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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

ECLECTIC LODGE (No. 1201).—This lodge has entered upon a new career, and has made a change which brings it within the lines of true fellowship with the brethren of our social Order. The Eclectic was founded by certain brethren who vainly imagined they could improve upon our ancient institution by forming a lodge in which there should be no social enjoyment, in which there should be only "work" and no refreshment. The thing worked only for a little time, and was soon found to be out of harmony with the principles of the Craft, and on the 12th January the installation of its new Master, our respected Bro. Edward J. Harty, saw a new order of things begun, with the warm approval of all the brethren. The lodge is held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, and was opened in the largest room (which was thronged) by Bro. J. H. Watts, the W.M., the Senior Warden's chair being filled by the W.M. elect, and Bro. A. E. Taylor in the Junior Warden's, with Bros. Saul and Lee as Deacons. After the unanimous confirmation of the minutes, the W.M. initiated Dr. C. T. Pearce, M.R.C.S., a ceremony which was greatly enhanced by the excellent working of all, and by the splendid music of the Organist, Bro. P. M. Higgs. The newly-made brother, later in the evening, made it evident to all that the beauty of the ceremonial was fully appreciated by him, as it was by all who witnessed it. Among those present, and there were nearly fifty visitors, was a deputation from Ireland, who had come to see a countryman installed, including Bros. Spence, P.M. 75, of the Irish Constitution; Thomas Fenn, P.G.D.; J. Terry, P.G.D.C. of Herts; F. Binckes, P.G.S.; Haigh, P.G.S.; Kelly, P.G.S., P.M. 46; Smallpeice, Sec. of Lodge of Emulation; J. Stevens, P.M. The Great City Lodge, 1426; Scott, P.M. of the Belgrave; Burrell, P.M. of Mount Edgecombe; Wright, W.M. of the Royal Standard; Dr. Norton, W.M. elect of the Maybury; While, P.M. of United Strength (*Freemason*); Hilton, Ancient Union, 203, Liverpool; Gardiner, S.D. 749; John Constable, P.M. 185; G. Brooke, S.W. 23; E. W. Brain, J.W. 1471; C. Whewell, 1287; W. C. Clarke, 3; J. Perry Godfrey, W.M. elect, 1261; T. E. Tallant, P.M. 186; J. C. Adams, 811; H. Purdue, 834; Taylor, 1273; A. Stewart, J.D., 1158; W. H. Baswell, 1339; G. Davies, I.G. 167; A. Botibol, 188; N. M. Lomborg, 188; H. Beadle, 65; E. Henman, 1423; Reid, 186; Fletcher, J.W. 190; Pappille, 180; R. J. Tolmie, S.D. 861; H. D. Blackman, Alexandra Palace, and others. Assisted by Bro. P.M. Manders, the W.M. proceeded with the installation of the worthy and distinguished brother in due form, and the ceremony was excellently performed, the brethren evincing the utmost satisfaction that the retiring Master was thus able to complete the work of his year by placing his successor in the chair. The officers appointed were: A. E. Taylor, S.W.; G. W. Saul, J.W.; J. Mander, P.M., Treas.; W. H. Barber, Sec.; W. S. Lea, S.D.; F. Dobbing, J.D.; Higgs, P.M., Organist; G. Moss, I.G.; C. Pochin, D.C.; S. Lloyd, W.S.; T. Davis, A.W.S. The lodge was closed, and then the brethren retired to the Prince's Saloon, Holborn Restaurant, where an excellently served banquet rewarded the brethren after their arduous labours. The toast of "The Queen and the Craft" was prefaced by the W.M. with the remark that Her Majesty was the mother of a Grand Master, daughter of a Grand Master, and the niece of a Grand Master, and the fervent wish was expressed that she might long live to reign over us. The toast was received with all honours, and then the W.M. proposed the toast of "His Royal Highness the Grand Master," who had endeared himself to all his fellow countrymen by his open, frank, and generous nature. This toast was honoured in the manner observed among Masons, as were the toasts of "The Pro Grand Master," "The Deputy Grand Master," and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present," to which the name of Bro. T. Fenn was attached, and of that distinguished brother the W.M. said that the name of Bro. Fenn would ever remain connected with the grandest ceremony the world had ever seen—the Royal Installation in the Albert Hall. Bro. Fenn's services were mainly instrumental in rendering that day so completely successful. Bro. Fenn, who was received with warm cheers, thanked the W.M. and brethren on the part of the Grand Officers for the toast, and on his own part for the very flattering manner in which his name had been coupled with it. By the way in which it had been received he hoped the lodge appreciated the efforts of the Grand Officers, whose services were always, he said, at the disposal of the Craft. Perhaps, he added, some present

might not be aware that he was an honorary member of the Eclectic Lodge. He consecrated the lodge and installed the first Master, and though the circumstances connected with some of the many occasions upon which he had discharged this duty had been effaced from his memory, yet he should long remember the circumstances surrounding the birthday of the Eclectic. He remembered that after performing the very exhaustive ceremony he felt thirsty, and mentioning this he was told that there was some "water in the next room." (Laughter.) He did not like water under such circumstances, especially London water—(a laugh)—and for his refreshment after labour he proceeded to his own lodge, and spent a very pleasant evening there. It was not from the point of view of his own personal experience of the system upon which the Eclectic was started being unpleasant that he looked at it, and he only mentioned the matter to point out that he considered the original plan of the Eclectic to be a deviation from the fundamental principles of Freemasonry. He thought on the night when he consecrated the Eclectic that the founders had made a great mistake, and the gathering on this occasion of Bro. Harty's installation was a noble correction of this mistake. (Cheers.) Freemasonry was a social institution (cheers), for in an old oration which he had often heard Bro. James Terry give there was a passage which said, "Freemasonry is a moral Order, instituted by virtuous men with the praiseworthy design of keeping in remembrance the most sublime truths in the midst of the most innocent and social enjoyments." (Cheers.) For himself, Bro. Fenn said: Indeed I go so far as to believe that "labour and refreshment" were instituted as inseparable principles in Masonry by our Grand Master, King Solomon himself. For does he not say in the book of Ecclesiastes, "There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hands of God." And how could men thus make their souls rejoice unless they met after labour? How could the members of a lodge who did not meet after labour form friendships any more than could the members of a church? (Hear, hear.) Innocent social intercourse was urged upon Freemasons after the ceremonies, and yet the Eclectic had been founded upon the principle of working the ceremonies and parting without a word. In the course of lodge business discussions would arise, but these discussions, instead of conducing to friendship, too often create differences and asperities, which would be melted like snow before the sun by the convivial dinner and the social glass. (Hear, hear.) It was generally accepted as a truth that no assemblies acted more unbrotherly than boards of guardians and vestries. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.) No bodies of men displayed more anger and personality than these "local authorities," and this probably arose from the circumstance that at some meeting some difference had arisen, and so carried a rankling for weeks. Now, if these gentlemen dined together after their meetings these feelings would not exist, for personal wrongs would in most cases be forgotten and forgiven. (Hear.) The brethren of the Eclectic might depend upon it, that any attempt to improve the ancient landmarks of Freemasonry would prove to be a mistake and end in discomfort; and he was glad to see this lodge return to practice those ancient charges which say, "You may enjoy yourselves with innocent mirth, treating one another according to ability, but avoiding all excess, or forcing any brother to eat or drink beyond his inclination, or hindering from going when his occasions may call him . . . for this would blast our harmony and defeat our laudable purposes." (Cheers.) It was pleasant to see the cheerful hospitality the Eclectic displayed on this occasion. He hoped the lodge would have prosperity, and would be always able to afford the means of dispensing that hospitality over which Bro. Harty presided so gracefully. (Cheers.) The W.M. then proposed the toast of "The Initiate, Bro. Pearce," who, in reply, made one of the most eloquent speeches which perhaps ever fell from the lips of a brother placed in a similar position, a speech to which print fails to render complete justice from the fact that it is as impossible to convey the manner of an address as it is for an artist to paint the dying groan. Bro. Pearce said: Worshipful Master and Brethren,—Had I been called upon yesterday to address this assemblage, I should have had to speak to you as "fellow citizens," as "gentlemen," or as "friends;" to-day, I am proud to say, that I can address you by the holy name of "brothers." (Cheers.) This will be a memorable day in my existence, short though that may be, and though I may be, as the Worshipful Master says, the youngest Mason in the room, I have seen many years, and I have only one regret—that I have lived until the autumn leaves seem to be gathering around my brow before I have joined an association which does honour to God and to humanity. (Cheers.) I have been deeply impressed by my initiation into this honourable brotherhood, and I trust, that late in life as I am before I have joined you, I shall not be thought less able to appreciate its beauties, or less able to feel that you have honoured me in initiating me into your mysteries. It is customary, when a child is born of Christian parents, to call it a Christian child. I might in the same way say that I was born a Mason, for my late father, who has been dead 47 years, was a Mason in a Sussex Lodge, therefore he stood at some time in the position in which I stand to-night, and if there are footsteps which it is an honour to follow, I think to-night I am following his footsteps. (Cheers.) To-day is, therefore, in many respects a memorable one to me, and I trust that my future experience of the Craft may be marked by that purity of religion which I have seen—a religion above all priestcraft (cheers), a religion which cultivates the communion between the Almighty Architect of the Universe and Man, and breathes the faith that His grace will always live in our hearts if we seek Him. (Cheers.) I am no stranger to Freemasonry in the points of its history and antiquity. I know that it has outlived races, nations and creeds,

that religionisms have failed, but that Freemasonry has lived, lives because it unites man to his Maker; that it is characterised by a boundless charity, which pours the healing balm of consolation into the bosom of the afflicted, as I have heard addressed to-night; which forgets not the widow, or the orphan of a brother, though that brother had the only one tie to the fraternity, that he lifted up his heart to the same God we worship. (Cheers.) I feel by my initiation to-night I have entered upon a new crisis in my history. I trust that during the remaining years of my life I shall practice its teachings, knowing no sect, holding brotherhood with all, of whatever clime or country, who are within its circle, or who are bound in the one bond which exemplifies the greatest of all religions, true charity and brotherly love. (Cheers.) Yesterday I was a man, to-day I can clasp my breast and say "Am I not a man and a brother?" (Cheers.) Past Master J. H. Watts then proposed the toast of "The W.M.," and spoke of Bro. Harty's well-known abilities as an artist, and said that it was an honour for the lodge to have a brother in the chair who was doing the great service to Masonry which Bro. Harty was doing, in perpetuating the great ceremony at the Albert Hall, when our Royal Grand Master was installed. The W.M. replied to the toast, speaking of himself as a bashful Irishman, and stated that "the little change" brought about that night in the usual conduct of the lodge had been mainly carried out by himself after consultation with the Past Masters, and he promised that hospitality should be a prominent feature in the "Eclectic" in the future. The Irish deputation replied with the eloquence natural to the natives of the sister island, to the toast of their health, and Bro. Stevens replied for the visitors. Bro. While (*Freemason*), responded on behalf of the press. Bros. Terry and Binckes, spoke for the charities. Bro. Terry referred to the forthcoming festival for the R.M.B.I., and said if every brother subscribed 5s. a year, and every lodge gave £1 a year, there would not be so many poor old men and women sent empty away. The W.M., in proposing the Past Masters, presented Bro. Watts, I.P.M., with the Past Master's jewel. "The Treasurer and Secretary," "The Officers of the Lodge," and the toast of the Tyler concluded the evening at a time when it is hard to say whether it was night or morning. Congratulations to the W.M., and apologies for absence were received from the Grand Secretary, Bro. John Hervey, from the District Grand Master of China, Bro. S. Rawson, the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, Bro. R. Wentworth Little, Bro. W. Spencer, 31, and others.

KENNINGTON LODGE (No. 1381).—An excellent gathering of the members of this lodge took place on the 2nd inst. at the Surrey Club House, Kennington Oval. Amongst those present were Bro. G. Everett, W.M. (P.M. 177); Higgins, S.W.; Reeves, J.W.; Walls, S.D.; Speedy, I.G.; Marston, W.S.; Robinson, A.W.S.; Gardner, I.P.M.; Page, P.M., &c., Treas.; Stuart, P.M., Sec.; W. Mann, P.M.; Drysdale, P.M.; and Ellis, Org. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. passed Bros. Bavin and Landan, the ceremony being well performed. The ballot was then taken on behalf of Bro. Honnerwell, P.M. Dobie, &c., as a joining member, and declared unanimously. The election of W.M. then followed, and resulted unanimously in favour of Bro. Higgins, S.W., who returned thanks for the honour conferred. Bro. Page, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Longstaffe re-appointed Tyler. Bros. Robinson, Webster and Stranger having been elected Auditors, and a jewel voted to the outgoing Master, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a collation, well catered for by Bro. F. Trotman. This being an "off night," the customary toasts were given very briefly by the W.M. Bro. Page, P.M., &c., of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, having returned thanks for "The Grand Officers" in a few well-chosen words, "The Health of the W.M." was proposed by the I.P.M., who, in the course of his remarks, stated that Bro. Everett's year of office had passed off with great eclat. He had been well supported by his officers, his working had been admirable, and his manner whilst presiding at the banquet table most urbane. He had been unanimously elected to fill the high position of W.M., and had succeeded in discharging its duties by well ruling and governing the lodge without a single hitch, and had given universal satisfaction. The W.M., in the course of a very humorous reply, said that his year of office had been a most pleasant one, which happy state of affairs was equally due to the attention and assistance he had received from the officers. He was also greatly indebted to the Past Masters, and as that was his last appearance in the character of W.M., which role he had sustained for more than two consecutive years in that and the Domestic Lodge, he took the opportunity of most heartily thanking them all. In conclusion he said that although his business requirements were great, he should endeavour, as far as possible, to attend the meetings of the lodge, and to enhance its prosperity in every way. "The Health of the Joining Member" followed, and having been duly honoured, was acknowledged by Bro. Honnerwell in a very neat speech. The next toast, that of "The W.M. Elect," gave the W.M. an opportunity of paying a very high compliment to the Masonic abilities of Bro. Higgins, who, in his response, stated that he was very proud at having been elected to the position of W.M. in so good a lodge as the Kennington was, and although he could not hope to discharge the duties of the chair so well as Bro. Everett had done, yet he would do his best to please the brethren. The toast of "The Past Masters" followed, and was acknowledged by the I.P.M. The next toast, a most important one, was "The Health of the Treasurer and Secretary." In introducing this toast, the W.M. stated that the lodge was very fortunate in having two such worthy brethren and distinguished Past Masters as Bros. Page and Stuart occupying those positions. The manner in which the funds of the lodge were administered by the Treasurer, and the

care and attention displayed by the Secretary in his department were most praiseworthy. Bros. Page and Stuart having briefly replied, "The Health of the Officers" followed, and was acknowledged by Bros. Higgins, S.W.; Reeves, J.W.; Marston and Robinson, Stewards, upon behalf of themselves and absent colleagues. During the evening Bros. Honnerwell, Reeves, Walls, Sirgood, Stokes, Webb, and others, instrumentally and vocally entertained the brethren. The Tyler's toast at eleven terminated the proceedings, and the brethren adjourned until the first Tuesday in February, when Bro. Higgins, S.W., will be duly installed into the chair.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Lodge (No. 41).—A regular meeting was held on Thursday, January 4th, at the Masonic Hall. It was attended by Bros. Brown, W.M.; Cooper, as I.P.M.; Carey, P.M.; Capt. Floyd, P.M.; Rubie, P.M.; B. Little, P.M.; Turner, P.M.; Dr. Hopkins, P.M., and P.P.G.S.W. for Warwickshire; F. Wilkinson, S.W.; Falkner, J.W.; Wilton, P.M. and Dir. of Cers.; C. Wilkinson, Sec.; Braham, S.D.; Robinson, as J.D.; Gummer, I.G.; Bigwood, Tyler; Hunt, Steward; Styles, as Steward; Mercer, Baldwin, Wheeler, Tanner. As visitors, Major Ramsay, District Grand Master of the Punjab, India; C. Pegler, P.M. 14, 304, 837, West Yorkshire; Collins, 53; Jas. Wilson, 53. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. Harris as a candidate for initiation, which was unanimously favourable. Messrs. Albert Holmes and Thomas Ames were introduced, properly prepared, and initiated by the W.M., Bro. Cooper giving the charge, and the S.W. explaining the symbolism of the working tools. Bro. F. Wilkinson was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. Ashley, P.M., as Treasurer; and Bro. Bigwood, Tyler. By permission of the W.M., Bro. Dr. Hopkins, P.M., read an address recently delivered at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon by Bro. Metham, D.P.G.M., forcibly recommending care and enquiry into the character and motives of candidates for admission into the Order, with illustrations of the result of neglect of such caution drawn from experience. A vote of thanks was passed to the visitors for the sanction of their presence, which was acknowledged by Bros. Ramsay and Pegler, the former especially remarking on the impressive delivery of the charge, and the latter on what was to him a novelty, namely, the working of an old form of ritual which is peculiar to this lodge. Arrangements having been made for the annual festival, the lodge was closed at 10 o'clock.

