

CONTENTS.

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| United Grand Lodge | 545 |
| REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS:— | |
| Craft Masonry | 546 |
| Instruction | 550 |
| Royal Arch | 555 |
| Mark Masonry | 549 |
| Red Cross of Constantine | 549 |
| Knights Templar | 549 |
| Scotland | 549 |
| An Act of Masonic Devotion | 543 |
| Grand Lodge of Benevolence | 550 |
| The Present Aspect of the Masonic Struggle in France and Belgium | 550 |
| Morbid Tastes | 551 |
| Continued Roman Catholic Attacks on Freemasonry | 551 |
| CORRESPONDENCE:— | |
| Grand Lodge of Scotland | 551 |
| Admission of Candidates | 552 |
| The Masonic Brotherhood | 552 |
| The Installation Engraving | 552 |
| The Late Bro. George Dawson | 552 |
| Grand Mark Lodge | 553 |
| Royal Masonic Institution for Boys | 554 |
| Obituary | 554 |
| Reviews | 555 |
| Presentation to Bro. Wm. Worrell | 555 |
| Archæological Section of the Falcon Lodge, Thirsk | 555 |
| Masonic and General Tidings | 556 |
| Masonic Meetings for next Week | 556 |
| Advertisements | 556, 557, i. ii. iii. iv. v. vi. |

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall. Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M., presided, Lord Donoughmore, S.G.W.; Hon. W. Vernon, J.G.W.; Sir Albert W. Woods (Garter), G.D.C.; Æ. McIntyre, Q.C., G.R.; Dr. Rhys Williams, A.G.D.C.; J. B. Monckton, President of the Board of General Purposes; Lieut.-Col. Birchall; T. W. Boord, M.P.; N. F. Nettleship, E. J. Barron, J. M. Case, Capt. S. G. Homfray, Earl of Shrewsbury, W. W. B. Beach, R. Bagshawe, Col. Burdett, Dr. Hamilton, Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, Rev. C. W. Arnold, Samuel Tomkins, S. Rawson, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Rev. J. E. Cox, Rev. A. B. Frazer, Hyde Pullen, Rev. Sir J. Warren Hayes, H. J. P. Dumas, Rev. C. J. Martyn, Brackstone Baker, Hon. R. Giddy, Thomas Fenn, Joshua Nunn, J. R. Rucker, H. Grissell, J. M. Clabon, C. A. Murton, E. Snell, Wilhelm Kuhe, G. Org.; James Mason, Dr. Erasmus Wilson, R. J. Spiers, H. D. Sandeman, H. Browne, James Glaisher, J. C. Parkinson, John Symonds, F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., F. Pattison, Thos. Cubitt, John Emmens, George Kenning, P.G.D. Middlesex; N. B. Headon, P.M.; G. Freeman, P. M. Holden, W.M. 1563; W-S. Whitaker, F. Keily, G.T. Middlesex; J. M. Levick, Jno. Mason, Wm. Stephens, M. S. Larham, H. A. Dubois, P.G.S.D. Middlesex; W. Ramsay, C. F. Hogard, J. Bingemann, H. Dicketts, J. Boyd, P.G.P.; Jas. Willing, Jno. Douglas, F. Binckes, P.G.S.; J. Terry, E. J. Harty, Jno. Peartree, Thos. Kingston, John While, J. Steedman, C. F. Moutrie, Horace Jones, J. W. Baldwin, J. Baxter Langley, Capt. N. G. Philips, Major Shadwell Clerke, Griffiths Smith, H. Garrod, and John Hervey, Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge having been formally opened, Grand Secretary read the minutes of Quarterly Communication of 6th September, which were then confirmed.

Lord Skelmersdale then said that the next business on the paper was the nomination of M.W.G.M. for the ensuing year.

Bro. Gould, W.M. 92, P.M. 153, 570, and 743, rose and said: M.W.G.M. in the chair, I beg to propose Bro. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., for re-election as Grand Master for the ensuing year. (Loud applause.)

After a short pause Lord Skelmersdale said: Has any one the name of any other brother to nominate?

This question was received with considerable merriment.

The next business on the paper being the nomination of a President of the Lodge of Benevolence, Lord Skelmersdale said: Bro. John M. Clabon, P.G.D., is appointed by the Grand Master as President of the Lodge of Benevolence. (Cheers.)

Bro. Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.B., was re-elected Senior Vice-President of the Lodge of Benevolence, and Bro. James Brett, Junior Vice-President, no other brothers having been nominated at the Board of Masters.

The election of 12 Past Masters to serve on the Board being the next business, Bro. Hervey announced that the names of 12 Past Masters only had been given in, and consequently there

would be no election. The names were Bros. Charles Atkins, P.M. 27; Henry Bartlett, P.M. 147; Herbert Dicketts, P.M. 25; Henry Garrod, P.M. 749; C. F. Hogard, P.M. 205; W. T. Howe, P.M. 1445; William Mann, P.M. 186; W. H. Myers, P.M. 820; Samuel Poynter, P.M. 1491; Griffiths Smith, P.M. 21; William Smith, P.M. 33; and William Stephens, P.M. 1365.

This was put to the Grand Lodge and confirmed.

The following grants, recommended by the Lodge of Benevolence, were then separately moved, seconded, and carried:—

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|
| A brother of the Lodge of Loyalty, No. 243, Guernsey | £50 | 0 | 0 |
| A brother of the Royal Navy Lodge, No. 429, Ramsgate | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| A brother of the Athol Lodge, No. 74, Birmingham | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| The widow of a brother of the Worcester Lodge, No. 280, Worcester | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| A brother of the Cleveland Lodge, No. 543, Stokesley | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| The widow of a brother of the Lodge of Unions, No. 256, London | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| A brother of the Globe Lodge, No. 23, London | 50 | 0 | 0 |

The following report of the Board of General Purposes was brought before Grand Lodge.

"To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England:

"The Board of General Purposes have to report that their attention has been called to several instances of the issue of circulars on the part of proposed new lodges, prior to consecration, inviting members of the Craft to become joining members of such lodges.

"The Board have the special directions of the Pro Grand Master to make it known, that such proceedings meet with his lordship's entire disapproval, and entail the risk of the withdrawal of the warrant.

(Signed) "JOHN B. MONCKTON,
President.

"Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
21st November, 1876."

To the report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 17th day of November last, showing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £4086 15s. 10d.; and in the hands of the Grand Secretary, for petty cash, £75; and for servants' wages, £96 15s.

Bro. Monckton said that this report being in the hands of all the brethren, he begged to move that it be taken as read.

This having been seconded, was put and carried.

Bro. Monckton said that there being nothing in the report to be confirmed on the part of Grand Lodge, he should content himself by moving that the report be received and entered on the minutes.

This motion also having been seconded, was put and carried.

Two appeals were then brought on. The first was an appeal of the Sussex Lodge, No. 354, Kingston, Jamaica, against the judgment of the District Grand Lodge of East Jamaica, directing the lodge to rescind its minute of the 28th of July, 1875, accepting the resignation of a brother until certain charges alleged against him had been enquired into.

Bro. A. J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, said that in the ordinary course of his duty he should have to state to Grand Lodge the facts of this case, and the way in which the appeal came before them; but it had been intimated to him that there would be present in Grand Lodge some of the members of the appealing lodge for the purpose of supporting their claim. In that case they would be heard first, and he would state his case subsequently.

Lord Skelmersdale having inquired if any such brethren were present, and receiving no response.

Bro. McIntyre proceeded. He said this was not a very pleasing case to deal with on account of some complication of facts that might have to be stated; but he thought the result at which they must arrive was one which to some extent he must deplore, because he could not shut his eyes to the fact that some of the brothers of the appealing lodge had behaved in a manner which was extremely disrespectful to the Dis-

trict Grand Lodge of Jamaica, and they had not, as far as he could judge from the papers which had been laid before him, carried out the principles of the Craft. On the other hand, when he stated the facts Grand Lodge must come to the conclusion that the appeal must be allowed and the decision of the District Grand Master reversed. The facts of the case were that the brother, who was J.W. of the Sussex Lodge of Jamaica, had had certain charges preferred against him before the Deputy District Grand Master of Jamaica, which shewed that he had been guilty of a violation of his obligation as a M.M. Somehow or other, probably by letters, it had come to the knowledge of this brother that this charge would be preferred, and accordingly before the charge was brought before his lodge the brother tendered his resignation as J.W. of the lodge. One of the senior brethren, a P.M. of the lodge, who was then in the chair, moved that it should be referred to a family lodge to consider whether this resignation should be accepted or not. It was agreed by the members then present that the family lodge, or lodge of emergency, should be summoned. A lodge ought to have been summoned in due course by the S.W., as the Master was absent. He did not summon the lodge, and the P.M. who had moved the resolution that a family lodge should be held, wrote to the Secretary and caused the summons to be issued. A discussion arose as to whether that brother should be allowed to resign his office of J.W. The S.W. who had neglected his duty took the objection that as he had not summoned the lodge it was not properly summoned, and could not go into the investigation; and upon that it seemed to be conceded by the brethren then present that no business could be transacted at that lodge, and the lodge broke up. After that the S.W. did summon a lodge of emergency, but on the evening before the lodge, which was called an informal lodge, met, a letter was read from the District Grand Master, which contained the charges made against the J.W., and that letter was not brought under the consideration of the lodge at all, but was kept in the possession of the Secretary or the S.W. On the 9th August, when the lodge of emergency assembled, it turned out that the J.W., in addition to his letter resigning the lodge, had sent a letter on the 28th July resigning his position as member of the lodge. On the 9th August, when the lodge met, the Master was not present, nor a P.M. of the lodge, and the brethren put into the chair a brother who had never been a Master of an English lodge, but had been a Master of a lodge under the Scotch Constitution. He, although a member of the lodge, was not a Past Master of any English lodge. In that respect the brethren seemed to have violated the constitutions, because if there were no P.M.'s of the lodge present the S.W. was to rule the lodge. In this state of things they received the second letter from the J.W. resigning his membership, and by their bye-laws, if a brother resigned and had paid his dues, he was allowed to resign. They then entered upon their minutes a resolution that the resignation should be accepted. They did not go into the matter referred to by the District Grand Master to consider the conduct of the brother who was impugned. In this respect the lodge behaved in a manner which was illegal and improper. But the lodge having accepted the resignation, and having caused that to be entered on the minutes, various protests were made, and an appeal was made to the District Grand Master, and referred by him to the District Grand Lodge. He (Bro. McIntyre) thought there could not be a doubt about this, that the lodge having behaved in the way it had, it was perfectly competent for the District Grand Master to have summoned the officers of the lodge before him, and to have dealt with them as he might be advised. But what he did was this,—he summoned the officers of the lodge, and when their minutes were produced before him, he required them to rescind the resolution at which they had arrived, and expunge from their minutes the resolution which was therein recorded, that they had accepted the resignation of the J.W. It appeared to him (Bro. McIntyre) that inasmuch as the S.W., backed up to a considerable extent

by the Secretary and the brethren, chose to evade their duty, which was to receive the correspondence of the District Grand Master, and have the matter discussed by the lodge, they behaved in a manner disrespectful to him, which might have brought down on them the condemnation of the District G.M. and the District G. Lodge. But it was quite competent for them, however contumaciously they might have behaved, to have received the resignation of the brother, and record it on the minutes. He had often laid it down in Grand Lodge, that if a brother chose to resign his position as a member, no lodge could hold him. A brother had a right to resign, and there was no need of any resolution for accepting his resignation. His resignation itself was a fact, and he ceased from the moment of his tendering it to be a member. The notion of the District G.M. seemed to be that if a brother ceased to be a member of a lodge, the District Grand Lodge and the District G.M. had no power over him. He thought the District G.M. was mistaken. While a man continued to be a Mason under the English Constitution, while he held a certificate of Grand Lodge of England, he was amenable to the Grand Lodge of England wherever he might be; he was amenable to the district or the province in which he might be residing at any time, so long as he resided there. When he resigned he excluded himself, by his resignation, from a lodge; but the District G.M. had power over him while he held his certificate, and could summon him before him to produce his certificate, to hear any charge against him; and he could adjudicate upon the charge in any way, even to suspending him from his functions in Masonry, or he might summon him to the District Grand Lodge to be expelled. Therefore, although this case must be decided in favour of the lodge, however badly they might have behaved to the District Grand Master, he might still deal with the brother, who could not be allowed to avoid an investigation into his character simply by resigning his lodge. The brother must be dealt with afterwards by the District Grand Master as he might think fit, but in the meantime the appeal must be allowed.

Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., seconded the motion, but said it would be a most disastrous thing for the best interests of the Craft if in allowing this appeal it were not clearly understood what was the position which Grand Lodge took with regard to questions of this kind. The Mason was taught at the moment of his initiation that Masonry is free, that is to say, a man was free to accept or to decline the obligation; but when he had taken it he could not by any resignation of office or membership of his lodge divest himself of the character of a Mason, or renounce the duties which he had solemnly taken upon himself. He remained for all time a Mason, as long as the authorities of Freemasonry did not expel him from the Order, and as long as he was a Mason he was bound by the obligation which we all acknowledged, and which he himself had solemnly sworn to perform. Therefore, whether the brother was a member of this lodge or no lodge at all he was amenable to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the district in which he might happen to be at the moment. In affirming this appeal, he trusted it would not be understood that Grand Lodge at all denied, but rather that it supported the jurisdiction over a brother under those circumstances. With regard to membership of a lodge, Masonry was a voluntary association. A man might, as Grand Registrar had said, remain in a lodge no longer than he pleased. He could not be continued by force to be liable for his dues. But for all that his status of a Mason could not be altered, and he was still, whether a member of a lodge or not a member of any lodge, amenable to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge or the locality in which he was residing. He would conclude with one remark. By the courtesy of Grand Secretary, he had had an opportunity of perusing the papers in this matter. They were very lengthy, and raised many nice points of Masonic law. This Grand Lodge did not intend by its decision to derogate from or affect the status of the lodge complaining. That must be dealt with by the District Grand Master of Jamaica. Grand Lodge was merely called upon to express an opinion on the formal complaint that had

been made by the appeal. They would decide that, and let all other matters remain without any expression of opinion.

The resolution was then carried, and the appeal allowed.

The next was an appeal of the British Lodge, No. 334, Cape Town, against the judgment of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, directing the installation of a brother as W.M. to be proceeded with immediately on his return to the colony, and that his Mastership should date from the 24th June last.

Bro. McIntyre explained the circumstances of this case, in which a brother on his nomination as Master had had the voice of the lodge against him, but, as at the following meeting the minutes had not been confirmed, the lodge declared him elected. The District G.M. on the appeal of some of the brethren had confirmed this, but the Grand Registrar advised the reversal of the decision, and allowed the appeal.

Bro. Monckton seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

Bro. Binckes, with reference to his notice of motion, explained that he had not been informed of the proposal of Lord Carnarvon to have a special Grand Lodge for considering the report of the Special Committee on the commemoration of the Prince of Wales's return, and said that he should not have given his notice at the Board of Masters if he had known of the meeting at the Pro Grand Master's. He, therefore, withdrew his notice.

Leave was given to withdraw the notice, and Grand Lodge was then closed.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

URBAN LODGE (No. 1196).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, 28th ult., at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, when Bro. J. Tickle, W.M., presided. There were likewise present among other brethren Bros. J. Simpson, S.W.; Edwin Legge, J.W.; R. H. Pearson, P.M., Treas.; J. E. Carpenter, P.M., Sec.; R. H. Blanchford, S.D.; S. Lehmyer, J.D.; R. H. Marston, D.C.; John Heath, I.G.; J. Dionysius Loverdo, J. Pearson, P.M.; J. Redding Ware, P.M.; W. Creswick, John Dicks. Visitors: J. Bell, 1178; G. Davis, 167; John M. Wike, P.G.D.; W. C. Madderer, 504; J. E. Middleton, P.G.S.; G. Gardiner, 749; and H. Massey ("Freemason"). After the usual formalities Bros. Buck, Milburn, and Butler were raised; and Messrs. Robert Cheadle, James Fenn Beck, and Reuben Charles Green were initiated. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year was then taken, and Bro. J. Simpson, S.W., was unanimously chosen to fill the chair in succession to Bro. Tickle. Bro. Robert Henry Pearson was unanimously re-elected Treasurer; and Bro. W. Steedman, Tyler. Bro. Tickle in acquainting Bro. Simpson of the choice of the brethren, said it afforded him very great pleasure to do so. He could assure him that it was an honour and a dignity to which he need not say certainly all the younger brethren aspired. He felt confident that Bro. Simpson would appreciate the honour the lodge had done him in unanimously electing him, and he knew that he (Bro. Tickle) would have in Bro. Simpson a very worthy successor in the chair. The brethren too would support him as well as they had supported their present Master. Bro. Simpson in reply thanked the brethren for the honour they had done him, and he trusted he should perform his duties with honour to the lodge and credit to himself. The W.M. in addressing the Treasurer said that the brethren were pleased with the way in which Bro. Pearson had performed his duties as Treasurer, as they were glad to have such a brother in whose hands they could place the financial concerns of the lodge. Bro. Pearson said he appreciated the honour conferred on him, and would promise to take great care of the cash, which he was always ready to receive. He would not run into debt, but during the present year the W.M. had been very generous, and the balance in hand was not so large as he would like it to be. He hoped by next year to have a larger balance, and he would do all in his power to increase it. The W.M. afterwards gave his authority for forming a lodge of instruction, to be called the Urban Lodge of Instruction. Before the brethren adjourned to banquet, Bro. R. H. Marston, P.M., D.C., appealed to the lodge on behalf of an old actor (Bro. H. Mellon), late a member of Mr. Phelps' Sadlers' Wells Company, who had requested him to bring his case before the brethren at this meeting. Bro. Mellon, however, died on last Saturday week, and the widow, with whom he (Bro. Marston) had been in communication, as she was in great distress, would feel grateful for any assistance which the lodge might feel inclined to bestow. A sum was then voted from the fund of benevolence, and at the banquet table a further grant was made by the voluntary donations of the brethren. On the motion of Bro. J. Pearson, P.M., seconded by the S.W., a Past Master's jewel was unanimously voted to

