler. Bro. P.M. Poore having addressed the W.M., officers, and brethren in the most perfect and impressive manner, the lodge was then closed, and according to ancient custom the brethren adjourned to the banqueting-room, where an excellent repast had been provided by the worthy host and respective P.M. George Lilley. On the removal of the cloth, Bro. Daniel Trusler, who seemed to grace the chair with perfect ease, gave the usual loyal Mark Masters toasts, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Scotland.

KILBARCHAN.—Lodge St. Barchan (No. 156).—The usual quarterly meeting of this lodge was held in the lodge-room on the evening of Friday, the 1st inst., The W.M., Bro. William Lewis, M.D., presided, and was supported by Bros. Daniel Cunningham, I.P.M.; Andrew Buchanan, D.M. and P.M.; Robert Craig, S.W.; John Orr, J.W.; J. Wylie, S.D.; J. Stevenson, J.D.; D. Scrymgeour, S.M.; Andrew Grant, Sec.; Wm. Kirkland, Treas.; and others. The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of meetings during the past quarter were read, and after being fully discussed were unanimously adopted. From these it appeared that during the quarter there had been four initiations, four brethren passed the Fellow Craft Degree, and

One brother raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. After some other routine business the lodge was closed in regular form.

On the evening of Tuesday, the 5th inst., an emergency meeting of the lodge was held to consider a communication from the Grand Lodge of Scotland inviting the brethren to assist in laying the foundation stone of the Poor House and Asylum at Greenock on the 12th inst., and of the new Harbour at Ayr, on the 19th inst. The W.M., Bro. Dr. William Lewis, presided, and was supported by most of the office-bearers of the lodge. After a lengthened discussion, it was unanimously agreed to send an influential deputation to Greenock. At the same time it was agreed that, although the lodge did not see its way to send an official deputation to Ayr, yet it would be satisfactory that if any of the brethren of the lodge could conveniently attend at Ayr, they should represent the lodge upon the occasion. There being no other business, the lodge was afterwards closed in due form.

CONSECRATION OF THE CLIVE LODGE, No. 1575, AT MARKET DRAYTON.

Viewed in its moral bearing and influence on society, Freemasonry exercises a potent power wherever its principles are practised; but when there is also taken into account the large amount of good annually resulting from its charitable institutions for decayed brethren, their widows, and for boys and girls, it assumes a position worthy of emulation. "Brotherly love, relief, and truth" has ever been its motto, and even under the most adverse circumstances it has held on its way, permeating society, and uniting, where its principles are adopted, in one indissoluble bond the rich and the poor, the monarch and the subject. The installation of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as its Most Worshipful Grand Master has tended to increase the popularity of Freemasonry, and since the last Grand Lodge warrants for 19 new lodges have been granted. In no province, perhaps, has there been a larger increase than in North Wales and Shropshire, for within a few weeks the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Sir W. Williams-Wynn, Bart., M.P., has consecrated four lodges—at Bridgnorth, Llanidloes, Newtown, and at Market Drayton. The ceremonial incident to the consecration and opening of a Mason's lodge is one of an impressive character, and on Tuesday nearly 90 brethren assembled at Market Drayton to offer their "hearty good wishes" to the officers, and to witness and take part in the formula of consecrating "The Clive Lodge, No. 1575.

The brethren included the R.W.P. Grand Master, Sir W. Wynn, Bart., M.P.; John Peters, P.G.S.W. 587; W. Blakeway, P.G.J.W. 262; W. H. Spraul, P.G. Sec. 1124; T. Wood, P.G.D.C., 1124; J. B. J. Goldsbro', P.G.A.D.C.; P. H. Evans, P.G.A.D.C.; James Salmon, P.G. Sword Bearer 1427; J. D. Boucher, P.G. Organist; Rowland Millington, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., 601; Henry Shepard, P.M., P.P.G.P., 601; Bulkeley Hughes, P.M., M.P. for Carnarvon; J. L. Warren, P.M. 726 and 887, P.P.G. Registrar Staffordshire; George Gordon Warren, P.M. 726, P.P.G.S.B. Staffordshire; J. Bodenham, P.M. 726 and 751, P.G.T. Staffordshire, and P.P.G.R. Herefordshire; J. Beaumont Piercy, 418, P.P.G.S. of Works Staffordshire; George Spilsbury, 726, P.P.G.J.W. Staffordshire; Thos. Hawkins, P.M. 468 and 938, P.P.G.D.C. Warwickshire; Thomas H. Smith, P.M. 468 and 938, P.P.G.J.D. Warwickshire; C. Marsh, 460, P.P.G.S.W. Staffordshire; J. S. Crapper, 418, P.P.G.A.D.C. Staffordshire; W. Eardley, 979, P.G.D.C. Cheshire; A. E. Cockayne, P.M. and W.M. Cheshire; J. B. Hide, P.M. 262, 317, 826, P.G. Tyler; W. D. Newnes, 117, P.G. Assist. Tyler; T. S. Cundy, 509; John Blackhurst, S.W. 979; R. B. Mowbray, 979; T. Bolshaw, J.D. 979; T. Heath, jun., 979; T. Bought Jones, 293 and 726; E. T. Thompson, 728; Dublin: F. Butterworth, 293; W. C. Lisle, P.M. 293; A. Jackson, 293; V. K. Deardon, 293; J. H. Bellyse, 301 and 293; T. D. Firth, 267; G. E. Smith, 163; J. T. Cox, 726; T. Wood, Secretary, 726; E. C. Griffiths, 726; F. W. Smith, 726; H. T. Smith, 726; S. Bennion, S.W. 293 and 1575; James Hockenull, 293; J. B. Unsworth, 1061; E. R. Heath, 292; J. G. Jacob, 935; Wexford: C. Brown, 98; R. Hilditch, 98; T. Salter, 201; J. Bates, P.M. 601; J. Adams, W.M. 601; J. Brooke, J.W. 601; R. Acton, 601; Edward Lea, 117; Edward Lawrence, P.M. 1120; John Machin, 1120; Thos. T. Chubb, 333; Geo. C. Matthews, 610; C. A. Cordingley, 372; George Wycherley, 217; J. H. Kemp, 1575; J. D. Wilkinson, 1575; Dr. Thompson, 1575; Dr. Harding, 1575; S. Heath, 1575; J. Cornes, 1575; John Judge, Tyler 1575, and others.

The brethren assembled in the lodge-room at the Corbet Arms Hotel about one o'clock, when the lodge was opened in the three degrees, the presiding officer being Bro. J. Loxdale Warren, who appointed Bro. A. E. Cockayne as Senior Warden, and Bro. J. B. Piercy, Junior Warden pro tem. After the lapse of half an hour, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Sir W. Wynn, M.P., was announced, and, preceded by several provincial officers, entered the lodge. Bro. Warren then vacated the chair, and presented his gavel to the R.W.P.G. Master, who took the presidency of the lodge, and was Masonically saluted. The Senior Warden's and Junior Warden's chairs were also occupied by provincial officers.

The R.W.P.G.M., addressing the brethren, observed that they were assembled on that occasion to open the Clive Lodge, No. 1575. It was a matter of regret to him that the ceremony had not been performed before; in the first place, ill-health had prevented him from being present, and the death of one near and dear to him had further delayed the ceremony, which had been previously fixed to take place in May. He might have asked his Deputy Gran-

Master to have done it, but at that time his health also was so impaired that he was unable to be present, and, as they knew, it subsequently got worse, and he was now no more amongst them. He trusted the lodge would not suffer from his shortcomings; he was happy to see so many present, and he hoped the lodge would become very prosperous. They were situated on the borders of other provinces where Masonry was conducted as well as it was in any part of the kingdom—he referred to Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Warwickshire. He was glad to see so many representatives present from those provinces, and he hoped that the Clive Lodge would not in any way be second to any other. During the time he had the honour of presiding over them several lodges had been opened, and he thought it was evident that Masonry was progressing favourably throughout the province.

The R.W.P.G.M. then requested the P.G. Secretary to read the petition for the new lodge and the warrant of constitution, which is granted by the Prince of Wales as G.M. of England, and signed by Lord Skelmersdale, the M.W.D.G.M. It names George Gordon Warren, W.M., John Tayleur, S.W., and John Bodenham, J.W. The lodge board, which was placed in the centre of the room, was then unveiled, and during the consecration prayer corn was scattered on it by the Consecrating Officer, the V.W. Bro. T. W. J. Goldsbro' P.P.G.S.W.; afterwards, wine by the P.S.W., Bro. Peters, and subsequently, oil, by the P.G.W., Bro. Blakeway. The R.W. Grand Master then declared "That, as Prov. G. Master, he constituted the Clive Lodge into a regular lodge by the rites and ceremonies of their ancient fraternity," adding, "may the Supreme Architect of the Universe prosper all your duties." The musical portion of the consecration ceremony was rendered in an impressive manner by Bro. Boucher, P.G. Organist.

At the close of the ceremony the installation of Bro. George Gordon Warren took place as Worshipful Master of the lodge. At the close of the ceremony the W.M. appointed his officers, and invested them with their several insignia, as follows:—John Tayleur, S.W.; John Bodenham, P.P.G.R., J.W.; T. Rought Jones, Treas.; S. Bennion, Sec.; J. B. Unsworth, S.D.; T. Rought Jones, J.D.; F. W. Smith, I.G.; J. Judge, Tyler. After receiving the usual salutations and greetings from those present, the lodge was duly closed, and a procession was formed to church under the direction of Bro. Wood, P.G.D.C., in the following order:—The Tyler, with drawn sword, carrying also a handsome banner, with name and number of the lodge inscribed thereon (a gift, we understand, in remembrance of a departed brother); the brethren of the lodge, the officers, the visiting brethren, members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and then, a very pleasant feature, four boys (sons of Master Masons) carrying on a velvet cushion the Bible, opened at the 10th chapter of Numbers; after them the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the procession closing with the R.W.P.G.M., Sir W. Wynn, Bart., M.P., who was preceded and followed by Sword Bearers. Arrived at the church, where a large congregation had assembled, an opening voluntary was very finely rendered. Special psalms and appropriate lessons were read, and a short but pithy and well-chosen sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. J. G. Jacob, county Wexford, from the text "Let brotherly love continue"—Hebrews xiii, 1. The hymns were—273, 298, and 364 (A. & M. revised edition); these, as well as the whole of the musical portion of the service, were given with really good taste and fine effect.

At the close a collection was made in aid of the North Wales and Shropshire Charitable Masonic Association and a local charity, amounting to £9 18s. 2½d. The procession re-formed and returned to their lodge, where the brethren of the newly-formed Clive Lodge commenced their duties. Feeling allusion was made to the late Bro. F. C. Cockayne, and a motion that the lodge should go into mourning for a month was unanimously carried. Several applications for membership were received, as well as propositions for joining members.

The banquet was served in the ball-room of the hotel. The menu embraced every delicacy of the season, the waiting was unexceptionable, and the whole reflected great credit on Mr. and Mrs. Wycherley, the host and hostess. The newly-installed W.M. presided, supported by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master and other officers, and the vice-presidents were Bros. Loxdale, Warren, and John Bodenham.

After the toast of "The Queen and the Craft" had been honoured, the W.M. proposed "The Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, and the Princess of Wales." He hoped their Grand Master would long live to wield his Masonic sceptre over a free and united brotherhood. (Applause.) He could only refer to his recent visit to India, but he had no doubt that one of its results would be a large accession to Masonry in the Indian empire. With the name of their Grand Master he associated that of his illustrious lady, the Princess of Wales, who in her everyday life exercised and exhibited the virtues which characterised Freemasonry. (Loud applause.)

The next toast was "The Earl of Carnarvon, the R.W. Pro G.M., Lord Skelmersdale, the M.W.D.G.M., and Officers of the Grand Lodge of England."

The W.M. again rose, and said that the toast he now had the honour to propose was one that had a more personal interest attaching to it than any of the preceding—he referred to the R.W.P.G.M. of North Wales and Shropshire, Sir Watkin William Wynn, Bart. He considered that Freemasonry must of necessity flourish when it was encouraged by brethren of rank and position in the country, and more especially when those brethren took an interest in the affairs of the province. They had heard with great pleasure that their Provincial Grand Master had recruited his health and strength whilst he had been absent from the country, and he felt sure that nothing could have given him greater pleasure than the consecra-

tion of another lodge in his province. The toast was drunk with Masonic honours.

The R.W.P.G. Master very cordially acknowledged the kind manner in which his name had been received. He had told them before in the lodge that for a great part of last year he was unable to attend to Masonic duties, and he did not wish their lodge to be consecrated without himself being present. For several years he had known, in another capacity, many whom he saw before him; and then, in addition, his maternal family almost entirely sprang from their parish. He hoped, therefore, that the Clive Lodge would be exceedingly prosperous. (Applause.) He had had the pleasure of recently opening four lodges, and for the kindness which he received at all times and under all circumstances during the time he had presided over the province he very sincerely thanked them.

The next toast, given by the W.M., was "The P.D.G.M. and Prov. Grand Officers, Past and Present," which was acknowledged by P.P.G.S.W. Bro. John Peters.

The R.W.P.G.M. again rose to propose what he considered the toast of the evening—"The Health of the Worshipful Master." (Applause.) He recollected that his maternal ancestors were born within sight of the house where they were assembled, one of whom rose to be the founder of the great Indian empire. He did not hope that the Clive Lodge would grow into such gigantic proportions as the Indian empire, but he did hope that the lodge would be as prosperous as it had been. He had known their Worshipful Master many years, and he hoped that they would all esteem him as he did, and assist him in the management of the lodge. (Drunk with three times three.)

The W.M. said that he felt it to be an extremely difficult task to thank them for the honour of receiving the toast of the newly consecrated lodge, and himself as its first Master; but he did so heartily, conscientiously, and cordially. He hoped that the infant whom they had that day assisted to christen would attain to manhood, and live to a green old age, and when the brethren from a distance looked back on the events of the past, he trusted they would not have to regret what they had done that day. He would ask those who had been selected to work the new lodge to assist him in rearing the edifice—they would have trials to undergo and difficulties to meet before they could place on that edifice of Masonry the top-stone; but they would try to do that, and to leave behind them a development of the grand principles and characteristics of Freemasonry. (Applause.)

The toast of "The Masonic Charities" was next drunk, and responded to by P.P.G.T. John Bodenham with his accustomed earnestness and ability.

Bro. T. Rought Jones, J.D., proposed the toast of "The Visiting Brethren," associating with it the name of Bro. J. G. Jacob, the Acting Chaplain.

Bro. the Rev. J. G. Jacob, in acknowledging the toast, said there was nothing which he could do to benefit the Masonic Craft which he did not look on as a labour of love. He had heard with very great pleasure during the few days he had been in England that Masonry in the province was a real existence, and possessed a real spirit, and was not merely Masonry in name; and it afforded him still further pleasure to hear in the lodge that Masonry was progressing. He was glad to say that it was also increasing in Ireland, and he believed that the more it increased the better would it be for the country at large. (Applause.)

The W.M. regretted that the Consecrating Officer had been obliged to leave them; but he would propose "The Health of the Installing Officer, Bro. J. Loxdale Warren."