NORTH WALSHAM.—Unanimity Lodge (No. 102).—The annual meeting of the members of this lodge, for the installation of the W.M. for the ensuing year, was held at the King's Arms, North Walsham, on Monday, Jan. 1st. Lodge was opened in the First Degree by the Acting W.M., Bro. Colonel Duff, M.P., with Bros. R. Wortley, I.P.M.; G. Wilkinson, S.W.; E. Parr, J.W.; B. B. Sapwell, S.D.; F. Clowes, J.D.; and J. R. Dewhurst, I.G. The Rev. H. Lubbock and Mr. G. Walker, two initiates, were admitted. When the lodge had been duly opened in the Third Degree, the Acting W.M. proceeded to instal as W.M., in succession to the Right Worshipful Prov. G.M., Bro. Right Hon. Lord Suffield, K.C.B.; Bro. G. Wilkinson, who appointed the following brethren to the several offices:—Bros. J. B. Bond Cabell, S.W.; B. B. Sapwell, J.W.; G. Smith, Secretary and Treasurer; F. Clowes, S.D.; J. R. Dewhurst, J.D.; and Rev. H. Neville White, I.G. After the "working," which was of the most satisfactory character, the officers being well up in their duties, the brethren adjourned to a handsome banquet, which worthily sustained the reputation of the King's Arms cuisine. The newly-installed W.M. presided, the S.W.'s chair being filled by Bro. R. S. Baker, Bro. Bond Cabell unfortunately being obliged to leave after the closing of the lodge. All the other lodge officers were present, and also Bros. J. Hales, J. Shepherd, R. Wortley, Rev. H. T. Griffith, E. D. Horsford, Braithwaite (Yorkshire), G. Ives, W. Smith, W. T. Cuy, P. Powell, Rev. H. Lubbock, G. Walker, H. J. Martin (Norwich), J. Chapman, &c. After Masonic honour had been paid to "The Queen and the Craft," "The M.W. the G.M. of all England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," and "The R.W. the Prov. G.M., the Right Hon. Lord Suffield, K.C.B." whose absence was much regretted, Bro. R. S. Baker proposed "The W.M.," speaking in high terms of the manner in which Bro. Wilkinson discharged the duties of that office some years since. The toast was drunk with the customary honours. In responding, the W.M. said it was so long since he served the office that he felt somewhat green at the work. The last two or three years had been years of unexampled prosperity for the lodge, and he hoped during the ensuing year it would make further strides in the same direction, and advance the cause of Masonry, so that it would long continue to hold its present high position in the province. For the confidence they had again reposed in him he thanked them. He then proposed "The Health of the I.P.M., Bro. Colonel Duff, M.P.," to whom the lodge was under considerable obligation for the masterly manner in which for the last two years he had performed the duties of the chair. The toast having been fully honoured Bro. Col. Duff, M.P., returned thanks. He said that it was at considerable inconvenience that he had sometimes attended the meetings of the lodge, but had the trouble to which he had been put been much greater, he should have felt amply repaid by the kindness with which they had always received him. During the two years he had been in office—one year as Master the other as Acting Master—they had been good enough to say that he had done his duty, but he was bound to remark that he should himself have been able to do but little had it not been for the assistance of those brethren who had held office with him. He was particularly pleased to think that the lodge was worked and carried on as well as any in the province, all the

officers knowing their duties and faithfully performing them. He was sorry that the Prov. Grand Master was not able to be with them on this occasion, for had he been they might have heard from him when the Prov. Grand Lodge would be held, and also some information on the subject of the Masonic Charities of England. Lord Suffield's opinion was that the subscriptions sent up from Norfolk were not what they ought to be in comparison with the benefits received by the province, or which it ought and might receive. The income of the Masonic Charities in England last year amounted very nearly to £40,000, showing an increase upon the previous year of upwards of £7000. Of this sum between £8000 and £9000 went in pensions to aged women and men. When they saw the way in which the money was laid out, and the good that was done by the several charities, the county of Norfolk—especially as it was the residence of the M.W. the G.M. of all England—should come forward in a more worthy and liberal spirit. The province, he believed, did give a good deal of money in one way or another, but the amount was nothing like what it should be, and the matter was not only about to be taken up by the Prov. G.M., but he had signified his intention of taking the chair at the festival of one of the charities (the Girls') when he hoped the Masons of Norfolk would give him every possible support. The W.M. having given "The Initiates," for which Bros. the Rev. H. Lubbock and G. Walker responded, proposed "The Visitors," coupled with the names of Bros. Braithwaite, of Yorkshire, and H. J. Martin, of Norwich. Both these brethren responded to the toast, which was drunk with honours. Bro. Martin referred to the subject of the charities, mooted by Bro. Colonel Duff. He stated that the part which the province of Norfolk had hitherto played in this great cause was simply disgraceful, as he proposed to show from statistics in his possession. He asked if the brethren of the province could possibly be aware that the gross amount contributed by Norfolk to the several charities during the last three years was only £322 4s. The facts had only to be known, and he felt that this province would not lag behind in a work which was especially dear to all true Masons. During the past three years the contributions from Norfolk had been as follows:—Boys, 1874, £56 14s.; 1875, £38 17s.; 1876, £18 18s.; total, £114 9s. Girls, 1874, £16 16s.; 1875, £28 7s.; 1876, £12 12s. The aged Masons for the three years had received about £100; and the Widows £50. Let the brethren contrast this discreditable record with the advantages derived by the province. There had been three and there were now four boys in the Boys' School, involving an expenditure of £1500; one girl (from this very lodge) was in the Girls' School, involving an outlay of £209; three annuitants (men) were in receipt of £40 a year each, and two annuitants (women), £32 each, making a total under this head of £184 per year. To remedy the existing state of things Bro. E. Baldwin, a subscribing member in 213, was making praiseworthy efforts for the establishment of a Masonic Charitable Association, by which almost every brother would be enabled to obtain a life governorship in one or all three of the charities, and he commended this movement to the earnest consideration and cordial approval and co-operation of the brethren throughout the province. An association having a similar object had been established in Essex, and he believed had worked with marked success and corresponding benefit to the charities. "The Health of Bro. Baker," proposed by Bro. Hales, and "The Secretary's toast" were drunk during the evening, and a general opinion expressed that the subject of the charities demanded the attention of the brethren of the province.

BATH.—Lodge of Honour (No. 379).—The first meeting under the new W.M. was held in the Masonic Hall on Monday, January 8th, by whom the lodge was opened at 8 p.m. The following brethren were present:—Bros. H. Gore, W.M.; Cook, I.P.M.; Cooper, P.M. 41, as Chaplain; Phillips, P.M.; H. C. Hopkins, S.W.; Dickenson, J.W.; Dr. Hopkins, P.M. and P.P. S.G.W., as S.D.; Dutton, P.M., as J.D.; Bush, P.M., as Dir. of Cers.; Baldwin, I.G.; Gazzard, Tyler; and others. As visitors, besides those already named, Bros. Pegler, P.M. 14, 304, 837; General Doherty, C.B., P.M. 906; Hunt, 329; Harrington, 37, Aberdeen; Townsend, 1363; Marillier, 53; Reynolds, 41. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the report of Bro. Cook, Treasurer, was presented. The W.M. read a circular relative to a proposed memorial in honour of the eminent Masonic author, the late Dr. Oliver, consideration of which was postponed. A ballot was taken for three candidates for initiation, which proved clear in their favour, of whom, however, only one was present. Bro. Phillips, P.M., then took the chair. Mr. Francis Bell was introduced, properly prepared, and duly admitted as a member of the Order. The charge was given by Bro. Dr. Hopkins. A vote of thanks was passed to the visitors for their attendance, which was duly acknowledged. A candidate for initiation was proposed and seconded by the Wardens. The lodge was closed at 10 o'clock.

DORCHESTER.—Lodge of Faith and Unanimity (No. 417).—This lodge held its annual installation meeting on Monday, the 3rd inst., the W.M., Bro. W. Osmond, occupying the chair. Notwithstanding the very wet weather and almost impassable roads, there was a very full attendance of the brethren of lodge 417, as well as several visiting brethren from neighbouring lodges, who had to come "thro' flood and fen" to be present. Bro. Robert Case, P. Prov. G. Sec., Dorset, the W.M. elect, was presented and obligated in due form. Brethren below the chair having withdrawn, a Board of Installed Masters (nine in number) was opened, and Bro. Robert Case duly placed in the chair of K.S. The Board of Installed Masters having been closed, the brethren below that rank were re-admitted and saluted the W.M. in ancient form. The W.M. then appointed and invested

his officers as follows: Bros. W. Osmond, I.P.M.; T.S. Biggs, S.W.; W. E. Brymer, J.W.; Rev. T. Russell Wright, Chap.; W. Chick, P.M., Treas.; Rev. H. Everett, Sec.; T. Beavis, S.D.; T. M. Dron, J.D.; G. J. G. Gregory, P.M., M.C.; J. Robinson, P.M., Org.; A. H. Lock, I.G.; Charles Parsons, P.M., and W. H. Dean, Stewards; J. Lovelace, Tyler; W. Talbot, Asst. Tyler. The Installing Officer of the evening was Bro. W.S. Gillard, P.M. 1168, and P. Prov. G.J.D. Dorset, who very kindly undertook the office on the sudden indisposition of Bro. W. P. Cockeram, and performed the ceremonies in a most admirable manner. Bro. W. Osmond also assisted in the installation ceremony very satisfactorily. Before the lodge was closed two very interesting events took place to signalise the W.M.'s accession to the chair. Bro. W. E. Brymer, the J.W., having presented the lodge with a very good and powerful harmonium, which was used for the first time this evening, and a letter was read from W. Bro. John Symonds, P.G.A.D.C., regretting his inability to leave town to be present at his lodge, and asking the brethren to accept from him 16 volumes of the *Freemasons' Magazine* as an addition to the lodge library. Cordial votes of thanks to Bros. Brymer and Symonds were carried by acclamation, and the lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a banquet, under the presidency of Bro. Case, and the usual loyal Masonic toasts were given. During the course of the evening the W.M. alluded to the fact that the Past Masters of the lodge, as well as the Junior Wardens, were either Life Subscribers or Life Governors of one or the other of the Masonic Charities, thus proving that the watch-words of the order, Loyalty and Charity, were in good keeping in Lodge 417. Amongst the visitors present were W. Bros. H. C. Burt, P.P.G.J.W., Dorset; A. J. Budden, W.M. Lodge 622, and Prov. G.S.D., Dorset; J. Whitehead Smith, P.M. Lodge 622, and P.P.G.C., Dorset; John Cook, P.M. Lodge 386, and others.

HALIFAX.—St. James's Lodge (No. 448).—The annual installation festival was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Halifax, on Tuesday, January 2nd, at which an unusually large number of brethren were present. The lodge was opened in due form in the Three Degrees at 3 p.m., and after the ordinary business was concluded Bro. Christopher Tate Rhodes was installed W.M. for the ensuing year in a masterly and impressive manner by Bros. G. Normanton, P.P.G.D., and James Charnock, P.M. 307. The newly installed W.M. then invested the following brethren as his officers for 1877:—Bros. Thos. Whitaker, P.M. 307, as S.W.; N. W. Scholfield, J.W.; W. F. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; George Taylor, Sec.; William Swale, S.D.; G. H. Radcliffe, J.D.; Councillor J. B. Brierley, M.C.; A. H. Booke, Org.; Walter Walshaw, I.G.; R. Worsick, P.M. 307, J. G. Lee, J. C. Crocker, and T. L. Ogden, Stewards; Jno. Greenwood, P.M. 308, Tyler; Bro. R. Jessop, P.M., being appointed Almoner, and Bro. T. Wheelhouse, Charity Steward. The Rt. W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., J.P., D.L., then presented in complimentary terms on behalf of the brethren a very chaste P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Taylor Wheelhouse, as a small token of appreciation of his services in the chair during the past year; after which the lodge was closed by the new W.M. in harmony and due form. The brethren, about sixty in number, adjourned to the large dining hall, which has been recently very tastefully decorated, and also specially prepared for this occasion, to partake of a sumptuous banquet, which reflected the highest credit upon the purveyor, Bro. J. C. Crocker, of the White Swan Hotel. Bro. C. T. Rhodes presided, and was supported by the Rt. W. Prov. G.M. of West Yorks., Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir H. Edwards, Bart., J.P., D.L.; Bros. T. W. Tew, J.P., W. Dep. Prov. G.M.; Henry Smith, Prov. G. Sec.; Jno. Fisher, P.M. 61, and Prov. G. Prior of West Yorks, &c.; T. Perkinson, P.M. 61, 448, and Prov. G.M.M. of West Yorks., &c.; Councillor F. Whitaker, P.P.J.G.D.; Geo. Normanton, P.P.G.D.; Edwin Walshaw, P.G. Std.; Taylor Wheelhouse, I.P.M.; James Charnock, P.M. 307; W. F. Wilkinson, P.M.; Josh. Gankroger, W.M. 61; Wm. Parker, P.M. Airdale Lodge, Shipley; Jno. Forth, P.M.; Jno. Seed, P.M. 1302; Henry Moseley; Thos. Woodhead; J. Y. Rideal, P.M.; Geo. Battinson, W.M. elect 61; Wm. Gankroger, J.W. 61; T. G. Knowles, P.M.; W. B. Spencer, P.M.; Rev. R. Jessop, P.M.; and numerous other P.M.'s and brethren from Bradford, Huddersfield, &c. The usual loyal toasts having been ably proposed from the chair, and suitably responded to, the W.M. next gave "The M.W. the G.M. of England, the Prince of Wales; the M.W. the Pro G.M., the Earl of Carnarvon; the Dep. G.M. Lord Skelmersdale, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge, Past and Present," remarking that the Craft were exceedingly proud of their Royal Master, and though he was not the only Royal personage who had not thought it derogatory to his dignity to exchange the sceptre for the trowel, to patronise our mysteries and join in our assemblies, still none who had preceded him had been more popular, and it was very gratifying that he had been pleased to become a Freemason and accept the chief position in this our secret society, and thus ascertain for himself that we were not plotters who ought to be excommunicated, but rather the most loyal and patriotic of the Queen's most loving subjects. He (Bro. Rhodes) was present at the never-to-be-forgotten ceremony of the installation at the Albert Hall, performed so nobly by the Earl of Carnarvon, who with Sir Albert Woods as G.D.C., were deserving of the highest praise, the vast assemblage on that occasion being conducted as if by clockwork. Lord Skelmersdale was very popular, more especially amongst the Lancashire brethren, and he well merited the distinction which had been conferred upon him. In proposing the toast of "The Right Worshipful Prov. G. Master of West Yorks, Lieut.-Col. Sir H. Edwards, Bart., and the Provincial Grand Officers,"