Bro. Tickle, W.M. Lodge was then called off for refreshment, and the brethren sat down to a very nice banquet, at which the W.M. presided, and, assisted by Bro. Loverdo, W.S., was unremitting in attention to the comforts of the brethren. The toasts were admirably proposed, and the brethren were treated to other than the set phrases which they are accustomed to hear. In introducing the first toast, the W.M. said the toast of "The Queen" was paramount in all assemblies of Englishmen, and not the less so in the Urban Lodge. It has been said that "Kings make reigns; and Queens make eras," and when English history—the history of the present reign—came to be written, he ventured to think that the Victorian era would not be surpassed by any that had preceded it. The health of our beloved Queen needed not many words of adulation from him, and he would therefore simply give the toast of "Her Majesty the Queen,"—the leader of English, in fact, he might say of modern society. The toast of "The Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," led the W.M. to say that His Royal Highness was an English gentleman as well as the Grand Master of Freemasons, and it was his qualities as an English gentleman that had made him so popular, and endeared him to Englishmen. He did not think he was travelling out of his province when he said that of all the Princes of Wales who had figured in English history there had been none so popular as the present Grand Master. After "The Health of the Pro Grand Master" had been honoured, the W.M. proposed "The Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers," and coupling with it the name of Bro. John M. Wike, P.G.D., referred to this well-known name in connection with the Masonic Institutions. Directing the brethren's attention to the numerous jewels on Bro. Wike's breast, he said they represented a Stewardship for these Institutions as many as fourteen times, and he ventured to say there never came within the Urban Lodge such a representative of the Charities as Bro. Wike, who had filled in past times not only the office of S.G.D. of England, but that of S.G.W. of his (the W.M.'s) native county, East Lancashire. Bro. Wike, in acknowledging the toast, said he must plead guilty to both these indictments; he had held the offices referred to, and he had done all that in his power lay for the promotion of the cause of the Masonic Charities. It was this one word "Charity" which enabled him to say something in response to the toast. There could not be a Mason who did not own that it was one of the greatest ornaments of the Order to have such institutions connected with it as the Benevolent Institution and the Boys' and Girls' Schools. That it was proper, that it was right, to relieve those brethren who from various circumstances were no longer able to support themselves, that it was their bounden duty to care for the widows of the brethren when the brethren had departed this life, was so evident a proposition—it was a duty so consonant with every principle of religion and morality—that he did not care to say one word concerning it. That it was their duty to go further, and not stopping at relieving existing wants, providing for the wants of the coming generation, was also an evident fact. In this the brethren might take credit to themselves, and stand forth without a blush before the world and say that such institutions did not exist outside the Craft. There were no such schools anywhere, simply because they were not charity schools supported by almsgiving; but the children were put into them as the children of our unfortunate brothers, and not as those receiving a pittance or dole. The brethren were improving those schools while they were increasing them year by year. Long might they continue to be the pride of the Order, nay, he might almost say, the reason why our organisation existed. But the word "charity" taken simply in that sense, was not the only sense in which Masons understood it, nor was it for charity in that sense that Masonry existed. The "charity" of Freemasonry was not simply the charity which consisted of putting one's hand in the pocket, that the man who had money should give it to the man who had none. He was bound to believe, as every Freemason believed, that Solomon was a Freemason, and that Freemasons had existed ever since; and he also believed that the Apostle Paul was a Freemason, or he would never have given such a definition of the word "charity" as he did. It was that definition of charity they ought to strive to inculcate in all the new initiates. The "charity" which was the bond of Freemasonry, which had kept Freemasons in existence, and would keep it in existence, was the charity which was represented by the shorter word "love." When a man became a Freemason the precepts of the Order taught him to be a little more loving and generous than the hard world he saw around him; he saw that he was to discover something good in men. In the "outer world" men set up a round god in the shape of a sovereign and worshipped it; but when he entered Freemasonry he found it something better. He found in it that he was taught to believe not the worst of a man, but the best; and he found when he advanced to the higher degrees of Freemasonry that he was not to believe even when a thing looked bad in a brother, but that he was to seek for a favourable interpretation, and even to believe that there was something good though he did not see it. That was the charity we should strive after, and which would keep us together as long as the world lasted, so long as we were actuated by the noble sentiment of thinking the best of each other, of believing everything that was good and repudiating everything that was evil. So long as we shewed our faith in this principle so long would Freemasonry flourish, and so long would the brethren assemble at their monthly meetings and be enabled to drink the health and do honour to the heads of the Order. (Hear hear.) In giving "The Health of the Initiates," the W.M. contrasted the present position of the lodge with the position it was in as regarded the number of its members when he was initiated five or six years ago. He thanked Bro. Wike for the noble sentiments he had given utterance to, because he

thought he had thereby instilled into the minds of the three brethren who had just joined thoughts which not only did honour to Freemasonry, but would do honour to the Initiates if they would only follow them. He believed these brethren would take advantage of the sentiments of Bro. Wike. For, what was Freemasonry? He had often told his private friends, in reply to their enquiries, that Freemasonry was a gigantic charitable institution. Some people said it was a sentiment, but this was not the fact, for it was a practical thing applied to real life. The W.M. concluded by proposing "The Health of the Initiates" who severally responded. "The Visitors" was the next toast, to which each of those brethren was called on for a reply. Bro. Wike proposed "The W.M.," who, he said, presided at the banquet table as well as he did in the lodge. He had filled the chair with the approval of every member of the lodge, and he was now quitting it with the regret of every member of the lodge. Under his presidency the brethren had felt themselves well cared for in the lodge and in the hours of refreshment. When he left the chair he would bear with him the thanks of every member. He hoped he would be as well succeeded as he had been well preceded. Nothing was so healthy a sign in a lodge as the ability of its officers, and there could not be a stronger testimony to the merits of the W.M. than the able assistance he had had from these brethren. In the course of his reply, the W.M. said he hoped that leaving the chair he should leave it with the goodwill of all the brethren. If anything had occurred during his year of office that had hurt the feelings of any of them it had not been his fault. It had been his earnest desire to do justice to all, but in doing justice to all he felt he could not consult the wishes of all. With respect to the Treasurer's remark in lodge regarding the liberality of the W.M., and its effect on the funds, he felt that when the annual account came to be made up the balance of the present W.M. would not be far behind that of the I.P.M. They had not reached the audit yet, and he dared say there were some funds to come in which would brighten the prospects of the lodge, and lighten the heart and sweeten the tongue of their Treasurer. "The P.M.'s" was the next toast, which was responded to by Bros. Pearson, Carpenter, Marston, Ware, and the Treasurer. Bro. Simpson responded to the toast of "The W.M. elect," and said he would endeavour to perform his duties with satisfaction to all the brethren. The Tyler's toast concluded a most agreeable evening. Lodge was then resumed, and afterwards closed, and the brethren separated.

CARNARVON LODGE (No. 1632).

PRESENTATION TO BRO. R. PAWSON HOOTON.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held on Saturday last at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. There was a large gathering of the brethren on the occasion, and among the brethren present were three honorary members of the lodge, Bro. John Hervey, G.Secr.; Bro. James Terry, P.G.D.C. Hertz; and Bro. H. Gustavus Buss, P.G.W. Middlesex. The lodge was opened by Bro. R. P. Hooton, W.M., assisted by Bros. W. S. Whitaker, S.W.; James Cowan, J.W.; John Claricoats, Treas.; Montagu Scott, Sec.; T. S. Hellier, S.D.; Nelson Reed, J.D.; Thos. Brown, D.C.; George C. Searle, Org.; C. A. Brock, Steward; George Briggs, I.G.; and W. Steedman, Tyler. There were several lay members present, besides visitors: Bros. W. Porter, W.M. 1269; H. Bartlett, P.M. 147; C. J. Hogg, P.M. 58, P.G.S.; Edward Terry, S.W. 1319; Thos. Loveridge, P.M. 28; W. M. Medcalf, 1086; James J. Chapman, 1541; George Luscombe, 879; W. Barber, 754; Bertram Noakes, S.D. 92; W. Harvey, 377; J. Micay, 25; George Whitehouse, S.D. 1385; W. Manger, P.M. 1314; H. A. Lovett, J.W. 1314; H. Searle, 1168; George J. Harwood, 1056; Thos. W. C. Buck, 185; E. Morrish, 765; S. D. Ghosley, 183; Renda Brock, 765; David Russell, 657; W. Buck, W.M. 657; J. McCubbin, P.P.S.G.D. Berks and Bucks, P.M. 948; George Kenning, P.G.D. Middlesex, P.M. 132; A. A. Stoltenhoff, P.M. 21; John Bumper, 1426; S. Earl, 186; J. G. Shearnan, W.M. 28; G. H. Caviot, 1426; and H. Massey ("Freemason"). The W.M. passed Bro. Philip Bullock to the Second Degree, and raised Bro. George Chaffey as a Master Mason. Afterwards Bro. Hooton installed Bro. W. S. Whitaker in the chair, and the following brethren were appointed to office:—Bros. R. P. Hooton, I.P.M., P.M. 765; James Cowan, S.W. (Lodge Commercial, 180, Oban); Thos. S. Hellier, I.G. 1580, S.W.; J. Claricoats, Treas.; Montagu Scott, P.M., Sec.; Nelson Reed, S.D.; G. Briggs, J.D.; Geo. A. Brock, I.G.; Thomas Brown, D.C.; Fred. Morgan, W.S.; George Carew Searle, Org.; and W. Steedman, Tyler. Bro. John Hervey delivered the charge to the W.M.; Bro. Terry the charge to the Wardens; and Bro. Montagu Scott the charge to the brethren. Subsequently the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet served by Bro. Jennings, the manager of the tavern. The customary toasts followed. Bro. John Hervey responded to the toast of "The Pro G.M., the D.G.M., and Grand Officers," and said that in returning thanks for these eminent brethren he might say they needed no words of praise from him, inasmuch as they were doing their work excellently, and this fact was well known and appreciated by all the brethren present. This lodge bearing the name of the Pro Grand Master, all the members must feel that they were part and parcel of the Pro Grand Master, who, although he was not present, was watching over them, thinking of them, and rejoicing in their success. As far as the Present and Past Grand Officers went, he believed they had shown that they were not wholly ornamental on more than one occasion, for even on the 24th November eight of those brethren worked the Sections in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in a manner which ensured the gratification of all who heard them. For himself, he (Grand Secretary) had hoped and trusted to come to the Carnarvon Lodge

that evening for more reasons than one; first of all, because he expected to see the present W.M. installed, and secondly, because he knew that he should receive a cordial and kind reception from every member of the lodge. He anticipated it because he consecrated the lodge twelve months since, and he looked forward with much pleasure to this visit. That pleasure had been enhanced in several ways, by the excellent working of the I.P.M., which convinced him that during the past year all the work had been done well, and to the satisfaction of every one. He saw in the lodge a spirit of kindness and cordiality throughout, such as should pervade every lodge in the Craft; and it rejoiced him to see that the lodge had made such progress during one short year. He saw round the table an immense gathering, which spoke well for the lodge, for its members, and for the officers. It was immensely gratifying to him to see the brother who was appointed S.W. last year now installed as W.M., and the other officers also advanced a step. It was a proof that they would reflect credit on the Craft and honour on the lodge of which they were founders and first officers. He was almost astonished to find himself there, and yet not among strangers, although there were many strangers to him present. So many being present showed how the Craft had progressed and the lodge had progressed, because there were many brethren who had come into it recently, and who had joined it, he believed, under the expectation that they were entering a society which was based upon that which was not only good, but noble, and that would conduce to their gratification as a grand body. It was often asked why and for what benefit Freemasonry existed. He thought they might look round the table and say that they met together—men who were total strangers to each other for the time being; but they rubbed their shoulders together and knocked off those corners which existed necessarily outside the lodge. They came amongst each other probably as strangers, but they went away as friends. Although probably taking up too much of their time, for which he apologised) he must say he was pleased to come among the brethren of the lodge, and was gratified by the compliment they had paid him. He trusted that the success which the Carnarvon Lodge had achieved during the past year might not only be equalled but exceeded in years to come. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Hooton proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," who, he said, was initiated only three years ago, and was a living proof of what might be done by aptitude in acquiring Masonic knowledge at lodges of instruction. The W.M. was very naturally proud of the position he occupied, not only as Master of a lodge but of a lodge so young in the Craft as the Carnarvon Lodge. All the brethren knew, but more especially those who were immediately connected with him in Masonry, how assiduous the W.M. had been since his initiation. He had attended lodges of instruction night after night, and as a result he was the pride of the younger brethren. It took him (Bro. Hooton) seven long years to attain the Master's chair; but that was a long time ago. He hoped the W.M.'s example would be followed by the junior members of the lodge, and if they only devoted time, study, and thought to their work there was nothing that might not be achieved in Masonry. The W.M. in reply, said it was with feelings of mingled pleasure and regret that he rose to reply to the toast that had just been proposed by the I.P.M., of pleasure at finding himself the occupant of his present honourable position, but of regret at his inability to find words to express his feelings of gratitude. Bro. Hooton had just said that he (the W.M.) had only been initiated three years ago; but he did not wish to arrogate to himself any distinction on that ground. He must explain to the visitors that it was owing to the confidence the brethren had placed in him that he had now the honour of occupying the Master's chair; for there were many brethren quite as competent as himself who had had to serve their seven years of office before reaching that position. He was fully sensible of the honour they conferred upon him, and he was also alive to the important duties which devolved upon him. It was essential in every candidate for the Master's chair that he should feel himself competent to perform the duties. It was doubly important in the Carnarvon Lodge that the W.M. should thoroughly understand his duties before he attempted to perform the ceremonies in the presence of brethren who also knew how to perform those duties, and who attended lodges of instruction the same as he did. If not, they must feel vexation and disappointment when they saw the ceremonies performed in a negligent and inefficient manner. He hoped they would not have that complaint to make of him, but that he would give them satisfaction. When the time came round for him to cede his office to other hands he hoped he would hand over the warrant of the lodge to his successor "without spot or blemish," well knowing that his brethren would say in the generosity of their heart, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Hear, hear.) The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the I.P.M." He said it would ill become him to say much of so distinguished a brother, but he thought he could not speak higher in his favour than by saying that he had had fifteen initiates in his year, and that they had all been initiated, passed, and raised by him. Bro. Hooton had not only performed these ceremonies, but he had performed them well. The I.P.M. deserved all their sympathies and all their thanks, and he retired from the chair with great honour. The lodge had been pleased to vote him a Past Master's jewel, which he (the W.M.) had now the honour to place on his breast. (Cheers.) Bro. Hooton in reply said he rose to return thanks with no ordinary amount of pleasure and satisfaction. It was a very proud distinction to be the Master of a lodge of Freemasons, and if it were possible it was a still greater distinction to be Master of such a lodge as the Carnarvon Lodge. He had during his year of office endeavoured to the utmost of his ability to carry out the duties of his office. If he had succeeded it was a sufficient proof that he had endeavoured to do so,

and he could lay the flattering unction to his soul that he had performed his work with credit to himself and satisfaction to the brethren. As regarded the formation of the lodge he had taken some part in that, and the brethren could testify that he had striven to maintain its dignity. He felt satisfied that the brethren were pleased with what he had done by awarding him the massive and elegant jewel which had been just placed on his breast by the W.M. To be of any value such a present should mean something, and it was, because it meant something that he highly prized it, and should highly prize it to the latest period of his life. It recorded that he was the first W.M. of such a highly distinguished lodge as the Carnarvon Lodge, a lodge which he hoped might be ever more successful in the future if possible than it had been in the past. Every expense of the lodge had been defrayed during its first year. There were twenty-three honorary members, two joining members, and fifteen candidates. He must thank the officers and brethren of the lodge one and all for their kind co-operation with him in performing the work of the lodge. Without good officers a Master could do nothing, but with good officers he could defy the world. Twelve months ago he undertook the office of W.M. with anxiety, care, and thought. He then made a promise to carry out his duties, and that he had done so he was satisfied by the satisfaction of the brethren and the testimony of a good conscience. One of his last acts was to write to the Pro Grand Master for his permission to the lodge to bear his coat of arms, feeling sure that the lodge would not sully those arms. In reply he had received a letter from Lord Donoughmore, S.G.W. of England, as follows:—"Colonial Office, 15th Nov., 1876. Sir and Brother,—I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Nov. 13th, and to state that his lordship has great pleasure in complying with the request therein with regard to the use of his arms by the Carnarvon Lodge. With reference to the second portion of your letter, whilst fully appreciating the kind expressions in which your invitation is couched, his lordship much regrets that he will be unable to avail himself of it. The pressure of public business at this moment, and for some time to come, will be so great both in this department and elsewhere, that his time is more than fully occupied. I am, sir and brother, faithfully and fraternally yours, Donoughmore, G.S.W." Bro. Hooton concluded by observing that the jewel which had been presented to him bore Lord Carnarvon's arms, and that the lodge had the authority of his lordship for using them. "The Visitors" was the next toast, to which Bro. Stoltenhoff and others responded. The W.M. then gave "The Masonic Charities," reminding the brethren of the definition of charity in the lectures, and that they would be called upon to vote a sum out of the £56 in the benevolent fund towards the Benevolent Institutions. Bro. Terry responded. He was certain that among all the members of the Craft there were none who had determined more thoroughly to apply themselves to the interests of the Masonic Institutions than the members of the Carnarvon Lodge. Proof has been given of this (he continued) by your balance sheet this evening, you having placed away in your first year's existence a sum of over £50 to benefit the Institutions: and I congratulate the Master of this lodge as well as its members on having done all they could to enhance the prosperity of the lodge, and to consider the wants of those who are less blessed than themselves. From what I can learn from your remarks this evening, before a very long time, brethren, you will be called upon to vote away a portion of your invested funds; and I venture to hope that the cause of the aged may not be overlooked in connection with the Institutions for the boys and the girls, and more especially so, sir, as in February next the Benevolent Institution will have the honour of having as its chairman for the first time His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master for Oxford; and as the Secretary of that institution I think you will agree with me that it is a very pardonable ambition on my part to endeavour on the first occasion of His Royal Highness presiding to have as large a Board of Stewards as it is possible to congregate together, with the view to having the largest amount of subscriptions ever announced on behalf of that institution. That can very readily be done if a similar plan is adopted to that which has been adopted in the Cripple Gate Lodge. When I had the pleasure of giving my reply for the Masonic Institutions on the occasion of the installation meeting of that lodge, within four minutes afterwards the sum of £55 was placed on a Steward's list to represent the old people at their festival in February next. I am certain of this, that the Carnarvon Lodge is desirous to do all it can. I know the spirit of emulation exists among all its members. Subject to the condition of their own funds and their own wants, they are desirous of doing all they can when the time comes for the allotment of the money for each institution. But though you may think of the Boys' School and the Girls' School—two noble institutions that are doing admirably their duty by providing for nearly 400 children—after doing all you can on their behalf and for their welfare, do not let those who have borne the heat and burden of the day, those who have been like ourselves in prosperous circumstances, when the day of adversity has overtaken them, be forgotten; do not let it be considered that because those poor old men and poor old women who have had the misfortune to outlive their day and generation, have none of those who knew them in their day of prosperity to assist them, that it is not our duty to do so. On their behalf I venture to appeal to the Carnarvon Lodge, one of the most prosperous in the Craft, whenever the claims of the Masonic Institutions are brought before them, not to forget the Benevolent Institution. I know well I am speaking now to a very sympathetic body of brethren. I know I have but to ask, and you will give. I have not, but I venture to hope that between now and February next I may have, the

honour of receiving the name of some member of the lodge representing you as Steward at our festival; I know then that the members of the lodge will rally round him and do their duty to the lodge for the sake of the Earl of Carnarvon, the Pro Grand Master, whose name and arms you bear. I thank you, sir, very much indeed for proposing, and I thank the brethren for having very kindly responded to this toast, and I have only, in conclusion, to hope and trust that every success may attend this Carnarvon Lodge and all its members; and the best wish I think I can utter for your happiness and prosperity, is this, that largely may you give to all the Institutions, and never have any occasion to find among your members, or any of your descendants, those who may have to ask for a return of the kindness you bestowed on the charities of the Order. (Hear hear, and cheers.) Bro. James Cowan, S.W., responded to the toast of "The Officers." Considering the very recent period when his latest honours had been conferred upon him, when he had not yet recovered from his blushes, he hoped the brethren would not think his reply was inadequate. For himself, as well as the rest of the officers, he would say they considered it their duty to obey the W.M. Twelve months ago he expressed himself in that hall to the effect that it was the happiest and most glorious moment of his life that the office of J.W. had been conferred on him. On that occasion Grand Secretary invested him with the collar of J.W. He had recently had conferred on him the collar of S.W., and he considered that while it was his privilege to wear that collar he was to qualify himself for the discharge of the duties connected with the office of S.W. While in that office he should use his best endeavours to maintain the dignity of his chair, and he trusted his exertions would meet with the W.M.'s approbation. He thanked the W.M. for the graceful opportunity afforded him, by coupling his name with the toast of "The Officers," of acknowledging the kindness of the W.M. in raising him to the distinguished position he now occupied. The other officers also replied, and the Tyler's toast having been given, the brethren separated. A splendid musical entertainment was given in the course of the evening by Bros. Willcocks, Brown, Cotton, F. Willcocks, Pearce, Reed, Claricoats, Russell, Medcalf, Earl, Searle, Morton, and Dafforn, the accompaniments being played by Bro. G. C. Searle, Organist. Bro. Montagu Scott gave his recitation of "Solomon" and Daniel.