Bro. Loxdale Warren expressed the pleasure he felt in seeing a lodge established in his native town. He had for twenty years been a Freemason, but until lately he had never even anticipated the pleasure which the opening of the lodge had afforded him. He had been further gratified by having to install his brother in blood as its first Master. He had sat under him, and presided over him in lodges, and he knew that he was well qualified to discharge the duties to which he had that day been installed. (Applause.) Before sitting down, he wished to propose "The Officers of the Lodge." They all knew that no lodge could be properly worked without the Worshipful Master was assisted by his officers. It was utterly impossible for a lodge to be efficiently conducted without the assistance especially of the Wardens, and, in fact, of all its officers, thoroughly discharging their respective duties. He believed they all would shew their zeal for Masonry, and unitedly make the Clive Lodge perfect in its working.

The toast was drunk, and responded to by Bro. Bodenham, J.W., who said that his hoped the officers would unite to work together under one of the best Masters that ever ruled a lodge. He had had the pleasure before of working under him, and he knew that he could do the work if he was thoroughly assisted.

Other toasts followed, and the brethren separated about eleven o'clock.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

On the 2nd inst., a demonstration, under the auspices of the P.G. Lodge of East Lancashire, took place on the occasion of laying the north-east corner stone of Holy Trinity Church, by Bro. George Mellor, Worshipful Dep. Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, and Mayor of Ashton-under-Lyne. A lodge was opened at the Town Hall by the W.M. of Lodge Minerva at three o'clock, and after the usual routine of business it was adjourned. The brethren to the number of 200, including 37 Past and Present Provincial Officers, were formed into a procession, and marshalled by Bros. C. M. Jones, P.G.D.C., and J. H. Sillitoe, A. P.G.D.C., headed by the Hurst village band, proceeded to the site of the new church. Previous to the laying of the corner stone, the foundation stone was laid by T. Maginbottom, Esq., J.P. (nephew of the founder), who was ac-

accompanied by about 5000 school children and clergy, and some little delay was caused by having to wait for the completion of this ceremony, at the conclusion of which Bro. Mellor, with the assistance of his brethren, laid the corner stone according to the customs of Ancient Freemasonry. The prayers were rehearsed by Bro. Dr. Salts, P.G. Chaplain, assisted by Bro. S. Y. B. Bradshaw, Assistant P.G. Chaplain, whilst suitable hymns and anthems were rendered by a select choir.

At the conclusion Bro. Mellor addressed the assembly, and stated that as a member of a Christian community, without reference to sects or parties, it was very gratifying to him to join in every effort which tended to human progress, but the pleasure was increased when he, together with his brethren, aided to raise another temple for that Church which walked in the lines marked out by the history of the ancient Church, founded on the apostles' doctrine and fellowship. The church whose corner stone he had laid would echo the truths contained in the Book of Common Prayer. They, as Masons, were always glad to come forward to give their sanction, by their own peculiar rites and ceremonies, to the building of Christian temples. He was old enough to recollect the time when the parish church of Ashton was the only place of ecclesiastical worship in the town. There were formerly three chapelries, but as the town grew, through the development of the cotton trade, the necessity arose for increased church accommodation, and that was supplied at intervals by the building of St. Peter's, Christ Church, St. John's, and St. James's, and St. George's, at Audenshaw. And they had that day added to the list of Christian efforts the church whose corner stone he had laid. Every new church built, and every new parish formed, became fresh centres of religious activity and material monuments of Christian progress. (Applause.)

The procession was then re-formed, and returned to the Town Hall, where the lodge was duly closed.

In the evening about 120 brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet at the Commercial Hotel.

The chair was taken by Bro. George Mellor, the Worshipful Deputy Prov. G.M. for East Lancashire; the vice-chairs were filled by Bro. Kershaw, W.M. Minerva Lodge, and Bro. Whitehead, W.M. Union Lodge. Amongst those present were Bros. J. L. Hine, P. Prov. G.S.W.; Dr. Lees, P. Prov. G.S.W.; J. Gibb Smith, P. Prov. G.S.W.; Rev. Dr. Salts, Prov. G. Chaplain; J. Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec.; T. J. Hooper, Prov. G. Treasurer; J. Holmes, P. Prov. G.D.; C. M. Jones, Prov. G.D.C.; J. H. Sillitoe, Assistant Prov. G.D.C.; A. Wolstenholme, Prov. G.J.D.; J. Holroyd, P. Prov. G.S.B.; J. Benn, Prov. G. Supt.; W. W. H. Cunliffe, Prov. G. Purst.; James Hall, P. Prov. G. Purst.; J. Burrows, Hon. Secretary to the General Committee; Thomas Bowers, P. Prov. G.D.C. Cheshire; T. Wainwright, P. Prov. G.S.D. Cheshire; C. Goddard, P. Prov. G.S.D.; R. Sykes, Prov. G. Purst. Cheshire. After the banquet the Chairman proposed "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," "His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of England," the whole of the toasts being duly honoured.

Bro. Holmes then proposed "The Earl of Carnarvon, Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master," whose eminence and skill, both as a statesman and a Mason, was known to them all.

Bro. Smith then gave "The Health of Lord Skelmersdale, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master. He said a more expert Craftsman than Lord Skelmersdale the never met, and when they found men of such distinguished rank in social life taking a leading part in Freemasonry, they ought to feel proud of their Order. (Applause.)

Bro. Hine then proposed "The Health of Lieutenant-Colonel Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire. He said Bro. Starkie was always first and foremost in furthering the interests of charitable institutions connected with Freemasonry, and they had always reason to be proud of him for the manner in which he devoted himself to and conducted the business of Masonry in his province. (Applause.)

Bro. Lees said he was called upon to discharge a most pleasing duty. It was now 20 years since he joined the Masonic body. That period had been one of great prosperity amongst them, but it was one also in which they had witnessed many changes. During that time the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master had been filled by Bro. Blair, Bro. Royds, Bro. Newhall, and Bro. Callender, the last of whom had been removed from among them by a dispensation of Providence. It was a difficult matter to fill the place occupied by men so distinguished in Masonry, more especially Bro. Callender, who possessed the greatest skill in all the offices and ceremonies of Masonry, but he considered that their Prov. G.M., Bro. Starkie, had exercised a wise and prudent judgment in appointing Bro. George Mellor. (Applause.) He had known him for nearly 40 years, and when he looked at the public services he had rendered, and the efficient manner in which he discharged the highest municipal duties, he felt sure that when his term of office as Mayor of the borough came to a close he would devote himself with the like energy and ability to Masonry. (Cheers.) He considered that a wise selection had been made in the appointment of Bro. Mellor as Deputy Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire—a province equal to any in the kingdom, in fact he did not know its superior in point of numbers—for he believed that he would devote himself to the promotion of those interests they all had at heart. He gave "The Health of Bro. George Mellor."

Bro. John Ashworth, P.M. of Lodge Waverley, 1322, then rose, and said: Worshipful Sir,—The duty I have to perform this evening is of a very pleasing description.

It would certainly have been more in accordance with my own feelings if some older and more worthy brother had been appointed to this honour. However, I know that Bro. Mellor will not the less esteem the work though it should come from a young man, because it does not come from me, but from the brethren of the town of Ashton. (Applause.) The duty I have to perform is to present to the Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of this province (the Mayor) with a humble address from the lodges of this town. (Cheers.) I may say, brethren, that the lodges have selected a very opportune time for making the presentation. It was no doubt their duty to congratulate Bro. Mellor when he was first raised to that dignified position. And when an opportunity like this one presented itself to us, the brethren ran as it were with haste to present to Bro. Mellor their congratulations. It is a fitting occasion, because it has given Bro. Mellor another opportunity of manifesting one of the highest qualities of Masonry, which is charity. (Applause.) He has told us today that he respected all denominations, and he, I believe, is charitable not only to the denominations with which he is immediately connected, but to every denomination which has for its object the welfare of mankind. (Hear, hear.) The presentation which I have the honour to make is not of intrinsic value. It is not of silver or gold. Bro. Mellor needs none of these. God has given him plenty. It is of more value than silver or gold. It will be there when both the donors and receivers shall be no more, and will be looked upon by Bro. Mellor's children and his children's children, generation after generation. And whenever they behold that testimonial they will revere the memory of their sire. (Applause.) I may say, sir, when you were appointed to the dignified position of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, an appointment which you never sought, it gladdened the hearts of every Mason in Ashton-under-Lyne. (Cheers.) They knew that though they had lost such an excellent brother as Bro. W. Romaine Callender, who had been taken to the Grand Lodge above, yet in the appointment the Provincial Grand Master was pleased to make he had selected an able successor to Bro. Callender. (Applause.) You, sir, have won by your conduct in this town unvarying respect, especially amongst Masons. Yours has not been a fast, showy, or pushing Masonic life, but it has been far more interesting to us. I hope, sir, you will accept this token of our esteem, and you will long live to look upon it, and when you behold it, it may be a satisfaction to you, that it has not proceeded from any motive other than of pure love and respect for yourself. (Cheers.) Amongst those who have presented it are men of different political opinions to yourself, men of different religious faith, but one and all aim hereafter to join you in the Grand Lodge above. (Applause.)

Bro. Ashworth then read the address, which had been beautifully engrossed by Bro. Hine as follows:—

"To Geo. Mellor, Esq., J.P., Worshipful Deputy Prov. Grand Master of Freemasons for the division of East Lancashire, Mayor of Ashton-under-Lyne.—Worshipful Sir,—We, the undersigned brethren, representing Lodges Minerva, 300, Union, 268, Milton, 1144, and Waverley, 1322, Ashton-under-Lyne, hereby offer our hearty congratulations on your appointment to the high position of Deputy Grand Master of this province, and beg to assure you of our cordial appreciation of the selection made by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie. Your unvarying courtesy and benevolence during a long and honourable connection with Freemasonry, extending over a period of thirty-three years, have gained the respect and esteem not only of the brethren of this town, but of the province generally, whilst the satisfactory manner in which you have discharged the various duties of the distinguished offices you have previously held indicates to us that you are eminently fitted for that most extensive and devoted sphere of usefulness which your recent appointment has opened. The special ceremony of to-day affords us the additional pleasure of having to congratulate you on laying the north-east corner stone of Holy Trinity Church in this borough, with the ancient, appropriate, and impressive rites of our Order, and we sincerely hope that the sacred edifice thus auspiciously commenced may, when completed, be the means of improving the moral and religious character of the district, and thus tend to promote the honour and glory of the Most High. We fervently pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may continue to you the blessings of health and prosperity, and that you may live for many years to be an ornament of our institution, a pattern of every moral and social virtue." The address was signed by the officers of the various lodges.

The Chairman thanked the meeting for the compliment they had paid him, and for the address they had presented to him. For 33 years he had been a member of the Craft, and he had never regretted the step he took at his initiation. (Applause.) In whatever position he held it had always been his desire to do his duty, and if his efforts met with the appreciation of his fellow townsmen he was thankful. (Loud applause.)

Bro. Kershaw, W.M. of Minerva Lodge, No. 300, proposed "The Provincial Grand Officers for East Lancashire, Past and Present."

Bro. J. H. Sillitoe, Prov. G.D.C., responded, and said the Freemasons had that day fulfilled one of their great missions, viz., laying the corner stone of a building wherein the name of the Great Architect of the Universe would be worshipped, and they had added one more link to the chain which bound them as Freemasons to the reverence of the Most High. Ancient Masonic history shewed them the interest taken by our ancestors in building temples for religious purposes, many of which had been entirely built by their body, and although their ranks were not now confined to operative Craftsmen they still cherished those old tenets on which the Institution was founded and maintained in integrity the watchwords of

brotherly love, relief, and truth, and their lodges to the best of their ability exercised the great virtue of charity.

Bro. Hooper proposed "The Provincial Grand Masters and Officers of the Neighbouring Provinces, Past and Present," to which the Chairman responded, and he concluded by proposing "The Worshipful Masters of Lodges Minerva, Union, Milton, and Waverley," which Bro. J. Kershaw, W.M. of Minerva, acknowledged.

Bro. Dr. Lees said the manner in which the proceedings of that day had been carried out reflected the highest credit on the Masonic committee, whose healths he proposed, coupling with the toast the names of Bros. Siddall and Burrows.

Bros. Siddall and Burrows acknowledged the compliment, and the giving of the toast "To all poor and distressed Masons," brought the proceedings to a close.

The following is a list of the committee who carried out the arrangements:—Bros. James Kershaw, W.M. (Chairman); W. T. Wilde, S.W.; Thomas Peak, J.W.; Joseph Burton, P.M.; William Ogden, P.S.W.; George Dalgleish, I.G. of the Minerva Lodge; J. C. Whitehead, W.M. (vice-chairman); J. Turner, S.W.; James Andrew, J.W.; James Holmes, P.M.; S. H. Smith, P.M.; A. W. Siddall, P.M. of the Union Lodge; James Devaney, W.M.; Abraham Hill, S.W.; Alfred Clayton, J.W.; James Pollitt, P.M.; David Benjamin Radcliffe, P.M.; W. H. Holt, P.M. of the Milton Lodge; Richard Greaves, W.M.; James P. Willis, S.W.; Alfred Wilkinson, J.W.; John Ashworth, P.M.; Walter Newton, P.M.; Thomas Lees, P.M. of the Waverley Lodge; A. W. Siddall, Hon. Treasurer; John Burrows, Lodge Union, Hon. Secretary.

Masonic and General Tidings.

GRAND ORIENT OF EGYPT.—The Grand Lodge of England has recognized the Grand Orient of Egypt since July 12th.

The Marquess of Ripon Lodge of Instruction, No. 1489, now meets every Monday evening at seven o'clock, at the Pembury Tavern, Amhurst Road, Hackney. Bro. Wm. Stephens, P.M. 1365 and 1489, is the Preceptor, and Bro. James Hanney, the Treasurer.

The Annual Court of the Governors of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution will be held at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, on Wednesday, the 4th prox., at 12 o'clock.

Our readers will see by our report of the laying of the corner stone of the new wing to the Girls' School at Battersea Rise that it is expected Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales will open the building in May next.

WEST SMITHFIELD LODGE, No. 1623.—The consecration of this lodge took place on Thursday last at the New Market Hotel, King-street, Smithfield. A full report of the interesting proceedings will appear in the SECOND EDITION of the "FREEMASON," which will be published early on Saturday morning.

GREAT CITY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION No. 1426.—The ceremony of installation will be worked on Thursday, September 28th, at 6.30 p.m., at No. 111, Cheapside, E.C., by Bro. J. Seex, P.M., W.M. elect of the Great City Lodge, No. 1426. Bro. James Stevens, P.M., P.Z., will deliver a lecture on the Tracing Board. Brethren are cordially invited to attend.

The Leopold Lodge of Instruction, No. 1571, resumed its meeting at the Woolpack Tavern, Bermondsey-street, on Monday, Sept. 4th, 1876, and had a numerous attendance of the brethren, when some good work was done under their able and respected Preceptor, Bro. David Rose, P.M. The lodge meets punctually at eight o'clock every Monday evening. Members of the Craft wishing to advance in Freemasonry, by attending this lodge of instruction will be sure to obtain their desired end.