the W.M. said that it was an old stereotyped phrase to say that "the right man was in the right place," but he would ask the brethren present if any man ever filled his position more exactly than did the R.W.P.G.M. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales had made an excellent choice in selecting Sir H. Edwards, who was one of the most popular men in the county, was extensively known as a thorough English gentleman in every sense of the word, kind and courteous to every one with whom he came in contact, had a large heart and a liberal mind; his popularity and the esteem in which he is held by the Craft in general were shown by his selection as President at the last Girls' School festival. The R.W. Dep. G.M., Bro. Tew, was a very active brother, and wishful to do all that he possibly could for the benefit of Freemasonry in the province. He (the W.M.) felt it a great compliment to the lodge that the R.W. Prov. G.M. had become a joining member, and to himself that he, along with the W.D. Prov. G.M. and so many provincial officers, had honoured him with their presence at his installation. The R.W. Prov. G.M. and the W. Dep. P.G.M. both replied in feeling terms at some length, which to condense would be to spoil, and we therefore refrain. The I.P.M., Bro. Taylor Wheelhouse, then rose and gave what he considered as the toast of the evening, that of "The W.M., Bro. C. T. Rhodes," saying he was a brother who well deserved the position he had been so unanimously chosen to occupy; it was a position of great responsibility, but he believed he would discharge the important duties devolving upon him with great credit to himself and honour to the Craft. He was quite sure there was no brother in the lodge better versed in the ritual and ceremonies than Bro. Rhodes. The W.M., who on rising to respond was greeted with loud and long continued applause, said that if anything was calculated to unnerve him at all, it was the very pleasing and flattering reception that had just been accorded him. He thanked them most heartily for the exalted position in which they had placed him, the highest honour which it was possible for the lodge to bestow upon any brother, to elect him as W.M. with an unanimous voice. In a lodge numbering nearly 100 members it was indeed something to be proud of, and were he to repeat his thanks a thousand times he could not impress upon them how he appreciated the honour. It was an honour to be elected President out of 100 of any body of men, but more especially when each one of them had been tried and tested by the tongue of good report. He felt assured that he had the good wishes of the brethren. He candidly expressed that the honour had not come upon him unexpectedly, as he had worked for it steadily and perseveringly, and believed that he had the position in strict accordance with the Book of Constitutions, and not by the kissing which goes by favour. He had commenced when initiated as an Assist. Steward, and at his own wish had not passed over the head of any brother, but had steadily climbed the ladder year by year from the lowest to the uppermost stage, filling every office, having had his eye upon the chair since he first became a Freemason, and to reach it by the unanimous vote of the brethren had been the dream of his Masonic life. As directed by the charge in the First Degree, he had endeavoured to make a practical and daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, that he might be the better enabled to fulfil the serious duties of the position at which he was aiming. Hitherto he had felt comparatively easy and comfortable in the offices he had from time to time filled, but now feeling the grave responsibility resting upon him he hoped by the help of the G.A.O.T.U., and the generous support and kind consideration of the brethren to discharge the duties satisfactorily to all concerned. If any brother had any complaint or suggestion to make he trusted that he would make them to him direct, when they should at all times have his best consideration. He intended to adhere to the ancient landmarks of the Order, and whilst hoping for plenty of work during the ensuing year, he trusted that the brethren would refrain from recommending any one to a participation of our secrets unless they had strong grounds for believing they would ultimately reflect honour on our choice; he did not mean that they should have none but those rich in this world's good, but good sterling honest men, who were in a fair position in life, so that there was no probability of their preying upon our noble charities. There had been quite a rush of candidates, especially since the Prince of Wales was made Grand Master, and he (the W.M.) was afraid that admissions had been too indiscriminate, and without due enquiry in many cases. Let the outside world know and feel that it is a great honour and privilege to be admitted into the brotherhood. He strongly recommended them to read the *Freemason* and keep themselves posted with what was doing in Masonry around them, and that every one should read the remarks on the election of W.M.'s in the Christmas number, and also the observations of Bro. J. Hervey, G.S., at the Carnarvon Lodge a few weeks ago, on the duties of officers. He had found it a very difficult task to please all in selecting his officers, but by the assistance of the P.M.'s, who advised with him on the subject, he hoped that general satisfaction would be felt, and strongly urged the brethren, and officers especially, to attend the instruction meetings, and post themselves well in the ceremony, for it was a sorry sight to see a candidate conducted by the Deacon to the J.W. or S.W., and then find that neither of them knew what to say, thus making the whole appear a ridiculous farce to the candidate himself. He trusted the lodge would maintain the character it had gained as one of the best working lodges in the province, though he did not think that Freemasonry consisted solely in working the ritual and ceremonies inside the lodge, but that occasions like the present festive scene formed a part of the whole, when they could fraternise and know and understand each other better, be cemented together in one grand bond of brotherhood, and be fitted to uphold and carry out the grand principles of our Order. The other toasts were

"The Past W. Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. Bentley Shaw, D.L., and Past Prov. Grand Officers;" "The Visiting Brethren" heartily proposed by the Rt. W.P.G.M., Sir H. Edwards; "The Installing Officers," "The S.W., J.W., and Officers of the St. James's Lodge;" "The P.M.'s of St. James's Lodge and the Officers for the Past Year;" "The Two Sister Lodges in the town;" "The Management Committee of the Freemasons' Hall;" "The various Masonic Charities;" "Lady Edwards and the Ladies," responded to by the Rt. W.P.G.M., and the final toast. During dinner selections of music were given by Mr. C. W. Eastwood's band, and the glees, songs, &c., given during the evening contributed greatly to the enjoyment of what was undoubtedly one of the most successful festivals ever held in connection with the lodge. Letters of apology for unavoidable absence were received from Bros. Bentley Shaw, P. Dep. Prov. G.M. of West Yorks.; Isaac Booth, P.G. J.W.; J. Sutcliffe, Rt. W.P.G.M.M. of Lincolnshire; Jack Sutcliffe, Grimsby, and other brethren of eminence in the Craft.

BIRKENHEAD.—Mersey Lodge (No. 477).—The festival of St. John was duly celebrated by the brethren of this lodge at the Masonic Chambers, Argyle-street, Birkenhead, on Thursday, the 11th inst. There were upwards of 100 members and visitors present, and amongst the latter were Bros. M. McNerney, W.M. 605; J. Mathews, W.M. 721; James Salmon, P.M. 425; R. C. Mellor, P.M. 304; J. Wilton Patson, W.M. 1289; T. Shaw, S.W. 605; and others. The Installing Officer was Bro. Gracie, P.M. The following is a list of the new officers of the lodge: Bros. W. Pulford, W.M.; J. G. Adams, I.P.M.; R. Gracie, P.M. and Sec.; D. Fraser, P.M., Treas.; Samuel Jones, P.M., Sec.; John Dutton, S.W.; Thomas Brown, J.W.; William Worrall, jun., S.D.; W. Bennett, J.D.; R. Ridyard, I.G.; Geo. Dicken, D.C.; R. Hamilton and J. Woolley, Stewards. In the course of the business it was decided to establish a limited liability company for the erection of a Masonic Hall in Birkenhead, and the lodge agreed to take up 500 shares at £1 each. The members afterwards dined at the Ranelagh Hotel.

SOUTHPORT.—Lodge of Unity (No. 613).—The annual installation meeting of this lodge was held on St. John's Day, the 27th ult., in the Masonic Hall, Neville-street. At the opening of the lodge, which took place about 3.30 p.m., the chair was taken by the esteemed W.M., Bro. T. S. Cory, there being a good muster of the brethren present. After the lodge had been duly opened and the minutes of the preceding regular meeting confirmed, the auditors' report was read, which showed that the lodge was in a flourishing condition, and that the year 1876 had been the most successful of any since the foundation of the lodge in 1853. Bro. S. Kershaw was elected as Treas., and Bro. G. Rockliffe was appointed Tyler for the ensuing year. A ballot was taken for Bro. Rev. R. W. P. Montgomery, who was elected a joining member. The chair was now taken by Bro. J. Bowes, P.M. 148, Prov. G.J.W. Cumberland and Westmoreland, &c., and Bro. George Bailey was presented by Bro. Cory as his successor, for the benefit of installation. The ceremony of installation was duly performed in a most solemn and effective manner by Bro. Bowes, who also gave the charges; the whole performance gaining for him the approbation of all present. The following brethren were appointed as officers and invested with their respective insignia by the W.M.:—Bros. T. S. Cory, I.P.M.; J. Hatch, S.W.; J. H. Barrow, J.W.; W. H. Marsden, Chap.; S. Kershaw, Treas.; J. H. T. Cottier, Sec.; J. Sutton, S.D.; J. D. Ainsworth, J.D.; W. H. Johnson, I.G.; J. P. Griffiths, P.M., D.C.; J. S. Gardner, Org.; G. Rockliffe, Tyler. On the motion of the W.M., seconded by Bro. Duggan, a vote of thanks was given to Bro. Bowes for the praiseworthy manner in which he had performed his duties as Installing Master. The newly installed W.M. in the name and on behalf of the lodge presented to Bro. Cory, the I.P.M., a beautiful P.M.'s jewel, as a token of the respect and esteem in which he is held by the lodge, and for the efficient discharge of his duties as W.M. Bro. Bowes was ably assisted by Bros. H. Poynter, W.M. 948, P.P.G. Reg. Berks. and Bucks.; D. W. Finney, P.M. 148, who acted as Wardens. Among other visitors present were Bros. G. W. J. Fowler, P.M. 86, P.P.G.D.C.; W. Robinson, W.M. 148; Phillips, P.M. The festival of St. John was subsequently held at the Scansbrick Arms, when upwards of forty of the brethren sat down to a recherché banquet, provided by Bro. R. Watson, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were drunk. The toast of "Prov. G. Officers" was responded to in a telling speech by Bro. J. F. Roberts, P.M. 1313, P.G.D.C. Bro. T. Parker, P.M. 613, responded on behalf of the P.M.'s, and alluded to the work which the W.M. had done in previous years for the lodge, in the various offices he had held. Several brethren performed a choice selection of instrumental music and songs, and this together with the good will and harmony which prevailed enhanced the enjoyment of the evening.

PLUMSTEAD.—Pattison Lodge (No. 913).—The wonderful vitality and strength of Masonic feeling and brotherhood in the district was fully exemplified on Thursday, the 4th inst., when the regular monthly meeting of the above lodge was held under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. W. T. Vincent, the large room of Bro. Tucker's house, the "Lord Raglan," Burrage-road, being almost inconveniently filled with the members of the lodge, and visiting brethren from the neighbouring lodges of Woolwich, and other parts of the province of Kent, as will be seen by the following visitors' list: Bros. W. Hicks, P.M. 77, and P.P.G.S.B., Kent; W. Weston, W.M. 1536; T. Butt, W.M. 700; T. Hastings, W.M. 829; T. Ward, P.M. 700; F. J. Dawson, P.M. and Treas. 700; J. Donnolly, J.D. 706; Eugene Sweeney, I.G. 706; W. Murphy, Treas. 1536; W. G. Picken, J.W. 1536; G. Tedder, 11 and 1107; C. Buckland, 700; J. B. Hanson, 700; W. Crane, 907; E. Wilson, 700; G. Pilcher, 1472;

E. W. Fisher, 700; G. W. Kennedy, 1536; W. Harris, 700; and others. The other officers present beside the W.M. were Bros. A. Penfold, I.P.M.; C. Coupland, P.M. and P.G.J.W. Kent; J. McDougall, P.M.; T. Smith, P.M. and P.P.G.P. Kent; E. Denton, P.M. and Sec., and P.P.G.P. Kent; H. Butter, S.W.; J. D. Hayes, J.W.; A. Jessup, Treas.; W. B. Lloyd, S.D.; J. Chapman, J.D.; R. J. Cook, I.G.; C. Cooke, Org.; and R. Lester, O.G. The business before the lodge was the balloting for of W. T. Beamish, who was unanimously approved of and duly initiated. Bros. W. Rees and F. Johnson, were then passed to the Second Degree, and Bros. Brock, Keeble, Stabback, and Letton, received the benefit of the Sublime Degree. Nothing could exceed the earnest impressiveness with which the esteemed W.M. worked the whole of the ceremonies, or surpass the ability of his officers in their arduous duties. Upon the lodge being resumed, the W.M. drew attention to the wise decision to which Grand Lodge had arrived in memorializing the safe return of our Royal and beloved G.M. from his Indian tour, and hoped the two lifeboats to be devoted to that purpose, would be the means of saving many an unfortunate fellow creature from a watery grave. He then introduced Bros. Smith and Hastings, who would tell them something of the Charities, for which they stood stewards. Bro. Smith thanked the lodge for its gift of ten guineas to each of the charities, and for the munificent sum collected in the lodge on their last monthly meeting, the amount being £45, and he hoped with Bro. Hastings to take up to the next festival a goodly show of the charitable feeling of the Masons of the district. After the appropriation of four guineas to the subscription about to be raised among the lodges and chapters of the district, for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to the esteemed and reverend Bro. Hill, P.G. Chaplain for Kent, for his kindness in delivering an oration on the occasion of the erection of our late Bro. Graden's Memorial at Wickham Cemetery, and many other acts of brotherly love on his part, not only to that lodge, of which he was the Hon. Chaplain, but throughout the province generally; the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren and visitors adjourned to supper, and upon re-assembling paid the usual loyal and Masonic compliments to all concerned. The speeches were excellent and the toasts as hearty in their geniality as ever.

SOUTHEND.—Priory Lodge (No. 1000).—The regular meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Thursday, the 28th ult., at the Middleton Hotel, Southend. The W.M., Bro. E. E. Phillips, P.M. 379, Prov. J.G.D., presided. The W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler for the ensuing year being elected at this meeting, a good number of brethren were present, amongst whom were the following, viz.: Bros. A. Lucking, P.M. 160, Prov. A.G.D.C., I.P.M.; Rev. S. R. Wigram, G. Chaplain, S.W.; F. D. Grayson, acting J.W.; F. Wood, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., Treas.; J. A. Wardell, P.M. 160 and 1000, P.P.G.D., Sec.; W. Chaplin, S.D.; W. P. Belliss, J.D.; J. C. Johnstone, P.M. 20 (I.C.) D.C.; W. J. Chignell, I.G.; Mountain, Tyler; H. Rowley, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; H. Briggs, H. Luker, G. G. Jones, B. J. Mackei, W. Waterhouse, G. Berry, P. Benton, jun., G. F. Wood, J. English, W. D. Merritt, F. Cantor, H. Smith, and others. Visitor: Bro. R. Abbott, 318. After the usual preliminary business, Bro. W. R. Marsh, P.M. 9 and 933, was balloted for as a joining member, which proved unanimous in his favour. The brethren then proceeded to the election of the W.M., when Bro. Rev. S. R. Wigram, Grand Chaplain, P.M. and P.Z. 214, P.Z. 1000, was unanimously chosen for that important office. The worthy father of the lodge, Bro. F. Wood, was again unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Mountain re-elected Tyler. The usual Past Master's jewel was voted to the retiring W.M. for the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of the chair during the past year. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, presided over by the I.P.M. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured. The toast of the W.M. elect was very cordially received. Bro. Wigram thanked the brethren for the compliment, and assured them he would endeavour to merit the confidence they had placed in him. The Tyler's toast brought a very pleasant evening to a close, and the brethren separated until the installation meeting on the 25th inst.

LIVERPOOL.—Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 1035).—This prosperous lodge at the north end of Liverpool celebrated its anniversary on Thursday, the 11th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, where there was a large representation of members and visitors. Bro. J. F. Newell, P.M., was the Installing Master, and he placed Bro. A. Willis in the chair of the W.M. in a highly effective manner. The following were the other appointments: Bros. J. W. McWean, S.W.; J. McWean, J.W.; G. Morgan, P.M., Treasurer; R. R. Forshaw, Sec.; W. Donkin, Asst. Sec.; John Whites, S.D.; J. P. Bryan, J.D.; W. Forrester, I.G.; J. Smith and George, Stewards; Turley, P.M., P.P.G.J.D., Master of Ceremonies; A. Forshaw, Org.; and Cruce, Tyler. After the ceremony the brethren adjourned to banquet, which was served in good style by Bro. Casey. Among those who were present at the installation, most of whom remained, were Bros. H. S. Alpass, Prov. Grand Secretary; Ibbes, P.P.G.S.B., 1473; Lunt, P.M. 873; Knight, W.M. 1325; Ashmore, P.M. 1325; Jos. Bell, W.M. 1609; Jones, P.M., 220; and others. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. Bro. Alpass, P.G. Sec. responded to the toast of "Bro. Lord Skelmersdale and the Provincial Grand Officers," and congratulated the brethren on the state of the lodge and the good working which he had that day witnessed. He rejoiced to see such a pleasant gathering of brethren, was happy to find that the finances of the lodge were in such a prosperous condition, and wished to bring under their notice the educational institutions of Masonry, as a means of disbursing their surplus funds. He concluded by bearing strong

testimony to the personal and Masonic virtues of both Lord Skelmersdale and the Hon. F. Stanley, R.W.D. Prov. G.M., and wished the Prince of Wales Lodge every prosperity.—“The Health of the Installing Master” was then proposed by Bro. Morgan, P.M., and “The Health of Bro. Bunting,” late Treasurer, by Bro. Newell, P.M., who spoke in eulogistic terms of the eight years’ service which the Treasurer had rendered. Bro. Bunting replied in feeling terms. After a most enjoyable evening the brethren separated. The musical talent of the lodge was reinforced by Bros. J. Barlow Foulkes, 1325; J. Queen, 1505; and Hobart, 1505, by whom a capital programme was gone through, under the direction of Bro. J. P. Bryan.