BEDFORD.—Stuart Lodge (No. 540).—The 29th day of November witnessed another of those pleasant gatherings for which this lodge is so justly famous, it being the anniversary banquet. It was a day long to be remembered in the annals of the lodge, for it witnessed the installation, as W.M., of a descendant of one of the original founders of the lodge, who, as he inherits their revered name, so too inherits the respect and esteem in which they were ever held by the lodge. The new I.P.M., Bro. Capt. Green, after the minutes had been read and confirmed, proposed, and Bro. W. J. Nash, P.M., seconded, a grant of £25, which Capt. Green is raising for Bro. Warren, who is an old member of the lodge, and who has recently been obliged, from old age and failing sight, to resign the post of station master to the London and North-Western Railway Company at Bedford, a position which, we believe, he has held ever since the opening of the line. Bro. Green then vacated the chair, when the installation ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. Dr. Prior, P.M., and Secretary of the lodge. The newly-installed W.M., Col. Stuart, P.G.S.W. of England, P.G.H. Eng-land, &c., &c., then proceeded to invest his officers as follows:—Bros. Capt. Green, J.P., I.P.M.; W. Finlison, P.M., S.W.; Capt. Colburn, J.W.; Rev. C. Brereton, B.C.L. and R.D., Chap.; Prior, M.D., P.M., Sec.; Alderman Sergeant, P.M. Treas.; Alderman Bull, J.P., Steward; Coombs, M.R.C.S., &c., S.D.; J. Allen, J.D.; H. Thody, I.G.; Piper, M.A., Org.; G. Reynolds, Tyler. The other P.M.'s of the lodge present were Bros. Capt. Polhill-Turner, M.P., D.L.; W. F. Nash, J.P.; G. P. Nash, Cuthbert, Billson, Trapp, and Rev. Fawcett Ward, M.A., late of Louth, Lincolnshire. Amongst the brethren were Bros. Alderman Hurst, Wicks, Peck, Lane, Lambie, Stafford, Roe, Thompson, Whittaker, Kilpin, Roberts, Leslie, and Dr. Rhys Williams, Ast. G.S. Wks. England. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bros. Haydon, P.G.S. England; Ballard, of Prov. G.L. Cambridgeshire; Aldermen Cumberland and Hazelgrove, P.M.'s of 475; Chambers, 475; Seward, 147; Richardson, P.M. 455; Roe and Game, 353; Hillhouse, 228; and Dunkley, of Tunbridge Wells. The banquet was excellent, doing as much credit to the host as the arrangements generally did to the Steward, Bro. Bull.

BIRKENHEAD.—Mersey Lodge (No. 477).—The November meeting of this flourishing lodge took place a few days ago, at the spacious Masonic Chambers Argyle-street. Bro. F. G. Adams, W.M., presided, and there was a large attendance of the brethren. Mr. George Lloyd, of Balls-road, Cloughton, was impressively initiated by the W.M., and several brethren were raised to the Third Degree. Bro. T. Barrow, of the Rock Lodge, was admitted as a joining member.

DEPTFORD.—Royal Oak Lodge (No. 87).—The regular meeting of this well-established lodge was held at the White Swan Hotel, 217, High-street, Deptford, on Thursday, November 23rd. Bro. H. J. Tuson, W.M., opened the lodge. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed, and signed by the W.M. He passed Bros. Whibley, Sanders, Fowler, and Davis to the Second Degree, raised Bros. Abbott and Michaels; and Bro. G. Andrews, P.M., D.C., raised Bros. Buchele and Wildermuth to the Third Degree. The work was ably done. Several important notices of motion were agreed to. The initiation and joining fees were raised each to ten guineas. The services of the W.M. were accepted as Steward to represent this lodge at the festival for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons. He headed

his list with ten pounds, and the lodge will supplement that amount with a similar sum. He also received the promise of a good support from the members. It was unanimously decided to support the scheme to be introduced by the South Eastern Masonic Association for securing the election of all candidates approved of for all the Charities. Bro. Wm. Andrews, P.M., Treas., being elected as the representative from this lodge. Business ended, the lodge was closed and adjourned till January. There were present Bros. J. J. Pakes, S.W.; J. Baxter Langley, J.W.; W. Andrews, P.M., Treas.; F. Walters, G.J.D. Middlesex, P.M., Sec.; G. T. Linn, S.D.; R. Hannan, J.D.; J. G. Vohmann, I.G.; H. J. Fisher, Org.; G. Andrews, P.M., D.C.; A. Maers, W. Simmons, J. G. Thomas, R. J. Harvey, W. O. Lockhead, H. W. F. Fellows, and others. The long list of visitors included Bros. C. Relf, P.P.G.S.D. Kent, P.M. 188, P.M. 77; J. Roper, P.M. 147; B. Beaver, 700; T. Gambrell, 1194; R. J. Dart, 192; G. Brown, P.M. 169; R. W. Robinson, 879; D. Smith, 1326, and others.

PAIGNTON.—Torrey Lodge (No. 1358).—This successful lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Tuesday, 28th ult., at the Town Hall, Paignton. As on this occasion a Past Master's jewel was to be presented to the I.P.M., Bro. W. E. Warren, a large number of Past Masters, visitors, and members of the lodge assembled to do him honour. Bro. J. Couldrey presided, and was supported by Bros. W. E. Warren, I.P.M.; J. T. Goodridge, P.M.; J. J. C. Piller, P.M.; Rev. R. Bowden, P.P.G.C.; Jas. Greenfield, P.P.G.D.; C. H. Law, P.P. G.W. Herts; and J. Piggott, W.M. 328. Among the visitors were Bros. S. Burton, S.W. 328; R. C. Smith, 328; J. Salter, 328; Wakeham, 328; P. Warren, 1254; Semper Fidelis, Exeter; Willey, Exeter, Brent Lodge, 1284; and Valentine, Teignmouth 303. The W.M. opened the lodge, and the minutes having been confirmed the chair was occupied by P.M. Bro. J. T. Goodridge, who proceeded to initiate Mr. Thomas Hamlyn into the mysteries of the Craft in his usual happy manner. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. S. R. Higham, a candidate for the Third Degree, having proved his proficiency, was entrusted and retired. The lodge having been opened in the Third Degree, the chair was filled by P.M. Bro. the Rev. R. Bowden, who raised Bro. Higham to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in a manner that left nothing to be desired. The W.M. having resumed the gavel and closed down the lodge, in eloquent and complimentary language addressed the I.P.M., Bro. Warren, and begged his acceptance of a handsome Past Master's jewel, not only as a mark of the esteem and respect in which he was held by the brethren of the lodge, but for the zeal he had evinced for Freemasonry from the formation of the Torrey Lodge, of which he was the active founder, as well as for the efficient manner he had discharged the office of Worshipful Master during the past year. Bro. Warren, he remarked, was at his post every lodge night, and whatever work was to be done he was always found equal to the occasion, his rendering the various ceremonies being as nearly perfect as possible, and his ruling being as firm and as dignified as it was urbane and felicitous. The lodge felt a debt of gratitude to the W. brother for the exemplary manner in which he had discharged the great and onerous duties appertaining to his high office, and the brethren desired to mark their appreciation of his abilities and conduct whilst at their head by requesting him as W. Master to present him with the jewel voted him, and at the same time to wish him, on their behalf, long life, happiness, and prosperity. The I.P.M., Bro. Warren, said he could not adequately thank them all for their fraternal good will and kindness, manifested in the tangible token of their esteem so flatteringly bestowed upon him. His aims and object had been throughout his Masonic career (and he had filled almost every office) to do his duty conscientiously as in the sight of the Great Architect of the Universe, whom we all acknowledged, and he believed he had been so blessed with the hearty co-operation of his officers and brethren in the lodge that his duties had been rendered comparatively light. He felt, and should always regard with pleasure, the unvaried kindness and brotherly love he had received at their hands. A kind word and deed had cheered him more than once in his difficulties, and helped him in his path of duty, at the same time he also felt that he had had more honours showered upon him than he deserved. His aim also had been to rule justly and equitably, and to deserve their approbation. If their kind present meant anything, it meant that he had been successful in so doing, and the inward satisfaction of knowing that his duties had been performed in an acceptable manner was sufficiently a reward, but to be honoured as they had honoured him was more than he expected. The handsome jewel he should wear with pride and pleasure whenever in lodge, and of all his possessions he should treasure that, as the visible expression of their inward feelings of brotherly love towards him. The Torrey Lodge was, he might say, founded at his instigation, and although at the time a young Mason he had exerted himself to obtain a meeting of the brethren in the neighbourhood. This meeting was attended by distinguished members of the Craft, happily of one heart and one mind, and the Torrey Lodge became a reality, and his prayer was that from year to year it might increase and prosper even more than it had hitherto done. He would ever cherish the remembrance of this day, and hand down their valuable present to his children as an incentive to them to do their duty. Two brethren were proposed as joining members, and the lodge having been closed the brethren adjourned to an excellent spread in their clothing room, and the evening was spent in a pleasant and harmonious manner, the speeches being pertinent and pregnant with Masonic fervour.

MOLD.—Sir Watkin Lodge (No. 1477).—The

members of this lodge met at their lodge-room in the Market Hall, on Monday, the 20th ult. There was a good muster of the brethren. Bro. J. Salmon, P.J.G.W., presided, and performed the work in his usual effective style. Mr. A. Howard was initiated, and Bros. Hughes and James were raised.

CHISLEHURST.—Chislehurst Lodge (No. 1531).—The regular meeting of this new and flourishing lodge was held on Saturday, at the Bull's Head, Chislehurst, and, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, a goodly number of the brethren assembled to discharge their Masonic duties. Among those present were Bros. George Guest, W.M.; W. Kippes, S.W.; Gloster, J.W.; James Griffin, P.M., Sec.; Hutchings, I.G.; Hunt, W.S.; Grant, Tyler, and the following members of the lodge:—Bros. West, Williams, Wain, Hollis, W. O. Goldsmith ("Freemason"), Hooker, Samuels, Hayline, Dana, and Luck, and visitors, Bros. Thompson, 1475, and Dowsett, 79. The lodge having been duly opened, the minutes of the last lodge meeting were read and confirmed, and the usual routine business was disposed of. There being no special business for consideration, the brethren with true Masonic spirit devoted an hour in working several of the sections, in which they exhibited much proficiency. The lodge was afterwards opened in the superior degree and then closed down, when, at the request of the brethren, the S.W., Bro. W. Kippes, undertook to represent the lodge at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The lodge having been closed, refreshment was served, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given by the W.M. and heartily responded to. In proposing the toast of "The M.W.G.M., His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales," the W.M. alluded to the gratification that every member of the Craft must have experienced at the enthusiastic reception His Royal Highness met with in India; and his safe return to his native country was a source of congratulation to every one. They all knew that the Grand Master took the deepest interest in the welfare of the Craft, and was ever ready to appear amongst them when circumstances permitted, as was evident by his recent visit to Norwich to install Lord Suffield in the important office of P.G.M. They could not but regard it as a high honour to be presided over by the Heir Apparent. The toast having been duly honoured the W.M. gave "The Pro G.M., D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present," all of whom, he said, were entitled to the thanks and confidence of the Craft. Speaking of the Earl of Carnarvon he pointed out that only the previous day his lordship had severed himself from his important public duties in order to attend to a Masonic call, he having been present at the festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. The next toast was "The Health of Viscount Holmesdale, the Prov. G.M. of Kent," who, the W.M. said, took the liveliest interest in the well-being of the province as was shown by the communications they had received from him and the close watch he kept over their proceedings. This toast, as also that of "The Rest of the Prov. Grand Officers," was heartily received. In reply to the toast of his health the W.M. regretted that the lodge had not much business to transact, but said there were accidental circumstances to account for this. They were, however, a very harmonious body; in fact, a pattern in this respect, and he believed they carried out the principles of Masonry in the highest sense. In reply to the toast of "The I.P.M. and the other Officers," Bro. Griffin, Secretary, expressed his regret that Bro. J. Coutts, P.G.P., the I.P.M., was prevented by illness from being present. They always welcomed him, and were glad to see so able and genial a worker amongst them. (Cheers.) Much sympathy was expressed by the brethren for Bro. Coutts, who was one of the founders of the lodge, its first W.M., and present I.P.M. and Treasurer. Replying to "The Masonic Charities," Bro. Kippes expressed the pleasure it would afford him to represent the lodge at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and said when he had previously acted as Steward on behalf of the lodge at the charities he was able to take up a good round sum. From the subscriptions he had received from the brethren during the afternoon, and the promises of support he had received from those who were not present, he had every reason to believe he should be able to hand in a considerably larger sum than before. "The Visitors" and other toasts followed, and a most agreeable afternoon was spent, the Tyler's toast concluding the programme.

LIVERPOOL.—Dramatic Lodge (No. 1609).—The most satisfactory success continues to attend this lodge, which held its monthly meeting at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, on the 28th ult. Bro. Joseph Bell, W.M., presided, and amongst the largest gathering of officers, members, and visitors yet seen at the Dramatic were Bros. B. B. Marson, P.M.; W. J. Chapman, S.W.; Lindo Courtenay, J.W.; A. Woolrich, Treas.; H. J. Loveday, Sec.; W. Sandbrook, J.D.; J. Atkinson, I.G.; A. Collinson, Steward; G. Broadbridge, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Skeaf, P.G.O.; J. Hocken, P.M. 673; D. Saunders, B. Richardson, H. Leslie, F. Amey, Dr. Whittle, W. Coates, P. Shrapnell, W. Hildyard, H. P. Squire, C. Leighton, P.M. 1325, and others. Messrs. J. L. Shrapnell and John Hill being balloted for and duly elected, were initiated by the W.M. in the most satisfactory manner, and Bros. Leslie, Amey, Walton, Burgess, Dale, Cooke, and Lablache were passed to the Second Degree with equal efficiency. The W.M. read a letter from Bro. Loveday, the Secretary, tendering his resignation of that office in consequence of his removal to London in January to fulfil a professional engagement at the Lyceum Theatre. General regret was expressed that the Dramatic Lodge should lose so amiable and valuable an officer as Bro. Loveday. After a vote for charity, the brethren adjourned to banquet, and a pleasant evening was spent.

Mark Masonry.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF DEVONSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of Devonshire was held on Thursday, 23rd ult., at the Masonic Rooms of the Sincerity Mark Lodge, No. 35, St. George's Hall, Stonehouse. The R.W. Bro. Major Tanner Davey, P.G.M.M., presided, supported by the following present P.G.L. officers: V.W. Bros. the Rev. P. H. Newnham, P.G. Chap. of England, D.P.G.M. pro. tem.; J. E. Curteis, G.D. of England, P.G.S.W. pro. tem.; W. Hugo, J.G.W.; A. R. Sethbridge, P.G.M.O.; J. B. Gover, P.G. Treas.; V. Bird, P.M.O. of England, P.G. Sec.; W. Bros. J. E. Moon, P.G. Reg.; W. Herries, P.G.S.D.; W. G. H. Boon, P.G.D.C.; C. Cooper, P.G. S. Wks.; E. Butchers, G. Purs.; R. Pengelley, P.G. St.; W. H. Crimp, P.G. St.; John Rogers, P.G. Tyler; the following past P.G.L. officers: V.W. Bros. R. H. Rae, P.P.G.J.W.; J. Latimer, P.P.G.J.W.; the Rev. T. W. Lemon, P.P.G. Chap.; T. S. Bayly, P.P.G. Treas.; Lieut. Col. Fitzgerald, P.P.G.M.O.; C. Leigh, P.P.G. M.O.; C. Godtschalk, P.P.G.D.C.; W. J. J. Spry, P.P.G. J.O.; J. Baxter, P.P.G.S.D.; E. Aitken Davies, P.P.G. J.D.; W. Browning, P.P.G.J.D.; J. N. Hifley, P.P.G.J.D.; H. Miller, P.P.G.O.; J. Way, P.P.G.O.; S. Jew, P.P.G. Treas.; J. Lynn, P.P.G.C.; J. Phillips, P.P.G.D.C.; A. Latimer, P.P.G.S.B.; D. Cross, P.P.G.S.B.; L. D. Westcott, P.P.G.S.B.; J. H. Toms, P.P.G.S.B.; also W. Bros. P. B. Clements, W.M. 64; Lieut. W. H. Jolliffe, P.M.; H. Cochrane, W.M. 16; Bros. J. T. Avery, J.W. 50; J. Brewer, S.W. 9; H. Bridgeman, M.O. 91; J. R. Harris, J.O. 91; J. H. Filmer, S.D. 16; J. James, J.O. 50; C. Croydon, J.O. 35; G. H. Evans, S.D. 50; C. Rodda, O. 50; H. Horton, I.G. 35; T. Gidley, Tyler 169; and the following were among the other brethren present: E. J. Richardson, 50; R. Bird, 50; Lieut. Littleton, 48; E. Prout, 35.

The Secretary's report showed great improvement in the lodges making their returns, but stated that some of them were yet left much later in the year than was convenient. The Treasurer's receipts and expenditure for the past year shewed a balance in hand of £14 11s.

On the proposition of Bro. C. Godtschalk, seconded by Bro. J. E. Curteis, £10 was voted to the funds of the Institution in aid of Aged and Decayed Freemasons and their widows.

On the proposition of Bro. J. Latimer, seconded by Bro. J. E. Curteis, a committee was appointed to obtain a new set of collars and jewels for the P.G. Lodge.

The P.G.M., the D.P.G.M., the Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year were appointed as a committee.

Bro. L. D. Westcott was elected the Treasurer, and Bro. John Rogers the Tyler for the ensuing year.

The following brethren were appointed the elective members of the Board of General Purposes:—W. G. Rogers, P.P.G.J.W. 15; J. Latimer, 66; Samuel Jew, 66; J. B. Gover, 50.