A special lodge of emergency will be held by the Carnarvon Lodge, No. 804, on Monday next, the 18th inst., at three o'clock, at the lodge-rooms, Havant (near the railway station), when and where the R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Hants and the Isle of Wight, Bro. W.W. B. Beach, M.P., assisted by his Provincial Grand Officers, will dedicate the new lodge-room.

The ceremony of installation will be worked in the Southwark Lodge of Instruction, No. 879, Southwark Park Tavern, on Wednesday, the 27th inst. Brethren are respectfully invited.

Bro. Sir Edward Lechmere, the restorer of Tewkesbury Abbey, is now building a "chapter-house" at St. John's-gate, Clerkenwell, which well-known historic place he has acquired.

We are asked to state that, in accordance with a request of a committee which has been formed in Constantinople for the relief of the distress in Bulgaria, without distinction of nationality or religion, the London agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank is prepared to receive subscriptions for that purpose.

We are very pleased to learn that Bro. the Rt. Hon. the Marquis of Tweeddale, Past Grand Master of Scotland, is progressing most favourably after his recent accident, and, notwithstanding his great age, no serious consequences are apprehended.

It is said that the last few years has witnessed a return of Jews to Palestine from all parts. The Hebrew population of Jerusalem is now probably double what it was ten years ago.

THE BIBLE IN GREECE.—The American Minister at Athens, General Meredith Read, has succeeded in obtaining from the Greek Government a revocation of the order forbidding the sale and circulation of the Bible and of the British and American Bible Societies' publications in Greece.—"Morning Post."

ARCHÆOLOGY.

The first theory to which I wish to call attention, and point out carefully its facts and its difficulties, is the guild theory. That a guild system existed is undoubted, and that it was a Roman institution, accepted and worked out by the Anglo-Saxons, is, I think, undoubted also, for several reasons. Toulmin Smith seems to lean to the idea that it was an Anglo-Saxon institution, but I think that he was quite wrong, and that Mr. Coote is quite right who derives the Anglo-Saxon "gild," or guild, from the "Collegia Privata" of the Romans. It would be far too long a narration to explain here in what this similarity between the two systems consisted, so as to prove that the Anglo-Saxon is the continuation of the Roman, and I hope to do it shortly in another place. But suffice it to say that a very great likeness exists, and that there can be little doubt that Mr. Coote is right in asserting the Roman origin of the guild system. As I said before, the guild system existed, but of it until lately we knew next to nothing. I am now talking of the Craft guilds, of which the Masons was one, especially, though even of the pure religious guilds not much more was known to us. There are still in the Record Office many hundred returns from guilds tempore Richard II., of which Toulmin Smith published a few, and there are probably also in the Prerogative Court many guild certificates, in which depository, a few years ago, Mr. Tyssen found the rules and ordinances of four London secular guilds, and two German religious guilds. Mr. Coote's view of the case may be best given in his own words,—“It is unnecessary to say that every guild was isolated, and independent of all others of the same description. This is traditionally said to have been the constitution of the guilds of Freemasons, now called lodges. (Mr. Coote is not, we believe, a Freemason.) Originally they were like other guilds, distinct communities, neither affiliated to nor dependent upon any other association of the same Craft. At the beginning of the present century (perhaps at the end of the last) through extraneous influences, a hierarchical system was introduced into Freemasonry, and all the independent lodges (or guilds) submitted themselves to one lodge in London as their chief, at the same time surrendering to the latter their Royal charters, or licences, and their ordinances. These were probably all destroyed by the central authority at the time of the surrender. Copies of the charters, however, will possibly be found in the Record Office amongst the returns under the 12th Richard II., and Mr. Tyssen's discovery shows it to be more than probable, that the rules and ordinances are registered in some of the ecclesiastical courts, where they will be discovered whenever a search shall be made for them. When they shall be found we may assure ourselves that Von Hammer's hypothesis of Bakhomet will not hold good, still less will Mithra's, another and a later theory, stand a chance of being accepted.” The exact place where the returns 12th Richard II. are still extant, as we see, on referring to Toulmin Smith's guilds, where we find that these returns are known at the Record Office as “Miscellaneous Rolls Lower Records,” and were sent up in 1399. They are called certificates of guilds in 1842, but they are probably only a part of the returns, and we may perhaps find copies of many more in local prerogative courts, and amid chapter and collegiate muniments. It is perhaps not generally known that by the 37th Henry VIII., c. 4 (1545), and by the 1st Edward VI., c. 14, the property of all the “brother hedds and gylde” were confiscated by the Crown, and all their records and the like seized. So that by the end of the 16th century the guild system may be said to have been dissolved. What, then, is the connexion as between our speculative Grand Lodge to-day, and this old guild system? Simply this, our speculative system is only a perpetuation of the guild system, of course with great and needful modifications. It is quite clear from Ashmole and from Plot's evidence, that towards the middle of the 17th century a Masonic Order existed, exactly akin to our own. This is even more clear from Plot's words than Ashmole's diary. The meeting in London, 1682, at which

Ashmole was present, was not that of the Mason's Company, nor was it of a pure operative Order, but was clearly of a fraternity, as at Warrington in 1646, partly operative, partly speculative. We must not lay too much stress on condensed statements and loose terminology; but evidence there is plenty to show, that the Freemasonry to which Plot alluded, and into which Ashmole was admitted, is practically identical in general with our own at this hour. In order to get out of the difficulty of this continuation of identical existence, the “social theory” has been put forward, making in fact a third system, but it will not, to use a common adage, “hold water.” Neither is it a good answer to the guild theory to say that our present ceremonial is not that of the guilds, and is modern;—modern in the sense of the word it certainly is not, as many are its undoubted archaisms. But it is quite sufficient to point out on this head, that no doubt our present ceremonial, while it is an elaboration of the revived Grand Lodge of 1717, has kept the “landmarks” which were then in existence, as handed down by the brethren who formed part of the Old St. Paul's Lodge, and the other Masons who were congregated in speculative Grand Assembly in 1717. The evidence of Scotland has been adduced to prove the modernity of our present system, and its parentage from the pure speculative system. But I think too hastily. If the evidences of Scotland are carefully gone through seriatim, it will be found that there is some direct and a good deal of implied evidence in favour of distinct and well known severances and secrets of grades. That the records only allude to the First Degree is but natural, and it may be doubted if any minutes, until late in the last century, were kept of any but the First Degree. There were, for instance, many “Master's lodges” in the middle of the last century—where are their minutes now? Lessing stated, and his hasty words have been accepted by some as truth, that no evidence existed of the word Freemason being in use until the beginning of the 18th century, and two recent American writers have reproduced his words as if of undoubted authority, and as if they unsettled the question. But Lessing is most undoubtedly wrong. There is plenty of MS. and even printed evidence, to produce that Freemasonry was a well-known word in use before Ashmole's time. There is the MS. evidence of “Wm. Horwood, Freemason,” who contracted to build Fotheringay Chapel in 1436; there is a record of John Wood, Masoun, 13th Henry VI., 1439, who made a contract with the Abbot of St. Edmondsbury for the repairs and restoration of the great bell tower, “in all manner of things that longe to Freemasonry.” Some have even said that William of Wykeham in his will nearly a hundred years before, when he talks of “et alios sufficientes discretos et in illâ arte approbatos,” alludes to the “accepted” Freemasons, but perhaps this is really and truly only “post hoc propter hoc,” and is hardly reliable as evidence, though undoubtedly the words are peculiar and seem to have a special meaning. I know of none like them used elsewhere. The first use of “Freemason” in Scotland, Bro. D. Murray Lyon tells us, is in 1636 under the name “Frie Mesones,” the Frieman Maissons” seems to be in use as early as 1600. From 1600, and indeed a little earlier, the name of “Freemason” is to be found in Registers of burials and the like continuously. Hence it is clear that Lessing's assertion is perfectly untenable. I do not say that the guild theory is free from difficulty, but in my opinion it is the most free in comparison with others, and after I have gone through the other three theories of Masonic history, I will sum up in a concluding communication the pros and cons for the Guild theory evidentially.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST LANCASHIRE.—Owing to some difficulty in the way, the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Western Division of Lancashire early next month will take place at the Masonic Hall, Liverpool, and not at the Pomona Gardens, Manchester. Owing to limited accommodation, it is said that only Masters and Wardens will be admitted on this occasion. This arrangement (which is very fortunately novel in Freemasonry) is sure to cause great dissatisfaction amongst other officers and private members, and it is to be hoped that even now some place should be secured where the whole of the lodges may be present if they desire to attend.

YORKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The Yorkshire Archæological and Topographical Society had their tenth annual excursion on Wednesday, Halifax being selected as the centre. Col. Akroyd, late member for Halifax, was president of the meeting. The excursion was under the direction of Mr. Fairless Barber, F.S.A., one of the hon. secretaries. The members and friends assembled in great numbers at Halifax parish church in the morning, where they were welcomed by the Rev. F. Pigou, M.A., the vicar, who hinted that he should like to see a restoration of the church by the removal of the galleries, throwing open the nave to the west door, and the removal of the pulpit from the midst of the nave to near the chancel. The pewing and galleries are of old date. Mr. Barber read a paper, prepared by himself and a Mr. E. J. Walker, of Halifax, on the antiquities and history of the church, which is of fine proportions and of great length. Though a church existed here in Norman times, he assigned to the oldest part of the present edifice—a part of the north wall of the nave aisle—no higher date than the 13th century, the windows there showing something of the transition from the early English to the Decorated. An eminent local antiquary, Mr. F. A. Leyland, has conjectured that this may be of Saxon origin. The rest of the church Mr. Barber believed to be wholly perpendicular, dating mostly from the 15th century. The east end, indeed, was completed in 1480, and there was documentary evidence showing that the tower was begun in 1450, and took 20 years in building. The Rokeby Chapel was added in 1521, and the Holdsworth Chapel in 1534. The pewing of the floor of the church, in black oak, was done in 1634. The chantries and altars, the registers and other interesting features were referred to at some length. Several ancient books from the library of the church were shown, as also the registers, which date from the early part of the 16th century. These last record the burial of many people in front of their own dwellings who died of the plague, of others who were beheaded under the Halifax Gibbet Law, and the baptism of Archbishop Tillotson, who was born in the parish at Haugh-end. The party next visited Shildon-hall, an old house, partly timber-built, which dated from early in the 15th century. An account of it was read by Mr. John Lister, the owner, and the quaint old dining-hall and bedrooms were inspected. Some ancient armorial glass in the windows is of great interest to local families. The party thence returned to Halifax, where luncheon was provided at the Assembly Rooms. There was an exhibition at the Museum, adjacent, of old deeds and manuscripts, principally local, together with drawings of the old mansions in the district, and a collection of tiles and pottery from the Roman station of Cadmalodunum. At the luncheon the secretary announced that the society contemplated the exploration of the site of Byland Abbey—a work which has never yet been undertaken, and towards this the Duke of Norfolk has promised a donation of £50. Leaving Halifax by train the party visited the extremely interesting church of St. Mary, at Elland, the greater part of which is perpendicular, but which has an early English chancel arch. Mr. Barber having pointed out some of the leading features of the church, Mr. James Fowler, F.S.A., read a paper on the east window. This was filled with stained glass at the latter end of the 15th century. It is in five lights, and the subjects, arranged in panels, with explanatory inscriptions in Latin, are taken from the life of the Virgin Mary, in whose name the church is dedicated. Mr. Fowler extremely regretted that the window was “restored” 20 years ago, certain of the panels being filled with new glass. Strange to say, the whole character of the subject was mistaken, and the new panels portray incidents in the life of our Lord. The visit to Elland Church closed the meeting, which was one of great interest, but was somewhat marred by the rain which fell in the latter part of the day.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of this Institution was held on Wednesday last, Col. Creation in the chair, J. Smith, J. M. Stedwell, A. H. Tattershall, John G. Stevens, C. A. Cottebrune, R. Wentworth Little, James Brett, W. Hilton, H. G. Warren, Wm. Stephens, S. Rawson, Benj. Head, Dr. Jabez Hogg, Thos. Cubitt, W. Hale, F. Adlard, John Constable, H. Massey (“Freemason”), and Jas. Terry, Sec.

The Secretary communicated the information to the Committee of the death of four annuitants.

The Warden's report informed the committee of the reception of one annuitant into the Institution, and the death of one widow. It also conveyed the intelligence of the good health of all the inmates of the asylum, and that they were much gratified at the entertainment lately given to them with such great success. The report also conveys to the brethren who gave the entertainment their best thanks for the same.

Authority was afterwards given to the Chairman to sign cheques; and

Two petitions were received from poor brethren.

Bro. Terry then read a letter from Bro. J. Norris, Warden of the asylum, thanking the committee in the name of himself and the other inmates, for the increase in the annuity lately made.

Bro. Terry also read a letter from the son of the late Mr. Walkley thanking the brethren for the kindness his late mother had received whilst an inmate of the asylum.

The Committee then adjourned.

HOLLOWAY'S REMEDIES are much used in various inflammatory states of the system, and the very greatest advantage is derived from their use when the blood has become impoverished from the excess of any kind, and the general health debilitated from the same cause. It is needless to specify the numerous ill effects; persons suffer from, who have overtaxed their powers; they are sufficiently obvious to all, and these effects are both physical and mental. No one, however, need despond about himself, for, by attacking the source of the evil with a fixed resolution to conquer it, the battle is half won. Holloway's remedies properly and judiciously used impart nutrition to the blood, and restore to the nerve cells their natural tone.—ADVT.

[The following appeared in our Second Edition of last week.]

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.
LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE NEW WING.

On Thursday afternoon the first or corner stone of the new wing to the school building at Battersea Rise was placed in position by Bro. Lieut.-Col. Creaton, V.P., in the presence of the children, the governesses, the matron, the servants, the committees and office-bearers, and the representatives of the other Masonic charities. There was no great display, but everything was arranged to be in a quiet unostentatious way, the brethren relying for their reward more on the practical good they were doing than on any amount of praise they might receive for a successful and attractive ceremony. The growing want of the Order for a larger building for the reception of more pupils having, as our readers will have noticed from time to time by our reports, engaged the attention of the committees the matter was taken in hand during the present year, and a resolution was come to that the number of children to be admitted into the Institution should be increased. As the building was already full this could not be accomplished, though the funds at the disposal of the brethren were ample. Numerous suggestions were made as to what was advisable to be done, and schemes were invited as to the plan to be pursued. Some brethren suggested that another and larger building should be erected elsewhere, and others that the nucleus of a future large school in the shape of a separate establishment for the younger children should be built a long distance from town, where land was cheap and plentiful. But the scheme which was adopted was that of Col. Creaton, who proposed that a wing should be added to the present building, capable of receiving several additional children. It was proposed that this should be built at the north east corner of the existing structure where some ground could be spared from the garden, and where the proposed addition could be built of such a size as to give room for a large hall, numerous offices, and several dormitories. The plans of Bro. Thomas Massa, Architect, were accepted, as were also the tenders of Bro. C. Fish, the builder, and the building was at once proceeded with. Considerable progress has been made with the new building, and by Thursday last it had arrived at the stage where the corner stone, which will perpetuate the date of building, could be set. Punctually at four o'clock everything was in readiness, and a procession was formed in the exercise-room, which marched, while two of the pupils played on the piano, to the platform erected for the purposes of the ceremony in the following order:—The porter; the women servants; assistant governess, Miss Davis; the matron, Miss Jarwood, and her assistant; the collector; the Secretary, Bro. Little (with documents to place in the cavity of the stone); Hon. Officers; the Treasurer, Bro. Tomkins (with bottle for coins and documents); Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. J. W. Mills Ellison; the Secretaries of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, Bro. Binckes, and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Bro. Terry; Audit Committee; Building Committee; the senior member of House Committee, Bro. B. Head (with inscribed plate); the Chairman of Building Committee, Col. Creaton, as M.M. to lay the stone; the Clerk (in attendance on Chairman).