BIRMINGHAM.—Lodge of Israel (No. 1474).—This lodge held its regular meeting on the 11th inst. Bros. S. Lyon, W.M.; J. Silverstone, S.W.; B. Lazarus, J.W.; Rev. J. G. Emanuel, B.A., Chap.; J. Harris, S.D.; Paul Roberts, J.D.; H. Wood, I.G.; David Lowenstien, Sec. There was a very large attendance of the members, also several visitors, in consequence of a notice of motion which stood on the circular in the name of their much esteemed Chaplain. Bro. G. S. Emanuel, B.A., Chaplain, moved, pursuant of notice, and Bro. B. Lazarus, J.W., seconded, and it was passed unanimously, “That the attention of the Rt. Hon. and R.W. Lord Leigh, P.G.M. of Warwickshire, be called to the fact that the 15th Section of the Constitution of the Three Globes, the Grand Lodge of Germany, excludes Jews, as Jews, from membership in any of its affiliated lodges. This proceeding being opposed to the principles of True Masonry and being calculated to limit the privileges of English Masons professing the Jewish faith, the Officers and members of the Lodge of Israel entreat the Rt. Hon. and P.G.M., Lord Leigh, to call the attention of the Grand Lodge of England to the subject, with the view of inducing the Grand Lodge of Germany to abolish this section (165), so illiberal and anti-Masonic, and further appoint the W.M., Wardens, and Chaplain of this great and flourishing Lodge of Birmingham, to forward the resolution to Lord Leigh at the next meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge.”

Royal Arch.

BATH.—Tynte Chapter (No. 379).—A meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, at 8 p.m. Among those present were Ex. Comps. Reeves, Z.; George Parfitt, P.Z. 41, as H.; Watts, J.; Phillips, Z. 1000, as I.P.Z.; Dutton, N. As visitors, Ex. Comps. Tompson, Z. 41; Colonel Ford, P.Z. 53; Dr. Hopkins, 41, and P.Z. 328, 586, 710; Walker, P.Z. 53; The chapter having been opened by the Principals, the companions admitted, and the minutes of the previous meetings read and confirmed, the following were elected to office for the ensuing year by ballot: Phillips, Z.; Watts, H.; Dutton, J.; Becket, P.Z., N.; Loder, E.; Davis, P.Z., Treas.; H. Gore, P. Soj. Comp Gazzard was re-elected Janitor. Ex. Comp. Dr. Hopkins then installed each of the three Principals, as he had previously been requested to undertake the duty, and concluded by proclaiming them in the usual form. A cordial vote of thanks to him was proposed and seconded by the Z. and I.P.Z., and carried by acclamation, which was duly acknowledged. A similar vote to the visitors was passed, which was responded to by Col. Ford. Ex. Comp Phillips expressed great pleasure at his appointment as Z. in the chapter in which he had been exalted, and, though now residing at a great distance, promised a regular attendance to perform his duties. Other private business was transacted, and the proceedings were brought to a close at a quarter to ten.

LIVERPOOL.—De Grey and Ripon Chapter (No. 1356).—A convocation of this young and prosperous chapter was held in the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, on Wednesday, the 27th Dec., at 6 o’clock; the special business for transaction being the installation of Principals for the ensuing year. The chapter was opened by Comps. B. B. Marson, Z.; J. Bell, H.; and R. Brown, J., when the outgoing Z. completed a most successful year by exalting two brethren to this Supreme Degree. Comp. J. W. Baker, Past Z. of Chapter 241, performed the ceremony of installing the chiefs in his usually impressive and efficient manner, viz., Comps. Joseph Bell, as Z.; Richard Brown, as H.; and J. A. Edginton, as J. The M.E.Z. then invested the following:—Comps. B. B. Marson, P.Z.; J. W. Baker, D.C.; A. Woolrich, Treas. (for the second time); C. Arden, S.E.; A. D. Hesketh, S.N.; W. J. Chapman, P.S.; J. Keet and Lindo Courtenay, A-st. Soj.; J. L. Houghton and E. George, Stewards; and P. Larsen, Janitor. Twelve worthy companions having been proposed for exaltation, and nothing further appearing for the good of the Order, the chapter was duly closed. The companions, numbering about thirty, then adjourned to the old lodge-room, where a most excellent banquet was served. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, and “The Health of the Newly-installed Chiefs” received with hearty greeting, the M.E.Z., Comp. Bell, in proposing “The Health of Comp. B. B. Marson, P.Z.,” in the name of the chapter, presented him with a very handsome P.Z. jewel as a token of esteem and kindly feeling entertained towards him by its members. Comp. Marson, in responding, thanked the companions for their valuable recognition of his services as one of the founders and first Z. of No. 1356. Songs and recitations followed, bringing a most enjoyable evening to an agreeable end, the companions separating at an early hour.

MOUNT LEBANON CHAPTER (No. 75).—This chapter was held at the Bridge House Hotel, South-walk, on Thursday, January 11th, Comp. H. A. Dubois, Z., presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were

read, unanimously confirmed, and signed by the M.E.Z. The bye-laws were read. The elections resulted unanimously in favour of Comps. J. W. Baldwin, being Z.; John Mason, H.; James Cattley Mason, J.; T. J. Sabine, P.G.S. Middlesex, P.Z., Treas. (re-elected); F. Walters, P.P.G. 1st A.S. Middlesex, P.Z., S.E. (re-elected for 13th time); M. D. Loewenstark, S.H.; B. Isaacs, P. S.; W. Y. Laing, Janitor. The bye-laws were altered. The exaltation fee was increased from 3 to 4 guineas, and the subscription from 32s to 42s. The meetings were decreased to three. Notice of motion was given to present the usual five-guinea P.Z.’s jewel to Comp. H. A. Dubois. A splendid banquet followed. The only visitor was Comp. R. P. Tebb, 176.

Scotland.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF GLASGOW.

The annual meeting of this lodge for the nomination and election of office-bearers for the ensuing year was held on Thursday, 11th inst., in St. Mark’s Hall, Buchanan-street. Bro. John Baird, Prov. Grand Substitute Master, presided, supported by the following office-bearers of the Prov. Grand Lodge:—Bros. James Gillies, Treas.; John Morgan, Interim Sec.; George Thallon, S.D.; J. Miller, J.D.; Robert Robb, Marshal and President of Stewards; Alexander Bain, Bible Bearer; Jas. Balfour, Dir. of Cers.; David Reid, I.G.; and George Sinclair, Treasurer and Convener of the Benevolent Fund; John Kinnaird, W.M. 73, was acting S.W., and James Booth, W.M. 87, acting J.W. The lodge having been opened in due form, the Chairman said he had that day received a note, dated the previous day from Queenshill, from the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Montgomerie Neilson, asking him (Bro. Baird) to be kind enough to mention at that meeting that he (the Prov. Grand Master) hoped to be able to be with the brethren at their next quarterly communication (Thursday, 25th inst.), and that very likely he might have occasion to call a special meeting before that date. This, the Chairman said, would argue that Bro. Neilson had considerably recovered from his protracted indisposition, which they would all be glad to hear. He then reminded them that this was a special meeting called for a special purpose, and therefore that no business could be brought forward that evening other than the nomination of their office-bearers. He added that he had just had put into his hands a commission from the Prov. Grand Master, appointing to the office of P.G. Secretary Bro. W. H. Bickerton, of Lodge St. Augustine, No. 942 (E.C.), and affiliated member of Lodges No. 32, and No. 360 (S.C.); and, at the request of the acting S.W. he read the same to the meeting. The nomination was then proceeded with, two of the offices being contested, namely, those of P.G. Jeweller and P.G. Inner Guard. For the former, Bro. Robert Jack, W.M. St. John’s, Shettleston, 128, was proposed by Bro. W. Phillips, W.M. Clydesdale, 556, and seconded by another brother; while the re-appointment of Bro. A. Allison, who has held the office for a couple of years, was moved by Bro. John Miller, P.G.J.D., and seconded by Bro. J. Gillies, P.G. Treas. On a show of hands being taken, the majority was held up for Bro. Jack. For the office of Inner Guard there were three candidates—namely, Bros. Geo. McDonald, I.P.M. No. 73; James Booth, W.M. No. 87; and William Harper, I.P.M. Clyde, No. 408. The appointment fell to Bro. Booth by the small majority of two over Bro. McDonald. Bro. Rev. Dr. Penney was unanimously re-appointed Asst. Chaplain—Bro. Rev. Dr. Burns, of the Cathedral, being P.G. Chaplain by commission of the Prov. Grand Master. The other offices also in his commission, and which he has yet to fill up, are his Depute and Substitute Masters, and two Wardens. Apart from these, the revised list of P.G. office-bearers is now as follows:—J. Gillies, Treas.; W. H. Bickerton, Sec.; John Morgan, S.D.; John Miller, J.D.; James Ritchie, Architect; Robert Robb, Marshal and President of Stewards; Robert Jack, Jeweller; Alexander Bain, B.B.; James Balfour, Dir. of Cer.; Thomas Halkett, Dir. of Music; David Reid, Swd.Br.; James Booth, Inner Guard; John Barton Hardie, Tyler. Bro. George Sinclair was unanimously re-appointed Treasurer and convener of the P.G. Benevolent Fund. The election having been concluded, the Chairman said he had to thank the brethren for the orderly manner in which the business of the evening had been conducted, and the lodge was then closed in due and ancient form.

GLASGOW.—Lodge Star (No. 219).—The first harmony meeting for the new Masonic year of this lodge was held within their own hall, at No. 12, Tron-gate, on Monday, 8th inst., and was a completely successful one, there being a numerous attendance of members and visiting brethren. In the latter category were no fewer than five W. Masters of other lodges. Bro. Jasper Martin, W.M. of the lodge, presided, with Bros. James Horn and David Mearns, S.W. and J.W. respectively. Supporting the Master on the dais were Bros. John S. Allan, W.M. 28; John Kinnaird, W.M. 73; James Booth, W.M. 87; William Hart, W.M. 178; David Reid, W.M. 465; John Fraser, P.M. 87; Alexander Bain, P.M. 103, and P.G. Bible Bearer; John Morgan, P.M. 219; John Fyfe, D.M. 465; Garth, S.M. 219; James Annand, S.W. 465; and James Houston, 354. The lodge having been opened in due form, and put under the charge of the J.W., the toasts of “The Queen and the Craft,” “The Three Grand Lodges,” and “The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow,” were successively given from the chair, and received with highest honours. The last-mentioned was coupled with the name of Bro. A. Bain, P.G.B.B., and by him duly acknowledged. The toast of “Sister Lodges” was given by Bro. John Morgan, I.P.M., who, in so doing, referred with much pleasure to the large turn-out of W. Masters and Past Masters of sister lodges on the dais who had favoured them with their company on the occasion of their first harmony meeting of the new year, on the suc-

cess of which he thought they might all congratulate themselves. The toast was replied to by Bro. William Hart, W.M. 178, who remarked that he might say for himself—and he thought others would say with him—that there was an undoubted pleasure in visiting Lodge Star, where they found at all times a thorough spirit of friendship and good cheer. The toast of “Health and Prosperity to Lodge Star, No. 219,” was proposed by Bro. Bain. There was not, he said, within the Province of Glasgow a more harmonious working lodge than Lodge Star, either in working the degrees or when upon harmony. And perhaps that agreeable state of matters was in no small degree owing to P.M. Bro. Morgan, who, although he had left the chair, seemed to have left the odour of his chairmanship behind him. In replying to the toast the W.M., Bro. Martin, generously endorsed this remark of Bro. Bain. The latter, he said, had spoken the truth as regarded Bro. Morgan, and he, Bro. Martin, declared it would be a long time before they had such another chairman. For himself he thanked them most cordially for the way in which they had coupled his name with the toast of “prosperity” to the lodge. Chief amongst the contributors to the musical element of the evening was Bro. James Houston (No. 354), the well-known Scottish vocal comedian; and, on the motion of Ctho chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him by the brethren for his services in this respect. In acknowledging the compliment, Bro. Houston said he might tell them plainly that whenever he entered that lodge he felt as happy and welcome as if sitting down at his own fireside, and he could say that was happy enough. He had been asked to come that evening by Bro. Morgan, and when Bro. Morgan asked you to come you could not resist it. He had felt great pleasure in being present, and in seeing round him some old faces, and he hoped to be able to be oftener with them than he had been. Subsequently the brethren were recalled to labour for a short time, when honorary affiliation to the lodge was conferred upon Bro. Houston, on the motion of Bro. Morgan, by whom also the obligation was administered. Bro. Houston having briefly returned thanks for the honour bestowed upon him, the lodge was closed after a memorably agreeable sederunt.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The quarterly meeting of the subscribers to this Institution was held at Freemasons’ Hall. Bro. J. M. Clabon presided, and among the other brethren present were Bros. Colonel Creaton, S. Rawson, A. H. Tattershall, H. A. Dubois, B. Isaacs, H. Massey, (Freemason), T. Bartlett, A. L. Dusek, Raynham W. Stewart, Geo. Freer, W. Roebuck, H. W. Hunt, Edward A. Sacré, Dr. Ramsay, G. M. E. Snow, H. Hacker, H. W. Binckes, Dr. Edward Jones, R. B. Webster, Donald M. Dewar, A. Durrant, S. W. Baldwin, Charles Swan, A. D. Loewenstark, W. Mann, Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, Walter Hopekirk, Thomas Cubitt, Thos. S. Hill, Edwd. Moody, H. Moore, T. J. Sabine, Joseph D. Spencer, H. Browne, Jas. Terry, J. W. Dennison, Thos. Meggy, James Stevens, Isaac Turner, S. A. Wills, Matthew Miles, Geo. Bolton, G. Jewell, Thos. Knott, R. H. Williams, W. R. Lash, Octavius N. Pearce, R. Pawson Hooton, C. Burmeister, M. D. Loewenstark, W. F. Collard Moutrie, and F. Binckes, Secretary.

While Bro. Binckes was reading the minutes of the different Courts and committees, Bro. Symonds enquired whether the preparatory school had yet received the sanction at any special or general court of the Institution.

Bro. Binckes replied that it had been named at the House Committee and General Committee, and had been approved.

Bro. Symonds. But not at the General Court.

Bro. Binckes. No, we cannot do that yet; the money is not in hand.

After the minutes had been read and approved, twelve vacancies were declared for next election, and 59 candidates were stated to be on the list.

Bro. Meggy then brought on his motion for admitting H. P. Wisby to the school, who was the first excluded candidate at the last election.

Bro. Binckes read the letter of Bro. Meggy to the committee, which has already appeared in our columns, stating the circumstances under which he made the motion.

The Chairman stated that the whole of the facts were now before the Court, and Bro. Meggy had called their attention to them and the report of the scrutineers, which showed that if all the votes polled for the candidate had been recorded, there would still have been 17 against him. Without going into that matter he, as Chairman, must say that considering the question of form (and he had considered the case very carefully, for his attention had been previously called to it) while law 58 of the institution remained part of their laws, it was quite impossible that this Court could resolve to put a candidate into the school. That rule stated that the elections should be in April and October, and also that it should be by ballot. If Bro. Meggy’s motion was carried it would be a contravention of the law. He based his decision on a case which came before Grand Lodge some time ago, when on a grant being proposed, an objection was taken by the President that the funds were to be administered in a certain manner by the committee of the Lodge of Benevolence. The Grand Master ruled that the motion could not be put, because it was exactly contrary to the rules of the Institution.

Bro. Meggy said he had been informed that the lowest successful candidate would not go into the school, and on that ground he asked if his candidate should take that place.

The Chairman, however, ruled that Bro. Meggy’s motion could not be put, and the subject dropped.

Bro. A. H. Tattershall, in the absence of Bro. J. J.