The P.G.M. invested the following brethren as the officers for the ensuing year:—The Rev. P. H. Newnham, D.P.G.M., 35; Major Shanks, R.M., P.S.G.W., 35; J. T. Shapland, P.J.G.W., 9; H. Cochrane, P.S.G.O., 16; John Brewer, P.J.G.O., 9; the Rev. W. King (vicar of South Molton) P.G. Chap. 9; L. D. Westcott, P.G. Treas., 50; R. M. Andrews, P.G. Reg., 50; V. Bird, P.G. Sec., 64; M. Rickard, P.G.S.D., 64; E. Patten, P.G.J.D., 76; J. T. Avery, P.G.D.C., 50; W. Crimp, P.G.A.D.C., 50; J. Tonkin, P.G.S. Works, 23; J. B. Price, P.G.S.B., 16; J. Billing, P.G.O., 169; C. Croydon, P.G. Std. B., 35; J. H. Filmer, P.G. Purs., 16; Stewards—R. Pengelley, 50; J. Stocker, 15; S. Searle, 100; and A. Bodley, 15.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Lodge (Time Immemorial).—A regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, Nov. 30th. The lodge was opened at a quarter to eight by Bro. Carey, W.M., supported by the following:—Bro. Jas. Dutton, I.P.M.; Dr. Hopkins, Past G.J.W., Chaplain; Cater, S.W.; John Dutton, J.W.; Rubie, Secretary; Braham, as M.O.; Major Preston, as S.O.; Brown, as J.O.; Murlis, S.D.; Radway, J.D.; Falkner, Reg., as I.G.; Bigwood, Tyler. There were also present as visitors Bros. Munro, P.M. 119; Amor, 119; Moutrie; and many members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A unanimous ballot was taken for Bro. Amor as a joining member. A candidate for advancement, who was expected, sent a note at the last moment, satisfactorily explaining his inability to attend. The bye-laws were read, also a circular announcing the meeting of Grand Mark Lodge on Dec. 5th. Bro. Dr. Hopkins reported that he had represented the Cumberland Mark Lodge at Grand Lodge meetings at Bristol and Birmingham, on both of which occasions he had occupied the chair of G.S.W. Bro. Munro thanked the brethren for their kind reception of him as a visitor, and invited them to attend the Carnarvon Lodge at Keynsham, on Dec. 14th. Bro. Amor also expressed his gratification on his admission as a joining member. Bro. Captain Money Penny congratulated the lodge on its present thriving condition and prospects, which appeared very different from what they were when he last attended a meeting a considerable time ago. Bros. Brown and Howes proposed three candidates for advancement, and Bros. Radway and Dingle gave the name of another. No other business offering, the lodge was closed at a quarter to nine, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

NEWPORT.—Keystone Lodge (No. 109).—By far the largest gathering of Mark Masons ever held in the province took place at Newport, on Monday, the 27th ult., at the Masonic Hall, under the auspices of the Keystone Lodge, for the purpose of advancing duly qualified brethren, and installing Bro. W. Wattaris as W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened by Captain

S. Geo. Homfray, P.M.M., in the unavoidable absence of the W.M. Several brethren were duly advanced, and the beautiful ceremony of the Mark Degree was magnificently rendered by the presiding W.M., who is also the D.P.G.M. of the province, and P.A.G.D.C. of England. The installation of Bro. W. Watkins was then proceeded with, and it is not too much to say that this grand ceremony was given to perfection, and after being duly installed, Bro. Watkins invested his officers, viz.: Bros. L. A. Homfray, as I.P.M.; Captain S. Geo. Homfray, D.C.; Captain A. T. Perkins, S.W.; R. J. Chambers, J.W.; Walter West, M.O.; Jas. Horner, S.O.; P. Evans, J.O.; Rev. J. H. Jakes, Chaplain; J. Campbell, Sec.; W. Pickford, Treas.; W. H. W. Homfray, Registrar; H. J. Groves, Org.; A. McMahon, S.D.; H. Richards, J.D.; A. Taylor, I.G.; H. Fletcher, Tyler; and W. Hopton, A. Tyler. The lodge was then closed in due form, the brethren being impressed that such a meeting augurs well for the future of Mark Masonry in the province.

Knights Templar.

A meeting of the Tancred Preceptory was held at Cambridge on Thursday, November 30th, Sir Knight Professor Kalley Miller, presiding. Comp. John Arthur Fowler, of the Euclid Chapter, received the honour of knighthood, and Sir Knt. Robert Townley Caldwell, Fellow and Bursar of Corpus Christi College, was elected Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year.

Red Cross of Constantine.

A meeting of the University Conclave of Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine was held at Cambridge, on Thursday, November 30th. Sir Knt. Cuthbert Edgar Peeke was installed as Sovereign, and Sir Knt. Professor Kalley Miller as Viceroy for the ensuing year.

Scotland.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Mother Kilwinning (No. 0).—On Friday, the 24th ult., the brethren of the Mother Lodge resident in Glasgow and vicinity inaugurated a series of meetings proposed hereafter to be held monthly in various districts of the town, for the purpose of bringing them periodically in closer fraternal intercourse than what has hitherto subsisted. The initial meeting was held in the house of Bro. Charles Scobie, Roseneath Cottage, Paisley Road, where about forty assembled, under the presidency first of Bro. J. A. Ferguson, Proxy Senior Warden of the lodge, and afterwards of Bro. John Clark, Treasurer for the associated Glasgow brethren. In the course of a specially pleasant evening, the Secretary (Bro. John Walker) briefly explained the object of the gatherings thus auspiciously commenced, as above indicated, and which met with the hearty approval of all present. It is a part of the scheme, moreover, that short papers on subjects more or less directly bearing on Freemasonry shall be read at each of the future meetings, thus usefully blending the intellectual with the social element amongst the brethren when monthly they "assemble." Before breaking up it was announced to the meeting that the annual reunion of the Glasgow-resident members of the Mother Lodge was fixed to be held this year on the evening of the 8th December, in Lodge St. John's Hall, No. 213, Buchanan Street. Bro. Capt. M. Cosh of Dalry is to occupy the chair, and it is expected that Bro. Colonel Mure of Caldwell will also be present.

GLASGOW.—Lodge St. John (No. 33).—The regular meeting of this ancient lodge was held in St. John's Hall, 213, Buchanan-street, on Tuesday, the 21st ult., Bro. D. M. Nelson, W.M., presiding, supported by Bros. Sellars, S.W.; Brownlie, J.W.; William Bell, I.P.M.; Fletcher, P.M.; Smillie, P.M.; T. B. Bell, S.N., and a large muster of members and visiting brethren. After the minutes had been read and approved of, Mr. James Cuthbert received the E.A. Degree, Bro. Bell, I.P.M., officiating. Bro. D. McGlashan was then admitted into the lodge as a joining member by Bro. D. M. Nelson, W.M., and Bro. Cuthbert. Arthur and Galloway received the Fellow Craft Degree, the ceremony being gone through in a most careful and impressive manner by Bro. Bell, S.M. The lodge was then called to refreshment, and the usual toasts given and responded to most enthusiastically. During the evening some most excellent songs were given, the songs of Bros. Rogers and Leslie, the celebrated solo vocalists and duetists, being most effectively rendered, to the admiration of all present. The W.M., before closing the lodge, notified that Bro. Rutherford, photographer, had presented three very handsome photographs, framed, taken at the last annual excursion of the lodge of those brethren that were present on that occasion. It was then proposed and carried that this present should be recorded on the minutes. This brought the meeting to a close.

GREENOCK.—Lodge Greenock St. John (No. 175).—The annual general meeting of this lodge was held on the evening of Monday, 27th ult. Bro. Alex. McMaster, W.M., occupied the chair. After some routine business the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: Bros. Pollock, W.M.; Urie, D.M.; Alex. McMaster, P.M.; Anderson, P.M.; Duncan McIntyre, S.W.; Archibald Cameron, J.W.; William Wright, jun., Sec.; James Rodger, Treas.; Rev. John Balfour Robertson, Chap.; John R. Fleming, S.D.; David Anderson, J.W.; Norman Buchanan, 1st Senior Steward; Charles J. Sergeant, 2nd Senior Steward; Stevenson Stewart, I.G.; Alex. Cruden, Tyler. The newly-elected R.W.M., Bro. Pollock, having been duly installed, took

the chair, and presided with much ability throughout the remainder of the evening. The other office-bearers were then installed, and took up their respective positions in the lodge. The various reports were handed in and adopted, and after other business was transacted, hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Bro. McMaster, for his long services in the lodge, and to Bro. Urie, for acting as Depute Master so efficiently, which compliments were duly acknowledged. After a cordial vote of thanks to the other retiring office-bearers, responded to by Bro. T. N. Douglas in appropriate terms, the lodge was duly closed by the W.M. The meeting, which was a very large one, was of an exceedingly cordial and enthusiastic character. St. John, 175, is in a very flourishing condition, and much of the prosperity and success which attends it is due to the fact of its being fortunate in always possessing any number of able and hardworking brethren ready to fill the chair, as well as the other offices, and to the devotedness, competent knowledge, and conciliating courtesies of the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. Wm. Wright, jun., who is well supported by the painstaking and judicious Treasurer, Bro. Rodger.

CAMPBELL.—Caledonian St. John's R.A. Lodge (No. 195).—The annual meeting of the members of this lodge was held on Friday evening, the 24th ult., in their lodge-room, Lennox Arms Hotel, Lennox-town, W.M. Peter Robertson presiding. The principal business transacted was the election and installation of office-bearers for the year commencing on St. John's Day in December. The following brethren were duly elected and installed:—R.W.M., J. A. King; P.M., Peter Robertson; D.M., R. Graham; S.M., Andrew Hosie; S.W., James Gray; J.W., David Rodger; Treasurer, Francis Paterson; Secretary, James Martin; Chaplain, John Morrison; S.D., James Ewing; J.D., James C. Fulton; Bible-bearer, William Brown; Jeweller, Alexander Whitehead; I.G., John Bennie; Tyler, Alex. Lindsay.

CAMBERNAULD.—Lodge St. Andrew (No. 199).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 30th ult., for the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, when the following brethren were elected, namely, Bros. George Stark, R.W.M.; Andrew Shaw, P.M.; Alexander Smellie, D.M.; John Longwell, S.W.; James Stark, J.W.; Archibald Young, Treas.; Robert Jack, Sec.; David Couts, Clerk; Rev. Hugh Park, Chaplain; Matthew Kirkwood, S.B.; William Leashman, S.S.; John Kinnabrough, J.S.; James Stewart, Tyler. After the election was over, and the various office-bearers duly installed, the lodge was closed. The brethren afterwards assembled in their lodge-room, when an elegant supper was partaken of, the W.M. in the chair, while the Senior and Junior Wardens acted as Croupiers, members of various lodges being present, including Lodge Star, 219, Glasgow; St. John's, 33, Glasgow; St. Andrew's, 176, Denny; and others, when a most enjoyable evening was spent, the company adjourning at 11.30 p.m.

VALE OF LEVEN.—Alexandria and Bonhill St. Andrew's R.A. Lodge (No. 321) celebrated its twelfth anniversary on Friday evening, the 24th ult., by a supper and ball in Dalmonach Hall, Bonhill. Fully 100 were present. Bro. Stewart, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Moir, Turnbull, Hodge, &c. Letters of apology were read from Bro. Smollett, P.G.M., Arch. Orr Ewing, and John Orr Ewing. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured, and the National Anthem sung. Amongst the other toasts were "The Provincial Grand Lodge," to which Bro. Moir, C.P.G.L., replied; "The Visiting Brethren," by Bro. McKenzie, reply by Bro. Hodge, W.M., No. 80. An assembly followed, and the evening was most harmoniously spent.

RUTHERGLEN.—St. John's Operative Lodge (No. 347).—A meeting of this lodge took place on Friday night, the 24th ult., when the following brethren were duly elected:—David Smart, W.M.; J. Cunningham, P.M.; M. Abbot, D.M.; John Murdoch, S.M.; Thos. Alston, S.W.; W. Young, J.W.; W. Gardiner, Treasurer; Alex. Warnoch, Secretary; A. Robertson, S.D.; Peter Ross, J.D.; Andrew Brown, P.G.S.; Hugh Aiken, S.S.; M. Sparks, J.S.; Andrew Pearson, Chaplain; J. Terris, B.B.; James B. Shields, S.B.; Wm. Carlin, I.G.; John Cairns, Tyler.

BRIDGE OF ALLAN.—Lodge Abercromby (No. 531).—At the annual election, which took place at the Royal Hotel, the following were duly elected as the office-bearers for the ensuing year, viz.:—Bros. Wm. McCowan, W.M.; John Carmichael, P.M.; Robt. Don, D.M.; Thomas Hamilton, S.M.; Robt. Philp, jun., Proxy Master; James Simpson, S.W.; J. Cramb, J.W.; Wm. Henderson, Treas.; P. McIlwaine, Sec.; Rev. John Reid, Chaplain; G. McColl, S.D.; Wm. McGregor, J.D.; A. Anderson, S.S.B.; G. McKenzie, J.S.B.; A. B. Hall-dane, I.G.; L. McKinnon, Tyler.

AN ACT OF MASONIC DEVOTION.

Bro. Hubert, in his December number of the "Chaine L'Union," gives a gallant example of Masonic devotion on the part of Bro. Lebouleiller, of the R. F. Dieppe, of the French Mercantile Marine, on the 29th of August last. It appears that the French vessel Louise de St. Servan, Captain Chevallier, was struck by a tornado while on the Bank of Newfoundland, and sinking. Capt. Lebouleiller rescued the captain and crew, in all 21, by a desperate effort in a heavy sea; but when he got them on board he found he had not sufficient provisions for them if he remained there, the Louise having foundered almost immediately after the crew was taken aboard the R. F. He therefore gave up his own fishing and returned to France with the crew he had saved, entering the Gironde September 26th. Those who like to read this narrative in the simple French will find it in an early "Masonic Magazine."

NOTICE.

To prevent delay or miscarriage, it is particularly requested that ALL communications of whatever nature for the "Freemason," may be addressed to the Office, 198, Fleet-street, London, it being irregular to send through any other channel.

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.

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.

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 ADVERTISERS.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the Office, 198 Fleet Street, London, not later than 12 o'clock on Wednesday, to insure insertion in the following Saturday's number. The Rates for Advertisements may be had on application at the Office.

Answers to Correspondents.

F. P.—No.

The following stand over:—Reports of lodges: Vale of Avon; Churchill, 473; Northampton Chapter, 360; Faith, 141; Alfred, 340; Loyalty, 86; Ivy, 1441; London Masonic Club; Priory, 1000; Star, 1275; Domestic Chapter, 177; Union Lodge of Instruction; Annual Banquet Southern Star Lodge of Instruction. Premier Conclave Red Cross of Constantine. Burn's Statue and Freemasonry.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

FRANCIS.—On the 2nd inst., at Fellows-road, South Hampstead, the wife of A. Francis, Esq., of a son.
PRATT.—On the 1st inst., at Lyonsdown, New Barnet, the wife of J. Pratt, of a daughter.
ROSE.—On the 4th inst., at Thistleton House, Clissold-road, the wife of Mr. L. Rose, of a daughter.
WATSON.—On the 1st inst., at Clifton, Gloucestershire, the wife of the Rev. H. C. Watson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LEWIS—RICHARD-PRESTON.—On the 29th ult., at Brentwood Church, Edwin James, son of C. C. Lewis, Esq., Brentwood, to Frances Maude Dorothea, daughter of W. R. Richard-Preston, Esq.
MOORE—MYERS.—On the 2nd inst., at St. Peter's Church, Wm. Prentice Moore, second son of the late Charles Caught Moore, Esq., of Mile-end and Leytonstone, to Mary Kate, eldest daughter of William Henry Myers, Esq., F.S.A.

DEATHS.

DAWSON.—On the 30th ult., at Birmingham, George Dawson, aged 55.
HARTLEY.—On the 25th ult., at Brighton, Thomas Hartley, aged 63.
HAWKER.—On Sept. 6, at Akassa, West Coast of Africa, Edward Charles Hawker, aged 38.
MATTHEWS.—On the 1st inst., at his residence, Victoria Road, Heeley, Sheffield, Henry Matthews, P.M. 1239, P.Z. 139, P.P.S.G. Mark W. for W. Yks., G.J.O. for Eng., &c., &c., aged 50 years.
POOLE.—On the 3rd inst., after severe suffering, at Blackwater Cottage, Lordship-lane, East Dulwich, Charlotte, the beloved wife of John Poole, aged 55, deeply lamented Friends will kindly accept this intimation.
REYNOLDS.—On the 24th ult., at Richmond-terrace Clapham-road, Louisa Ann, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Charles and Mrs. Mary Ann Reynolds.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 1876.

THE GRAND LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

We called attention in our last number to the amount distributed at the monthly meeting of this valuable body, which, assuming it to be the normal maximum of monthly relief, would reach to something like £7000 per annum. This at 3 per cent. is the interest £230,000, and represents a large capital and a serious charge on our resources. It may be questioned however, whether that amount, even large as it is, answers to the actual charge on our resources, and as by the last published quarterly accounts of Grand Lodge, it seems that the sums paid by the Fund of Benevolence, in the quarter ending March 31st, reached to £1772 2s. 8d., and that this total by no means represents the amount voted, we feel sure that we are not wrong in fixing the yearly expenditure at the very least at £7000 per annum. How then is this large amount expended? and is the best done with it that might be done? are questions which will occur to every brother. We wish that we could say, in our opinion, that the replies to these two queries could be perfectly satisfactory. But we feel bound to say we do not think that they are. Several noteworthy points crop out when we begin to dive beneath the surface, and to realize the claims for relief, on the one hand, and the "Benevolence" afforded on the other. First of all, it is very noteworthy that a large number of applications are always only just within the "minimum" of the term of subscription insisted on by the Book of Constitutions. Two-years-and-a-half is a very common period of subscription, three years, very frequent, four years may be said to be exceptional, and though, of course, we have here and there ten, fifteen, twenty, or thirty years, yet we fancy that if the average membership of the list of the applicants for the last Lodge of Benevolence was taken, it could only amount to something under four-and-a-half years, if quite so much. But, of course, we speak from memory, and do not profess, except relatively, to claim correctness in our figures, but we believe we are not far out. The next point to be noted, is the absence from lodge life which many of the applicants display, sixteen years of non-subscription we often have to deal with, and though the case be a bad one, as it often is, yet we cannot think that after so long an absence from the work and payments of Freemasonry, a brother has a right to ask our aid. We should be quite ready to add a provision to our laws, that no one out of Masonry for ten years, and who has not subscribed to a lodge for two years previous to his application (except the lodge is prepared to make it a special case), on special grounds, shall come for relief. As it is, too many who do nothing for Masonry reap the benefit, while the industrious and zealous brethren bear all the burdens. This is a growing evil, and deserves to be noticed and remedied. Another point is, the frequent applications we have from brethren who have known existing incomes, in some cases increasing, and who because they are in difficulties come to the board. It is really quite impossible to understand how such can claim the benefit of our Masonic charity, which is for those in decayed and distressed circumstances, to whom such help is really invaluable. Can such a claim really be considered as a claim for Masonic "charity?" We think not; and we feel sure that such a contingency of relief, and such an application for aid do not properly come under the consideration of the Lodge of Benevolence. The evils arising from such claims being substantiated, as a right, are so serious and manifold, as hardly to require animadversion, and we feel that we are doing no more than our duty in calling the attention of W. Masters of lodges to an innovation most unreasonable in itself, and fraught with harm to the best interests of our Order. And having said this, as we felt

it our duty to do, we feel bound to add, how greatly we rejoice to think that the wisdom of our Masonic forefathers provided this means of Masonic charity, inasmuch as in itself it is a right noble institution, and well represents the unchanging character of our goodly and chivalrous Order. Many a poor brother receives a "solatium" in hours of adversity without which he has really nothing but the workhouse before him. Many a destitute friendless man has the "right hand of fellowship" extended to him in an unexpected term of bitter earthly adversity, and the liberality of our brotherhood, and the kindness of the brethren who compose the Board of Benevolence make certainly, often most truly still the poor "widow's heart to sing for joy."