The brethren then present were Bros. Colonel Creaton, Samuel Tomkins, Benj. Head, Joshua Nunn, John Boyd, Thomas W. White, J. A. Rucker, H. A. Dubois, H. Browse, Colonel Burdett, A. H. Tattershall, Dr. Eady, E. M. Hubbock, S. Rosenthal, J. A. Farnfield, R. B. Webster, W. Hyde Pullen, R. W. Evans, W. F. Collard Moutrie, F. Binckes, Capt. J. Wordsworth, James Terry, H. C. Levander, H. Muggidge, Morgan, jun., H. Massey ("Freemason"), and R. W. Little (Secretary), besides Bros. Massa and Fish, the architect and builder.

Bro. Samuel Tomkins, as the Senior Trustee present, first addressed Col. Creaton as the Chairman of the building Committee to act as Master Mason in performing the ceremony of laying the chief corner stone. Having assented to the request, Col. Creaton prepared to do the work by taking his position as Master Mason, assuming his apron and collar of Past Grand Deacon of England. This was the only Masonic regalia worn throughout the ceremony. All things being now in readiness, Bro. Massa, addressing the Colonel, said:—

Following the time-honoured custom of our ancient brethren, we have made preparation for you to lay the chief corner-stone of the intended structure at the N.E. corner of the Large Hall, in order that the earliest rays of the morning sun may shed benign influence on our work. Does the place so selected, and our motive, meet with your approval and sanction?

Col. Creaton replied: It does! The wisdom and ancient customs of our forefathers deserve our respect, and should not be lightly disregarded or departed from. We sanction and approve both the place and the motive for adopting it.

He then requested Bro. Little to read the document to be deposited in the cavity of the stone. Bro. Little did so, as follows:—

"Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, St. John's Hill, Battersea Rise, S.W. This, the foundation-stone of the buildings to be erected in extension of the above institution was laid by the Chairman of the Building Committee, W. Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel John Creaton, P.G.D., Vice Patron and Trustee, on Tuesday, the 7th September, 1876, in the presence of the Committees of the School, Bro. Thomas Massa, architect, Bro. Charles Fish, builder, Building Committee; the Treasurer and Trustees, Bro. John Boyd, G.P.; Henry Browse, P.G.D.; Henry A. Dubois, Benjamin Head, P.G.D.; Peter De Lande Long, Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.B.; Lieut.-Col. James Peters, John A. Rucker, P.G.D.; Griffiths Smith, P.G. Steward; Alfred H. Tattershall, Rev.

Joseph M. Vaughan, Thomas W. White, P.G. Steward; R. Wentworth Little, Secretary."

Accompanying this was the same inscription rendered into Latin by Bro. H. C. Levander, M.A., a member of the Audit Committee, and which Bro. Little also read as follows:—"Hunc Lapidem fundamentum novum aedificii adjuncti scholae pro filiabus Latomorum institutae solemniter posuit coram aedum curatoribus praeses Fratrum ad hoc opus conficiendum delectorum Johannes Creaton, Praefectus Militaris, hujus collegii propatorus et Fiduciarius, Die Jovis A.D. VII. Idus Septembris Anno Salutis MDCCCLXXVI Praesentibus etiam Thoma Massa, Architecto, Carolo Fish, Redemptore, Roberto Wentworth Little, Scriba, Aliisque Fratribus delectis."

Bro. Little delivered this document to Bro. Samuel Tomkins, who placed it in the bottle containing coins, and gave to the solicitor to seal. This having been done, it was deposited in the cavity of the bed stone. Bro. Benj. Head read the inscription on the plate which was to cover the cavity, and having read it he placed it over the cavity, pronouncing the words, "May this record long remain undisturbed for the information of future generations," though it is not very clear how future generations are to get the information from this plate, unless the corner stone is removed, which, to say the least, would be undesirable. The next step in the proceedings was for Colonel Creaton to rise and advance to the stone, which he did, saying, "Bro. Architect and Operative Masons, we are ready to assist you in your labours." To this Bro. Massa replied:—

"We are grateful for your aid, and shall derive encouragement from your example. We beg you will accept this trowel with which, having executed the work, we hope may afterwards be a pleasant memento of to-day's labour, and a token of the honour and esteem you are held in by all connected with this Institution. May the cement you will now spread with it be an emblem of that pure bond of union which connects Freemasonry with all good works."

Bro. Massa then presented a handsome silver trowel to Colonel Creaton.

Col. Creaton receiving the trowel spread the cement on the bed of the understone, and then turning to the East said, "Let the blessing of Heaven be supplicated on our present work."

The Chaplain offered up prayer for a blessing; the brethren responded "so mote it be."

Col. Creaton raised his trowel as a signal, and the children sang the anthem

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness."

The stone was gradually lowered by three distinct motions at the words "Power," "Glory," and "Victory," and Col. Creaton guiding it to its proper base with the handle of the trowel, which he then delivered to the builder.

Bro. Massa presented him with the setting maul, saying, "The stone being at rest we pray you to assume the setting maul and test its stability in the name of the four cardinal virtues."

Col. Creaton receiving the setting maul struck the stone on the four corners, saying, "With Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice let our work be founded."

The square was then presented to the M.M. by the Foreman of the Works; and Bro. Massa asked "Is our ashlar square?"

Col. Creaton proved it, and answered, "It is square, and set at a right angle with the work." He then handed the square to the Builder.

The Level was likewise so presented. Bro. Massa asked, "Is it also set level?" Col. Creaton proved it, and answered, "It is so, and firmly bedded equal East, West, North, and South," and handed the level to the Builder.

The Plumb Rule was likewise so presented; and Bro. Massa asked, "Is it adjusted plumb?"

Col. Creaton proved it and answered: "It is plumb; a perfect ashlar, truly adjusted, upright on its proper base," and handed the plumb rule to the builder.

Bro. Massa said: "This chief corner stone being square, level, and just, I pray you, M.M., certify the work and declare it good."

Col. Creaton took the setting maul in his right hand, and gave three knocks on the stone with the words, "Ask, and ye shall have," "Seek and ye shall find," "Knock and it shall be opened," adding "By the power in me vested, and in the name of the Great Architect of the Universe, I declare this stone well and truly laid." Handing the setting maul to the builder, he said, "May the work thus begun in order be conducted in peace and completed in harmony."

Bro. Massa presented the drawings, saying "Deign, Master Mason, to inspect and sanction the whole design," to which

Col. Creaton answered: "I will do so with pleasure," and then handed them to the builder, saying, "With the tools you have already received, and these instructions, may you raise a superstructure perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder."

The brethren responded, "So mote it be," and Colonel Creaton resuming his seat, said: "With the gifts of the Great Architect of the Universe, let this memorial be blessed and consecrated." Bro. Joshua Nunn scattered the stone with corn, Bro. J. A. Rucker sprinkled wine on it, and Bro. H. Browse dropped oil.

The Treasurer advanced to the stone, and placed some money on it for the workmen, saying—"It is written, 'Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.'" To the Foreman—"Let refreshment sweeten the labour of the Craftsmen."

Col. Creaton rose and said: "Let the blessing of heaven be invoked on the future operations," and the Chaplain pronounced the invocation. All the children then sang a hymn.

And this concluded the ceremony.

The procession reversed in order, then left the platform and proceeded to the building. Later on in the eve-

ning, a small but elegant banquet was partaken of, which was followed by the usual toasts. Col. Creaton presided, and after the toast of "The Queen" had been honoured, the Chairman in giving that of "The Prince and Princess of Wales," said he hoped that in May next, when the building would be finished Her Royal Highness would perform the ceremony of opening.

The Chairman in proposing "Success to the Masonic Institution" said that all the brethren would be pleased that Bro. Little was back again, though he was sorry to say he was not even now enjoying very good health. He was, however, very much better, and he hoped the improvement would be lasting. The Girls' School was fortunate in having so good a Secretary, and one who did his work so well. He (the Chairman) was sure on the day when Bro. Little was elected that he would turn out a trump, and his prediction had been verified. The Secretaries of the other Institutions had been obliged to leave early on account of other engagements, but there were representatives of those Institutions in the room who would respond on their behalf.

Bro. Little said that it had fallen to his lot to return thanks for this toast at the meetings of the House Committee, but it had rarely been his duty to speak before such a representative assembly as the present. Not only the executive officers of this institution, but of the other institutions were present. His best interests and his most heartfelt wishes were bound up with the welfare of the Girls' School. Nothing but the blow which had fallen upon him within the last few months, of his health being indifferent, could lessen his exertions on behalf of the institution. His exertions for the school would be nothing if the liberality of the Craft did not second it. This liberality had been widening of late years, and he congratulated the Craft generally and the friends of the institution upon the noble work that had been commenced that day. He was quite sure it would produce many benefits for those who would come after us, and they would all feel pleasure in the reflection that they had done something that day for the children of Freemasons.

Bro. Samuel Tomkins proposed "The Health of the Chairman." The noble Masonic Charities could not be supported unless some brethren could bestow time and attention upon them. Many brethren did this, but Colonel Creaton had distinguished himself by the thoughtful habitual attention he gave to the institution. All the brethren appreciated his efforts fully. Many of them would like to do as much, but their avocations deprived them of the power of doing so; and if they had not those brethren who at considerable personal sacrifice came forward, the institutions would not be in the position which they now occupied, or effect the good they did. The day had been a very interesting one in the history of the charity. They had seen the institution in the course of years proceeding from one point of progress to another. In 1873 a wing was built. Afterwards they had seen the infirmary built, and now the increasing demands of the Craft required an additional building. The first step had been taken satisfactorily, and he believed in the whole process Col. Creaton had taken a great interest. That day must be to Colonel Creaton one of personal triumph, he having been most anxious for the prosperity of the charity, and that the building should do justice to the Craft. It would afford a noble hall, and additional sleeping accommodation, which would enable the Institution to take in a much larger number of girls than at present. It must be to Col. Creaton highly gratifying, and it was gratifying to all the brethren to be present. For himself he (Bro. Tomkins) could only say with some degree of shame that though he was ex-officio member of the committees, his many avocations, and some degree of indifferent health, had prevented him from attending. But it had been a great pleasure to him to be present at that pleasant friendly meeting, and to have the gratification of proposing "The Health of Col. Creaton."

The Chairman said: Bro. Tomkins, I thank you very much for speaking of me so kindly in proposing my health, and I thank you, brethren, for endorsing so cordially what Bro. Tomkins has said. I assure you that it is a great satisfaction to me to-day to know that we have commenced that building which I have thought of so long; in fact, I will not conceal it from you, I have had that building on my brain for the last six months, and I am very glad we have now got so far that it has been commenced in earnest. I am quite sure that when it is completed, and perhaps when many of us have passed away, it will be appreciated; and it will be said by those who follow us that it was the right thing to do. Most of the Building Committee are aware that Mr. Whitting, who is the proprietor of the land adjoining, has lent it to us for the use of the children for a playground. It is extremely kind of him, and we are all of us very much obliged to him for it. I am gratified beyond measure that we have laid the foundation-stone of this new building to-day. I hope it will be a success, and I feel confident that it will. (Cheers.)

The toast of "The Architect" followed, and Bro. Massa responded, and said that although the ceremony of the day had been done in a corner it was a corner of great influence, like the representatives who were present. That influence would be diffused over the whole building, and he hoped when it became a perfect ashlar and a perfect cube it would meet with the satisfaction of the brethren. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Head proposed "The Ladies," referring particularly to those who had charge of the establishment and had brought it to such a state of perfection and discipline, Miss Davis and Miss Jarwood especially.

Bro. Boyd replied.

Bro. Joshua Nunn proposed "The Sister Institutions," for which Capt. Wordsworth, Bro. Hyde Pullen, and Bro. J. A. Farnfield responded. "The Health of Bro. Muggidge," and his reply brought the speeches to a close, after which the visitors witnessed the amusements of the girls, and returned to town about ten o'clock.

COSMOPOLITAN MASONIC
CALENDAR.

W. Masters and Secretaries are earnestly requested to forward to the publisher, at the Offices, 198, Fleet-street, E.C., particulars of the place, days, and months of meeting of their respective lodges, chapters, and other Masonic bodies, for insertion in the issue of the Calendar for 1877.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

COLONIAL and FOREIGN SUBSCRIBERS are informed that acknowledgments of remittances received are published in the first number of every month.

It is very necessary for our readers to advise us of all money orders they remit, more especially those from the United States of America and India; otherwise we cannot tell where to credit them.

NEW POSTAL RATES.

Owing to a reduction in the Postal Rates, the publisher is now enabled to send the "Freemason" to the following parts abroad for One Year for Twelve Shillings (payable in advance):—Africa, Australia, Bombay, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, China, Constantinople, Demerara, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Jamaica, Malta, Newfoundland, New South Wales, New Zealand, Suez, Trinidad, United States of America. &c.

TO OUR READERS.

The *Freemason* is a sixteen-page weekly newspaper, price 2d. It is published every Friday morning, and contains the most important, interesting, and useful information relating to Freemasonry in every degree. Annual subscription in the *United Kingdom*, Post free, 10/- P.O.O.'s to be made payable at the chief office, London.

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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.

P.M. CRAFT AND MARK, AND A P.P.G.O.—Letter received, but unaccompanied with name of sender. This must be given before letter can appear.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[The charge is 2s. 6d for announcements, not exceeding four lines, under this heading.]

BIRTHS.

BENBOW.—On the 9th inst., at Paignton, Devon, the wife of V. Benbow, Esq., of a son.
CHATTERTON.—On the 7th inst., at Teesdale Lodge, Brixton-hill, the wife of H. W. Chatterton, of a daughter.
COLE.—On the 10th inst., at Arlington-street, Viscountess Cole, of a son.
DAVIES.—On the 6th inst., at Little Blake Hall, Wanstead, the wife of H. D. Davies, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BOURKE—VANDELEUR.—On the 7th inst., at CastleConnell Church, co. Limerick, John Ulick, son of R. Bourke, of Thornfields, D.L., to Elizabeth Agnes, daughter of the late Col. J. Vandeleur (10th Hussars).
BURNETT—CURTEIS.—On the 6th inst., at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sevenoaks, Lindsay Robert Burnett, Esq., adjutant 95th Regt., to Agnes Henrietta, daughter of the late Rev. C. T. Curteis.
CRABTREE—CRANE.—On the 7th inst., at St. John's Church, Hackney, Frederick Crabtree, son of J. H. Crabtree, to Alice Elizabeth, daughter of Stephen Crane, all of Hackney.
HOGARD—WESTON.—On the 9th inst., at St. Clement Danes, Bro. C. F. Hogard, to Elizabeth Weston.