Hooper Wilkins, moved that a pension of £120 a year be granted to Bro. Edward Harris, who, after twenty years' service, had resigned his position of Collector to the Institution. He thought that from Bro. Harris's long service he was entitled to this pension.

Bro. R. B. Webster seconded the motion.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart opposed it, and moved, as an amendment, that the pension be £100 a year. He argued that whilst the brethren had regard for the Collector, they must have regard to the brethren who subscribed largely to the Institution. Bro. Harris had not been so long a Collector of this Institution as Bro. Muggeridge had been of the Girls' School; and he also stated that Bro. Harris was in receipt of a pension from the Corn Meters' Society, which increased. Bro. Harris's time had not been exclusively devoted to this Institution, and therefore he did not think he was entitled to so large a pension as was proposed.

Bro. George Free, from his knowledge of the facts, was sure that there was no probability of Bro. Harris obtaining so much as £110 a year from the Corn Meters' Society. It might rise to £80 a year; but at present it was only £73. He would like to ask Bro. Binckes what Bro. Harris had received in the shape of commission.

Bro. Binckes replied from £140 to £160 a year.

Bro. Jesse Turner thought the brethren should be generous. With respect to Bro. Muggeridge, no doubt he was a very popular brother, and had obtained more money than Bro. Harris. The brethren might take that matter into consideration; but he could not but think that the Institution would be acting nobly and generously by paying £100 a year to Bro. Harris. Bro. Binckes had said that Bro. Harris had been receiving £140 to £160 a year, and the brethren should look on the matter as commercial men. If a clerk in the employ of commercial men had been receiving £140 or £160 a year as commission, they would think him liberally pensioned on £100 a year. Let the brethren look at it in this light. The Institution was not so flourishing or so rich that it could afford to pay money broadcast. They were about to seek money for a preparatory school, and they hoped for assistance from the Craft. He thought the case would be fairly met by a grant of £100 a year. A brother had mentioned that Bro. Harris was entitled to a pension in another quarter, but that had really nothing to do with the question. Bro. Harris's labours had been great; he had worked hard; but he had not given the whole of his time to this Institution. Nevertheless, it was not easy work to collect the money, as he himself could testify, having been a Steward on many occasions.

Bro. George M. E. Snow contended that the Collectors had been overpaid. The brethren must remember that before very long Bro. Binckes would be resigning. (Loud Laughter.) His services had been great, and he would be wanting a pension. The matron, Miss Hall, would retire and want a pension (laughter), and so it would be with other officers; and they would all want a pension worth two thirds of their full pay. (Laughter.)

Bro. Walter Hopekirk said that a Collector after 20 years' service should have some respect shown to him. Bro. Binckes had said that Bro. Harris's services had given satisfaction. Of course they had, or the brethren would have exercised their power and removed him. It was but a few years that Bro. Harris could enjoy his pension, and he thought they should recognise his services and reward a faithful servant.

Bro. H. Hacker supported Bro. Stewart's amendment.

Bro. T. J. Sabine spoke in favour of the original proposition. When Bro. Harris was in better health and stronger than he was now his services were very great, and he was then receiving about £200 a year in commission. They had heard a great deal that day to the effect that Bro. Harris did not devote the whole of his time to this Institution. At any rate, he did all that he was required to do in a satisfactory way, and that for a period of twenty years. He had discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the brethren, and he was entitled to have those services recognised. Bro. Harris would not have resigned his position but for his failing health, and considering the number of stairs he had had to ascend and descend from the basement to the third floor in collecting subscriptions—the single guineas, not the £80 or £100 at a time—his failing health was not to be wondered at. He did not think it would be otherwise than derogatory to a great Institution like this if the brethren did not grant Bro. Harris an ample pension. He (Bro. Sabine) thought Bro. Stewart should withdraw his amendment. Whatever demands might be made on the Boys' School should be fully met.

Bro. A. Durrant thought they ought to consider the age of Bro. Harris, and the number of years he had been Collector, which he understood was not twenty, but fifteen years.

Bro. Binckes said he had been Secretary for sixteen years, and he knew Bro. Harris had been Collector some three or four years before that time. Being asked for a return of Bro. Harris's commission for six years back, Bro. Binckes gave the following figures:—1876, £156 6s. 9d.; 1875, £176 6s. 9d.; 1874, £129 8s. 1d.; 1873, £113 18s. 5d.; 1872, £98 18s. 9d.; and 1871, £147 17s. 10d.

The Chairman then put the amendment, which was lost, and the original motion being put, was carried without a dissentient.

Bro. Clabon, having another engagement, left the chair, and a hearty vote of thanks to him was adopted unanimously.

Bro. John Symonds was called to the chair, and

Bro. George M. E. Snow brought on his motion for raising the buildings round the playground one storey, for the purpose of giving sleeping accommodation to 50 extra boys; and also that such 50 extra boys be elected in October, and argued that on the 9-inch wall

already surrounding the play-ground the Metropolitan Buildings Act would allow an additional 10 feet of building to be erected, as it would only raise the wall to 19 feet, while the Act would allow 30 feet in height to be erected. He knew that he was going to be told that the accommodation was not sufficient for the additional number of boys, but he knew that it was quite sufficient. If it was not quite sufficient to let all the boys dine at once, let the senior boys dine with the junior masters at 5 o'clock (Great laughter), or at some other time that might be selected.

Bro. Binckes remarked that the assistant masters did not dine at 5 o'clock, but between 12 and 1 o'clock.

Bro. Snow went on to observe that there were several rooms at the school which might be utilised, such as the Secretary's room and the Board room.

Bro. A. Durrant seconded the motion. They had been receiving for some years £12,000 to £15,000 a year, and had been going on in the old jog-trot way and doing nothing with it. (Expressions of dissent.) As to the school room and kitchen accommodation, he thought this question deserved much consideration, the brethren should show a disposition to make an increase in the number of boys, as there was increasing support given by the Craft, some additional boys should be taken at the October Election.

The Chairman said that with reference to the subject of the preparatory school, that had not been agreed to by any of the Courts, whether quarterly or special; under the present circumstances all subscriptions for that object were completely unauthorised.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart said that though he should like to see an increase in the number of boys, he did not consider that the Court was in a position to accept the proposition of Bro. Snow. No doubt the subject required mature consideration; but these Courts being called for the middle of the day, when brethren wished to be in their businesses, they could not give the time to it that they could desire; he would like the Courts to be called for 4 or 5 o'clock, when they could devote more time to the business of the Institution. That, however, was not the question, but as the question deserved consideration, he would move that it be proposed at that day twelvemonths.

Bro. Jesse Turner seconded the amendment. The Building Act would settle the question in a minute. The District Surveyor would never allow the proposed building to be raised on the 9-inch wall.

Bro. Durrant: I do not think he would. He is a very able individual.

Bro. Jesse Turner insisted that the Building Act was sufficient to stop the proposed works. He spoke as an architect and as a practical builder, and though he should be glad to see the school enlarged in a practicable, reasonable, and proper way, the present idea was Utopian, and should be put on one side.

The Rev. A. F. A. Woodford wished to say a few words on the subject, which had attracted attention in many parts of England. Bro. Durrant had said the subject should be carefully considered. He (Bro. Woodford) also thought the Committee should take into careful consideration the course they were going to pursue. There was a very grave point, indeed, to be considered, whether it was advisable to commence the preparatory school, supposing such to be in contemplation (which scheme they had heard was not sanctioned at present) before they had filled up the original school to the total number which was intended at the outset. Bro. Binckes would be able to inform them that this number was 300.

Bro. Binckes: No, 200.

Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford: Well, 200. But in all probability the same provision which was made for 200 would be sufficient for 300, with some little addition of dormitory accommodation. It was the feeling of many brethren (and he expressed the sentiments of a very large number of brethren, he felt sure) when he said that if they had 189 boys in the school, and commenced a building for 100 junior boys, they would put it out of the power of the brethren to increase the original building for the reception of the 200 or 300 boys for whom it was first intended. Let them admit first the 200 or 300 boys, and then afterwards if they found it necessary they could build a preparatory school for 100 boys. That would be the time to commence it; and though he did not speak now in any spirit of opposition to the scheme, he thought that before the Committee put out any official programme for a preparatory school they should bear in mind that they would not be able to increase the number in the original school, and they could not commence a preparatory school. He could not support Bro. Snow's proposition, which Bro. Jesse Turner had truly said was more or less Utopian in its conception. All the brethren wished to see a permanent increase in the number of boys in the school, economically and properly provided for. But before starting a preparatory school he ventured to express the hope that the Committee of this Institution, in whom the brethren had the greatest confidence, would give every consideration to the propriety of filling up the original school before commencing a new one.

Bro. Binckes said he should like to say something with respect to an observation made by Bro. Durrant that they had done nothing with the large amounts they had received. It was only very recently the Institution had released itself from debt. They had formerly borrowed money, and they had had to pay that off. Then there were perpetual presentations from Lancashire and Yorkshire, and more recently one from Cheshire. Those moneys had been invested, and as soon as the Institution had released itself from debt it invested £2000. The last year had been the most successful they had ever had, the receipts having been £15,300 odd. They had relieved the infirmary of the School by the purchase of Kent House for £3000, and they had met the taunts of the brethren

of what had become of the purchase money for the presentations. They found they could not invest it without bringing themselves under the powers of the Charity Commissioners. They had covered the whole of those purchase presentations, and also Bro. Winn's £525 for the prize fund and Bro. Edward Cox's gift; and in addition they had carried forward £2554 to the current year. They did not know what might take place this year. If war broke out, and the income tax was increased, they could not be sure that they would be so fortunate as to obtain large subscriptions. As to the extension of the School he could only assure them that they had been well advised by Bro. Dennison, the architect, that they could not extend it in the way proposed by Bro. Snow, even a square yard, without detriment to light and ventilation. The playrooms were originally only constructed as a shed. Then came a large and lofty gymnasium, which was only lighted by lanterns in the roof; and then there were the urinals. As a matter of health it was utterly impossible to add to the present buildings without going to an enormous expense. They were now in a healthy neighbourhood, and they maintained 187 boys in the School. He hoped no brother would wish to have the buildings raised as proposed by the motion, but the matter might be referred back to the House Committee.

Bro. Walter Hopekirk said he felt sure that if the matter was left in the hands of the committee they would bring forward a scheme that would give satisfaction to the Freemasons throughout England. He was sorry to say that at the elections now, there were many candidates left out in the cold.

Bro. Raynham Stewart would venture to put his amendment in this form—that the whole question of extension or addition be referred to the House Committee.

Bro. Walter Hopekirk seconded the motion in this form.

The Chairman said he was afraid they were getting very irregular with regard to the expenditure upon the building or the increase in the school. He would ask the question of Bro. Binckes whether a circular had gone out to all lodges and chapters asking for the collection of subscriptions on behalf of the preparatory school.

Bro. Binckes: No; and they will not go out after this discussion.

The Chairman remarked that it would place this Institution in an awkward position if funds were collected for that purpose, and the Court should afterwards decide that there should be no such scheme. It was too important a subject to be settled in that way—by a side wind. If the scheme was to be carried out (he expressed no opinion at present) the Court might be of opinion that it should only be after full discussion at the Quarterly or Special Court. Did he understand that Bro. Snow accepted the amendment?

Bro. Snow signified his assent.

The Chairman: Then the question is that the whole question of increased accommodation at the school be referred to the House Committee to report through the General Committee to a Quarterly Court.

The amendment was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

Obituary.

BRO. W. H. FRANCIS.

We have the melancholy duty of announcing the death of our esteemed Bro. W. H. Francis, of Liskeard, on the 27th ult., who was for some years Treasurer of the Warrior Lodge, 1276, Seacombe, Cheshire. The interment took place at Wallasey Church, at 3 p.m., on the 30th ult. There was a very numerous attendance, he being much beloved, not only by his Masonic brethren, but by a large circle of friends, having been for thirty-two years District Secretary of the I.O.O.F.M.U.. He bore an upright and desirable reputation, as a friend and brother in the moment of sorrow and affliction, his sympathies will be long remembered by many a grateful friend.

THE POPE AND THE EMPRESS EUGENIE.—We learn on good authority from Rome that the young Prince Louis Napoleon has been initiated by Prince Humbert into the mysteries of Italian Freemasonry. The Pope is very dissatisfied with the conduct of the ex-Empress Eugenie and her son. Pius IX. had advised the young Prince to quit Italy as soon as possible. This judicious advice, however, has not been followed; on the contrary, the Empress has been very assiduous in her visits to the Quirinal, and is in constant intercourse with those of the noble families in Rome who are partisans of King Victor Emmanuel. For these reasons the Pope refused to dispense with his own hands the Holy Communion both to the Empress and the Prince. As the Empress Eugenie's request was made to him the Pope said, "Anche, l'altro prese la Santa Comunione a Sant'Anna dorata." By the "other" the Pope meant Napoleon III. The Pope held up as an example to the Empress and the Prince the conduct of Don Carlos, who, on his recent visit to Rome, sought the Apostolic blessing, and on advice at once took his departure from Italy.—*Westminster Gazette.*

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—At the beginning of the year, countless causes are at work to lower the tone of the nervous system, which will be followed by ill health unless proper means be employed to avert that evil. Holloway's far famed preparations supply a faultless remedy for both external and internal complaints connected with the changes of seasons. All affections of the skin, roughness, blotches, pimples, bronchial and deeper seated inflammations, erysipelas, rheumatic pains and gouty pangs, alike succumb to the exalted virtues of Holloway's Ointment and Pills. The maladies most prevalent in winter, to wit: chest complaints and stomaclic ailments, daily bear witness to the potential influence of this treatment, which saves suffering and spares disaster.—*ADVT.*

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, by 12 o'clock on Wednesdays.

NOTICE.

To prevent delay or miscarriage, it is particularly requested that ALL communications for the "*Freemason*," may be addressed to the Office, 198, Fleet-street, London.

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, 10/6. 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 Thirteen 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.

Answers to Correspondents.

R.E.M.—Have written privately.

The following stand over: Domestic Lodge, 177; Aurora Lodge, 127, Margate; Hartington Lodge, 1031, Barrow; Lodge of Truth, 1458, Manchester; Albert Edward Lodge, 1429, Newport; Albion Lodge, 196, Barbadoes; St. John's Lodge, 39, Exeter; Panmure Lodge, 720, Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity, 663; Peace and Harmony Lodge, 319; St. John's Lodge, 279; Walton Lodge, 1086; Duke of Lancaster Lodge, 1353; Harmonic Lodge, 216. Scotland: Lodges Athole, 413; Kilburne, 459; Millport; St. George's, 333; St. Andrew's Chapter, 69.

P.P.M.—"How can we improve Masonry in Scotland." "Polish National Lodge." "Masonic Queries."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

CLARK.—On the 13th inst., at Windsor-road, Ealing, the wife of W. Clark, of a daughter.

JONES.—On the 13th inst., at Brighton Villa, Maindee, the wife of Richard W. Jones, of a daughter.

SMITH.—On the 14th inst., at Mildmay-grove, Mildmay Park, the wife of E. H. B. Smith, of a daughter.

SUTHERLAND.—On the 15th inst., at Lee-road, Blackheath, the wife of C. Sutherland, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BRUCE—WALKER.—On the 11th inst., at St. John's-wood Presbyterian Church, George Barclay, son of G. B. Bruce, Esq., of Boundary-road, to Virginia Emma, daughter of J. Walker, Esq.

TRENCH—CAMPBELL.—On the 10th inst., at Stonefield, William Thomas, son of H. Trench, Esq., of Cangort Park, King's County, to Elizabeth Ida, daughter of C. Campbell, Esq., of Stonefield, Argyllshire.

DEATHS.

JORDAN.—On the 13th inst., at Oakhurst, Hants, Charlotte Penelope, widow of the late Rev. G. W. Jordan, aged 75.

TEMPLE.—On the 14th inst., at Cathcart-road, West Brompton, Mr. Henry Temple, aged 31.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JAN. 20, 1877.

IS FREEMASONRY MATERIALISM?