THE PRESENT ASPECTS OF THE MASONIC STRUGGLE IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

To all sincere Freemasons, to all members of the Anglo-Saxon family of Masonry, the position of Masonry itself in these two countries must be one of extreme anxiety. It is hardly possible to overrate the result of the foolish appeal to the lodges which is now proceeding in both lands, as in the present "temper of the times," and the "animus" of a large and important section of the fraternity, there can, we are disposed to think, be little doubt, humanly speaking, what the response will be. Our readers are aware that in both France and Belgium the question whether the belief in the "existence of God, and the Immortality of the soul" shall be retained in the constitutional laws as a condition of acceptance, as an official avowal, is now submitted to the lodge. In Belgium, as we informed our readers last week on excellent authority, some of the lodges have already voted by large majorities that the "words shall be expunged." In France the process is proceeding, but we have not yet heard of any actual voting. In perusing the official report of the meeting of the Grand Orient at Paris in September, and of the speeches pro and con, we cannot be insensible to the grave nature of the case. Let us listen to these remarks of Bro. Beke, who spoke with great moderation and effect. We give the actual French, with a translation for the benefit of some of our brethren who do not read French with facility.—"L'article 1. En disant (ce que vous ne pouvez changer): que l'immense majorité des Maçons répandus sur la surface du globe croit au grand Architecte de l'Univers et à l'immortalité de l'âme, ne porte en rien atteinte à cette liberté de conscience, puisque le paragraphe 3 dit: que la Maçonnerie regarde la liberté de conscience comme un droit propre à chaque homme et n'exclut personne pour ses croyances. Je veux vous dire, mes FF., à ce sujet ce qui s'est passé dans une Loge il y a peu de jours. Un prof.: présente: les rapports sont excellents, ce prof.: a contribué pour une somme importante à la création d'écoles laïques; il est donc admis à l'unanimité à subir les épreuves maçonniques. Dans les questions qui lui sont posées, on lui demande: s'il a jamais prié? sur sa réponse que dans des moments douloureux de sa vie, il a quelquefois adressé des prières à l'Etre suprême, il est gratifié de 27 boules noires, et l'initiation lui est refusée! Je vous demande, mes très chers FF., si ce n'est pas là de l'intolérance?" Article 1. In saying (that which you cannot change) that the immense majority of Masons spread over the surface of the globe believes in the Great Architect of the Universe and the immortality of the soul, in no way interferes with that liberty of conscience, since Paragraph 3 says that Masonry looks upon liberty of conscience as a right peculiar to the individual, and shuts out no one for his belief. I wish to tell you, my brethren, with respect to this subject, a fact that has taken place in a lodge within a few days. A profane presents himself; the reports of him are excellent; this profane has contributed an important amount to the lay school, he is therefore unanimously admitted to undergo the Masonic probation. In the questions which are put to him, he is asked if he has ever prayed? On his reply that in mournful moments of his life he has sometimes offered up prayers to the

Supreme Being he is presented with 27 black balls, and initiation is refused to him. I ask you, my very dear brethren, if that is not intolerance?" and we think that all of our readers will answer at once "Yes, a great deal more." One fact, they say, is worth a thousand arguments, and surely we want nothing more to convince us what this present agitation is tending to, and what must be the inevitable end of the recent ill-advised decision of the G. Orient of France. It is a matter to all Anglo-Saxon Freemasons of very deep regret, as if these words are taken out of the constitutional laws of French Freemasonry there will be but one course open to all Anglo-Saxon Grand Lodges, as far as we can see—that of non-recognition of the G. Orient of France and Belgium. And for this reason, they have by a Masonic "coup d'état," removed, the great and cosmopolitan teaching of Freemasonry, and in so doing have separated themselves from a million of Anglo-Saxon Freemasons. When Bro. André Rousselle in his eloquent address thus expresses himself, we can only feel the greatest astonishment that so able a man can permit himself to be so deceived by his own theory. "Vous invoquez d'abord l'interprétation fautive et mensongère qui pourrait être faite de notre vote par les Grands Orients étrangers, et qui aurait peut-être pour conséquence d'isoler la Maçonnerie Française au sein de la Maçonnerie universelle. Vos suppositions ne me touchent guère, parce qu'elles sont purement gratuites et ne reposent sur aucun fondement. Aucune parole, aucun acte des Grands Orients étrangers ne vous autorisent à leur prêter si généreusement de pareils sentiments d'excommunication ou d'ostracisme. Après les débats aux quels nous nous livrons en ce moment, aucun homme intelligent et honnête, ne pourra dire sérieusement que le Grand Orient de France a voulu bannir de ses Loges la croyance en Dieu et en l'immortalité de l'âme, alors, au contraire qu'au nom de la liberté absolue de conscience il déclare solennellement respecter les convictions, les doctrines, et les croyances de ses membres. Nous n'entendons pas plus nier qu'affirmer aucun dogme, afin de demeurer fidèles à notre principe et à notre pratique de la solidarité humaine. S'il plaisait aux Grands Orients étrangers de nous calomnier, en travestissant nos pensées et en dénaturant nos sentiments, libre à eux. L'opinion publique les jugerait et, tôt ou tard, la vérité se ferait jour." "You then invoke the false and lying interpretation which might be made of our vote by foreign Grand Orients, and which might have the consequence of isolating French Freemasonry in the bosom of universal Masonry. Your suppositions hardly touch me, because they are purely gratuitous, and rest on no foundation. Not one word, not one act of the foreign G. Orient authorise you in lending to them so generous like sentiments of excommunication or ostracism. After the debates to which we devote ourselves at this moment, no intelligent and honest man can seriously say, that the Grand Orient of France has wished to banish from its lodges belief in God, and the immortality of the Soul, because, on the contrary, in the name of absolute liberty of belief of conscience, it declares solemnly that it wishes to respect the conviction, the doctrine, and the belief of its members. We do not intend to deny or affirm any dogma, in order to remain faithful to our principle and practice of human solidarity. If it should please foreign Grand Orients to calumniate us by travestying our thoughts, and giving a non-natural meaning to our opinions, let them do so. The public opinion will judge them, and sooner or later truth will prevail." Despite Bro. Rousselle's words, we fancy that there will be but one opinion among Anglo-Saxon Masons of the extreme folly and grave impropriety of the course which the French and Belgian Masons are now pursuing, and of the inevitable isolation which they are preparing for themselves. We are heartily sorry for them and for Freemasonry in these countries.

MORBID TASTES.

We published in the last "Freemason" a most sensible letter from Mr. Sheriff East to the "Times," because we are of opinion that we all

ought to be greatly obliged to any one who so courageously sets himself, "pro bono publico," against the "morbidity" of the hour. We thank him very much for his announcement, and we think that he has set an example worthy of universal imitation. With a deep sense of his own personal responsibility with respect to a most melancholy act of stern but needed justice, Mr. Sheriff East most truly and clearly points out that the desire to be present at such a mournful sight as an execution in prison by any one who has no call to be there, is a proof of a morbid mind. We trust that other authorities will with equal wisdom and good sense discourage the attendance on such occasions of those whom neither duty nor necessity have compelled to be present, as the desire to witness all the details of an execution within the walls of the prison is, in our opinion, almost as vitiated a taste as one can well picture to one's mind. There was a famous wit and bon vivant in former days—George Selwyn—who had a peculiar taste for all such scenes of pain and shame, and it has been said that in the dress of one of the executioner's attendants he stood by and witnessed a wretched individual broken on the wheel at Paris. But then, as Horace Walpole seems to intimate, despite his undoubted wit and remarkable "bon mots," his conduct was flighty and his habits eccentric. There have been many persons since George Selwyn to whom the execution of a fellow creature has appeared a sight to be sought after, and their presence at such unwholesome gatherings a matter of becoming pride to themselves. And the taste still lingers amongst us, the same morbid tendency still prevails in the age in which we live; and yet we never ourselves could realize, nor do we profess to understand now, why such abnormal conditions of humanity are to be dwelt upon or gloated over by any one with average sensibilities or the normal amount of common sense. There is nothing ever very heroic, either in criminals or in criminality. The criminals for the most part with whom the law has to deal, have in them little to redeem and nothing to elevate them above the level of their venal sympathies or their worthless lives. They are really very common-place scoundrels indeed, whom a round of continued criminality has either hardened into iniquity, or has rendered them impervious to every dictate of honour and humanity. For them there is nothing but the proper surveillance and detection of the police, the stern grasp of the law, the just sentence of the Court of Judicature. They ought to inspire no sympathy, and can claim no admiration on any ground of known ethics or reasonable opinion. No doubt, every now and then, the career of society is startled, and the annals of crime are darkened, by some special case of malignity, by some awful exhibition of wickedness, by some appalling and even some heart-sickening brutality, yet in such a case, though the tendency of the hour may be to dwell upon the needless details of the reporters' manipulations, and people often profess an excitement on such topics which they do not really feel, yet there surely should be no morbid desire to hear of the last words or to note the last agonies of the dying criminal. To suppose that any such exceptional literature can do any of us good, psychologically or morally, can either improve, or warn, or edify, or instruct, is one of the greatest fallacies of an unreasoning sensationalism. When the last stern sentence of the law has been passed, and society exacts its needful Nemesis, the criminal should be left to the solitude of the prison, and the solemn if painful routine of the execution morn. It may be needful and wise that representatives of the press, and those whom the law properly appoints as the jury, should be present, to witness the fulfilment of the sad requirements of justice, but for some careless idler or man about town to go to such a scene as a matter of amusement or excitement is about as great a solecism on all that is befitting and all that is becoming, as can, we venture to think, be possibly conceived by the human mind. There are some vitiated constitutions which require the constant "stimulant" to nerve them to action daily; there are some palled tastes which demand some hurtful

excitement to enable them to "kill time" probably, but for any one desiring to make it part of his day's business to attend (without any call so to do), an execution in the morning, to pass away some idle moments, is a reflexion, (we say nothing of the individual himself) alike on the reason and the philanthropy of society and the age. We, therefore, are glad to chronicle this most sensible resolution of Mr. Sheriff East, and we feel that the thanks of all are due to him, who deprecate and detest a hateful and harmful morbidity. The belief in criminals and criminality is happily on the wane amongst us, and no more forms the staple of a vivacious literature, except for reprehension and moral warning. As any detective officer will tell you, if you throw off the veil which sometimes hangs over the deeds of the daring, and the artifices of the astute, if you reduce the burglar, the "cracksman," the fence, the murderer to his true character, when the varnish is peeled off, and the petty mystery of accident has vanished, you have to deal with a most uninteresting personage indeed. Crime, as we know, begets crime, and few are criminal all at once. But whether it be for the hardened malefactor righteously suffering the well-merited meed of his prosperous criminality, or the evil doer whom passion, or drink, or revenge, or brutality has hurried to his crime and the gallows, on him, as our legislature now wisely provides, let the curtain, so to say, of oblivion drop once for all. Society can never be benefitted or edified by the tale of his often excited personal utterances, or the mournful spectacle of his last sufferings. We thank Mr. Sheriff East once again for his very seasonable letter.

CONTINUED ROMAN CATHOLIC ATTACKS ON FREEMASONRY.

We shall call attention in our next number to two recent allocutions against Freemasonry, one addressed by the Pope to the Bishop of St. Paul of Brazil and the other an address of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Malta to his clergy.

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.]

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Many thanks for the insertion of my letter, and I only hope that the "Freemason" is read in every lodge, and by every brother in Scotland. I am convinced that that letter will be approved of by almost every lodge in Scotland, while it may, at the same time, draw down upon my devoted head the denunciations of some who prefer the wrong to the right; but I have counted the cost, and am prepared to abide the decision of the Craft. I neither write from disappointment nor revenge. I have no Masonic or personal ambition to serve, nor have I any Masonic brother to sacrifice. I write because I have for years seen the Grand Lodge of Scotland going to ruin, and brethren either cannot, will not, or dare not interpose. To save life the surgeon has sometimes to cut off a limb, and to save the life of Grand Lodge of Scotland I have written that letter, but if I cannot save its existence, I will at least expose its defects, that the brethren may brace themselves up to the work of regeneration.

Allow me again to notice for a moment the financial condition of Grand Lodge. The financial affairs of any institution are the most easily managed. That is to say, they are matters of fact, and not of sentiment, and every penny, shilling, and pound ought to be accounted for at the end of the financial year, so that the brethren may see at once on which side the balance lies, and brings out the old adage that short accounts make long friends. But the most extraordinary thing is that we cannot get a statement of facts from anybody. When I say we, I mean Grand Lodge, apart from officials and Grand Committee. We have a Grand Secretary, but no report from him; a Grand Treasurer, but no report from him; a Finance Committee, but no report from them; a Property Committee, but no report from them; there are Trustees for the liquidation of debt fund, but no report from them; Trustees for the Fund of Benevolence, but no report from them. Everything is midnight darkness, and is it to be wondered at that the brethren are becoming impatient and disheartened?

If we turn to the Masonic aspect of Grand Lodge things are no better. The Craft know actually nothing about itself. No report is printed to show whether we are increasing or decreasing, progressing or retrogressing. We know nothing about how many initiates are annually enrolled, how many diplomas have been issued, how many new charters have been granted, or how many lodges

have become dormant. No Provincial Grand Master ever gives in a report, either written or verbal, of the condition of Freemasonry in his province. No question is ever asked whether the laws of Grand Lodge, Cap. 12, Section 4, has been carried out, and every lodge in the province visited. Grand Lodge Laws, Cap. 12, Section 14, enacts that if a Provincial Grand Lodge becomes dormant the lodges in the district come under the immediate superintendence of Grand Lodge and Grand Committee. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Berwickshire has been dormant for four or five years by the death of the Provincial Grand Master, and was practically dormant for four years before his death in consequence of bad health, and with these facts before them Grand Lodge and Grand Committee pay no more attention to Berwickshire than if it were a province in Timbuctoo. In fact, Grand Lodge laws are no more attended to than if they were an old song, and they appear to be obeyed only when they cannot be broken.

In conclusion, if I have made any mistake in consequence of the darkness in which everybody and everything is kept, I shall be happy to acknowledge and apologise to any one who may feel aggrieved, but I must have facts, and not mere assertions.

I am, yours fraternally,

ADAM THOMSON,
S.P.G.M. Peebles and Selkirkshire, and Proxy
Master for and R.W.M. of St. John's Lodge,
Galashiels.

ADMISSION OF CANDIDATES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Your correspondent, "West York," simply refers to a custom which has been in operation in many parts of England for years, but which cannot claim to be even a check upon the evils complained of.

For instance, a gentleman applies to be admitted in West Yorkshire, and gives his address near Manchester. In order to have any effect, the circular referred to by "West York" would have to be sent to each of the thirty lodges in Manchester and suburbs, whereas, if a central committee were established, and copies of all the circulars calling the meetings of the lodges in the district sent to them, they would be able to afford the information required at once, i.e., supposing the would-be candidate had been rejected in any of those lodges. What we want, is some system to prevent such occurrences as the one referred to by "Somerset" in your issue of a fortnight since. Until there is some remedy "black sheep" will no doubt creep in amongst us, and by their nefarious practices bring the Order into disrepute.

Yours fraternally,

EAST LANCASHIRE.

Manchester, 29th Nov., 1876.

THE ROYAL INSTALLATION ENGRAVING.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

As many are aware I have taken a special interest in the forthcoming "historical steel engraving of the installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., as M.W.G.M.," believing that in Bro. Edward James Hart, S.W. 1201, we have an artist who will do justice to the subject, and who will produce a picture of the greatest Masonic event of this century in connection with Freemasonry in Great Britain.

I have had the pleasure of sending many subscribers to the artist, at least, pleasure until lately. Within the last few weeks many are becoming most solicitous to see the engraving, and have been in communication with me as to its advent, a great many times, so much so that I felt it desirable to write to Bro. Hart for an explanation of the delay in its issue, and as doubtless the same anxiety is felt by many more of your readers I herewith give a few extracts from his reply of the 1st December:—"I assure you that nothing that I could compass to insure it being brought out sooner has been left undone by me. Even as it is, no engraving that has ever yet been produced will have been accomplished anything like so quick as this will have been. . . . When I know that popular engravings with not one half the amount of labour will have taken a year longer than this will have done, I feel that I shall be absolved when it is published, as I am now positive it will be before the second anniversary."

Shortly a letter from the engraver and a communication from the artist will be sent to every subscriber, explanatory of the matter, which will be a step in the right direction, for evidently it is considered by many that an engraving of this character does not take the time it really does to insure perfection. Bro. Hart has all to lose by the delay, and the subscribers all to gain, as nothing short of real portraits of the hundreds of brethren who attended the grand and Royal installation will satisfy the artist and engraver, no matter at what cost.

I find there are still some twenty-five spaces open for portraits, and those in parts of the picture of consequence, so that it is desirable brethren who have not yet subscribed should lose no time in communicating with the artist, or, at all events, sending their cartes, as it really rests with the Craft whether all the faces shall represent brethren, or purely imaginative pictures. After April of next year the prices will be increased one third. Let this be noted.

Yours fraternally,

W. J. HUGHAN, P.G.D.

THE UNITED ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE AND HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Allow me to call the attention of my brother Knights Templar to the interesting and valuable address of the

Great Prior of Canada, Colonel McLeod Moore, which appears in this month's "Masonic Magazine." Colonel Moore is one of our greatest authorities on Templar history (albeit we may not entirely agree with his views as to the Protestant Knights of Malta), and as convent general meets on Friday next, the 8th inst., specially to discuss certain matters treated of in his address, I venture to think it should be widely read by those who propose to go back to the beaten paths.

Yours fraternally,

EMRA HOLMES, P.E.C.,
Past Grand Provost, &c.

THE MASONIC BROTHERHOOD.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In the "Rock" of November 25th, there appeared from a writer styling himself "A Mason" the subjoined letter attacking Freemasonry. I enclose the letter and a copy of my reply to it, which I sent to the "Rock."

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

M. KEITH FRITH.

Temple, Dec. 5th.

THE MASONIC BROTHERHOOD.

Sir,—I notice an enquiry in your columns in reference to some of the rules of the above society. I have belonged to that brotherhood for a quarter of a century, and I have no hesitation in saying that its tenets and its practices have a very deleterious influence upon society at large, and that it exerts a very bad influence over the Christian character; and indeed I have come long since to the conclusion that it is very antagonistic to the spread of religion. I have observed that in many localities where Freemasonry rapidly advances spiritual religion invariably declines. I know of many instances where it has ruined individuals, and I cannot see how a thoroughly religious man can remain in the society. Its practices are in many instances a mere travesty of the doctrines of Christianity, whilst in others it is a caricature. The only man who seems to understand Masonry appears to be the Pope, and this is the only thing in which I agree with him. He anathematizes them annually I believe. It has long been a marvel to me why clergymen can associate in such gatherings, characterized as they are by feasting and revelry. It is one of the things which are a great hindrance to the advancement of true spiritual religion, and needs showing up in its true character. Its show and finery attract young men of the world, as the coats of many colours do the young clerics—but both are a delusion and a snare.

A MASON.

To the Editor of the "Rock."