DEATHS.

AUGER.—On the 6th inst., William Auger, of Burnham, Essex, aged 52.
HAYWARD.—On the 4th inst., at Bridge-road, Battersea, Wm. Hayward, aged 70.
HOGG.—On the 7th inst., at West Cliff, Preston, James Hogg, Esq., aged 64.
JACKSON.—On the 9th inst., at Windmill-road, Croydon, Elizabeth, wife of Mr. F. Jackson.
ROBERTS.—On the 1st inst., at Hastings, John Roberts, Esq., M.A., Fellow of Magdalen College, Cambridge.
ROBERTSON.—On the 24th of June, at her residence, Bunalbo, Clarence River, New South Wales, after a week's illness, Jane, relict of the late William Robertson, aged 63 years. Friends will please accept this intimation.
WALKER.—On the 7th inst., at Dorset-gardens, Brighton, Capt. Leven Walker, R.N., aged 74.
WARD.—On the 26th ult., at Malta, Elizabeth Annie, widow of the late Dr. A. V. Ward, aged 42.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1876.

THE LAST QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

We quite rejoice to have to comment on so satisfactory a meeting of Grand Lodge, in the month of September. At that time, generally, its attendance is of the thinnest and the business merely routine. On the present occasion over 300 brethren assembled to consider and discuss the important notices of motion on the agenda paper. We are glad to record that the appointment of an enlarged committee was carried, and that on the reasonable proposal of Bro. Curteis, and the wise suggestion of Bro. McIntyre, the Grand Registrar, the provincial brethren were fully represented on the committee. We trust that we shall have a good report from it and that a reasonable proposal may be made which will command the sympathies of all. Grand Lodge has decided to perpetuate its Royal Grand Master's safe return by some donation, some memorial, and therefore the object ought to be, to try and discover a solution of the whole question, which will be acceptable to all. The committee has a large mission and full powers, and we hope, that in the discharge of its important duty to the Craft, it will, as we feel sure it will, ever keep before it, clearly and consistently, this one great end, the honour of our Grand Master, and the true interest of our Order. It is not a question, happily, into which our party spirit can enter, or on which antagonistic issues need be raised. We do not think that it would be becoming in us to attempt to discuss, as one or two brethren unwisely did in Grand Lodge, what the committee is likely to report, and what should be, so to say, the line it ought to take. It would be neither in good taste nor Masonic form for us to do so, now that the consideration of the subject matter is relegated to an independent committee to deal with and report upon. But we think we may say this; that if any of the Masonic Institutions are to be the channels through which this testimony of the gratitude of Grand Lodge is to be manifested to the public and the Craft, then all should, we venture to think, in some way or other, be put, so to say, on an equality. We make this remark in all deference, but we know that, thus expressing our humble opinion, we are also expressing the opinion of a good many zealous members of the Craft. And here we leave the matter to day, if not "sub-judice," "sub-committee," with every good wish for wise counsels, and a judicious and happy proposal, when in due time that Committee makes its report to Grand Lodge. After the expressed opinion of Grand Lodge it seems very difficult to suggest any other appropriation but a purely Masonic one of some kind or another. Grand Lodge having so decided we bow to its authority, though we could have wished that a larger view had been taken of the matter altogether. One brother has written to us as if there had been "unbrotherly feeling" displayed in the discussions which have arisen out of our worthy brother, the Past Grand Chaplain's original proposal. We are not aware of it, and it is impossible to suppose, that for a brotherhood like ours, so independent and so educated, differences of opinion will not arise. It would be very bad for us all if they did not. But we are "brethren," and having manfully spoken our minds on any subject, if need be, we must harmoniously "agree to differ."

PREJUDICES AGAINST FREEMASONS.

We gave last week from the "Thanet Guardian" the account of a curious episode at Margate, to which our attention was called at once by more than one correspondent. We confess we do not understand why the Watch Committee of the borough of Margate should make the profession of Freemasonry a disqualification for the office of the chief of the police in that good town. Perhaps some brother can throw some light on so extraordinary a proceeding, and we shall be glad if he will give our readers the

benefit of his remarks in the pages of the "Freemason." In the meantime we will only say that such regulations of a municipal body are very absurd, and such prejudices very perverse. Freemasons are among the most orderly, loyal, well-principled of mortals, friends always to discipline and decorum, and habitual supporters of the law. What then, and who then, is the cause of such a ridiculous objection? When and by whom was such an instruction to the Watch Committee given, or is it the luminous idea of that intelligent body of citizens? We feel, that in the interests of many members of the police service who are Freemasons, we have a right to ask for an investigation into the matter, and for a reply to these questions. Such difficulties might be raised by an Ultramontane Town Council, or by those who take a hostile view of Freemasonry and Freemasons, but we do not, we confess, understand them when they emanate from an ordinary English municipal body, and we shall hope to hear that there is some mistake in the matter.

THE DETECTION OF CRIME.

The report of the Metropolitan Police, which we commented upon last week suggests several considerations to those who inhabit the metropolis, and are specially interested in the preservation and protection of their persons and property. Indeed, all are interested in the matter more or less, as the efficient working of our police system, alike in repression and in detection, is of paramount importance to the order and well-being of society, the peace and prosperity, and comfort of us all alike. Nothing so much tends to detract from the progress of civilization, the true liberty of the subject, the conveniences of material affluence, and the simple tranquillity of domestic life, as a state of anarchy or lawlessness, a disposition to riot, outrage, or plunder, which things, as we well know, seriously affect the value of property, and weaken the just prescription of ancient laws and good government. Some of us may remember parts of the country which, before the introduction of the rural police, for instance, were very uncomfortable places to live in, and where quiet people, and timid people, were positively at the mercy of the "area sneak" by day, the crouching burglar by night, in which it was not always safe, for young women especially, to go out after dark, and where personal and general robberies were of daily occurrence. Some of us, we say, can recall in our memories to a similar state of things. Now all these happy amenities of ruffianism are things of the past, and we trust, under the auspices of a well organized urban and rural police, will never again occur. Why, as we write, we can even now recall an old familiar spot where henroosts were regularly robbed the moment there was poultry enough to make the "job" worth anything, where at Michaelmas, the farmers' geese and turkeys invariably disappeared "en masse," where sheepstealing was not unfrequent, and where the plundered were consoled with such a specimen as this of the facetious poetry of thiefdom:—

"You are rich, and we are poor,

When this is done, we'll come for more."

And ours are facts, not fictions—stern realities, which happened before our very eyes, not so many long years ago after all—not the creation merely of a facile and ornate imagination. From Col. Henderson's report it is apparent, we think, that detection follows crime, as a general rule, in the majority of the current crimes of civilization, and that we may fairly assert that the metropolis is well protected, alike at the West-end, as by the effective City police under Col. Fraser, from those offences which would gravely interfere with the happiness and social security of us all alike, and which jeopardize the preservation of property, or menace the public order, peace, and safety. But it seems to us that, notwithstanding this so far satisfactory state of things, there is a defect in our existing system which requires amendment and alteration. We allude to what we may term the "higher detection of crime and criminality." In our free country, and under our good old Constitution, we cannot have, as in other countries, a secret police, and

much of the English jealousy on the subject is the fear, no doubt, that a high class body of detectives might be used for political purposes. Though we believe such an idea is a chimera, yet it is one which is characteristically English, and deserves to be treated with respect. That love for the Constitution, and that reverence for law and liberty combined, are, as it were, the clue to the real greatness of the English character, and the permanency and solidity of English institutions. As long as we hold to them fast and firm we are, humanly and politically speaking, safe. But though this be so, there is no reason why we should run into the other extreme and prevent our detective officers carefully and perfectly fulfilling their important "metier." We are all of us aware from time to time of many remarkable robberies, acts of violence, murders, crimes of special nature, which seem to defy detection, and evade the retributive punishment of a stern but tranquil justice. Why should this be so? Of course in all things and all organizations of this earth imperfection and incompleteness are to be found. Nothing is absolutely perfect here, free from actual flaw or possible failure. But still the defect of proper detection is so great a blow to social welfare, and so great a reflection on the administration of the law, and so undesirable on every account, that we should always make the greatest efforts, to use a common expression, to put everything into "ship shape," to tighten up all the links which go to compose the encircling chain of police supervision and detection, as against that "classe dangereuse" which preys, so to say, on the very "vitals of society." We doubt very much whether we do enough to encourage the "esprit de corps" of the detective police. In our humble opinion, detectives should be purely detectives, judiciously and carefully selected from the divisions, and employed solely for detective purposes. A policeman who is acting as a detective to-day, and may be standing at a crossing to-morrow, looking after the light carts and timid old ladies, loses that interest in his special work, which is absolutely essential for the very purpose of detection, and in order to encourage a class of "skilled detectives," we would give higher pay, and special allowances for emergencies, and for clothing, "coloured clothes," as the old soldier's term was, with occasional rewards, and good superannuation pensions. And we feel sure that the expense thus incurred, however it might startle some would-be economists, would not be thrown away, but would save in the long run a large amount of the property of the public, would raise the character of "Scotland Yard," and materially augment the safety of the metropolis. In all this we are not complaining of the detective system now in vogue. What it does do, it does well, it does very well, but we venture to think it might yet do better. There is in London, as elsewhere, in all large towns, and even in rural districts, a class of sleek but ill-conditioned scoundrels, male and female, (and the females are the worst—ask the police), who act as the "fences" of multitudinous light-fingered gentry and femininity. Without their aid and countenance, and "cheek," and skilled criminality, our pickpockets, and housebreakers, would be nowhere. It is this most dangerous class of all, with which only skilled detection can successfully cope, and until it does so, society must be alarmed, and social security impaired by those sadder and startling crimes of humanity which take away our breath for the moment, which apparently are undiscoverable by the police, and only serve to make the fortune of the secret receiver of stolen property, who battens on the plunder of a suffering public.

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.]

INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—
I am a provincial brother, staying for a short time in London, and eagerly availing myself of every opportunity to witness the working of Metropolitan Masonry. Influenced by this motive, I visited the Emulation Lodge

of Improvement with the most sanguine anticipations; from the high reputation which that lodge enjoys for the precision and accuracy of its working. I retired from the lodge a sadder, though not a wiser man. The Master "gabbled" the ceremony of the Third Degree with considerable fluency and tolerable correctness, but without any attempt at emphasis or impressiveness. The Wardens "bungled," as Wardens will, but did not deem it necessary to repeat correctly the parts in which they had blundered. The Deacons stood not "upon the order of their going," but stumbled, now against each other, now against the candidate, with charming "insouciance." The candidate evidently regarded the whole thing as a bore, and quite succeeded in communicating his feelings to one brother. The Instructor enunciated his corrections in a contemptuous tone of superb pococurantism, without troubling himself in the slightest degree to see them carried out. And this was the Emulation Lodge of "Improvement." Save the mark! In my little country town we should call it a "slovenly rehearsal."

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
RUSTICUS IN URBE.

THE WIDOW OF THE LATE BRO. FARNFIELD.
To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—
I have been asked so many questions with respect to Bro. Henry Greene's motion to grant an annuity to my mother, that I think it only fair to state through the medium of your paper, that the notice of motion was given without any previous communication with my mother, brothers, or myself, and, therefore, of course, without our sanction. The notice was not renewed at my earnest request, as I am both able and willing to supplement the income left by my late father so as amply to provide for my mother and sisters.

Bro. Greene knows, and it is, therefore, almost unnecessary to state here, that we are deeply sensible of the good feeling which prompted him to act as he has done in the matter.

By inserting this letter you will greatly oblige, yours fraternally,

J. A. FARNFIELD.

[We publish this letter at the special request of our esteemed Bro. J. A. Farnfield.]

THE "FREEMASON."

Dear Bro. Editor,—

A few days back I accidentally called upon a brother Mason. It was towards the eventide, and the first thing that caught my eye after the formal salutations had subsided was the "Freemason." I took it up, but in so doing the—"there's nothing in it, as usual," was the observation. I put it down again, made no comment, but silently said, I shall get my own on reaching home. I very eagerly enquired, "has my 'Freemason' arrived yet?" The reply was "Yes; I devoured it at the same time I did my dinner, and certainly it helped to digest my solid menu." These are the remarks I wrote round the margin of the paper:—"I don't remember that I have ever read with such pleasure and delight the varied articles that appear in this week's issue; they are really full of intrinsic value, and show the thoughtfulness of the writers and the appreciative worth of the editor. Some of the following particularly drew forth marks of approval on the writer's part, viz.: 'Earnestness in the performance of Masonic duties;' 'Making Lodge Meetings attractive;' 'Let us be Sociable;' 'Some of the Peculiarities,' etc. All these short papers had a charm for me, and I came to the conclusion that there was something 'in it' worth reading and thinking about. More, I am inclined to think that if we Freemasons were more in 'the spirit' we should get at the core and inner part of the essence of our Order's power; but remarks depreciatory, made abstractedly, like the 'nothing in it,' are calculated to lower the blue Standard. I believe in ever raising it high up and above all others, so that our detractors may see rays of light emanate from it; and short papers, such as those mentioned, will soon draw down "hearty good wishes" for the "Freemason."

AUGEN MASS HAREN.

HISTORY OF THE CRAFT.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I am a young Mason and naturally wish to know something of the history of the Craft. Would you, or one of your numerous subscribers kindly inform me of any book that bears on the subject. A reply will greatly oblige, yours fraternally,
F.C.
[Obtain Findel's History, from Bro. Kenning, 198, Fleet-street.]

BRO. SIMPSON'S MOTION IN GRAND LODGE.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

May I ask why Durham, the University of the north, has been omitted in the motion proposed by the Rev. R. J. Simpson, Grand Chaplain?

If the project mentioned by him be accepted I certainly think north country Masons will feel very much chagrined that no notice is taken of their claims. As a member of the University of Durham, and an officer of Provincial Grand Lodge, I take the earliest opportunity of pointing out the great injustice of confining the scholarships to the older universities. There are as many old and influential Masons in the north, who, while anxious that the project brought forward by the Grand Chaplain should succeed, would still feel injured if their claims were not also considered.

I trust you will kindly give this letter a place in your valuable columns, and oblige
Very faithfully yours,
W. LEEMAN,

Prov. G. Chaplain of Durham.

A LITTLE FRIENDLY GOSSIP ON SOME OF THE TOPICS OF THE DAY.

BY PHILANTHROPOS.

(Written Especially for the "Freemason.")

No. 5—EDUCATION.—Continued.

As I am writing these papers for the purpose of information more than discussion, and am stating, I hope inoffensively, my humble views on the subject, having studied it, and practically attended to it for many years, I propose in this paper simply to deal with the matter from its purely scholastical aspect.