From the Antipodes comes to us a far-off cry of Ultramontane folly and intolerance. The Roman Catholic Archbishop Vaughan has edified the faithful in New South Wales with a vehement lecture, and has made a notable discovery. So much so, that we are specially informed he has "created quite a sensation in New South Wales" with an "important lecture on Masonry," which he called "Hidden Springs," and which he delivered to a startled audience "at Sydney." He has since, it appears, published this lecture of 80 pages, and from the "precis" of it, for which we are indebted to the *Echo*, if such account be correct, it is indeed a wonderful production, worthy the genius and literary character of a Roman Catholic Archbishop. Archbishop Vaughan's theory is this, that the "governing principles of the past, present, and future" are "Paganism, Supernaturalism, and Materialism." Historically it is quite clear that the Archbishop is utterly wrong in any such dogmatic assertion, and has jumbled up together the annals of the past, like a kaleidoscope, in "beautiful confusion." Let us try and realize the absurdity of any such contention, especially by a Roman Catholic Archbishop, that, looking at the history of the past and present, from our standpoint of to-day, the two great governing principles of the world, have been Paganism and Supernaturalism. What will Cardinal Manning say to such a proposition as this, most startling in its naked simplicity? That Paganism and Supernaturalism, or rather Supernaturalism or Paganism, have played a great part in the past ages and present history of man is true, with some careful limitations; but that the whole of the past and present is to be summed up in those two words, and in such an order of thought and action is the most preposterous contention we have ever listened to, even from a Roman Catholic Archbishop, and is really too ridiculous almost for controversy or consideration. But the truth is, that the Archbishop only uses these high-sounding expressions, this precious bit of abstract and concrete nonsense, to influence the minds of his hearers, already seriously alarmed at such hard words, and to pave the way for a "bonne bouche," as the French say, viz., his pet argument, that Freemasonry is another word for Materialism, and that Materialism is to be the "hidden spring," the controlling law of the future. And so he goes on to say that the "prime movers" in this dreadful materialistic movement are the "members of the International Society of Masonry." As the writer in the *Echo* well says, "We who are ignorant and innocent of the mysteries of the Craft have thought that Masonry is a cosmopolitan combination of men animated with good intentions towards each other in particular, and towards the human family in general. If what Archbishop Vaughan says be true, we have been labouring under an extraordinary delusion." Most true is this remark from a "non-Mason," inasmuch as we who are Masons utterly deny the correctness of the Archbishop's unwise words. But how does he prove such an astounding statement, do you ask? Listen carefully! The Archbishop goes on to prove his little proposition by asserting, first, that the "field of operation" of this "Masonic International Society" is as "wide as the human family itself"—this surely is a very remarkable fact; secondly, that "it adopts many instruments to promote its end;" thirdly, that "its ambition soars to the highest class and foremost intellects, and embraces all ages and conditions, from the philosopher to the artisan, from the statesman and civil ruler to the roughs in a country town" (most correct Archbishop!); fourthly, that the "pen and tongue are its two main engines," and that it "strives with sleepless energy to enlist in its service those who can work them with the most powerful effect." Marvellous fact! Our contemporary leaves us to say "whether this is a correct representation" of our Order, if indeed as Freemasons we "think it worth while

to say anything on the subject." And most certainly we have no hesitation in replying, that a more meaningless and childish attack never was made on Freemasonry. Freemasonry has nothing to do with materialism, and knows nothing about it whatever. Freemasonry, as the Archbishop must perfectly well know, has no concern with the passing affairs or political questions of the world; it is simply a philanthropic sodality, based on reverence to God and love for man. As for interfering with the current course of human matters, the social or political life of nations, it is absolutely neutral as regards everything outside of Freemasonry, even everything in which, as men and citizens of the world, we might naturally take an active interest. As for "wielding the forces of other societies for malignant ends," the charge is as untrue as it is unjust, for we cannot too often repeat, that, as Freemasons, we know absolutely nothing in our lodges, either of the aims of politicians or the contests of party. Such attacks defeat themselves through their own patent absurdity and unfairness. They are, however, a very sad proof not only to what lengths educated and kindly men will go in their desire to malign and to harm their fellow creatures, for the good of a so-called infallible faith, but demonstrate only too surely what rubbish will now best tickle the Ultramontane palate, and what turgid nonsense and untruthful assertions can be palmed off upon the "faithful" as the product of scientific argument and historical truth, as the result of faithful study or profound wisdom. So important is the general subject, however, in its wider aspects, and special bearing on the age in which we live, that we shall conclude our considerations on this topic next week.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

At the Quarterly Court on Monday, the 15th, after the usual routine and other business, Bro. John Symonds in the chair (Bro. Clabon having had to leave for another meeting), Bro. Snow brought on his motion to increase the accommodation at the School for fifty boys, by altering the present playground, etc. It soon became quite clear, however, that our worthy Bro. Snow had not gauged fully the real bearing of his important motion, as there were grave objections "à priori" and "à posteriori," as the schoolmen say, to what Bro. Jesse Turner called Bro. Snow's "Utopian scheme." But though Bro. Snow's proposal could not be supported, Bro. Snow's theory of increase has a good deal to say for itself. And it, moreover, became equally clear, as the discussion progressed, that the necessity and desirability of increase were generally admitted; the only question being, the "how," and "where." As a "set-off," so to say, against any such proposal "in presenti," allusions were made to a proposed preparatory school for 100 boys, but as Bro. Symonds observed, any such scheme was unofficial, no such proposal having yet been formally made to the House Committee or General Committee. The result of the meeting was unanimously to refer the consideration of the question of increased accommodation to the House Committee to report upon to the General Committee. Thus, then, the whole question will probably now be carefully considered, and in due time submitted to the subscribers. In the meantime, it may be well to bear in mind that these questions are in themselves of grave importance, and must seriously affect in one way or other the future and finances of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. They cannot be lightly dealt with or hastily treated. If £10,000 are to be spent on the accommodation of 100 new boys, as has been said, with staff, &c., we shall have unavoidably an annual increase of at least £5000 per annum, while the great school will only contain 189 boys. The estimate of £10,000 to build a permanent school for 100 boys seems open to animadversion, and every such proposition ought to be supported by detailed information and architectural details. There is indeed, as was said at the meeting, another alternative of increasing the present accommodation at the Boys' School up to 200, or even 300, and then, and not until then, commencing a preparatory school. Of course a great deal must depend on the

possibility of materially increasing the accommodation at the existing Boys' School at all. Bro. Binckes seemed to think that we had already nearly reached the limit of possible accommodation there, and if that fact is made clear to the apprehensions of the brethren, no one will wish to overcrowd the boys. On every ground, sanitary, as well as disciplinary, Freemasons would be the last persons in the world to wish to mar the success of a great Institution by a petty instance of ill-placed economy, but at present the impossibility of increased accommodation at the Boys' School is assumed rather than proved. If nothing can be done at the existing school, the Craft will, we think, readily concur in the proposal to begin a preparatory school. We trust, however, that the House Committee will turn their attention carefully to the subject, and let us have a clear and an official statement as soon as possible. The brethren and the subscribers only ask for legitimate information, and sure are we of this, that if the necessity be proved of the extension somehow and somewhere, of the Boys' School, the Executive will not appeal to a liberal-minded fraternity in vain. The Boys' School is one of the most useful and valuable Institutions of our Order, and deserves alike our sympathetic countenance and our steady support.

THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

At the next election for this excellent Institution, eight males will be elected out of thirty-five candidates, and only two widows can be received out of thirty-five applicants. Let our brethren note this. We feel sure that we shall but express the wishes of all our brethren, when we add that we earnestly hope that the Committee and Bro. Terry will find some means of reducing this dead-weight of unsuccessful applications, especially among the widows. Thirty-three widows who cannot be elected for another twelve months, when by that time a large additional number of applicants will have come forward, is a sorry sight, an unwelcome reflection for the Masonic philanthropist. Many of these poor sisters of ours are old and infirm, and a proportion of them probably will not be able to apply again, and to many of them practically, this is, humanly speaking, their last chance. We feel persuaded that it will add greatly to the success of Bro. Terry's praiseworthy efforts, and to the prestige even of the Anniversary Festival, to be presided over by our Royal Brother, Prince Leopold, if the Craft could be assured by authority, that a special effort was going to be made, by those in authority, to do something above the ordinary routine, to reduce considerably the list of unsuccessful candidates. The last year's return of the Institution amounted to the noble sum of £12,550 15s. 7d., and 1877 may witness a still larger return. If Bro. Terry then could at once announce, that the Committee, relying on the present, as well as grateful for the past support of the Craft, and in commemoration of H.R.H. Prince Leopold's honoured Presence, added ten to the men and fifteen to the women to be elected, there can, we apprehend, be no room for doubt, but that our Brotherhood would at once respond to such an appeal and such a fact, with increased efforts, and enthusiastic offerings.

A CORRECTION.

Our esteemed Bro. R. W. Little sends us a correction, as he terms it, which we publish elsewhere to-day, of the statement we reprinted the week before last, and commented on last week, though we do not exactly understand the error to which the zealous and able Secretary of the Girls' School calls attention. Still we fancy that we understand what, to use a common expression, Bro. Little is "driving at." He wishes to point out to the Craft, that though there has been an increase in 1876, it is not so large as might popularly be inferred from the little synoptical view of the returns for the three charities to which we have alluded, inasmuch as the accounts of the Girls' School vary from year to year, and that even though there has been a large increase in the Girls' School returns for 1876,

to be of any real good to the school such increase must be continued, nay, even added to, in 1877. If our good brother means anything else, perhaps he will favour us with another letter on the subject. We have already pointed out, that so far from such returns tending to slacken our zeal, they should serve to augment it in the cause of our metropolitan charities, inasmuch as each successive cycle of twelve months will, in the present state of our Order bring upon us fresh applicants for our fraternal aid. It is idle, then, for brethren to say that we are either giving too much, or that we must at any rate remain in "statu quo." The law of progression affects our Masonic Charities as well as all other human interests, and therefore we feel bound to impress upon our readers that, so far from our charities doing with less, they will require more, if they are to rise to the level of our charitable wants, if they are fitly to respond to the claims of those who have a "fair claim upon our true-hearted Masonic benevolence." Let us dismiss from our minds, then, any petty questions, either of useless doubt or hurtful debate, and let us set ourselves with a "will," and we shall find a "way" to give in 1877 a still more striking proof of our real Masonic unselfishness, in that, by our donations and subscriptions to our charities we shall prove to the world that we are perfectly in earnest, and that Charity, true Charity, is not merely with us a name or a word, but a sustaining axiom, a vital principle, a manifest and practical reality.

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 ROME.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The following letter, addressed to me by the Grand Master (Signor Giuseppe Mazzoni) and the Deputy Grand Master (Signor Giorgio Tamajo) of the Grand Orient of Rome, in acknowledgment of the paper I published in the last number of the *Masonic Magazine*, will be of interest to its readers.

I should have mentioned in that paper that the three English brethren who accompanied me on my visit to the Freemasons of Rome were Bro. James Peddie Steele, M.D., an English physician of high culture and wide research, who is settled in Rome; Bro. Rudolph Gustavus Glover, Past Master of the Universal Lodge and Past Provincial Grand Deacon of Middlesex; and Bro. Cobham, of the Accountant and Comptroller General's Department, Somerset House, who is Past Master of a London lodge. These three brethren will, I am sure, endorse, if necessary, my statements respecting the condition of Freemasonry in Rome.

The following is a translation of the original letter received from Signors Mazzoni and Tamajo, which has been forwarded me from Rome by our Bro. Dr. Steele, at the request of the before-named distinguished brethren.

Yours fraternally,

J. C. PARKINSON.

"Rome, 6th January, 1877.
"Dear and Illustrious Brother,—We have received through Bro. Steele the number of the *Freemason*, in which we read with peculiar gratification the admirable article on our Masonry in Rome. It has given the greatest pleasure, not only to us, but to all the brethren, who still remember your noble words, and your dear presence. The satisfaction felt by an English Mason with the manner in which our Grand Orient of Italy is conducted, and with the respect which it displays towards the ancient and venerable traditions of the Order, will serve as a powerful stimulus to our persevering evermore in the path of goodness and virtue. We most ardently wish that our brethren of the United Kingdom may pay us many visits, in order that reciprocal affection may be evermore cemented, and that their long experience may help to confirm us in the good and accepted observances of the Craft, which cannot properly attain its end, without the unanimous concurrence of all the brethren, to whatever nation they belong.

"It was with the liveliest regret that we learned that this admirable accord of feeling and observance was threatened by a divergence, which we hope may yet be reconciled, confident as we are that the profound sentiment of charity and of Masonic brotherhood will prove stronger than any divergence, arising in a speculative field, which, if it can flatter and satisfy the freethinker, is always barren of good points, and too often the parent of fatal discord.

We still cherish the hope that the Grand Orient of France and Belgium have no wish to act so as to alienate from the Craft the believers in the Supreme Being and in the life beyond the grave. This cannot surely be their intention. In any case, Italian Masonry, while openly affirming its own principles of ample toleration and of philosophical and religious freedom, notably in the assemblies of 1869 and 1872, will remain ever faithful to the ancient and glorious formula, which places the humanitarian laws of liberty, equality, and fraternity under the regis of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. And to this it will be ever true, because it

believes that in this formula every sound philosophical and religious opinion can, and does, find the synthesis of its own fundamental conception, and that in it stands the largest guarantee of that loving and fraternal toleration which, in the calamitous times of superstition and persecution, made of Masonry the sacred ark of religious, civil, and political freedom.

"The Grand Orient of Italy, anxious for the integrity of the universal Masonic brotherhood, will co-operate with all the means which the most fraternal love can suggest to it to make cease, wherever it may arise, all ground of dissent or difficulty, and its voice will, we hope, gain a hearing, because in it will speak only the unlimited affection for the brethren of nations so dear to it, and the impartial judgment which the profound conviction of the truth will dictate to it.

"Accept, dear and illustrious brother, our most affectionate and most fraternal greetings,

"GIUSEPPE MAZZONI, D.P.G.M. 33.

"GIORGIO TAMAJO, G.C. 33.

"To the Illustrious Bro. J. C. PARKINSON, London."

THE DUTIES OF STEWARDS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Would you kindly inform me what the duties of a Steward of a lodge are? The reason I ask is—

I am one of the Stewards of a lodge which has been consecrated during the last twelve months, and at the consecration banquet, and upon another occasion, when some of the Grand Officers were present, I and my brother Steward waited at table, and ourselves dined afterwards.

Upon ordinary occasions, however, we have a tea, then labour, and after that an hour's sociality. Neither I nor my brother Steward have been in the habit of waiting at the tea (except to see that visiting brethren are supplied, &c.), because there are waiters belonging to the establishment in the room, but we have invariably after lodge arranged the festive board, and generally looked after the creature comforts of our brethren. Our not waiting at the tea-table as waiters, however, has, I am sorry to say, been the cause of some very ill-natured public remarks by one of the brethren, as to "neglect of duty," &c. Now, if it be part of our duty we are ready to perform it, but if, as we venture to think, it is not, then, I think the amende honorable will be due to us from our "crusty" brother, and so to you fraternally we leave the question.

We are, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

THE STEWARDS.

BRO. HIGGINS'S "ANACALYPSIS."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I should like to draw the attention of Masonic students and Secretaries of Masonic libraries to the fact that Bro. Higgins's grand work, the "Anacalypsis," is being reprinted by J. Burns, in sixteen parts of half-a-crown each. Each part contains 112 pages (4 parts being already issued) of closely printed matter, and is certainly a credit to both printer and publisher. I understand that the whole of the valuable drawings and plates are to be reproduced in fac simile, and therefore when the volumes are completed subscribers will be in possession of a more handsome edition of the "Anacalypsis" than that originally issued, and certainly in a much handier form.

As a subscriber from the commencement, I have taken great interest in its publication, and I believe that the publisher will avail himself of the columns of the *Freemason* to make known the particulars as to its issue, and the various inducements he offers to immediate subscribers. I feel certain of one fact, that it will be the Masonic body that takes the present edition, but I fear that unless our brethren in Great Britain rapidly send in their subscriptions the impression will go abroad, as with many other Masonic rarities and curios. I have already alluded at length to this learned work by Bro. Higgins, and have not always agreed with the able author in his estimate of some of our Masonic legends and traditions, but I cannot fail to appreciate the great extent of his researches into the origin of languages, nations and religions, and which certainly have made for him a name far in advance of all competitors in his own peculiar department. Several of his contributions to the history of Freemasonry at York are most interesting, and until the visits of Bros. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, M.A., and J. G. Findel to that celebrated Masonic city, Bro. Higgins's work was the only available one on the subject. Unfortunately, the author had no confidence in the sale of his work; or, at all events, under-estimated the number of his readers, for only some two hundred copies were printed, the consequence of which has been that whenever a copy occurs for sale quite fabulous prices are given, and I have seen it offered at from twelve to fifteen guineas. Judging from its value, as compared with many other works of its kind, it would not be dear at that, but the "price current" removes it far from the reach of many, hence the publication herein alluded to of the "Anacalypsis" in a cheap (yet really handsome) form is a boon to all Masonic students the "wide world" over, and I hope that the publisher will have no reason to regret his so doing.