Sir,—May I so far trespass on your courtesy as to ask for the insertion of this letter in reply to your correspondent of Nov. 25th, and in answer to your own enquiries respecting Freemasonry? I hope and believe that your readers will not accept the unsupported assertions and wild charges of your correspondent against an ancient and illustrious Order. Freemasonry, I say, in answer to your enquiries, is an institution founded upon and teaching the purest principles of morality, and has well been said to be "great in the eyes of the generous, good, and honest, nothing to the narrowminded, the wicked, the faithless, everything to the wise and virtuous, nothing to the ambitious, covetous, and false." "Love as brethren," irrespective of the narrowing distinctions of race, nation, or creed, is a cardinal point of Masonic doctrine. And it is well known that no other institution in the world can boast with truth, as Freemasonry can, and does, of affording a common basis—a neutral ground—where the Christian of all sects, the Jew, the Mahomedan, the Buddhist, the Brahmin, and the Parsee—in fact, all creeds, all nations, which acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being—meet in love, brotherhood, and harmony.

Freemasonry is not opposed to Christianity in any sense; on the contrary, all the moral doctrines of the Order are in unison with that creed.

This world-wide fraternity, however, professes universality, and having men of all creeds and climes under its banner, cannot, without causing dissension, teach any distinctive form of religion, and therefore in no way identifies itself with any religious sect. Whilst individual Freemasons hold their own religious views, the Order as a whole, professing no preference for any one creed, desires toleration for all. If your correspondent has ever been at a Masonic lodge of instruction he certainly did not hear any doctrine taught there which (to use his own words) would have "a deleterious influence upon society at large." On the contrary, Freemasons are taught to be regular and just in the performance of their civil, moral, and religious duties. Your correspondent either knows nothing of Masonic teaching, which he so boldly condemns, "in which case he writes about that of which he knows nothing, and consequently writes nonsense;" or, knowing the glorious tenets of Masonry, he has deliberately and wilfully chosen to misrepresent them. I wish he had a small share even of a great virtue prominently and earnestly taught by the Craft to all its members—I mean charity—for if he had, I think he would have displayed his "Christian character" and "spiritual religion" in a more truly Christian manner than by "unchristianising thousands of his fellow men, simply because they are Freemasons, forgetting that men of the most undoubted piety, and most faithful members of the church, have gladly joined, and still belong to our maligned Order" (See "Defence of Freemasonry," by the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, M.A., Past Grand Chaplain). Is it likely such men would remain amongst us if Freemasonry were really the pernicious institution your correspondent alleges it to be? And if they are present at Masonic banquets, can it be supposed that they would continue to attend those social gatherings if they deemed them unworthy of their sacred calling, and derogatory to their holy profession? I admit that Pecksniff, Mawworm, Stiggins, *et id genus omne*, are not likely to view with favour Masonic breadth of thought, and hatred of hypocrisy. Good men in all ages, however, have found Freemasonry walking hand in hand with "pure religion and undefiled." I conclude, I challenge your correspondent to prove that Freemasonry has ever ruined any individual, as he asserts, and that spiritual religion has declined as a consequence of the rapid advance of Freemasonry in any locality. That he may have known cases of men who have perverted and misused the great opportunities for good afforded them by Freemasonry I am prepared to admit, but the logic, or the fairness, of condemning all Freemasons on that account I most strenuously deny. Because your correspondent writes in no very Christian spirit of his fellow men I might just as well denounce Christianity. And it is strange (your correspondent's charges for a moment being assumed to be true) that he should have been, before making this discovery of the character of Masonry, a Mason! (save the mark!) for a quarter of a century. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Dec. 4th, 1876.

Temple, Dec. 4th, 1876.

A MASTER MASON.

THE "MASONIC MAGAZINE."

Dear Bro. Kenning,

As I think that the following words from my valued friend, and kind "collaborateur" Bro. W. J. Hughan, will be acceptable to yourself and many of our readers, I think well to transcribe them from a letter of his of date December 4th.

Yours very fraternally,

THE EDITOR "MASONIC MAGAZINE."

"I am delighted with the 'Masonic Magazine' for December, as it is the most readable and interesting 'Christmas number' we have had. Surely the contents must please all the subscribers, and incite them to increase its circulation, for the paper will practically be what they determine, the character and extent being mainly regulated by the list of subscribers. Success to your efforts for 1877, and I shall be ready to assist, as I have been from the beginning."

THE LATE BRO. GEORGE DAWSON.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

It will add perhaps to the general regret which will be felt by all Masons at the sudden and premature death of our Bro. George Dawson that he was Senior Warden designate of the Alma Mater Lodge, just about to be consecrated in Birmingham, of which I am the first W.M. I had the pleasure of initiating him into Freemasonry in the Warden Lodge some sixteen years ago, and though, as far as I know, the present office was the first to which he had aspired, he always preserved his interest in and appreciation for the grand Masonic system. The warrant of the Alma Mater Lodge will have a permanent though a melancholy interest for a wide circle in and out of Masonry.

I am, dear Sir and Bro., fraternally yours,

W. K. R. BEDFORD, P.G.C.

MARK GRAND LODGE.

The half-yearly communication of Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales and the colonies and dependencies of the British Crown, was held on Tuesday evening at Freemasons' Tavern. The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of the degree, the Right Hon. the Earl of Limerick, presided, and the Grand Lodge was formed in the following manner:—Col. J. T. Davy, D.G.M.; Genl. Brownrigg, S.W.; Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, J.W.; Rev. Dr. Brett, Chaplain; Magnus Ohren, G.M.O.; Major Barlow, G.S.O.; Charles Lacey, G.J.O.; T. W. Coffin, S.D.; T. W. Faulkner, Std. B.; Austin, I.G.; F. Davison, Treas.; H. C. Le-vander, Reg.; S. Rosenthal, D.C.; F. H. Cozens, G. Org.

The following brethren were also present: V.W. Bro. Fred. Binckes, P.G.J.W., G. Sec.; W. Bros. Josiah Austin, G.S.D.; J. E. Curteis, G.J.D.; Robert W. Edis, G. Supt. of Wks.; T. W. Coffin, P.G. Swd. Br., as G. Swd. Br.; J. J. Fast, G.I.G.; H. W. Binckes, G. Asst. Sec.; G. T. Speight, G. Tyler; C. Pulman, G.S.; W. Watkins, P.G.S.W. Monmouthshire; George Kenning, P.M. No. 1; Thomas Meggy, P.G.M.O.; Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Chap.; Rev. A. Bruce Frazer, P.G. Chap.; Rev. D. J. Drakeford, P.G. Chap.; Rev. C. W. Spencer Stanhope, P.G. Chap.; Thos. Hargreaves, P.G.D.; George Neall, P.G. Ins. Wks.; Thos. Cubitt, P.G. D.C.; J. H. Spencer, P.G.I.G.; T. S. Mortlock, P.G. Std. Br.; G. Glover, Henry Massey ("Freemason"), G. Yaxley, P.G. Std.; Thos. Platt, P. Prov. G. Treas. Cheshire and North Wales; and a large attendance of brethren representing the Old Kent, Bon Accord, Minerva, 12; St. Mark's, 1; St. Andrew's, 63; Key-stone, 109; St. Cuthbert's, 132; Panmure, 139. Bro. Binckes, Grand Secretary, first read the minutes of last Grand Lodge, which were put

and confirmed, and after this the minutes of the movable Grand Lodge, held at Leicester on the 25th Oct., were read and confirmed.

The next business on the paper being the nomination of Grand Masters for the ensuing year,

General Brownrigg rose and said: I have the honour of proposing that the Right Hon. the Earl of Limerick, Grand Mark Master, accept the position he now holds for the ensuing year. This proposition requires no comment from me, and I, therefore, simply propose "That the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Limerick be Grand Mark Master Mason for the next year."

The M.W.G.M.M.M. enquired if any brother had any one else to put in nomination for the Grand Master's chair. No response being offered, he added—The next business before the lodge is the report of the General Board.

Bro. Binckes, Grand Secretary, then read the report of the General Board:—

The number of certificates issued in the six months ending 30th September last is 318.

During the same period warrants for new lodges were granted to

No. 193, "Worthy Apprentice," Bengal.

" 194, "Simon de Montfort," Leicester.

" 195, "Kent Dale," Kendal.

The increasing interest evinced in the spread and prosperity of the Mark Degree has often been the subject of gratifying comment; it is most satisfactory to be able to announce that that interest continues unabated.

On Monday, 23rd October last, the M.W.G.M.M.M. visited Manchester, and in the presence of one of the most numerous and influential assemblies of Mark Master Masons ever known, assisted by his Grand Officers, installed, as successor to the late much lamented Bro. William Romaine Callender, the Right Hon. Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M.M.M., as Provincial Grand Mark Master Mason of Lancashire.

On Tuesday, 24th October, the M.W.G.M.M.M. and his Grand Officers constituted at Birmingham a new Mark Province of the united counties of Warwickshire and Staffordshire, installing as the first R.W. Prov. G.M.M.M. the Rev. Bro. W. K. Riland Bedford, under whose rule the best results may be anticipated.

On Wednesday, 25th Oct., a movable Grand Lodge was once more held at Leicester, in which province the Order, under the able and experienced guidance of its R.W. Prov. G.M.M.M., Bro. Wm. Kelly, has made great progress. On this occasion a new lodge was consecrated, the Mayor of Leicester, Bro. William Barfoot, having been installed as the first W.M. The heartiness of the welcome given on the occasion of the last visit of Grand Lodge to Leicester was on this occasion, if possible, exceeded, the new Town Hall (by express permission of the Mayor) having been placed at the disposal of the brethren, and the arrangements in every respect having been most admirable. The same remarks are equally applicable to the gatherings at Manchester and Birmingham, and it may be questioned if these meetings in connection with any degree in Freemasonry held on consecutive days were ever more entirely successful or attended with results more calculated to promote the interests of the degree with which they were associated.

It is gratifying to report a continued increase in the work of those charged with official duties, and it has been found necessary to employ a boy in the office at a remuneration of 10s. per week.

The Board, in connection with this subject, recommends to Grand Lodge for its favourable reception the proposition, deferred for consideration at the last half-yearly communication, for an increase of £50 per annum to be divided in equal proportions between the G. Sec. and Assist. G. Sec., such increase to date from the 1st of July last.

The Board are also happy to report that on the 28th ult. the adhesion of the old time immemorial Mark Lodge of York was formally received, and the W.M. installed by the G.S., Bro. F. Binckes.

The Board regret to inform G.L. that a fire has occurred at the offices of G.L., No. 2, Red Lion Square. No damage has been sustained by

the books or documents of G.L., and the property injured is covered by insurance.

(Signed) G. R. PORTAL,
Past G.M.M.,
President.

Bro. Curteis moved, and Bro. Edis seconded, its reception and adoption, which was put and carried unanimously.

The M.W.G.M.M.M. having enquired whether there would be any discussion on the recommendations of the report,

Bro. Davison, G.T., said that, in the absence of Bro. Portal, P.G.M., he rose to move that the recommendation of the Board that the office salaries be increased £50 per annum, dated from the 1st July, 1876, be confirmed. The prosperity of Mark Masonry they all knew of, and they could not be prosperous without a necessary entailing of a great deal of extra work on those who held official positions, the Grand Secretary and the Assistant Grand Secretary. Since the last increase of salaries in June, 1872, there had been eight new Provincial Grand Lodges constituted—Kent, Cumberland and Westmoreland, North Wales and Cheshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Sussex, Lancashire, Bristol, and South Africa; lately Warwickshire and Staffordshire had been constituted. The increase in the number of registered members of the Order had been very great. There were now no less than 3647 members, and the number of lodges had increased from 150 to 207. He did not think he need say more in this Grand Lodge to recommend this vote to the favourable consideration of the brethren, and he trusted, in the few observations he had made, it would not lose its importance by the absence of Bro. Portal, who was to have made the motion.

Bro. Thos. Meggy, P.G.M.O., seconded the motion, thinking that the extra work in Grand Secretary's office fully justified the salaries being put up as proposed.

Bro. S. Rosenthal, P.G.D.C., supported the recommendation, and it was then put and carried without a dissentient voice.

The Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G.C., proposed, and Bro. R. W. Edis seconded, the adoption of the report in extenso.

The brethren adopted the report nem. con.

Charity jewels were then presented by the Grand Master to Bros. Dr. Brette, G. W. Verry and Thos. Mortlock.

Bro. F. Davison, Grand Treasurer, afterwards read the Grand Treasurer's account as follows:—

| GENERAL FUND. | | | £ | s. | d. |
|---|------|----|------|----|----|
| Balance from 31st March, 1876 | | | 315 | 14 | 10 |
| Half year's receipt | £294 | 10 | 0 | | |
| Dividend | 4 | 18 | 9 | | |
| | | | 299 | 8 | 9 |
| Half year's disbursements | 276 | 6 | 0 | | |
| Purchase of £200 New Zealand five per cent consols at 104 and brokerage | 208 | 10 | 3 | | |
| | | | 484 | 16 | 3 |
| Balance in favour of Grand Lodge | | | £130 | 7 | 4 |
| FUND OF BENEVOLENCE. | | | £ | s. | d. |
| Balance 31st March, 1876 | | | £57 | 6 | 1 |
| Receipts for the half year | | | | | |
| Donations | 77 | 2 | 0 | | |
| Dividends | 14 | 16 | 3 | | |
| | | | 91 | 18 | 3 |
| Grants to petitioners | | | £149 | 4 | 4 |
| | | | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance in favour of Grand Lodge | | | £129 | 4 | 4 |

Examined and found correct,
5th Dec., 1876. (Signed) THOS. MEGGY,
Auditor.

Bro. R. W. Edis proposed, and Genl. Brownrigg seconded, the reception and adoption of this account.

Carried unanimously.

Bro. Binckes then said, that in accordance with the resolution come to at last Grand Lodge, moved by Bro. Frank Richardson, he had written to those brethren who had placed their names for subscriptions on the Benevolent Fund festival lists, and on the first application he had met

with no success. The second application, however, was so successful, that he would prefer that no action be taken on the motion, as he had no doubt from the numerous payments that had since been made, that before next Grand Lodge all the amounts would be paid.

Bro. Davison moved, and Bro. Levander seconded, that no action be taken, and it was carried unanimously.

With reference to the case of a brother who has before complained, Bro. Binckes said he had the night before received from that brother a further statement, which contained no new matter, but was an attack upon brethren of distinguished position. He would not read it to the lodge, but thought it was right that it should be considered, and for that purpose should be referred to the General Board.

Bro. Magnus Ohren moved, and Bro. Curteis seconded, the reference of the matter to the General Board.

Carried nem. con.

Bro. Binckes then read a letter from Bro. W. J. Hughan as to a new reading of the letters on the Mark jewel.

Bro. Binckes reported that he had received letters of apology from R.W. Bros. W. Kelly, Prov. G.M.M. Leicestershire; Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, Prov. G.M.M. Cheshire and North Wales; Col. Francis Burdett, Prov. G.M.M. Middlesex and Surrey; Dr. H. Hopkins, P.G.W.; W. J. Hughan, P.G.W., representative of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; V.W. Rev. T. T. Ravenshaw, P.G.C.; Rev. C. R. Davy, P.G.C.; W. S. Webster, P.S.O.; I. J. Hooper Wilkins, P.G.M.O.; W. H. M. Green, G.D.C.; Thos. Trollope, P.G.D.C.; Henry Bagot, G. Swd. Br.; Frank Richardson, P.G.S.B.; W. H. Scott, P.G.S.B.; Robert Butterworth, G.S.; J. Cattley Mason, G.S.; Alfred Williams, P.G.S.; Augustus Great Rex, P.G.S.; Bros. C. W. Duke, 166; L. Augustus Homfray, P.M. 109; and Capt. S. George Homfray, P.M. 109.

Bro. Binckes said he did not know whether he would be doing right in mentioning the next subject in Grand Lodge, but at the last Grand Lodge an exactly similar thing was done by another brother, and perhaps he would not be considered out of order in taking the same course. He had been charged by the brethren of Cumberland and Westmoreland to ask that the next movable Grand Lodge should be held under his lordship's sanction, in the lake district, at a date to be fixed by his lordship. If his lordship agreed to the proposition, the brethren of the province of Cumberland and Westmoreland would insure the Grand Lodge a hearty welcome.

The M.W.G.M.M.M. said he was sure that the Grand Lodge felt the compliment of the brethren of that province; but at the same time he thought it was rather early to make the appointment. It might be well not to fix it definitely at present; but another meeting of Grand Lodge would be held in the summer of next year, when it would be fixed. At present it might be rather premature to fix it, but the Grand Lodge thanked the brethren of the province for the invitation, and would allow the matter to stand over.

Grand Lodge was then closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Dawkins, the manager of the Freemasons' Tavern.

When the cloth was cleared the usual toasts were proposed, and after the loyal and Mark Masonic toasts had been disposed of,

Bro. F. Davison, G.T., proposed "The Health of the M.W.G.M." The brethren all knew that his lordship's heart was in his work, and that he wished well for the success of the Mark Degree. During the past two or three months he had taken the trouble to go to the meetings at Manchester, Birmingham, and Leicester, on which occasions there was a vast assemblage of Mark Masons. It was perhaps a good thing for this degree that it changed its Grand Master every three years; but there was also in it much to be regretted, for when they got the right men in the right place, as was the case with the present Grand Master, they had to part with him at the end of his term. It would be to the regret of everyone when the Earl of Limerick's term of office expired.

The M.W.G.M., in reply, said I assure you I value most highly the kind manner in which you have received this toast, as I value the confidence which the brethren have placed in me in raising me to the chair which I occupy, and who have kept me in that chair for the last two years. I assure you, brethren, that I shall only be too thankful, and shall have felt that I have no cause to be disappointed with the success of my labours in the chair if I am able to hand over the degree to my successor in no way falling short of the condition in which it was when I was placed in the chair which I occupy. I believe, brethren, I have every reason to trust that that will be the case since by the labours of several very excellent brethren whom I could name, as you heard in Grand Lodge, subsequent to our last meeting not less than four new lodges have been constituted. I have signed the warrants for two more, which in a very short time will be constituted. That speaks well for the progress of the degree. Our brother has alluded to our visit to various important centres of Masonry. As far as I am concerned, and I know as far as those who accompanied me were concerned, those visits were visits of the very greatest pleasure. It was a great pleasure to see how our Order has flourished in those important places; and it was the greatest pleasure to have the kind reception which we had at every one of them. I don't know anything that could have been more gratifying to any one holding the position I do, than to see that most magnificent meeting which we had at Manchester; and although, of course, the other two meetings were to a certain extent inferior in numbers they were by no means inferior in energy and promise. As I said it was a very great pleasure to pay those visits, and I only trust that I, as long as I continue in office, and afterwards my successor may have a continuance of that friendship which we experienced on those occasions.

All the other toasts were then given and responded to, and the brethren separated after spending a very pleasant evening.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The General Committee of the subscribers to this Institution held their December meeting on Saturday last, in the Board Room, Freemasons' Hall. Bro. W. Hyde Pullen presided, and there were also present Bros. John W. Dennison, H. Browne, S. Rawson, H. Massey ("Freemason"), George Free, W. Paas, Thomas Meggy, F. Adlard, W. F. C. Moutrie, George J. Palmer, I. J. Hooper Wilkins, Jesse Turner, H. G. Warren, Walter Hopekirk, Robert B. Webster, John Boyd, Dr. Ramsay, J. W. Dosell, Charles Horsley, and F. Binckes, Secretary.