It is, I think, happily evident that we have, or soon shall have, sufficient accommodation in our elementary schools for all of school age who can attend them, but it is one thing to have the schools, it is quite another thing to fill them. Unfortunately, the difficulty of attendance is still a grievous difficulty for the schoolmaster. Of the 2,744,300 children on the registers, 2,221,745 were present on the day of inspection, and the average of the yearly attendance was 1,813,800. On both these points considerable improvement must be made, and though we cannot hope that the next report will testify that all the improvement we look for has been arrived at, yet we may fairly trust to a larger average attendance, and to an increased number present on the day of inspection. It will be a happy time for all true friends of education when they are told, that in one way or other the whole school age available for the elementary school is alike on the registers, and even in partial attendance, inasmuch as then our generation will have done its duty, of not allowing any little atom of the aggregate knowingly to grow up in utter ignorance in its very midst. It is to this end that all our efforts should be directed without party zeal or sectarian bias, to extend the area of education, and to increase the roll of the educated. And here there comes in a most important question, "You have the schools, and the children you are rapidly getting in. What about the education given?"

The report very properly complains that the actual education of a large number of the children is still imperfect, and this we must at once concede. But then we feel bound to say this. Education may be said to be partly in a transition state, and the numerous changes of the last four years have rather interfered with the unexcited discharge of the schoolmaster's duties. We are hardly yet settled down to our work, and we must not be too impatient for results, but must leave a good deal to time and toil.

In the meantime we may be satisfied of this, that the general tone and scope of education are rising amongst us, some think are already too high. I do not, for this reason mainly, that those who have had most to do with education know well the shortness of time in which we can educate the children in the elementary schools, and that if children wish to be fully educated they must build on elementary education, an after education of their own, whether in night schools, or Sunday schools or classes, or libraries, or lectures, and the like. I will defy any one to lay down a minimum of education for a school without doing serious damage, alike to education and the child; and the aim of the true teacher is to impart as much as he or she can in a short time, in a thoroughly sound and lasting manner. I quite admit that the argument at first sight is a formidable one, "do not over educate the child of a working man, for instance, and simply give him the rudiments of a fair education, for if you do you may unfit for him his work." But when you come to look clearly into such an averment, you soon find out its fallacy and its unsoundness.

The child is sent to school to be taught the elementary portion of education, its rudiments, but with a view also, do not forget, to after improvement and self education. No one can seriously venture to contend that school education is all for the child. And what right, moral or individual, have you or I, to fix an arbitrary standard of elementary education, and say to A, B, C, D, "You are the sons and daughters of working people, and, therefore, I will only give you a certain amount of teaching, because if I inspire you with higher tastes, or put you in the way of acquiring higher branches of human learning, you will be rendered unfit for your station in life, and that calling which, humanly speaking, is to be yours?" No one has a right or warrant, so to speak, or so to act; and it is quite clear that those good folks who still advocate educating people to fill their proper places alone, who think the minimum is preferable to the maximum for a large class of our children, have no confidence in education per se.

Remember here, by education, I mean good, sound, useful, religious education, and that I would give liberally and loyally, and unstintedly to all. It is no valid objection to say, as some do, that some may make a bad use of education. So may some people do with anything here, without any exception. Does it belong to us to forecast the future, or limit the onward progress of events? Certainly not! We have no authority and no call to say "a little learning is a dangerous thing," and then build our theory of education on the application of this axiom to the poor little atom by an infinitesimal process of education.

No, we are to do our duty in our time and generation, we are to educate all who ought to be educated, and we are to leave the result confidently in the hands of a higher power than man. Hence, I would give to every child a thorough grounding in reading, writing, and arithmetic up to practice, in dictation, grammar, and history, in music, drawing, geography, and the use of the globes, and last, not least, book-keeping, double entry and English composition. It is impossible in an elementary school, it appears to me, to teach foreign languages, or the higher branches of arithmetic or mathematics. I believe a good deal of harm is done by cramming the children, for instance,

with "vulgar fractions," decimals, and the like. I remember seeing years ago a beautifully written "Arithmetic Book, in which some most elaborate sums were entered in a most correct running hand." So I called the boy, and said to him "John Jones, do me this sum on your slate"—divide £10 15s. 6d. (or something to that effect) by 12. The boy looked bothered, glanced at the master, and the master said "You know how to do it, John." I took the slate, and wrote the "dividend," and said "Now, write down the 'Divisor' in its proper place, and do it. The poor boy was quite fast. When next I went to the school the master said to me "I have made John Jones begin from compound multiplication over again." He had done it all mechanically, without understanding it. Hence I am not for too much elaborate work in our schools, and certainly not for show or cram work at all, but for sound, simple, steady grounding in elementary knowledge. The higher work must come afterwards, out of school, or in a middle class school. For I venture to think that all boys should be carefully watched; those who manifest decided aptitude and parts of any kind should be drafted, through exhibitions and the like, to a higher class school, as a preparation for a still better education. Some say such an education as I have sketched out would unfit a boy for work. I do not believe it. Indeed, I know it is not the case. Even if it be so, and as there is no positive good without a probable evil in this world, we have no right to measure our gift or limit our work for fear of either being turned to evil rather than to good.

We are to try to educate elementarily, in the best way we can, for the present and permanent welfare of the child. I do not see why our boys should not have some technical education, though their time is limited, and some think even now we take up too many subjects. As regards the girls, I would add to the existing "curriculum," to use a fine word, the inestimable instruction of cookery. In nothing are our rural lasses, and no doubt our town girls, so deficient, and through no fault of their own.

How many a married couple would fare better, and make their money go much farther, if the wife was up to the first principles of cooking, and knew how to stew, and roast, and boil well, and to make the most of everything, and could turn her hands to many little dishes which would add a great deal to the working man's dinner, and to his children's health. As a rule, in a part of England where I have lived the best years of my life our girls knew how to fry ham, "collops" of bacon, and to make bread, and one or two other usual dishes, but that is all—and we teach them nothing at school about cooking. To stew meat with vegetables, or to make broth, the working classes positively do not know how, and there is enough wasted innocently amongst our hardworking people to make the food of many.

Hence every girl should be taught the elements of cookery, and apt scholars they soon would be. As it is they are so much ahead of the men that this and the next generation will, if they are to be lifted up out of that "slough of despond" which bad habits and bad training have brought many of us into, as often happens in the history of man, to the woman will owe it.

I for one do not disapprove of the girls attending to what is called "fine work" and the like, which some affect to think almost sinful in our schools. So long as the girls can mark, and hem, and sew, and knit well, they are quite right, it appears to me, for many reasons too long to dilate upon now, to take up the finer kind of worsted, tapestry, and crochet work.

On the whole I believe that education is progressing more rapidly than we sometimes think, and since I first began to turn my attention to the subject, alas! now a long while ago, what an improvement in all classes has been going on amongst us happily on every side.

So let us take heart; things are not so bad, I fancy, as they seem, and as I am a believer in a good, sound, religious education, I yet look forward to a time, perhaps when we of this generation are all in our graves, when an educated and God-fearing people shall manifest not only their continuance, alike in loyalty and patriotism to their Sovereign and country, but their great advance in self-restraint of conduct, and in general sobriety of manners, in peace and goodwill one with another, and when an educated person shall be the rule and an uneducated person the exception.

GRAND LODGE.—A SKETCH.
COMMUNICATED BY OUR V.P.C.*

"If there's a hole in a' your coats
I rede you tent it:
A chiel's amang you taking notes,
And, faith, he'll prent it."

"And can I really go into Grand Lodge?" exclaimed I the other night, when at the close of a somewhat long day's business, finding that I could not return home till the morrow, I called upon one of my London brethren by way of killing a little of that (alas! often) too spare time.

"To be sure you can, old fellow," said he; "just borrow a collar and jewel from our jolly old Tyler, sign your name in a book, get your bone, and there you are!"

I must confess to some little trepidation as I followed my courageous friend through the portals of the dread precincts, especially as at the very threshold I observed a Janitor who would doubtless bar my further progress; to him I addressed myself apologetically, "A young man from the country, but very desirous. . . . Hope I don't intrude; my uncle the late Paul P. Liston used—" "Here! come on," said my friend, "or we shan't get a seat," and without further delay I ascended the noble flight of steps, which (as nobody particular was expected, I suppose) was carpetless. At the top my friend left me for

awhile, and I found myself, after clothing in my borrowed plumes, in the presence of the dreaded scrutineers.

"Your name, brother, and number of your lodge?"—"Smith, of No.—let me see—Um? ah, well, I'm exceedingly sorry, but I really forget."

"That's rather a pity, brother, as I'm afraid we shall not readily find you. But, perhaps, you have it on your case?"

Happy thought; so diving once more into the crowd of brethren at the sort of cloak-room provided for their accommodation, I sought my property. After a tremendous struggle with my various pockets I found my ticket, and recovering my missing number, I announced myself as Bro. Paul Pry Smith, of Lodge of Observation, No. 10,002, Mudford-on-Spree."

Having received my pass-cheque, I found my friend waiting, and passing through the porch, entered Grand Lodge, and beheld one of the finest sights I ever witnessed, but which I need not now describe. Very soon the noble strains of the fine-toned organ burst upon my ear, the procession entered, and a brother of firm but genial aspect took his place before the throne. Grand Lodge having been opened, and our revered Grand Secretary having read the minutes, I was struck with the eager cordiality with which the various gifts were voted to our distressed brethren. Then came a pause before entering upon what was evidently the attractive business of the evening—the giving a thank offering, honouring our Grand Master, and doing ourselves a capital turn by transferring a good round sum from one oreches-pocket to the other, all in one.

Then rose a worthy brother of genial mien, and whose "nostril scented battle from afar." With very "ore ro-tunda" he began—

"Mr. Frank Buckland recently, in speaking of oysters"—oh! delicious vision. At last, thought I, our very worshipful brother has discovered a splendid mode of carrying out our desire—the very ne plus ultra of selfishness—he is going to propose a vote to the cultivation of our delicious morsel. But think of my disappointment when I found that the oyster was a mere delusive illustration, intended only to "point a moral," and not "adorn a tale" (of oysters), for he only went on to say that Mr. Frank Buckland declared the necessity of heat for their production. Somehow he made out that we didn't want heat, at least, not such heat as was exhibited at the last Grand Lodge, which nipped in the bud the glow of eloquence in which I was going to propose, in the most self-denying manner, to give our very worshipful brother to the cause as a capital generator of the article in question.

To my great disappointment we heard no more of oysters, not even what they had to do with the subject in question, and so after extracting a little kindly mirth from the innocent suggestion of a dear old brother, that some future member of the committee shortly to be elected should first furnish us with a definite idea of what that committee in nubibus meant to do, and helping to put another genial brother in a glorious minority of one, I was fain, after Grand Lodge was over, to solace myself with a few natives *in esse* which substantial fact, perhaps, accounted for visions of the unweiling of a monument made of oyster shells to Mr. Buckland by a very worshipful brother, the proceedings being enlivened by fitful hummings of a refrain running somewhat thus:

"O wad some pow'r the giftie gie us,
To see oursel's as others see us;
It wad frae monie a blunder free us;
And foolish notion!"

[* * * We hope that we are not the victims of a "provincial" joke, but we trust to the guarantee of our V.P.C.'s neatly-printed card.—Ed.]

* Our Very Provincial Correspondent.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTH WALES AND SHROPSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Wales and Shropshire, over which Bro. Sir Wakin Williams Wynn, Bart., M.P., surnamed "The Prince in Wales," presides as the Provincial Grand Master, was held at the Public Hall, Wrexham, on Tuesday, the 5th inst. There was a very large gathering of the fraternity, thus demonstrating that Freemasonry has obtained a strong hold on those resident in the principality. The meeting was held under the banner of the Square and Compass Lodge, No. 1336, which was consecrated in 1871. The gathering was an important epoch in the history of the lodge, marking the date of the first Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in Wrexham, and the opening of a new lodge room at the Public Hall, elegantly and fittingly appointed, gave additional eclat to the meeting. The unusual assembly caused quite a flutter of excitement amongst the "natives," and the greatest interest appeared to be felt in the whole of the day's proceedings, especially in the procession to church, which took place at the close of lodge business. The arrangements made by the brethren of the "Square and Compass" were eminently satisfactory, and were generally approved by the visitors.

Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn, R.W.P.G.M., whose Masonic zeal is so well known throughout Wales, was present, and amongst the more distinguished brethren who supported him were Bros. J. S. Brownrigg, Prov. Grand Master of Surrey, and Past G.W. of England; T. Davison, P.S. G.W. Middlesex; C. Dutton, P.P.S.G.W. Cheshire; W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., P.P.S.G.W.; J. Peters, P. P.S.G.W.; W. Blakeway, P.J.G.W.; J. D. White, P.G. Treas.; W. H. Spaul, P.G. Sec.; R. J. Sisson, P.G.S.; A. Walker, P.G.S. of W.; R. Wood, P.G. D.C.; P. H. Evans, P.G.A.D.C.; J. Salmon, P.G. S.B.; J. B. Boucher, P.G. Organist; F. Parmeter, P.G. Pur.; W. Collender, P.G.S.; T. C. Roden, P.P. J.G.W.; Dr. Goldsborough P.G.S.; E. H. Hankey,

P.P.G. Reg.; J. B. Hide, P.G. Tyler; W. B. Newnes, P.G.A. Tyler; J. Bodenham, P.G. Pur. Staffordshire, and others. The private members of the lodges in attendance numbered upward of 100, there being no fewer than 35 from the Square and Compass Lodge, and ten from that which bears the P.G.M.'s name at Mold.

The brethren assembled in the lodge-room at 1.30 p.m. for the transaction of some ordinary business, and after this had been disposed of a procession of the Provincial Grand Lodge was afterwards formed, and entered the room, headed by the P.G.M., who was received with tremendous cheering, which, if not strictly Masonic, was at least an evidence of his popularity with the brethren of his province.

After the Provincial Grand Lodge had been received and opened according to ancient form, the Prov. G. Secretary (Bro. Spaul) read the minutes of the meetings held at Bangor, Llandidloes, Newtown, Market Drayton, and Bridgenorth, the four last-named being for the purpose of consecrating new lodges. The minutes were unanimously confirmed. The Prov. G. Secretary read a telegram which he had received from Bro. Banks, Prov. G. St.B., stating that he could not cross from the island of Anglesea in consequence of a storm which was raging.

The roll of lodges was next called by the Prov. G. Sec., when it appeared that, with only two or three exceptions, the whole of the twenty-three lodges within the province were represented. The roll of Prov. G. Officers was also called, and it appeared that there were merely two absent.

The next business was to elect a Treasurer. Bro. J. D. White, anticipating his re-election, expressed a desire to retire from the position which he had held for many years, on account of the pressure of business. The brethren present, however, expressed a hope that he would continue in office, and on the motion of Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes, P.P.S.G.W., seconded by Bro. W. Blakeway, P.G.J.W., Bro. White was unanimously re-elected. He submitted the balance sheet for the past year, stating that previous to the audit of January, 1875, there was a balance in favour of the Treasurer of £24 5s. 9d.; but he was happy to state that the account was now the other way, as there was a balance in favour of the Provincial Grand Lodge of £80 2s. 4d. Besides this sum in the Treasurer's hands, there was upwards of £200 in the bank, so that they were now in a very prosperous state.