WM. JAMES HUGHAN.

THE POLISH NATIONAL LODGE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In your report of the meeting of the Polish National Lodge on the 14th ult., I am made to say something very extraordinary as to a connection with the Grand Secretary's office, which statement I hasten to correct

being totally at a loss to understand how so absurd an error could have been made.

In proposing "The D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers," the W.M. was pleased to couple my name with the toast, and said that he should like to hear from me how Grand Lodge honours were obtained, a question which no doubt presents itself to many of an inquiring turn of mind. In replying to this part of his speech, my words were, as I now remember them, something after the style of the celebrated Mrs. Glasse, "First catch your hare."—&c.

"You must first of all become a Mason, then attend your lodge with the greatest regularity; prepare yourself by hard work for any office, that in the course of time you may be appointed to; always act as a gentleman and a Mason in or out of your lodge. Be ready and willing if called upon to take the duties of a superior officer, if absent or incompetent, and if you are fortunate enough to become Master of your lodge, set a good example to your officers by punctual attendance, and attention to your own duties; then, so far as your means may allow you without injury to yourself, endeavour to find a trifle to give in support of the Masonic Institutions, for every little helps. Then, having gone so far, wait patiently for the arrival of any honours that may be offered, and if by any extraordinary and fortunate circumstance, after twenty or twenty-five years, your name should find its way into the Grand Secretary's Office, as mine did, you will be very lucky, the chances being some thousands to one against it; but never expect to be so fortunate, or so favoured, then you are the less likely to be disappointed."

How the words in italics could be so misconstrued is a marvel and a mystery; they embody in your report an impertinence that, I think, I am not likely to be guilty of, my only connection with the Grand Secretary's Office arising from my visits as Treasurer of different lodges and chapters, to pay dues and rent.

Yours fraternally, JOHN BOYD.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The figures quoted in the *Freemason*, from the daily papers, with reference to the receipts of the Masonic Charitable Institutions in 1875 and 1876, are calculated to mislead the Craft. In 1875 the total announced, so far as the Girls' School is concerned, was simply the amount collected in donations and subscriptions from lodges and brethren, viz., £8664 16s., excluding grants from Grand Lodge, &c., dividends, sums paid for purchased admissions (£714 alone), and other miscellaneous receipts amounting to £2086 10s. 3d., in all £10,751 6s. 3d. In 1876 the subscriptions, &c., the only real test of progress, rose to £10,000 17s. 3d., while the miscellaneous receipts, owing to there being no purchase cases, declined to £1434 9s. 4d., making the total quoted £11,435 6s. 7d.

R. W. L.

LORD CHESTERFIELD.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In answer to Lord Limerick, I beg to give an extract from the Constitutions of 1738, page 194.

"Deputations Sent beyond Sea."

"LOVEL Grand Master granted one to noble Brother CHESTERFIELD Lord Ambassador at the Hague, for holding a Lodge there, that made his Royal Highness FRANCIS Duke of Lorraine (now Grand Duke of Tuscany) an Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft.

Yours fraternally,

ASTLEY TERRY,
Captain 60th Rifles,
W.M. 533.

Park Hill, Congleton,
14th Jan., 1877.

Multum in Parvo; or Masonic Notes and Queries.

LORD CHESTERFIELD AND FREEMASONRY.

In the Rev. Dr. Anderson's Constitutions of 1738 is an account of the initiation and passing of H.R.H. Francis, Duke of Lorraine (Grand Duke of Tuscany), which occurred in 1731, under the Grand Mastership of Lord Lovel. The deputation was granted to the Rev. Dr. Desaguliers, P.G.M., as W.M., and Bros. Stanhope and Holtzendorf, as Wardens, and at the reception, the Earl of Chesterfield, Lord Ambassador, also the nephew of the Bishop of Namur and others were present.

It was not a regular, but only an occasional lodge which was held, and ceased when the purpose for which it was convened had been accomplished. In the list of deputations at the end of Constitutions, 1738, it is stated that the authority to receive H.R.H. into Freemasonry was conveyed to the Earl of Chesterfield, though Dr. Desaguliers acted as Master. The Duke of Lorraine was subsequently raised as a Master Mason, at another occasional lodge held at Sir Robert Walpole's house in Norfolk (with the Duke of Newcastle), the Grand Master, Lord Lovel, being the Master.

In "Illustrations of Masonry" (Spencer's edit., 1861, page 175), Bro. Preston declares the foregoing to have been "the most remarkable event of Lord Lovel's administration," as it was undoubtedly.

Bro. Findel in his "History of Freemasonry" (a really excellent work) has a special chapter on "Masonry in the Netherlands," which seems to favour the opinion that 1734 witnessed the constitution of the first regular lodge in that country. In our list of lodges, A.D. 1734, *Masonic Magazine*, Nov., 1876, will be found a register of 127, French Flanders, but no other for the north. In my "Centennial letter," however, to the Grand Lodge of Ohio, I give some excerpts from old newspapers, 1730—50, in which it is stated:—

The *Post*, Holland, Nov. 4th, 1734.—"Besides the lodge of English Freemasons at Rotterdam, another is erected at the Hague, depending on the Grand Lodge here (London), where six members were admitted on the 19th inst., N.S."

Other extracts I might give, but as the whole are to be reproduced in the *Masonic Magazine* for February, I forbear.

Yours fraternally,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

With reference to Lord Limerick's enquiry respecting the lodge at the Hague, on turning to the *Freemasons' Calendar* for 1778, I find the following entry, at page 34, among the "Remarkable Occurrences in Masonry":—"Francis, Duke of Lorraine, late Emperor of Germany, initiated at the Hague, and afterwards exalted to the degree of a Master Mason in England, 1731." The lodge in which the Duke was initiated was doubtless one of the "occasional lodges" usually held for the admission of illustrious personages at that time, and for years afterwards. I cannot find any record of his advancement in the minutes of Grand Lodge, which alone possessed the power to pass and raise brethren in 1731, according to a note at page 35 of the same Calendar.

R.W.L.

GRAND MASONIC BALL IN LIVERPOOL.

The Masonic enthusiasm which so largely exists in Liverpool, as the centre of the Craft in the province of W. Lancashire, was again clearly shown in that town on Tuesday, the 9th inst. when the 28th annual festive gathering of the fraternity took place at the Town Hall. The ball was in nearly every respect as enjoyable as any which had preceded it, and fully sustained the well merited prestige which invariably attaches itself to these festive gatherings of the brethren, to which the public are welcomed with cordiality. Of this privilege "outsiders" are not slow to avail themselves, and the general verdict has always been that the "Masonic" is the jolliest and most genial of all the balls of the season. That for 177 formed no exception to the rule, and if it was not quite so largely patronised as some of its predecessors, this slight shortcoming was attributable to various outside causes, which were quite apparent, amongst these being the near approach of various other assemblies. The existence of the Masonic Ball for more than a quarter of a century has given the promoters an amount of experience which they invariably turn to good use, in the direction of admirable arrangements and satisfactory carrying out of details, which go so much to make these gatherings successful and popular, and the result of the labours of the committee entrusted with this year's organization of the ball must have given complete satisfaction to most frequent visitors to these annual pleasant assemblies, as well as to those whose expectations might be more than usually high pitched. Following the example of previous years, the committee again made pleasure go hand-in-hand with charity, which is so dear to every true-hearted Mason, and the chief object in view, apart from the social and brotherly aspect of the gathering, was to add to the funds of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, a charity which stands to the front amongst the like organisations of the Craft, and is most justly looked upon with pride by all the brethren in the province where it has been born, nurtured, and reared, until it has now become so sturdy and well developed. During its existence this institution has done an immense amount of good in giving education to the children of distressed and deceased Masons, and at present more than 100 little ones are reaping the benefits of the charity. The income for the past year amounted to £636, the invested funds realised £515, and after making all necessary payments there had been added to the accumulated capital the sum of £868, making a total invested fund of £12,683 17s. 8d. The continued and increasing demands on the institution, however, still call for the continued cordial support of the brethren in the province, and as it is in contemplation to widen the benefits to the children who receive education, this support is all the more necessary.

The ball enjoyed the following highly distinguished patronage, giving it all the greater weight and significance:—

Lady Patrons: The Mayoress; Right Hon. the Countess Bective; Right Hon. Lady Skelmersdale; the Hon. Lady Constance Stanley. Patrons: His Worship the Mayor of Liverpool, Mr. Alderman Walker; Bro. Right Hon. Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master England; Bro. Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M. England, R. W. Prov. G.M. West Lancashire; Bro. Major Starkie, R. W. Prov. G.M. East Lancashire, P.G.W. England, W.P. Prov. S.G.W. of West Lancashire; Bro. Right Hon. Lord De Tabley, R.W. Prov. G.M. Cheshire; Bro. Hon. Frederick A. Stanley, W.D. Prov. G.M. West Lancashire; Bro. Sir Gilbert Greenall, M.P., P.S.G.W. England, and W.P. Prov. S.G.W. of West Lancashire; Bro. Major Horner, W. Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. William Sharp, Esq., W. Prov. J.G.W.; Bro. Sir James Ramsden, W.P. Prov. G.S.W. West Lancashire; Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel Birchall, W.P. Prov. G.J.W.; Bro. John Prescott, Esq., W.P. Prov. G.J.W.; Bro. Earl Bective, R.W. Prov. G.M. Cumberland and Westmoreland; Bro. Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., M.P., R.W. Prov. G.M. Shropshire and North Wales; Bro. John Pearson, Esq.; W. Rathbone, Esq., M.P.; Right Hon. Viscount Sandon, M.P.; Colonel Ireland Blackburne, M.P.; J. Torr, Esq., M.P.

The committee consisted of Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, P.G.M., President; Bro. the Hon. Frederick Stanley, M.P., D.P.G.M., Vice-President; Bro. R. Wilson, P.P.G.S.D., Chairman; Bro. H. Nelson, P.M., 673 and 1505, Vice-Chairman; and Bro. J. Pemberton, P.G.S. of W., Treasurer.

The guests began to arrive shortly before nine o'clock,

and about midnight, when the splendid ball-rooms were crowded with about 700 guests, the effect was very brilliant, especially as all the brethren appeared in full dress Masonic clothing, with the jewels and insignia of their rank and office. The ladies' dresses generally were in exquisite taste, and the general effect of the gathering was striking in the extreme. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Walker) honoured the ball with his presence, and after supper, when his health was proposed by Bro. Wilson, Chairman of Committee, his worship spoke in glowing and eulogistic terms of the many advantages possessed and produced by the noble Order of Freemasonry.

The music was furnished by the quadrille band of Bro. G. W. Phillipps; and Bro. H. Molyneux, P.M. 823, again gave his valuable services as Master of the Ceremonies. Bro. W. S. Vines, P.M. 220, provided supper and refreshments, and his catering gave general satisfaction. Bro. R. Brown, P.M. 241, was the Captain of the Stewards; Bros. G. Broadbridge, P.P.G.D.C., and H. Firth, Sec. 667, Assistant Captains, who were assisted by a strong corps of Stewards.

The badges for this useful body of brethren, who did their work remarkably well, attracted universal admiration by the artistic way in which they were got up. Much of the hard work of the ball fell upon Bro. G. Hutchin, W.M. 241, the Honorary Secretary, and he deserves honourable mention for the really indefatigable way in which he strove to make the 28th annual Masonic ball occupy an honourable place in the long and brilliant list during the past 27 years.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The Quarterly Court of the Governors and Subscribers of this Institution was held on Saturday last, in the Board-room, Freemasons' Hall. Col. Creaton, J.P., presided. There were also present Bros. H. Browne, John Symonds, A. H. Tattershall, H. A. Dubois, Dr. Ramsay, H. Dicketts, Thos. Massa, John Boyd, H. Massey (*Freemason*), Z. D. Berry, S. Rosenthal, Thos. W. White, Major Finney, and R. W. Little, Sec.

After the reading and confirmation of the minutes,

Bro. Lieut.-Col. Creaton proposed, "That the sum of £500 additional be granted to complete the amount required, agreeably to tender, for the new laundry." He said it was not necessary that he should weary the brethren with many words on this matter, because it had been so well considered and gone over often before. He would call their attention to the resolution of the 18th Nov., when it was determined by the Special Court to advertise for tenders for this new building, inviting builders to send in tenders for its erection. That had been done, and five tenders were sent in. Four of those tenders, as they had heard, were very greatly in excess of the amount authorised to be spent; but one by Bro. Fish was within it. Consequently, the Building Committee had, subject to the approval of this Court, given the work to Bro. Fish. It was necessary that they should have £500 in excess of the sum already voted, and he therefore moved that that £500 be now voted.

Bro. A. H. Tattershall had much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Bro. Z. D. Berry said he was very glad that the contract had been given to Bro. Fish, because, as he had said on a former occasion, Bro. Fish must be able to do the work cheaper, as he had his plant already on the premises.

The motion was then carried.

Two petitions of candidates for election were then passed.

The Secretary said he was sorry to report that Mary Nelson, one of the most promising girls in the school, who had received several prizes, had died while on her Christmas holidays, which she was spending with her mother at Scarborough.

The brethren expressed their great regret at the sad occurrence.

The Secretary said there were now 54 candidates for the next election in April, and 13 vacancies, including that caused by the death of the pupil above referred to.

Bro. John Symonds then rose and said he begged to call attention to a subject he raised at the General Committee of the Boys' School, the difficulty that existed of getting a satisfactory certificate from the country of children's ability to read. He ventured to think if they adopted the educational requirement of the Privy Council (not of the School Board, as he had been inaccurately reported to have said), but the Committee of Privy Council, presided over by the Duke of Richmond, where the power to read is made to vary according to age. If they adopted that, they would hardly go wrong. Those were applicable to the very lowest class of elementary schools; but it seemed to him that if a child did not read in the standard required by the elementary schools, she did not read well enough to be admitted to this institution. It was not a matter which the Quarterly Court could deal with, but he ventured to ask the chairman, who was such a regular attendant on the various committees, to request the General Committee to take that into consideration. It would be quite impossible for him (Bro. Symonds) to attend next week at the General Committee, and it was very rarely that he could attend any of these meetings on Thursdays. If the Chairman would take it into consideration, any resolution the committee might come to could be adopted in the form of petition. The difficulty now experienced with the certificates would be got rid of. They now got such certificates as "can read tolerably well for her age," and other uncertain certificates, granted, perhaps, either by the good nature of the person who signed them, for the purpose of letting the candidate down gently, or, it might

be that they were given by persons who did not strictly understand what the words implied. If the institution was able to get a certificate that a child of 9 years of age could read according to the standard of the educational department's code for a child 9 years old, then, following that they could hardly go wrong.