The reading of the minutes of different committee meetings occupied a considerable time, after which Bro. J. J. Hooper Wilkins gave notice of motion for next committee meeting: "That in consideration of the past services of Bro. Edward Harris, as collector to the institution for a period of 20 years, who has now tendered his resignation, he be granted a pension of £120 per annum from 1st of January, 1877."

On this Bro. Henry G. Warren enquired what would be about the amount of Bro. Harris's returns, when he was informed that Bro. Harris's commission on subscriptions he collected varied from £150 to £160, £170, and £180. It was also stated that Bro. Muggeridge, the Collector to the Girls' School, on his resignation, was awarded a pension of £150.

The report of the Special Committee on the office duties and emoluments of the Collector was then read. It was very short, and it stated that as Bro. F. Binckes, the Secretary, had expressed his readiness to undertake the collection of all subscriptions, the Committee recommended that the office of Collector be abolished, and that the Secretary be allowed an additional clerk in his office at a certain salary.

Bro. H. Browne, P.G.D., moved, and Bro. Dr. Ramsay seconded, that the report of the Special Committee be received, approved, and adopted.

Bro. Jesse Turner asked whether it was not a part of the plan of the Masonic Institution that the rules of the Boys' and Girls' School should be on all fours, unless a grave and proper reason existed why the rules of one Institution should vary from the other.

Bro. Binckes said that that was the rule, but the fixing of the salary of the clerk would not interfere with the general uniformity of the laws of the two Institutions.

Bro. H. G. Warren, P.G.S., said it had been held at the General Committee of the Girls' School that an additional clerk could not be appointed without going to the Quarterly Court, and this question was raised by Bro. Thomas W. White, the chairman of the last meeting of that General Committee.

Bro. Browne remarked that that was overruled afterwards.

Some further discussions on the point having been had, Dr. Ramsay thought that it was quite beside the

question. The subject before the committee was the approval or rejection of the Special Committee's report.

Bro. Warren said he had brought before the General Committee of the Girls' School the advisability of increasing the amount of security to be given by the Secretary, as that officer was to receive all the subscriptions. He thought it should be at least as much as the Secretary and Collector combined gave, viz., £300 and £200.

Bro. H. Browne observed that this was a question for the House Committee. All the present meeting had to do was to confirm the report of the Special Committee. Upon the report of the House Committee the subject of the securities would come to the General Committee.

Bro. Warren having suggested that the clerks who were to be employed in collecting should give security,

Bro. Binckes said that whatever clerks were employed, they would not be Collectors; the Secretary would be the Collector.

Dr. Ramsay mentioned that it ought not to go forth to the world that the clerks were to be the Collectors, for Bro. Binckes, if the report of the Special Committee were adopted, would be the Collector, only he would have what aid he wanted in the duties of Collector.

Bro. Binckes said it was distinctly laid down in the report that the Secretary was to be the Collector.

Bro. Warren again contended that the present amount of security given was too low, and he should propose at next meeting that it be increased.

The report was then adopted.

In reply to a question, Bro. Binckes said that the subscriptions for the present year already received amounted to £14,400, and of this sum the Collector had got in about £3300.

Four petitions of widows for their boys to be placed on the list of candidates for next election in April were then read and received.

Bro. Binckes read a letter from Bro. John Symonds, P.G.D., enquiring whether Bro. Binckes's notice of motion before Grand Lodge on the 6th inst. emanated from any of the committees of the Boys' School, or whether it emanated from himself as an individual. The letter was written to Bro. Binckes, but as it contained a request that it should be read to the General Committee, Bro. Binckes complied with Bro. Symonds' request.

Bro. Binckes said that when he gave the notice of motion at the Board of Masters he was unaware that a meeting of the Special Committee on the subject of the commemoration had been held at Lord Carnarvon's house the day before. It had been kept entirely from him, but if he had known of the meeting, and that Lord Carnarvon had said he would call a Special Grand Lodge to consider the report of the committee when made, he should not have given his notice. He had given his notice in order to be in time; had he deferred it he would have been too late; and it was only after he had given notice that he was told of Lord Carnarvon's intention. When Grand Lodge met he should under the circumstances withdraw or postpone his motion. He added that his notice was given solely by himself as an individual member of Grand Lodge, and not at all as coming from any committee, or authorised or suggested by them. He did not say one word in his notice as to how the money proposed to be given should be applied, but left it to be arranged by the committees of the institutions between which he suggested that it should be equally divided.

No discussion of this subject was entered upon.

Bro. Binckes then read the draft of a circular for proposing Stewards to send to brethren from whom they desired subscriptions for the festivals of the Institutions. In the circular reference was made to Bro. Binckes's new scheme for establishing a preparatory school for 100 little boys, the sons of Freemasons. Bro. Binckes said £10,000 would be required to build this preparatory school, and if this sum was not found it could not be built. He had no doubt it would be found.

The following letter in reference to the last election was read by Bro. Binckes:—

"11, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., London, 15th Nov., 1876.

"To the Chairman and brethren of the General Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

Worshipful Sir and Brethren,—On the 16th October last, the day of the election of candidates into the school, I attended with several friends interested in the case of Herbert Pattison Wisby, for the purpose of promoting his success. At the close of the poll I calculated that 1220 votes (including some sent to the office) had been put into the box on his behalf.

"When the result of the poll was declared by the chairman of the meeting, I heard with astonishment that only 1124 votes had been recorded in his favour, being 96 below what I considered he was entitled to. I immediately demanded a scrutiny, which has resulted in three errors having been discovered, viz., a bundle of 28 found on the floor not entered at all; a bundle of 45 found inside a packet belonging to another case, and a split proxy included in another bundle, of which one was for the case, making a total of 74 votes to be added to the 1124 recorded, and thereby bringing up the total to 1198.

"There still remain 22 votes unaccounted for.

"It was ascertained that the box in which the greater part of the votes polled by me were placed burst open on its way upstairs, thus accounting for some of the votes having been found in other bundles, and also shewing a possibility of others being missing.

"The total of 1220 votes would have placed Herbert Pattison Wisby on the list of successful candidates, as the last elected, viz., Beck, only polled 1217 votes. And I now venture to ask you to take into consideration the fact of such mistakes having been made, and the possibility of the other votes having been put into the box; and to allow him to be received into the school should a vacancy occur before the next election.

"His widowed mother has been left in most disastrous circumstances, and the utmost commiseration and sympathy has been expressed for her, which was evidenced by the number of votes polled on this the first application, and it is the opinion of many who know the foregoing circumstances, and it is my duty to call your attention to this case and to ask your committee to relieve the widow of the expense and anxiety which must attend a further candidature.

"I remain, Worshipful Sir and Brethren, yours fraternally,

(Signed) "THOS. MEGGY."

Bro. Meggy then rose and said that the facts having been very fully set out in this letter, he would not detain the brethren by recapitulating them. He could not claim that the case should be taken as an elected one; still his friends advised him to ask the Committee to take the matter into their favourable consideration, and should a vacancy occur before next election, to admit the boy into the school instead of letting him go to another election. This Committee had the power of recommending this course to the Quarterly Court in January.

Bro. S. Rawson, P. Dist. G.M. for China, as one of the scrutineers, could not agree with the statement in Bro. Meggy's letter, that because three mistakes had occurred there might have been more, and that if these additional mistakes had not been committed the boy would have been successful.

Bro. Jesse Turner thought that to adopt the course proposed by Bro. Meggy would be to open the door to fresh applications of the same sort, and it was not unlikely that after next election it would be used as a sort of precedent. The best way would be for Bro. Meggy, with the large influence he had in the Craft, to use it at next election for the same candidate, and with the 1220 votes brought forward he would be certain to carry the boy in. The course proposed by Bro. Meggy seemed so very irregular that it would be unwise to adopt it.

The Chairman said the question was whether the Committee had the power or right to do it. Bro. Meggy could give notice of motion for the Quarterly Court to the effect he proposed.

Bro. Meggy then gave notice of motion embodying his views.

A letter from Dr. Jabez Hogg, P.G.D., was read by the Secretary, stating that the boy Packwood's sight would soon be restored, and that he would soon be able to enter upon the active duties of life.

The proceedings, which had lasted over an hour and a half, were then brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Obituary.

THE LATE BRO. T. WYLIE, P.P.G. REGISTRAR.

The brethren in the Province of West Lancashire will hear with deepest regret that Bro. Thomas Wylie, P.M. 86, &c., P.P.G. Registrar, died at his residence, The Hermitage, Peter-street, Southport, near Liverpool, on Tuesday, the 28th ult. Our deceased brother was closely identified with Masonry in nearly all its leading branches, and was a keen and active worker, especially in the sacred cause of charity. His name will long be remembered as being prominently identified with the erection of the Masonic Hall in Liverpool, of which he was one of the trustees, and his hand was ever ready to give help to a brother or lodge when occasion required. His loss in connection with lodge consecrations will be specially felt, as on these occasions no one gave more ready and more valuable help. While holding the office of P.G. Registrar he invariably showed talents of the highest order, and he elicited the admiration of every one by the sterling honesty and uprightness of his character and dealings. Almost his last Masonic appearance was at the recent meeting of the West Lancashire Provincial Grand Lodge, where his voice was heard pleading strenuously, wisely, and to good purpose for the liberality of the brethren in connection with the gift of a sedilia to Chester Cathedral. His counsel and help on many occasions were greatly prized, and therefore his loss will be universally felt throughout the province. It may be interesting to many to know something of the career of our deceased brother. Nearly a century ago Bro. Wylie's father came from Scotland and settled in Liverpool, where he carried on a good business as a stonemason and contractor. On his decease, Bro. Thomas Wylie succeeded to the business, but it proving uncongenial to his tastes, he turned his attention to the profession of a surveyor. Nearly a quarter of a century ago he was elected a member of the select vestry, and continued for many years to take a very prominent part in the administration of parochial affairs. When the extension of the parochial offices of Liverpool took place, and the parish assessment rendered it necessary to appoint a surveyor, Bro. Wylie resigned his seat at the select vestry, and was chosen as the parish surveyor. He continued to hold this office until about ten years ago, when he resigned and resumed his old occupation as an estate agent and surveyor. It was, however, in the last-mentioned capacity that he became most signally successful, and in nearly all cases of arbitration, whether enforced or voluntary, his extensive experience and sound judgment rendered him a valuable ally, and his services were much sought after. He took a great interest whilst residing in Liverpool in all that related to the progress of Congregationalism, and up to the close of a useful and active life was in religion, politics, and educational matters one of the advanced thinkers and workers.

We are compelled, through the great press of matter, to hold over the Report of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and of many other reports of Scotch lodges.

Royal Arch.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Chapter (No. 41).—The first meeting of the season was held at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, Nov. 21st, when the attendance was very limited, probably because there was no ceremony of exaltation on the agenda. Present: Ex. Comps. James Parfitt, Z.; Tompson, H.; Carey, J.; G. Parfitt, P.Z.; Keene, P.Z.; Dr. Hopkins, P.Z.; Moutrie, P.Z. and Treas.; Hill, E.; Hearn, N.; Brown, P. Soj.; Gummer, as S. Soj.; Hunt, as J. Soj.; and Bigwood, Janitor. After the opening of the chapter and the confirmation of previous minutes, nominations to office for next year were made, each of the above being advanced one step, for whom the ballot will take place at the next convocation. Comps. Keene, Dr. Hopkins, Hill, and Brown were chosen to form the Audit committee, and Ex. Comp. Dr. Hopkins was requested to conduct the ceremony of installation of the Principals. The Treasurer gave notice of a proposition to grant £10 from the funds to the Masonic Benevolent Institutions. No other business offering, the chapter was closed at 9 o'clock.

SHEERNESS.—Adam's Chapter (No. 158).—The installation meeting of this ancient chapter was held at the Masonic Rooms, Victoria Hall, Sheerness-on-Sea, on Tuesday, the 28th ult. Present, E. Comps. N. Pannell, M.E.Z.; A. Spears, P.Z.; S. L. Townsend, P.Z. and P.T.; J. Bagshaw, P.Z. and E., and Comps. E. Penney, J. Mitchell, W. Garrett, &c. The business of the chapter was to install the Principals and invest the officers for the ensuing year. E. Comp. Spears, P.Z. and Treas., in his usual efficient manner acted as Installing Officer, and re-installed E. Comp. W. Pannell, M.E.Z. for the ensuing year. The Installing Officer having been chosen H., was duly installed by E. Comp. Bagshaw, P.Z., after which E. Comp. Spears installed E. Comp. J. Woodley, J., and duly invested the following officers of the chapter: Comps. Bagshaw (third year), S.E.; Mitchell, S.N.; Spears, Treas.; Penney, P.S.; Garrett, 1st A.S., and Akhurst, Janitor. The remaining routine business of the evening having been completed, and the chapter duly and solemnly closed, the companions partook of a most excellent repast, provided by Mrs. Green, of the Britannia Hotel, widow of the late E. Comp. John Green, P.Z. The banquet was presided over by the M.E.Z., Comp. Pannell, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and drank with enthusiasm.

CAVEAC CHAPTER (No. 176).—On Saturday, the 25th November, at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, City, the regular convocation was held. There were present Comps. W. S. Wyman, M.E.Z.; J. B. Sorrell, J.; G. K. Lemann, H.; and other officers. Bro. Charles Graham, 1326 and 1540 lodges, was exalted. The elections resulted in Comps. G. K. Lemann being elected Z.; J. B. Sorrell, H.; Wike Goss, J.; F. Walters, P.Z., Treas.; R. P. Hooton, S.E.; S. Pownceby, S.N.; R. P. Tebb, P.S.; and C. T. Speight, Janitor. G. K. Lemann, P.Z., was inducted into the M.E.Z.'s chair. He installed Comps. J. B. Sorrell, H.; W. M. Goss, J. He invested with the robe, collar, and jewel of office, as his officers, Comps. F. Walters, P.Z., Treas. (re-invested for the 10th time); R. P. Hooton, S.E.; S. Pownceby, S.N.; R. P. Tebb, P.S., who appointed and invested Comps. A. Williams, 1st A.S.; C. Browne, 2nd A.S. The M.E.Z. appointed H. Faija, D.C.; A. Middlemass, W.S.; C. T. Speight, Janitor (re-invested 10th time). A splendid P.Z.'s jewel was presented to Comp. W. S. Wyman, P.Z., for his exertions in doing the work of the past year, which had been unanimously voted to him from the chapter funds at a previous meeting. Comp. R. P. Hooton, S.E., was unanimously elected as Steward to represent this chapter at the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Male and Female Annuitants. The work rendered by every officer was done in an admirable manner. Comp. G. K. Lemann particularly distinguished himself in doing the installations in a careful correct style. Business ended, the lodge was closed. There were present Comps. C. T. Dorey, P.Z.; P. A. Nairne, P.Z.; M. Scott, P.Z.; R. S. Foreman, P.Z.; W. T. Lover, R. Griggs, W. Jameson, J. H. Dodson, J. B. Sorrell, jun., F. Pertwee, and others. Visitors: Comps. H. Garrod, P.Z. 507; Vockins, J. 1329; Stacey, P.Z.; and others. Banquet and dessert. The new furniture, used for the first time, was very much admired. It was complete in every detail. The chapter was closed, and adjourned to February, 1877.

WHITTINGTON CHAPTER (No. 862).—The first meeting of the season of this prosperous chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, 1st inst. The convocation was opened by Comp. W. Stephens, P.Z. 1365, and H. of this Chapter, in the absence of the M.E.Z., Comps. J. Weaver, P.Z., acting as H., and T. Kingston, J. In the course of the meeting Comp. W. J. Hargrave Jones, M.E.Z., was also present. The auditors' report was received and adopted, showing a balance, though small, on the right side. Comp. W. Stephens then installed Comp. J. Kingston, J., as H. for the next year. Comp. Tinney, the J. elect, having telegraphed from Reading that he had missed the train, and was unable to attend in time for installation, it was therefore deferred until the February convocation. Comp. W. Stephens was then inducted to the 1st P.'s chair by Comp. Jas. Weaver, P.Z. The following officers were then invested:—Comps. Weaver, Scribe E.; Moore, Scribe N.; W. J. Marlis, P. Soj.; John High, 1st Asst.; W. H. Norman, 2nd Asst.; Gilbert, Janitor. Bro. S. B. Wilmot, S.W. No. 874, Tunbridge Wells, was then exalted to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Masonry, the lecture being most ably rendered. Comp. Ch. Walker, W.M. of the Whittington Lodge, was then balloted for and admitted a member of the chapter. A letter was read from Comp. Hurlstone, P.Z. (who had been attacked with paralysis), resigning

his membership. He being nearly 90 years of age, for his former valuable services it was resolved to continue his name as an honorary member. There being no other business before the chapter, it was closed in ancient form. Amongst the visitors were Comps. E. C. Woodward, of the Hermes Chapter; Levi, Joppa Chapter; and H. Mayes, Constitutional Chapter. An excellent banquet followed the working of the chapter. The usual loyal and R.A. toasts were given from the chair, and "The Health of the M.E.Z." proposed by Comp. Hargrave Jones, P.Z. The M.E.Z. returned thanks, and acknowledged the honour conferred in placing him in the position of 1st Principal of the Chapter. "The Newly-Exalted Companion" followed, and that companion expressed his admiration of the ceremony, which had left a profound impression on his mind not readily forgotten. "The Visitors" were proposed and warmly received, each of whom responded. "The Health of the Past Principals" was then proposed by the M.E.Z., and was followed by the presentation of a superb jewel to Bro. H. Jones, the retiring M.E.Z. Comp. Stephens remarked that he would have been pleased had it been possible for some companion of more influence to have performed this duty, but, being in the chair, he would concede to no one that privilege. Those who had the pleasure of knowing Comp. Jones in the lodge, as well as the chapter, knew his worth, and recognised his services, and he trusted (and felt sure the companions reciprocated these feelings) that he might be spared for very many years to enjoy their good opinions. Comp. Jones returned suitable thanks for this recognition of his services, and trusted to enjoy the good wishes expressed, and that the chapter might continue in its present prosperity. Comp. Walker returned thanks for admitting him a member. "The Officers" followed, and each responded. Some excellent vocal music enlivened the proceedings of the evening.

OXFORD.—Alfred Chapter (No. 340).—The senior chapter in the province held its first convocation of the season at the Masonic Hall, Alfred-street, on Tuesday, 21st ult., the three Principals, Comps. G. T. Prior, M.E.Z.; J. T. Morland, H.; Walter Thompson, J., presiding, there being a good attendance of companions. The interesting ritual was ably rendered by the 1st Principal, Comp. G. T. Prior, M.E.Z., who then withdrew from the chapter. During his absence a jewel of the value of ten guineas was voted to him for his many valuable services to the chapter. On his return he was informed of it, and having given a suitable reply the chapter was closed in due form, after several candidates had been proposed for the next meeting.

WELLS.—Avalon Chapter (No. 446).—On Tuesday, 21st Nov., this chapter met at Wells, under the guidance of E. Comp. R. C. Elce, as M.E.Z.; Comp. Capt. A. T. Perkins, as H.; and Comp. E. Bath, as J.; when Bros. John Arney, Chas. W. Sayer, P. Clarke, and J. Woodward were exalted by the M.E.Z. The following companions were then duly installed as Principals for the ensuing year:—Comps. Capt. A. T. Perkins, as M.E.Z.; E. Bath, as H.; C. L. F. Edwards, as J. The ceremony was performed by E. Comp. Capt. S. G. Homfray, P. Standard Bearer of S.G.C., and P.G.H. of Monmouthshire, one of the founders of the chapter. The chapter was closed in harmony.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE FALCON LODGE, THIRSK.