The Prov. G. Secretary moved that, in future, copies of the books of bye-laws should be furnished by the Provincial Grand Lodge, instead of being supplied at the expense of private lodges. The motion was seconded by Bro. Hankey, P.P.G. Reg., and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Bro. Dr. Roden, P.P.G.J.W., seconded by Bro. Lewis, P.P.G.S.W., and supported by Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., P.P.G.S.W., it was resolved to vote the sum of twenty guineas from the Provincial Grand Lodge funds to aid the widow of the late Bro. Humphreys, formerly connected with the Segontium Lodge, No. 666, Carnarvon.

Bro. J. Salmon, P.G.S.B., moved that, in recognition of the four years' services as honorary Secretary performed by Bro. Spaul, the sum of 30 guineas be voted to him, in order that he might constitute himself a life governor of each of the three great Masonic charitable institutions in London. He remarked that it was very desirable that they should seek to increase the voting power of that province in connection with their charities, so that it might stand second to none in the country.—Bro. Peters, P.P.G.S.W., seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation, and the compliment was acknowledged by Bro. Spaul, who signified his intention of devoting the whole sum to the charities in London.

Bro. D. P. Owen, P.M. 998, moved, "That any bye-laws of the Prov. Grand Lodge of North Wales and Shropshire, which purport to have a power over the funds of the private lodges of the province (except registration and benevolence), but more especially that in which the various lodges are compelled to purchase a copy of the bye-laws for each member of the lodges, should be rescinded, and the bye-laws (if any), wherein lodges are fined for non-attendance at Prov. Grand Lodge." Bro. Owen pointed out the occasional difficulty which many brethren had in attending the Provincial Grand Lodge meetings, and hoped the bye-law with respect to fines for non-attendance would be rescinded. The motion was not seconded, and therefore it fell to the ground.

The P.G. Master said that when he first presided over that province the lodges were not so numerous as they were now, and it was then thought advisable to make the appointments of P.G. Officers for two years, owing to the difficulty of finding brethren for promotion. Now, however, the number of Freemasons had so enormously increased, and the number of lodges as well, that he thought it possible to alter the plan of promotion. Although he was not going to alter it at that time, he thought it was well worth considering whether the same plan should not be adopted as that existing in private lodges—viz., to make the appointments of P.G. lodge officers only for one year. (Applause.)

The R.W.P.G.M. then appointed Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P. for the district boroughs of Carnarvonshire, the R.W. Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the province of North Wales and Shropshire, and he was duly installed in his place.

The following brethren were appointed officers by the P.G.M., and also installed in their respective offices:—
G. Owen..... Prov. G.S.W.
J. Salmon..... Prov. G.J.W.
Rev. A. L. Taylor..... Prov. G. Chaplain.
Rev. T. Lloyd Kyffen..... Prov. A.P.G. Chap.
J. D. White..... Prov. G. Treas.
R. J. Sisson..... Prov. G. Reg.
W. H. Spaul..... Prov. G. Sec.
F. Parmeter..... Prov. G.S.D.
R. de la Poer Beresford..... Prov. G.J.D.

W. L. Banks	Prov. G.S. of W.
E. Wood	Prov. G.D.C.
W. Collender	Prov. G.A.D.C.
J. B. Bagnall	Prov. G. Swd. Br.
J. B. Boucher	Prov. G.O.
R. Lloyd Williams	Prov. G. Purst.
J. Thomas, W. Britton, W. Low, and J. Stokes	Prov. G. Stewards.
J. B. Hide	Prov. G. Tyler.
O. Newnes	Prov. G.A. Tyler.

Hearty congratulations having been given to Sir Watkin by representatives from the provinces of Surrey, Middlesex, Cheshire, and Staffordshire, the business of the Provincial Grand Lodge was brought to a close.

The brethren subsequently formed in procession, and proceeded to St. Giles's Church, Wrexham, in the usual order.

On arriving at the door of the church the procession halted. The brethren opened to the right and left, face inwards, so as to leave room for the P.G. Master to pass up the centre, he being preceded by his Standard and Sword Bearer; the P.G. Officers and brethren following in succession from the rear, so as to invert the order of procession. On leaving the church the brethren observed this order of procession by forming as they were on halting at the door of the church.

The service was full choral and was exceedingly well rendered by the choir of the parish church. Bro. J. F. Edisbury, Organist and Treas. 1336, was the Organist during the service, and Bro. Boucher, P.G.O., played the voluntaries, one of which was his own composition. The chants were by Elvey, Rimbault, and Farrant, and the selected hymns were from the "Hymns Ancient and Modern." The Psalms, which were also selected, were chanted.

The prayers were read by the Rev. M. H. C. Shelton, and the lessons by the vicar.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. A. L. Taylor, P.G. Chaplain, who selected for his text Acts 20th chapter and 35th verse: "Ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Having shown how this precept was illustrated in the life of St. Paul, who addressed these words to the Church of Miletus shortly before his last journey to Jerusalem, the r.v. gentleman said: Such is what we learn from the text; and if we are really convinced of its truth we shall be glad of the opportunity to manifest it by our offerings this day. It is, I am sure, needless for me to enter into particulars connected with the two important objects in whose behalf I am privileged to make an earnest appeal to you. To the heart of every one of my brethren the education and advancement in life of the children of distressed or deceased Freemasons must commend itself most warmly, and I would, in language that is well known to every member of the Craft, remind them of that virtue which may justly be denominated the distinguishing feature of Freemasonry—I mean charity. I need not here dilate on its excellences. Doubtless it has often been felt and practised by you; it has the approbation of heaven and earth, and like its sister, mercy, it blesseth him who gives and him who receives. In a society so widely spread as that of Freemasonry, whose branches are spread over the four quarters of the globe, it cannot be denied that we have many brethren of rank and opulence among us; neither can it be concealed that among the thousands who range under its banners there are many who from circumstances of unforeseen misfortune or calamity are reduced to the lowest state of poverty and distress. It is in behalf, then, of the children of those who through age, sickness, infirmity, or any other unforeseen accident in life, may be reduced to want, and whose situation it is much more easy to conceive of than to express, that I do with all earnestness entreat for your liberal and bounteous aid this day, so that we may confirm the propriety of the title we bear, and show that brotherhood among Masons is something more than a mere name. And with respect to the other object in support of which a portion of the offerings this day are to be devoted, there is no need to show that the Wrexham Infirmary is a cause that plainly falls under the exhortation of the text, "Ye ought to support the weak." In caring for those who are unable to care for themselves to the extent their need requires, and at a time when for the sake of others the greatest care is indispensable, the Wrexham Infirmary has proved a true Samaritan and house of Bethesda; and we may show our appreciation of the benefits it has conferred, as well as enable it to continue its work of mercy, by making it, as I have said, one of the objects of your offerings this day. My brethren, it is the glory of our country that such provision for those who are unable to provide it for themselves is the rule and not the exception; that the advantages of medicine, skill, and care are extended to them during the time of sickness; and that they are nursed with the same unwearied care as the wealthiest and noblest in the land. It not unfrequently happens that they return home not only healed in body but in the way of finding health for their souls. Such is the appeal to us. Let us respond to it as those who do understand in some measure the blessedness of which the text speaks. If we really love and serve Christ, we shall give because of the blessing by and by, because we shall be glad to minister to whatever helps to alleviate human suffering and misery. We shall give as those who see and feel the meaning of the words, "Christ loved me, and gave Himself for me," and thus give from a conviction that derives its principal satisfaction from a remembrance and realisation of the greatest of all God's gifts to us, even His own Son, which in its blessedness knows no end. Given in perishable money, it is written in books that will outlive the world. It will be returned a hundredfold in heaven. Works, we know, can save no man's soul, yet without works, the result of faith, there is no evidence of faith being saving, and, therefore, no

guarantee of the soul's salvation. Brother in Christ, "be merciful after thy power. If thou hast much, give plentifully; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly, and give of that little, so gatherest thou thyself a good reward in the day of necessity."

Hymn 373, "Lord of Glory, who has bought us," was then sung, and a collection amounting to over £21 was made in aid of the North Wales and Shropshire Masonic Charitable Association, and the Wrexham Infirmary.

Bro. J. B. Boucher, P.G.O., then played a voluntary, and the procession left the church, proceeding down High-street to the Wynnstay Arms Hotel.

The banquet was served at this hotel by Bro. J. B. Murless, and about 120 brethren sat down under the presidency of Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., M.P., R.W. P.G.M., being supported on his right by Bro. Lieut.-Gen. Brownrigg, C.B., P.G.M. of Surrey; Bro. W. Bulkeley Hughes, M.P., D.G.M. of North Wales and Shropshire; and on his left by Bro. W. Low, W.M. of the Square and Compass Lodge, No. 1336, and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The general company also included the following visiting brethren:—Bros. J. B. Murless, S.D.; E. B. Smith, I.P.M. 1432; W. Jones, 1488; R. Woodcock, W.M. 1369; T. Rymer, 86, Prescot; H. Lloyd, S.; Coxhead, D. Thomas, 721; J. Rae, J. Dutton, J. Williams, J.W.; R. C. Griffiths, J. Corbett, W.M.; J. D. Rowland, J.D.; W. Roberts, I.G.; A. J. Brereton, G. H. Adams, J. Ratcliffe, J. Vickers, 1477; G. B. Griffith, W.M.; W. P. Elliott, S.D. 597; T. R. Morris, W.M.; G. Brown, S.W.; D. P. Owen, P.M. 988; T. B. Humphreys, 1509; R. Roberts, 1369; J. Lloyd Kyffin, Bagnall, W.M. 17; J. Bodenham, J.W. 1575; J. Thomas, W.M. 1124; J. Smith, 201; J. B. Hide, P.M. 217; and others. The members of the Square and Compass Lodge, 1336, present were Bros. W. Low, W.M.; E. Smith, S.W.; J. C. Owen, J.W.; T. Bury, Sec.; W. S. Wilson, S.D.; Howel Davies, J.W.; J. F. Edisbury, Organist and Treasurer; J. W. M. Smith, Isaac Shone, E. Lovatt, and N. R. Griffith, Stwds.; C. K. Benson, Evan Morris, T. Eyton-Jones, J. Williams, R. Lloyd, G. Bradley, W. Garratt-Jones, R. W. J. Evans, J. W. A. Cooper, J. James, C. Bayley, J. Bradshaw, W. Turner, R. Barber, R. J. Williams, C. O. Williams, T. Manley, F. W. Mawer, T. Heywood, J. Milligan, W. Daniels, J. H. Kidd, J. Edwards, W. Pierce, G. Thomas, T. Jackson, E. Evans.

Dinner being over, grace was said by the Prov. Grand Chaplain.

Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn, in proposing the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," remarked that the association was justified, inasmuch as Masons were amongst the most loyal of Her Majesty's subjects (applause), and had the highest respect for their gracious Sovereign. (Applause.) The toast was honoured in a right loyal manner.

The R.W.P.G.M. said they had honoured Her Majesty's health, and he would ask them to drink to the health of the ruler of the Craft (applause), the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M. of England. He much regretted that His Royal Highness was not able to attend their Eisteddod (hear, hear), but he believed he was advised not to make any arrangements on his return from India. He (Sir Watkin) had done his utmost to obtain a Royal visit to the town, but he was not successful. Under the circumstances, they must take the will for the deed. (Applause.) He hoped, however, that on some future occasion the Prince would come to North Wales, and if he did, he would find the Masons of North Wales and Shropshire were by no means the least loyal of Her Majesty's subjects. (Loud applause.) He would ask them to drink to the toast he had proposed (drunk with Masonic honours).

The R.W.P.G.M. next proposed "The Health of Lord Carnarvon, the Provincial Grand Master of England," who, he remarked, might be associated with North Wales, being the Constable of Carnarvon Castle. (Applause.)

The R.W.P.G.M. proposed, in suitable terms, "The Health of Lord Skelmersdale, the M.W.D.G.M., and the Officers of the Grand Lodge of England," coupling with the toast the name of Bro. J. S. Brownrigg, R.W.P.G.M. Surrey.

Bro. Brownrigg, who was most cordially received, in responding, said it afforded him great pleasure to visit that Provincial Grand Lodge, and to see Masonry flourishing so well in the provinces. He had the honour of attending a Grand Lodge in Shrewsbury some twenty-three years ago, and it afforded him great pleasure to be with them that evening, and to see Sir Watkin in the chair. (Applause.) He congratulated them on the advances Masonry was making. It was thought when the Marquis of Ripon retired from the Craft that Masonry would suffer. But what honour could have been greater than that the heir to the throne should succeed to the office? (Loud applause.) If they looked to Ireland they found an equally satisfactory state of things. Upon the death of the Duke of Leinster, the Viceroy—the Queen's representative in the Sister Isle (applause)—became the Grand Master of the Irish Masons. (Applause.) There was therefore cause for much satisfaction at the strides Freemasonry had made. He sincerely trusted that as it advanced in quantity so also would it advance in quality. (Applause.) The speaker concluded by giving some sound advice on Masonry, and wished long life and prosperity to the Provincial Grand Lodge.

Bro. Low, W.M. 1336, rose to propose "The Health of Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn." He said: I have now the honour of proposing to you what may be fairly called the toast of the evening (applause), which, in accordance with the well-known Spanish adage, that "Good wine needs no bush," recommends itself to the hearts of all present quite independent of any remarks I may make. (Applause.) It will be sufficient for me to say that our most cordial thanks are due to our Grand Master, Sir W. W. Wynn, for his kindness in holding the Provincial Grand Lodge at Wrexham (loud applause), and for being present and presiding at our banquet this evening. (Renewed

applause.) This is the first time since the consecration of the Square and Compass Lodge—some five-and-a-half years ago—that the brethren have had the opportunity of showing how they look up to him with that esteem, respect, and admiration which is founded upon an intimate acquaintance of many years (applause); and that he may long continue amongst us, in renewed health and strength, is, I am confident, the sincere heartfelt wish of every brother here this evening. (Loud applause.) I could say much of the generous, hospitable, and noble qualities of our Provincial Grand Master, but his presence forbids me doing so. This is, however, the less requisite, for which of you present does not know better than I can state the true worth of our "Prince in Wales?" (Loud and continued applause.) We often give our esteem and admiration where we cannot give our love, but in Sir W. W. Wynn we have a Provincial Grand Master whom to know is to love. (Applause.) May the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe ever rest upon him, and the rays of heaven shed their benign influence over him. (Hear hear.) I need not add to these Masonic words, and must ask you to join heartily in drinking "The Health of Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn," and with Masonic honours. (The toast was most enthusiastically received with salute and running fire.)

Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn, in responding, was received with a round of applause. He thanked them for the honour done him, and the most kind way in which his health was drunk. He was exceedingly glad to see so many Masons in Wrexham, for he had been associated with the town from his earlier days. (Applause.) The first election he was at was at Wrexham (laughter), the first race he saw was at Wrexham (renewed laughter), and the first soldiers he saw were in Wrexham (laughter and applause). He was afraid he had, during the past year, unduly taxed the officers of the Grand Lodge. They had had to consecrate several new lodges, and through his illness to do the work of one or two years in three months. He thanked them, therefore, for their attendance, and trusted the new officers would not find their duties so onerous. There were many difficulties in the selection of the officers, and if he made a mistake in the choice they must forgive him (loud applause). The province had so grown that the difficulties were now greater than formerly. He heartily thanked the brethren for their attendance at the lodge and for the great kindness they had shown him during the many years he had presided over it. (Applause.) He hoped that when he was taken away from them his successor would find the lodge continue to prosper. Since he first presided over it it had doubled, and he hoped that Masonry in that province would continue to flourish and to excel not only in quantity but in quality too. (Loud applause.)