The chairman said this was a very valuable suggestion of Bro. Symonds, and it should not be forgotten at the next General Committee.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The Boys' School has never been in the rear of the other Masonic Institutions for keeping fresh in the minds of the children that Christmas is the time for mirth and merrymaking, and it has been the custom for some years past, to give to the pupils who remain in the school during the holidays, a small entertainment, which they may look forward to with pleasant anticipations, and remember with feelings of joy. These entertainments have been varied as much as possible, and on one occasion our late Bro. Samuel May, with the assistance of some other brethren, provided the requisites for a parlour theatre, and previously drilled the boys for performing the burlesque of "The Maid and the Magpie." The entertainment was very successful, and on that occasion a large party of the brethren were present with their families. But, subsequently less pretentious exhibitions were arranged, and Christmas and Twelfth Night festivities were provided. And very nicely done affairs they have ever been. Mr. Bridgman Smith has at times given some most pleasing evenings with his dissolving views, done in the Polytechnic style, and in no way inferior to the stage amusements at that popular institution. Conjurors too have been a favourite pastime, and Magic lantern has also afforded endless amusement. Mr. Bridgman Smith has been at the Institution during the present season, and, on the 4th inst., gave the boys, to the number of 30, who remained in the school, a charming evening with his well-known views. On Saturday last, M. De Vere, conjuror and humourist, who has been well-known at the Alexandra Palace, the Opera Comique, London; Theatre de la Gaicte, Paris; Theatre des Fantaisies, Jardin des Eaux Minerales, St. Petersburg; and the principal English and Continental theatres and places of light entertainment, presented a selection from his repertoire of prestidigitation, entitled "Modern Marvels," and astonished the company by the wonderful deftness with which he performed his sleight of hand tricks. What the entire portfolio contains we are unable to divine, but if what he gave on the occasion referred to was what it professed to be, a selection only, the collection, when given complete, must go far in involving the spectators who are fortunate enough to see it, in a state of bewilderment, from which it would take them a long time to emerge. The professor commenced by displaying some feats with a silk handkerchief, which he made small and large at will; produced a new laid egg in a glass when no one could see how it got there; and after some tricks with a canary bird, showed the boys how to perform a few legerdemain deceptions. Cards, which seem to be a staple commodity with jugglers, were not wanting, and though there was not the three card trick, the audience made their selection and were pointed out the cards they chose. The wondrous hat full caused immense merriment, more particularly on account of the quantity of babies' clothing that appeared to be stowed away in the crown of the hat, and which were drawn out one article after another, ad libitum. The serpent possessed considerable attraction, the professor having first mentioned to the boys that they had heard of magicians producing such reptiles. Out of a silk handkerchief twisted into a sort of cord, M. de Vere formed a serpent of the same colours as the handkerchief, those of the Belgian flag, and a very good imitation it made. The trick with a black bag consisted of producing a whole basket of eggs, one at a time, and as one of the boys was called on to assist in this and some of the other operations, they of course felt somewhat deeper interest in these tricks. The juvenile co-operator however, though his eyes kept following the professor, left the place of operation no wiser than when he went to it. The flying cage and canaries, however, surpassed all the other feats, for it is, as expressed by our contemporary, the *Era*, "the very best feat of the kind we have yet seen. M. de Vere comes to the footlights holding in his hands a small cage containing a live canary. There is no covering it with a handkerchief, no use of a trick table; one moment we see the cage in the hands of the conjuror, the next, both have vanished." Several of the other papers have spoken with equal favour of this trick, which is a testimony of considerable value to the ability of M. de Vere. But there were a good many other acts of prestidigitation, too numerous to give a detailed account of; but it would be unfair not to notice one in particular, in which he extracted a large number of lighted Chinese lanterns from a hat borrowed from one of the assistant masters. After having taking some score or so of these from the hat, he took another Chinese lantern, unlighted, from the same receptacle. These lanterns measured some yards in length. The amusements of the evening, which were repeatedly and most warmly cheered by the spectators, were concluded about nine o'clock. One of the daughters of Bro. Binckes, the Secretary of the Institution, accompanied the prestidigitatorial performances by some choice selections on the pianoforte, which she played with great skill and ability. The performances were witnessed by the whole of the establishment, including Dr. Morris the head master, Mrs. Morris and family, the assistant masters, Miss Hall, matron, Mrs. Walkden, and their assistants, the four daughters of Bro. Binckes, Mr. Frederick Binckes, jun., and Bro. H. Massey (*Freemason*).

Masonic and General Tidings.

The Annual Festival of the Priory Lodge No. 1000 will be held on Thursday next, the 25th inst., when the Ceremony of Installation will be performed by Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G.C., V.W. Deputy Grand Master, Suffolk. V.W. Bro. Spencer Robert Wigram, Grand Chaplain, is the W.M. elect.

The third of Bro. Abbott's series of lectures on the History of the Craft will be given in the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, Mason's Hall Tavern, Basinghall-street, on Wednesday, the 24th inst., at 7 p.m.

Masonry seems to be popular behind the footlights. In a very distinguished dramatic and literary lodge, Mr. Hare has just been received into the mystic Craft, and Mr. Toole is to be balloted for at the next meeting. Mr. B. Webster, Mr. Chatterton, Mr. James, Mr. Thorne, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. John Clark, Mr. W. H. Kendall, Mr. Charles Harcourt, Mr. Arthur Swaunborough, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. W. H. Stephens, Mr. Charles Warner, Mr. Andrew Halliday, Mr. C. Milward, Mr. H. J. Byron, Mr. James Albery, and Mr. Charles Dickens, are all Masons, and the majority of them belong to the lodge alluded to.—*Mayfair*.

LIFEBOAT SERVICES.—During the storms of the past year the National Lifeboat Institution contributed to the saving of 598 lives from various shipwrecks and 19 vessels from destruction. It also expended £32,170 in the same period on its lifeboat establishments, including payments to its lifeboat crews. The institution has now 256 lifeboat stations under its management.

GENEROUS CITY GIFTS.—We learn that the British and Foreign Sailors' Society has recently received the following handsome contributions from the Corporation of the City of London:—The Fishmongers' Company, £52 10s.; the Drapers' Company, £21; the Clothworkers' Company (annual subscription), £10 10s.; the Skinners' Company, £10 10s.; the Trinity Board, £10 10s.; the London Dock Company, £10 10s.; the P. and O. Company, £10; and the London Assurance Corporation, £10.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has sanctioned a donation of £50 from the Duchy of Cornwall towards the expenses of the Centenary Exhibition of the Bath and West of England Society next June.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, M.P., is suffering from severe bronchitis, but Mr. W. H. Bennett, of St. George's Hospital, who was telegraphed for to Wynn-stay, has returned to London satisfied with his patient's progress.

The Mansion House Inundations Relief Fund now amounts to £7200.

The Brighton Town Council on Wednesday discussed the question of sea defences, on a report brought up by the surveyor, with reference to the effects of the late storm, and it was resolved to build a new concrete groyne, 550 feet long, opposite Paston-place, at an estimated cost of £9000.

COSMOPOLITAN MASONIC CALENDAR, DIARY, AND POCKET BOOK.—As far as we can pretend to form an opinion from an inspection of the contents of this little pocket book, it fully deserves its title, and merits the praise of being not only a comprehensive Masonic book of reference, but of containing "full particulars of every grand Masonic body throughout the globe."—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

Roan, Gilt Edges, Elastic Band or Tuck, post free 2s. 2d.; Bound in Silk, 3s. 8d.—**ADVT.**

FISH IN PERFECTION—ALIVE FROM THE OCEAN.—The difficulty in obtaining fresh fish, of prime quality, at a reasonable price, has long been experienced by residents in inland towns and country districts, and even in London, preservation in ice, and delay in transit, often destroy the original flavour. Messrs. Chas. Watson & Co., Fish Merchants, Folkestone, Kent, have organized a new system of supply, and send by express trains, free to any part of the kingdom, their family package of assorted fish—alive from the ocean—at wholesale price in 5s., 10s., and 20s. parcels, prepaid in stamps or P.O.O. This will be found a great boon to families, schools, hotels, and the public generally.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, January 26, 1877.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20.

Audit Com. Boys' School, at 4.
Lodge 715, Panmure, Cannon-st. Hot.
" 1329, Sphinx, Bridge House Hot., London Bridge.
" 1364, Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 22.

Lodge 4, R. Somerset Hot. Inverness, F.M.H.
" 26, Castle of Harmony, Willis's Rooms, W.
" 28, Old King's Arms, F.M.H.
" 183, Unity, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
" 902, Burgoyne, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 907, Royal Alfred, F.M.H.
" 1608, Kilburn, Queen's Arms Hot., Kilburn Gate.
" 1632, Stuart, Surrey M.H.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., Kingsland.
Strong Man, Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate.
Sincerity, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-st. Station.

Camden, Stanhope Arms, Up. James-st., Camden To. Eastern, Royal Hot., Mile-end-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.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23.

Audit Com. Girls' School, at 4.
Lodge 14, Tuscan, F.M.H.
" 92, Moira, Mansion House Restaurant.
" 145, Prudent Brethren, F.M.H.
" 186, Industry, M.H., Basinghall-st.
" 205, Israel, Cannon-st. Hot.
" 259, Prince of Wales's, Willis's Rms., St. James's.
" 1158, Southern Star, Montpellier Tav., Walworth.
" 1196, Urban, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate.
" 1348, Ebury, 12, Ponsonby-st., Millbank.
" 1441, Ivy, Surrey M.H.
Chap. 7, Royal York of Perseverance, F.M.H.
" 21, Cyrus, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
Rose Croix Chapter, Palestine, 33, Golden-sq.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Metropolitan, 269, Pentonville-rd.
Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
Domatic, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.
Faith, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-st.
Prince Fredk. Wm., Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
Dalhousie, King Edward, Triangle, Hackney.
Prosperity, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
Constitutional, Wheatstheaf 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., Cornhill.
West Smithfield, New Market Hot., West Smithfield.
Loughborough, Warrior Hot., Brixton.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24.

Lodge of Benevolence, at 6.
Lodge 2, Antiquity, F.M.H.
" 212, Euphrates, M.H., Basinghall-st.
" 507, United Pilgrims, Surrey M.H.
" 754, High Cross, Seven Sisters, Tottenham.
" 1056, Victoria, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
Chap. 753, Prince Fredk. William, St. John's Wood.
" 857, St. Mark's, Surrey M.H.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Confidence, M.H., Basinghall-st.
Mt. Lebanon, Windsor Castle Tav., Southwark-bdg.-rd.
Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich.
New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.
Royal Union, Horse and Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
Mount Edgcombe, 19, Jermyn-st., St. James's.
Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham.
Stanhope, Thicket Hot., Anerley.
Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd.
Southwark, Southwark Park Tav., Southwark Park.
Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav., Dalston, E.
United Strength, Grafton Arms, Kentish-town.
Islington, Crown and Cushion, London Wall.
Whittington, Black Bull Tav., Holborn.
Lewis, King's Arms Hot., Wood Green.
Langthorne, Swan Hot., Stratford.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25.

Gen. Com. Girls' School, at 4.
Lodge 22, Neptune, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
" 34, Mount Moriah, F.M.H.
" 60, Peace and Harmony, F.M.H.
" 65, Prosperity, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
" 66, Grenadiers', F.M.H.
" 766, William Preston, Cannon-st. Hot.
" 871, Royal Oak, White Swan, High-st., Deptford.
" 1421, Langthorne, Swan Hot., Stratford.
" 1524, Duke of Connaught, Pownall-rd., Haggerston.
Chap. 5, St. George's, F.M.H.
" 177, Domatic, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 534, Polish National, F.M.H.
" 834, Andrew, Clarendon Hot., Hammersmith.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Egyptian, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., W.
Finsbury, Jolly Anglers' Tav., Bath-st., City-road.
Temperance in the East, Catherine-st., Poplar.
Ebury, 12, Ponsonby-st., Millbank.
Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
The Great City, 111, Cheapside.
High Cross, Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.
Salisbury, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.
Southern Star, Crown Hot., Blackfriars-rd.
Great Northern, Berwick Arms, Berners-st., Oxford-st.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26.

Lodge 569, Fitzroy, Hd.-qtrs. Hon. Art. Co., City-rd.
" 1601, Ravensbourne, Dist. B. of W. O., Catford-bg.
" 1602, Sir Hugh Myddelton, Agricultural Hall, N.
Encamp. 26, Faith and Fidelity, Cannon-st. Hot.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Union Waterloo, Thomas-st., Woolwich.
Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Belgrave, Constitution, Bedford-st., Covent Garden.
Unions Emulation (for M.M.'s), F.M.H.
Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford.
Clapton, White Hart, Clapton.
Metropolitan, Portugal Hot., Fleet-st.
St. Marybone, British Stores Tav., St. John's Wood.
Westbourne, Horse & Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
United Pilgrims, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.
St. James's, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-rd., Bermondsey.
Duke of Edinburgh, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar.
Doric, Earl Grey Tav., Mile-end-road.

Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, N.W.
 St. Luke's, White Hart, King's-rd., Chelsea.
 Chigwell, Princes Hall, Buckhurst-hill.
 Burdett Coutts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.
 Royal Standard, The Castle, Holloway-rd.
 Ranelagh, Bell and Anchor., Hammersmith-ld.
 Stability, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
 St. George's, Globe Tav., Greenwich.
 Pythagorean Chapter, Prince of Orange, Greenwich-rd.
 William Preston, Feathers Tav. Up George-st., Edgware-rd.
 Sir Hugh Myddelton, 25, King Edward-st., Liverpool-rd., N.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 27, 1877.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22.

Chap. 241, Friendship, M.H., Liverpool.
 Derby L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23.

Lodge 897, Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helen's.
 " 986, Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston.
 " 1256, Fidelity, Bull Hot., Poulton-le-Fylde.
 " 1393, Hamer, M.H., Liverpool.
 " 1609, Dramatic, M.H., Liverpool.
 Chap. 1094, Temple, M.H., Liverpool.
 Merchants' L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24.

Lodge 34, St. George's, Adelphi Hot., Liverpool.
 " 86, Loyalty, M.H., Prescott.
 " 220, Harmony, Garston Hot., Garston.
 " 484, Faith, Gerard's Arms, Ashton-in-Wakefield.
 " 580, Harmony, Wheatshaf, Ormskirk.
 " 724, Derby, M.H., Runcorn.
 " 758, Ellesmere, M.H., Runcorn.
 Chap. 1052, Callender, Pub. H., Rusholme.
 Neptune L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25.

Lodge 594, Downshire, M.H., Liverpool.
 " 950, Hesketh, Royal Hot., Fleetwood.
 " 1032, Townley Parker, Howard's A., Whittle-le-Wds.
 " 1070, Starkie, Black Horse, Kirkham.
 " 1313, Fermor, M.H., Southport.
 Chap. 292, Liverpool, M.H., Liverpool.
 " 1086, Walton, St. Lawrence's School, Kirkdale.
 Mariners' L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 27, 1877.
 All the Meetings take place at Eight o'clock.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22.

Lodge 102, St. Mark, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
 " 219, Star, 12, Trongate, Glasgow.
 " 362, St. Clair, 25, Robertson-st., Glasgow.
 " 541, Marie Stuart, M.H., Crosshill.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23.

Lodge 413, Athole, 213, Buchanan-st., Glasgow.
 " 419, Neptune, 35, St. James-st., S.S., Glasgow.
 " 426, Prince of Wales, M.H., High-st., Renfrew.
 " 543, St. John, M.H., Dalmeir.
 " 556, Clydesdale, 106, Rose-st., S.S., Glasgow.
 " 579, St. Bryde, M.H., Uddingston.
 Chap. 67, Cathedral, 22, Struthers-st., Glasgow.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24.

Lodge 187, St. John, Black Bull Inn, Carluke.
 " 505, Burns St. Mary, Commercial Inn, Hurlford.
 " 510, Maryhill, M.H., Main-st., Maryhill.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25.

Prov. G.L. of Glasgow, 213, Buchanan-st.
 Lodge 570, Kenmuir, Balgray Hall, Springburn.
 Chap. 117, Govan, Portland Buildings, Govan.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26.

Lodge 125, St. James, Masons' Arms, Newton Ayr.
 " 153, Royal Arch, M.H., Cogan-st., Pollokshaws.
 " 195, St. John R.A., Lennox Arms, Campsie.
 " 244, Union, Black Bull Inn, Stonehouse.
 " 347, St. John Operative, M.H., Rutherglen.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27.

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

MASONIC MEETINGS IN EDINBURGH AND VICINITY.

For the Week ending Saturday, January 27, 1877.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22.

Lodge 349, St. Clair, F.M.H., 98, George-st.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23.

Lodge 151, Defensive Band, Alexandra Hall.
 Chap. 40, Naval and Military, F.M.H., 98, George-st.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24.

Lodge 112, St. John, Royal Hot., Musselburgh.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25.

Lodge 392, Caledonian, F.M.H., 98, George-st.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26.

Lodge 223, Trafalgar, 54, Bernard-street, Leith.

TO COLONIAL MERCHANTS.—A Royal Arch Mason, of considerable experience in a large Commercial House, desires an Engagement as Clerk or Warehouseman in South Africa or the Colonies.—Address, R.A., 3, Ashcroft-road, Mile End-road, Bow.

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