On Wednesday, the 29th ult., the members visited Kirkby Knowle, and were courteously and hospitably received by the rector, the Rev. L. S. Kenny, M.A., who conducted them through the church and read an interesting paper on its history and objects of interest. This was possibly one of the primitive buildings of the Northumbrian Church, and was dedicated to St. Wilfrid of York, but nothing remains of the original structure except the chancel arch, lancet pointed early English, which has been built into the north wall of the chancel; and a few relics which were found when the foundations were cleared for building the church, the second time, in 1873. A rude holy-water stoup, a piscina, some ancient grave stones, a stone coffin, two curious stone crosses, and some sculptured Runic characters were pointed out and examined. Rubbings were taken from several brass plates which are fixed in the floor in front of the altar rails, and which bear crests and inscriptions relating to the families of Danby, Rokeby and Buxton, who formerly were the possessors of the new building, and which was originally known as Kirkby Knowle Castle.

Review.

"THE GRAPHIC."

We all of us now know the "Graphic," and know it some of us well. Though comparatively a young literary aspirant, it has already come to the front rank, and has obtained a large circulation at home and abroad. And we do not wonder at it, as it is a most interesting, amusing, well edited, happily illustrated journal, and commends itself weekly to the tastes and good opinion of thousands of readers. Its editorial articles are marked by plain English common sense, and are often striking, by reason of their quiet sarcasm, but patriotic sympathies. We may say that we read it regularly ourselves, and are always pleased and improved and edified by the perusal. We have seen the Christmas number, and most heartily do we commend it to the notice of our readers. They will enjoy it as much as we did, we feel sure, and put it down with pleasurable emotions and a hearty laugh. The stories are all excellent in their way. Many of us will feel deeply for poor little "Mim," a very affecting tale, prettily

told. Mr. Anthony Trollope's "Mrs. Brown" will create some hearty merriment, and Mr. Speight's "Grass Widow," let us hope, will serve as a warning to spooney young men. The engravings are first class, and My Grandfather's Sketches are very effective indeed. From first to last the Christmas "Graphic" is a great success, and we congratulate the publisher on its appropriate character and seasonable appearance. We feel sure that it will be a popular addition to our Christmas serial literature, and we venture to predict for it (though we do not profess to set up for prophets) a very large circle of interested and gratified readers, both old and young.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. WILLIAM WORRELL, P.M., &c.

A pleasing ceremony in connection with Freemasonry took place at the Salutation Tavern, Newgate-street, on Wednesday, the 29th November, Bro. William Worrell, P.M. of the William Preston Lodge, and P.Z. of the R.A. Chapter attached thereto, also Secretary to the Royal Albert Orphan Asylum, having recently become a Benedict. The occasion was considered an auspicious one to present that worthy brother with some token of the esteem in which he is held by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. Accordingly a movement was set on foot by the members of the lodge and chapter to present him with an address, and also with something more substantial. The proposition met with a ready response, a foreign nobleman, who is a member of the lodge, heading the list of subscribers with a handsome sum, others followed suit, and soon a goodly amount was raised and laid out in the purchase of a handsome tea and coffee service, spoons, knives and forks; and other table requisites, which, with the address beautifully illuminated, was presented at a dinner, which took place on the day and at the place above referred to. The chair was occupied by Bro. Capt. Kain, also a P.M. and P.Z. of the same lodge and chapter, the vice-chair being occupied by Bro. John Pringle, the I.P.M. Among those present we noticed Bros. J. R. Williams, F. G. Barns, W. T. Rickwood, Dr. Cutmore, Manfield Newton, A. Le Grand, R. Sutcliffe, H. F. Partridge, J. Collens, W. Drake, G. Castle, E. B. Broomhill, &c. On the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and drank with acclamation, Bro. Rickwood responding for the Reserve Forces. At length the chairman and vice-chairman rose to do honour to the toast of the evening, "Health and Happiness to Bro. Worrell and his accomplished Bride." The chairman spoke in warm and feeling terms of the combination of good qualities possessed by their guest, in whose honour they had that evening assembled. "I have seldom in my long career," said the chairman, "met with a man so young who in so short a time has attained such high honours in Masonry. I was present at his initiation when just of age, and well remember his eloquent speech in which he endeavoured to express his delight at being brought to the light of Freemasonry, and in which speech he registered a vow to do his best to become a good man and a good Mason. Brethren, he has kept that vow. He was and is a good and true man, and having worked through all the offices with marked ability, has, as you well know, become a good Mason, and has attained, as I have said, high honours. I have now the great pleasure, sir (addressing Bro. Worrell), to present you with the following address, signed by the subscribers to the fund:—

'To the Worshipful Bro. William Worrell, Past Master of the William Preston Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and Past First Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter attached thereto. We, the undersigned members, being desirous of bearing testimony to your Masonic ability and to your personal worth, and to the great esteem in which you are held, accept the opportunity afforded by your auspicious marriage to present you with this address, which is accompanied by a tea and coffee service, and other requisites for your hospitable table. We offer our warm congratulations on the happy event, and desire to express our "hearty good wishes" that you and your accomplished bride may have a long life of happiness and prosperity.'

I also have great pleasure, sir, in presenting you with a handsome box containing a tea and coffee service and other requisites for your table, and long may you and your bride live to use them.—Bro. Worrell, on rising to respond, was greeted with loud applause, the cheers being again and again renewed. It was with evident emotion he returned thanks, saying that he felt almost overpowered at such manifestations of great kindness. "It is true," said he, "I have worked hard at Freemasonry, and I have been amply rewarded by the high offices that have been conferred upon me; it is also true that I have endeavoured to do my duty as a citizen of the world, and I have been also amply rewarded by the esteem of my friends, as shewn by the flattering address you have been so kind as to present to me, and as shewn by the splendid present accompanying it. I shall ever look upon them with pride. They would serve, if I required it, as a further stimulus to do my duty, and I hope to hand them down, with their lustre untarnished, to my descendants. On behalf of my bride I also offer my sincere thanks. She desires me to say she feels proud that the husband of her choice has earned the esteem of his fellow men. Brethren, I can say no more—words fail me to express all I feel; I can but say, God bless you all!" Bro. Worrell then proposed the health of the chairman, which was very warmly responded to and as warmly replied to. The vice-chairman's health and other toasts followed in due succession, excellent songs were sang, and it may truly be said that on few occasions was a more enjoyable evening ever passed, the chairman saying as a parting advice to the bachelors present, "Go and do thou likewise."

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LEICESTER AND RUTLAND.

The following is a list of the Provincial Grand Officers appointed for the ensuing year, a report of which appeared in our last issue:—

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| S. S. Partridge, 523 | Prov. G.S.W. |
| E. Ison, 779 | Prov. G.J.W. |
| Rev. Canon Burfield, 1560 | Prov. G. Chap. |
| Rev. F. H. Richardson, 1560 | Prov. G. Chap. |
| S. W. Clowes, M.P., 1007 | Prov. G. Reg. |
| W. B. Smith, 523 | Prov. G. Treas. |
| G. Toller, jun., 523, P. Prov. | |
| S.G.W. | Prov. G. Sec. |
| F. Grant, 1330 | Prov. G.S.D. |
| T. Worthington, 50 | Prov. G.J.D. |
| C. E. Stretton, 279 | Prov. G. Supt. W. |
| J. B. Hall, 1391 | Prov. G.D. of C. |
| W. S. Allen, 779 | Prov. G. As. D. of C. |
| W. E. Buck, 279 | Prov. G. Swd. B. |
| A. Chamberlain, 1391 | Prov. G. Org. |
| Samuel Weaver, 1130 | Prov. G. Purst. |
| J. M. Kew, 1265 | Prov. G. Ast. Purst. |
| C. Gurden, 279 | Prov. G. Std. B. |
| J. Barber, 50, G. B. Atkins, 523, A. Balmforth, 779, Hart, 1265, E. C. R. Cust, 1560 | Prov. G. Stewards. |
| Bembridge and Dunn | Prov. G. Tylers. |

INSTRUCTION.

VICTORIA METROPOLITAN LODGE

—On Friday evening, the 24th ult., a large meeting of this lodge of instruction was held. Bro. Annett, S.W. of the St. James's Union, worked the Third Degree. Bro. Stacey was P.M. and Preceptor. The work was done excellently well. The candidate was Bro. Daniel, of the Alexandra Palace Lodge, and the offices were filled in the following order:—Bros. Cowan, S.W.; Denison, J.W.; Larchin, S.D.; Gush, as J.D.; and Vincent, as I.G. In the evening the collective twopences having amounted to £5, and paid into the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for a life governorship, a ballot was taken for the name which should be placed on the governorship, the ballot being restricted to those who had attended at least twenty-five times. This lodge has done a great deal for the charities, for in connection with it the subscription life governorships have gone on to a large number.

UPPER NORWOOD LODGE (No. 1586).—This excellent lodge of instruction, which has only been in existence since the formation of the mother lodge in April last, now numbers over thirty members. It is presided over by a brother who is well known in the South London Masonic circle for his earnest zeal in the Craft and eminent qualifications and natural adaption to impart Masonic instruction. On the first Monday in each month the First Degree is rehearsed and lectures worked; on the second Monday, the Second Degree, &c.; on the third Monday, the Third Degree, &c.; and the fourth, the installation ceremony, or any of the former. On Monday (Bro. J. Pringle, I.P.M. William Preston Lodge, in the chair), in addition to the Third Degree, by special request of the lodge on the preceding meeting the Preceptor, Bro. H. E. Frances, gave, in true Masonic style, the explanation of the Tracing Board of the First Degree. So admirably was the lecture given that the lodge unanimously resolved to have recorded on the minutes a vote of thanks, not only for the fluent, pathetic, and correct rendering of the historical illustrations, but for the accurate and excellent production of a Tracing Board, which practically evidenced that he is as familiar with the professional use of the brush as he is acquainted with the rituals of Masonry.

HAVANT.—Carnarvon Lodge (No. 804).—For the benefit of this and the neighbouring lodges we are pleased to announce that a lodge of instruction has been formed under the banner of the above lodge, Bro. J. N. Hillman, P.M. 804, P. Prov. G. Swd. B. Hants, and J.W., being the Preceptor. The first meeting was held on Wednesday evening, the 22nd ult., when the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed and the First Section worked. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 13th, at 7.30 p.m., when the ceremony of passing is the work decided on for the evening. The subscription, which has been fixed at the low sum of three shillings annually, will be an inducement, we hope, to brethren in the district to join its ranks, and make this long felt want of a lodge of instruction a success. Bro. Thomas Frances, P.M. 804, of Emsworth, the Secretary, will be pleased to receive the names of brethren desirous of becoming members.

UNITED PILGRIMS' LODGE (No. 507).—The members of this old established lodge met in goodly numbers on Friday evening, the 24th ult. It appears that some few months ago a subscription was started among the members, the object of which was to present to their esteemed and valued Preceptor, Bro. M. S. Larham, some slight token as an acknowledgment of the many services rendered by him to the lodge, and it was arranged that the presentation should take place on the above date at the Surrey Masonic Hall, at which place the lodge meets every Friday evening at 7.30. After the usual business of the lodge had been disposed of, Bro. Drysdale, in the name of the members of the United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, presented to Bro. Mark S.

Larham, their Preceptor, a valuable gold watch, which bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. Mark S. Larham, P.M., by the members of the United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, No. 507, as a mark of their respect and recognition of the valuable services rendered by him as their Preceptor." Also a handsome testimonial on vellum, as follows:—"United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, No. 507. This testimonial, together with a gold watch, was presented to Bro. Mark S. Larham, P.M. 1539, W.M. 1216, by the undermentioned members of the above lodge, as a mark of their grateful recognition and cordial appreciation of the ability and zeal with which he has so willingly and faithfully discharged his duty as Preceptor." Then follow the names of the subscribers. Bro. Larham tendered his sincere thanks to the brethren for the beautiful acknowledgment of his humble endeavours to give them Masonic instruction. He hoped that the G.A.O.T.U. would spare him for a long time to come that he might continue to give and the brethren receive instruction. The lodge was then closed and the brethren repaired to the dining room, where a substantial supper was awaiting them, which was provided by Bro. Geider, and gave general satisfaction. The watch was made by Bro. Harvey, of the Camberwell-road, and was a fine specimen of workmanship. The testimonial was got up by Bro. Cackett, of Penton-place, Newington, and it reflected great credit on the artist.

Masonic and General Tidings.

The Sheffield Masonic Ball Committee have decided to give a Masonic Ball in the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, on Friday, the 5th of January next. From the success of their former balls we anticipate a brilliant gathering at that of 1877.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO SIR F. M. WILLIAMS, M.P.—A serious gun accident happened near Barnstaple to Sir Frederick Martin Williams, M.P. for Truro, a few days back. He was shooting with a party over the preserves of Heanton Panchardson, when, as he was loading his rifle, the cartridge exploded. One of his eyes was so severely injured by the charge that it is feared he will lose the sight of it.

CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.—The thirty-seven district committees of the Charity Organisation Society have dealt with 1519 cases (exclusive of 508 vagrant and homeless persons) for the four weeks ending November 25. Of these 584 were dismissed for various reasons; 545 were recommended to legal and charitable agencies, and 392 were assisted by grants, loans, employment, and in other ways.

It is expected that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will, in the second week of January, visit Craigydol, the seat of Colonel Owen Williams, which is picturesquely situated on the Menai Straits. Colonel Williams was with the Prince during his Indian tour.

Bro. E. Stevens, P.M., has been elected Preceptor of the Leopold Lodge of Instruction, 1571, in the room of Bro. David Rose, resigned. We learn with regret that Bro. Stevens has resigned the honorary Secretaryship of the Peckham Lodge of Instruction.

The first number of *Yorick*, a Humorous and Critical Weekly Paper, will be issued on Tuesday. The leading distinctive features will be a Political or Social Cartoon, printed on a tint, and humorous and picturesque rather than comic treatment of subjects.

The remains of the late Bro. George Dawson were interred on Monday, in the General Cemetery at Birmingham. The funeral was attended by a large number of public men; many thousands of persons, including the members of Bro. Dawson's congregation being present at the cemetery.

The Annual Festival of the Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239, Sheffield, was held on Monday, the 4th inst., when Bro. S. B. Ellis, Hon. Sec. Sheffield Masonic Library, &c., &c., was duly installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, a report of which we shall publish in an early issue.

THE LOUGHBOROUGH LODGE OF INSTRUCTION (No. 22).—Since the opening of the above (six weeks ago) there have been 53 attendances, the First Degree worked 6 times, the Second 4, the Third once, and 13 lodges represented. On Monday last, as on the previous occasions, Bro. Thomas White, P.M., with his well-known efficiency, filled the chair of K.S.; Bros. William Ashwell, S.W.; E. Towell, J.W.; J. Barton, S.D.; J. Warren, I.G.; G. Obey, Sec.; also Bros. Hooper, Brown, Tagg, and J. D. Morris. The lodge was closed with a vote of thanks to the W.M., and adjourned till Monday, December 4th, at 7.30, to meet at the Warrior Hotel, Coldharbour-lane, Brixton.

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—The Prince of Wales is to preside at a meeting of this society, to be held next Tuesday evening, when papers will be read on "The North Circumpolar Sea," by Capt. Sir George Nares, R.N., and on a "Sledge Journey towards the Pole," by Captain A. H. Markham, R.N.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—This purifying and regulating medicine should occasionally be had recourse to during foggy, cold, and wet weather. These pills are the best preventive of hoarseness, sore throat, diphtheria, pleurisy, and asthma, and are sure remedies for congestion, bronchitis, and inflammation. A moderate attention to the directions folded round each box, will enable every invalid to take the pills in a most advantageous manner; they will be taught the proper doses and the circumstances under which these must be increased or diminished. Holloway's Pills act as alteratives, aperients and tonics; a simple cold or catarrh, thoughtlessly neglected, too frequently creates a future of imminent danger, which these pills, aided by perseveringunction of Holloway's Ointment on the surface, would avert.—ADVT.

The "Cosmopolitan Masonic Calendar, Diary and Pocket Book" for 1877 is now ready, price 2s., post free 2s. 1d., and may be obtained of any bookseller, or at the office of the "Freemason," 198, Fleet Street, London.

The Lords of the Admiralty have, in an official communication, conveyed their thanks to the Lord Mayor of London for the liberal entertainment which he provided for the crews of the "Alert" and "Discovery" at the Mansion House.

The rumour that the Queen did not intend to spend the Christmas season at Osborne this year, is contradicted on authority.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K. G.G., M.W.G.M., was on Tuesday unanimously elected President of the Smithfield Club for the ensuing year.

Wednesday was the anniversary of the terrible disaster at the Swaithe Main Colliery, near Barnsley, in which 145 miners perished, and the sad event was fittingly celebrated by special religious services at Worsbro' Dale. It is proposed to raise a monument to the memory of the victims by the accident.

Mr. Egerton Vernon Harcourt, registrar of the diocese of York, has recently given the sum of £10,000 for the augmentation of poor livings in the diocese. Mr. Harcourt is a son of Archbishop Vernon Harcourt.

The earnings of the London Shoeblack Brigade last year are reported to have been £11,000; one set of seventy-six boys earned together £3000.

A report of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Lincolnshire, which took place on the 29th ult. is unavoidably crowded out.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, December 15, 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, DECEMBER 9.

- Lodge 108, London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 173, Phoenix, F.M.H.
- " 176, Caveac, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 1361, United Service, Greyhound Hot., Richmond.
- " 1423, Era, King's Arms Hot., Hampton Court.
- " 1426, The Great City, Cannon-st. Hot.
- " 1612, West Middlesex, the Institute, Ealing.
- Mark Lodge 144, Grosvenor, Café Royal, Regent-st.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

- Lily, Greyhound, Richmond.
- Manchester, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-sq.
- Star, Marquis of Granby, New Cross-rd.
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 11.
- Lodge 5, St. George's and Corner Stone, F.M.H.
- " 29, St. Alban's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 59, Royal Naval, F.M.H.
- " 90, St. John's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 136, Good Report, Cannon-st. Hot.
- " 193, Confidence, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
- " 957, Leigh, F.M.H.
- " 1571, Leopold, Woolpack Tav., Bermondsey-st.
- Chap. 1118, University, F.M.H.
- " 1319, Asaph, F.M.H.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12.

- Lodge 46, Old Union, Cannon-st. Hot.
- " 96, Burlington, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 162, Cadogan, F.M.H.
- " 166, Union.
- " 180, St. James's Union, F.M.H.
- " 186, Industry, M.H., Masons' Avenue.
- " 198, Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 211, St. Michael, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 228, United Strength, F.M.H.
- " 235, Nine Muses, Long's Hot., Bond-st., W.
- " 548, Wellington, White Swan Tav., Deptford.
- " 834, Ranelagh, Clarendon Hot., Hammersmith.
- " 860, Dalhousie, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
- " 933, Doric, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
- " 1538, St. Martin's-le-Grand, M.H., Mason's Avenue.
- " 1604, Wanderers, F.M.H.
- Chap. 185, Jerusalem, F.M.H.

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, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
- 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.
- Excelsior, Commercial Dock Tav., Rotherhithe.
- St. John of Wapping, Gun Hot., High-st., Wapping.
- Metropolitan Chapter, Jamaica Coffee Ho., Cannonhill.