Bro. T. Eyton-Jones (Mayor of Wrexham) proposed "The Health of Bro. W. B. Hughes, M.P., the D. Prov. G.M., and the Provincial Grand Officers, Past and Present." He remarked that in the D.P.G.M. they had one who had the interests of Masonry at heart, and who was highly respected throughout the province. Referring to Past Provincial Grand Officers, he said in the death of Lord Harlech they had lost a valuable officer, as also they did in the decease of Mr. Dymock, a Mason from this neighbourhood. The Past Officers had been animated with a desire to do their duty to Masonry and were much esteemed in North Wales. (Applause.) He hoped some of the honours would on a future occasion fall to the Square and Compass Lodge. (Applause.)

Bro. Hughes, M.P., responded. He expressed his great obligations to the R.W.P.G.M. for conferring upon him the distinguished position of Deputy Grand Master. He did not express any desire for it, but having the appointment he meant to do his duty on all occasions. He felt thoroughly satisfied the appointment would give general satisfaction, not through any merits of his own, but because Sir Watkin had given the office to some one residing in the Principality. (Applause.) Having feelingly referred to the death of Lord Harlech, he concluded by stating that he should frequently visit the various lodges and assist in the performance of their Masonic duties. (Applause.)

Bro. Owen (Oswestry) proposed "The W.M.'s of the Province."

Bro. Low (Wrexham), responded, humorously remarking, that although he was the oldest-looking Mason, he was the youngest W.M. in the room.

Bro. Burton proposed "The Visiting Brethren," remarking that Lodge 1336 always accorded a most hearty welcome to those brethren who visited it.

Bro. Davidson, P.P.G.S.W. Middlesex, replied, and returned thanks to the R.W.P.G.M. for his invitation to the lodge that day. He was happy to say that that was not the first time he had attended it. Sixteen years ago he met the brethren on a similar occasion at Ludlow, and he could not forget the hospitable reception they all had at Wynnstay (applause), at a Grand Lodge meeting. To London Masons it was a real treat to visit the provinces and to see how well Masonry was flourishing. (Applause.)

Bro. White in giving "The Masonic Charities," said it was useless for him to enlarge on them after the striking sermon they had heard that day. The way in which the subject was introduced into the rev. gentleman's remarks must have made and undoubtedly did make a good impression upon them all. (Applause.) He hoped they would increase their subscriptions and their names and fame in connection with the charities. (Cheers.)

Bro. J. C. Owen, in a humorous speech, proposed "The Ladies," and Bro. White responded for the fair sex.

The Tyler's toast having been given, the company separated.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bros. J. F. Edisbury, and J. B. Boucher, and Bro. E. Wood, Shrewsbury, was the Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

A Special General Court of the governors and subscribers of this Institution was held on Saturday last, at Freemasons' Hall, to authorise the Building Committee to convert the present laundry to other purposes, and to erect a new laundry in the grounds adapted to the increased requirements of the Institution. Col. Creton was called to the chair. The other brethren present at the meeting were Bros. H. A. Dubois, Thos. W. White, Thos. Massa, Capt. J. Wordsworth, John Boyd, Joseph Smith, James Terry, S. Rawson, H. Massey ("Freemason"), and R. W. Little, Secretary.

The Chairman said that the object of calling the meeting was simply that the work of erecting the new laundry, and converting the old one should go on simultaneously with the new building, which were being proceeded with. If they had waited till the Quarterly Court in October for authority to do this they would have been thrown back a month in their operations. If the brethren decided now to give the Building Committee authority to carry out the proposed works. Bro. Massa, the architect, would have instructions to prepare the plans. It was not necessary for him to go more into detail. It would be necessary to have a new laundry when an additional number of children were taken into the school, and it was better to have all the works done at the same time. He, therefore, moved in terms of the advertisement calling the meeting, but he might tell the brethren that the estimate cost of building the new laundry was £1,400, and of converting the old laundry £1,400. He could promise that the Building Committee would take care that the cost did not exceed those amounts.

Bro. Capt. J. Wordsworth seconded the motion.

In answer to Bro. Joseph Smith the Chairman said it was intended to convert the present laundry into class rooms, and Bro. Little said it would also provide for eleven additional girls.

Bro. H. A. Dubois said he supposed they would not require tenders from other builders, but that the work would be done by the builder at present on the premises at scheduled prices.

The Chairman said yes. It would be inconvenient to have two separate builders on the premises at the same time. The architect would see to the plans, and he (the Chairman) would guarantee that the price should not exceed £2800.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman asked Bro. Massa how long it would be before his plans would be ready.

Bro. Massa said in about three weeks, and they would be in accordance with the Chairman's modified plans.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE MARGATE WATCH COMMITTEE AND FREEMASONRY.

A cynical philosopher has declared that the world is full of fools, and that he who would not wish to see one, must not only shut himself up alone, but must also break his looking-glass. There are, however, degrees in folly. Some men are always fools; they are ridiculous, or they are nothing, and never seem able to acquire the common sense of knowing when to preserve a judicious reticence, or to abstain from acts that reveal their innate vulgarity and consummate ignorance. We have a few choice specimens of this incorrigible class among our town councillors, as their recent conduct in reference to the appointment of a new Superintendent of Police clearly shows. We hear that these wiseacres enquired of each whether he was a Freemason? and on being answered in the affirmative, at once put the luckless Mason out of the competition. It would have been just as pertinent to have asked whether the candidate was a believer in the "thirty-nine articles," or had a weakness for Stilton? and as rational to have condemned him accordingly. All who know anything of Freemasonry will be justly indignant at such a paltry, contemptible, and in every sense of the word, mean attempt to affix a stigma on a noble and entirely inoffensive fraternity; distinguished only for its works of mercy and love.—"Kentish County News."

Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, Deputy Grand Master, P.G.M. for West Lancashire, occupied the chair at the dinner in connection with the annual show of the Royal Manchester, Liverpool, and North Lancashire Agricultural Society at Southport last week. His lordship is president for the year, and delivered a homely practical speech in proposing "Prosperity to the Society." He remarked that the prize offered to agricultural labourers who had been the longest time in one situation was limited to the labourers of tenant farmers, which, he thought, was a great mistake. For instance, he had in his employment a number of labourers who were unable to compete, which was very hard. He hoped that in future years an alteration would be made in this matter. He was that year the president of the Royal Agricultural Society, whose show for 1877 was to be held in Liverpool. He was happy to say that the Liverpool people had taken the subject of the meeting up warmly; and he hoped the society under whose auspices they had met that day would support it. He noticed that at the meeting of the council the other day there was some little opposition to the matter, but he hoped it would be withdrawn. He was a great advocate of agricultural shows, but he thought they should be large shows. Such shows were of the greatest benefit to the country.

A SECOND EDITION of the "FREEMASON" will be issued early Saturday morning.

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

Reviews.

INSTALLATION MARCH.—This piece of music, composed by Bro. Seymour Smith, and dedicated to his friend, Bro. Brett, which has recently been published, is already very popular, and is likely to become still more so, we venture to prognosticate. It is composed, of course, to commemorate the installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and on that account, apart from its own merits, should be purchased by all Freemasons.

"MASONIC POINTS."—This little work will be found of considerable assistance, consisting as it does of a series of cues, for the guidance of officers and brethren in the working of the degrees of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry. A large number have already been sold, and we are informed that H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. has consented to receive a copy from the compiler.

"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH."—The "Bookseller" says: It may not be generally known that a Royal Edition of this paper is issued daily. On the death of the Prince Consort Her Majesty the Queen accidentally saw the "Telegraph," and was so touched by the loyalty exhibited in its obituary notice that she ordered a copy to be sent daily to each of the Royal palaces. Ever since then twenty-five copies have been especially printed on the finest, thickest, and whitest paper, and duly forwarded, pressed and folded, in accordance with the Queen's command. We have in our possession a copy of this Royal edition, and we must say that, in the matter of paper and print, it is really a remarkable specimen of a London daily newspaper.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, September 22, 1876.

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.

Lodge 1329, Sphinx, Bridge House Hot., London Bridge.
" 1364, Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.
Chap. 1326, Lebanon, Red Lion Hot., Hampton.
R.C.C., 9, Villiers, Northumberland Arms Hot., Isleworth.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Lily, Greyhound, Richmond.
Manchester, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-square.
Star, Marquis of Granby, New Cross-rd.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18.

Lodge 720, Panmure, Horns Tav., Kennington.
" 901, City of London

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., Kingsland.
Strong Man, Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate.
Sincerity, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-st. Station.
Camden, Stanhope Arms, Up. James-st., Camden To.
Eastern, Royal Hot., Mile-end-rd.
St. James's Union, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Wellington, White Swan, Depford.
Perfect Ashlar, Victoria Tav., Lower-rd., Rotherhithe.
Sydney, White Hart Ho., Church-rd., Upper Norwood.
Marquis of Ripon, Pembury Tav., Amherst-rd., Hackney.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

Board of General Purposes, at 3.
Lodge 704, Camden, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town.
Chap. 933, Doric, Anderson's Hot., Fleet-street.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Metropolitan, 269, Pentonville-rd.
Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
Domestic, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.
Faith, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-st.
Prince Fredk. Wm., Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
Dalhousie, King Edward, Triangle, Hackney.
Prosperity, 1, Camomile-st., Bishopsgate.
St. Marylebone, British Stores Tav., St. John's Wood.
Constitutional, Wheatsheaf Hot., Hand-court, Holborn.
Israel, Rising Sun Tav., Globe Road.
Royal Arthur, Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea.
Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone.
Metropolitan Chapter, Jamaica Coffee Ho., Cornhill.
Excelsior, Commercial Dock Tav., Rotherhithe.
St. John of Wapping, Gun Hot., High-st., Wapping.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

Lodge 700, Nelson, M.H., William-st., Woolwich.
" 1044, Wandsworth, Spread Eagle Ho., Wandsworth.
" 1382, Corinthian, George Inn, Cubitt Town.
Chap. 10, Westminster and Keystone, F.M.H.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Confidence, M.H., Basinghall-st.
Mt. Lebanon, Windsor Castle Tav., Southwark-bdg.-rd.
Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich.
New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.
Royal Union, Horse and Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham.
Stanhope, Thicket Hot., Anerley.
Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd.
Southwark, Southwark Park Tav., Southwark Park.
Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav., Dalston, E.
United Strength, Grafton Arms, Kentish-town.
Islington, Crown and Cushion, London Wall.
Whittington, Black Bull Tav., Holborn.
Lewis, King's Arms Hot., Wood Green.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

House Com. G.irls, at 4.
Lodge 217, Stability, Anderson's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 1227, Upton, Spotted Dog Tav., Upton.
" 1278, Burdett Courts, Approach Tav., Approach-rd.
" 1320, Blackheath, Crown Hot., Blackheath.
Chap. 1365, Clapton, White Hart Tav., Clapton.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Egyptian, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., W.

Finsbury, Jolly Anglers' Tav., Bath-st., City-road.
Temperance in the East, Catherine-st., Poplar.
Ebury, 12, Ponsobny-st., Milbank.
Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
The Great City, 111, Cheapside.
High Cross, Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.
Salisbury, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.
Southern Star, Crown Hot., Blackfriars-rd.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22.

Lodge 780, Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge.
LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.
Union Waterloo, Thomas-st., Woolwich.
Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Belgrave, Lyceum Tav., 354, Strand.
Unions Emulation (for M.M.'s), F.M.H.
Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford.
Clapton, White Hart, Clapton.
Metropolitan, Portugal Hot., Fleet-st.
Westbourne, Horse & Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
United Pilgrims, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.
St. James's, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-rd., Bermondsey.
Duke of Edinburgh, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar.
Doric, Earl Grey Tav., Mile-end-rd.
Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, N.W.
St. Luke's, White Hart, King's-rd., Chelsea.
Chigwell, Bald-faced Stag Hot., Buckhurst-hill.
Burdett Courts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.
Royal Standard, Finsbury Park Tav., Holloway.
Ranelagh, Clarendon Hot., Hammersmith.
Pythagorean Chapter, Prince of Orange, Greenwich-rd.
Stability, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, September 23, 1876.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18.

Lodge 721, Independence, M.R., Chester.
" 1502, Israel, M.H., Liverpool.
Everton L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

Lodge 667, Alliance, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1225, Hindpool, Hartington Hot., Barrow.
" 1276, Warren, Stanley Arms Hot., Seacombe.
" 1325, Stanley, M.H., Kirkdale, Liverpool.
" 1570, Prince Arthur, 80, N. Hill-st., Liverpool.
Chap. 605, De 'Fabley, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.
Lodge of I., 241, M.H., Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

Lodge 537, Zetland, M.C., Birkenhead.
" 823, Everton, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1086, Walton, St. Lawrence's School, Liverpool.
" 1345, Victoria, Cross Keys Hot., Eccles.
" 1353, Duke of Lancaster, Athenæum, Lancaster.
Chap. 580, Unity, Wheat Sheaf Inn, Ormskirk.
Mark Lodge 31, Fidelity, Norfolk Arms Hot., Hyde.
De Grey and Ripon L. of I., 80, N. Hill-st., Liverpool.
Harmonic L. of I., Mona Hot., James-st., Liverpool.
Downshire L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

Lodge 203, Ancient Union, M.H., Liverpool.
" 343, Concord, Militia Mess R., Preston.
" 425, Cestrian, M.H., Chester.
" 605, Combermere, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.
" 1209, Pembroke, Rawlinson's Hot., West Derby.
Chap. 249, Mariners', M.H., Liverpool.
Preceptory Wm. de la More, M.H., Prescot.
St. John's L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

For the Week ending Saturday, September 23, 1876.

All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18.

Lodge 129, St. Mirren, 5, Moss-st., Paisley.
" 332, Union, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
" 581, Plantation, Craigiehall-st., S.S., Glasgow.
Encampment St. Mungo, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

Lodge 33, St. John, 213, Buchanan-st. Glasgow.
" 73, Thistle and Rose, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
" 87, Thistle, 30, Hope-st., Glasgow.
" 437, Govandale, Portland Buildings, Govan.
" 556, Clydesdale, M.H., Rose-st., S.S., Glasgow.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

Lodge 117, St. Mary, M.H., Douglas-st., Partick.
" 571, Dramatic, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow, 3 p.m.
Chap. 150, Shetleston, M.H., Shetleston.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

Lodge 27, St. Mungo, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
" 370, Renfrew, 8, High-st., Paisley.
" 465, St. Andrew, 69, Gargad-rd., Glasgow.
" 547, Stewart, M.H., Kilsyth.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, September 23, 1876.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18.

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19.

Lodge 36, St. David, Ship Hot., East Register-st.

" 405, Rifle, F.M.H., 98, George-st.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

Lodge 160, Roman Eagle, 62, Nicholson-st.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

Lodge 48, St. Andrew, F.M.H., 98, George-st.

" 226, Portobello, Town Hall, Portobello.

Cnap. 152, Perseverance, 86, Constitution-st., Leith.