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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

FAITH LODGE (No. 141).—The last regular meeting of this old city lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 27th ult., and was fairly attended. Amongst those present were Bros. M. Davis, W.M.; Mallett, S.W.; Daney, J.W.; Carter, P.M., Treas.; Stuart, P.M., Sec.; Rumball, S.D.; Bye, J.D.; Morrison, A.W.S.; Walls, A.D.C., acting I.G.; and Past Masters E. Hopwood and Thomas. The visitors were Bros. Platt, P.M., P.P.G.D. of Cheshire; and Smith (Panmure). The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the agenda of business, which was not a very full one, was proceeded with. Bros. Jordan, Marchant, and Allan, were raised, and Bro. Smith passed. The two different and impressive ceremonies were carried out by the W.M. with his customary ability. Bro. John Marks, 141, having been unanimously elected as a joining member, and Bro. Tiley appointed to represent the lodge at the Girls' festival in May next. The attention of the lodge was then called to the case of Bro. Seagram, a very old member of the "Faith," who is a candidate for the benefits of R.M.B.I. at the forthcoming election. The case of this brother, which is a very deserving one, was earnestly recommended to the brethren by Bros. Stuart, Hopwood, and others, and ultimately a vote was taken that the committee of the benevolent fund attached to the lodge should take the matter in hand, in order that the distressed brother might receive some immediate assistance. The lodge was shortly afterwards closed, and the brethren adjourned to the last Tuesday in the present month. There was no banquet.

KENNINGTON LODGE (No. 1381).—This lodge held its last meeting for the season at the Surrey Club House, Kennington Oval, on the 3rd inst., when there were present, amongst others, Bros. Higgins, W.M.; H. Reeves, S.W.; T. C. Walls, J.W.; Everett, P.M. 177; I.P.M.; E. Page, P.G.S., P.M., Treas.; Stuart, P.M. 141, Sec.; Kohler, S.D.; Speedy, J.D.; Webb, I.G.; Robinson, D.C.; Stokes, A.W.S.; Past Masters Koch, Gardner, and Drysdale. The visitors were Bros. Palmer, S.W. 177; Downie, Industry, and Lovell, late 1381. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. initiated Mr. Pakeman and passed Bro. Higgins, the ceremonies being well performed. The lodge having been formally closed until the first Tuesday in October next, the brethren adjourned to refreshment. This being an "off night," the toasts were but briefly given. "The Health of the W.M." was proposed by the I.P.M., who congratulated him upon the great success that has thus far attended his occupancy of the chair; and in concluding his remarks, hoped that upon the renewal of their meetings that state of prosperity would continue to the completion of his (the W.M.'s) year of office. The W.M. briefly said that he had entered upon the duties of his position with a certain amount of diffidence, but being subsequently conscious that he should have the hearty support of the whole lodge as well as the assistance and co-operation of the I.P.M. and the rest of the Past Masters, he looked forward with pleasurable anticipation to a very prosperous official year. "The Health of the Initiate" followed. In introducing this toast the W.M. said he hoped that what their newly admitted brother had seen and heard that evening would make a deep impression upon him, and that, moreover, he would always endeavour to act up to the Masonic principles and precepts that had been thus disclosed to him. This toast having been warmly received, the initiate made a short but appropriate reply. The W.M. then, in quick succession, proposed the remaining toasts, viz., "The Visitors," "The Past Masters," "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers." Bros. Palmer and Downie replied for the visiting brethren; Bros. Everett, Koch, and Gardner for the Past Masters; Bro. Stuart for the Treasurer and Secretary; and Bros. Reeves, Kohler, and Webb for the officers. The proceedings were enlivened by the vocal contributions of Bros. Gardner, Walls, Webb, and others.

PLUMSTEAD.—Pattison Lodge, (No. 913).—The monthly meeting of the above lodge, which has the distinguished honour, this year, of having among its large array of Past Masters the present Provincial Grand Junior Warden for Kent, as well as three other Past Provincial Officers, took place on Thursday, the 5th inst., at Bro. Tucker's, the Lord Raglan Tavern, Burrage Road, and was a most successful and happy occasion, calculated

not only to leave many pleasant memories behind it, but at the same time to still increase, if possible, the high prestige that it undoubtedly has among the lodges of the province and district. Bro. W. T. Vincent, W.M., was present, supported by the following officers:—Bros. A. Penfold, I.P.M.; C. Coupland, P.M. and P.G.J.W. for Kent; J. McDougall, P.M.; C. Ellis Fermoer, P.M.; H. Butter, S.W.; T. D. Hayes, J.W.; A. Jessup, Treas.; E. Denton, P.M. and Sec.; W. B. Lloyd, S.D.; Jas. Chapman, J.D.; R. J. Cook, I.G.; C. Cooke, Org.; R. Lester, Tyler. Among the visitors present were W. Weston, W.M. 1536; T. W. Butt, W.M. 700; F. G. Pownall, W.M. 13 and P.M. 1536; S. Goddard, P.M. 700; G. R. Davies, P.M. 13; J. H. Hoyle, 934; G. Kennedy, 1536; J. A. Cahil, 1424; H. Carline, 1536; J. Watkins, 1536; F. J. Sharpe, 1536; T. Forrest, 1293; &c. The lodge having been opened in due form, Bro. G. Lawrence was passed to the Second Degree, and Mr. J. Haslett initiated into Masonry. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren, after supper, reassembled for refreshment, when the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the brethren loyally responding. In proposing "The Health of Lord Holmesdale, P.G.M. for Kent," the W.M., in the course of a warm eulogy upon the merits and character of our distinguished brother, said he was one in whom they had every confidence, and in all matters connected with Freemasonry he was a conspicuous star in its firmament. (Applause.) The next toast was "Bro. Eastes and the rest of the Grand Officers," coupled with the name of Bro. Coupland, who, the W.M. declared, was the pride and ornament of the lodge. (Cheers.) Bro. Coupland in reply said it gave him great pleasure to have his name coupled with so important a toast; he naturally felt proud of being in such an exalted position, which he attributed, not to any merits of his own, but to the influence of his mother lodge, the Pattison, in the province. (Cheers.) He felt sure that if Bro. Eastes were present he would keenly appreciate their truly Masonic reception of his name; he was a hard-working Mason, earnest and indefatigable in the discharge of his duties, and although he had not yet visited the lodge, they would have him soon, and when he did come they would give him a true and hearty welcome. (Cheers.) Bro. P.M. Ellis then, at the request of Bro. Penfold, the I.P.M., proposed in glowing terms "The Health of the W.M." who he said must be gratified to witness the kind feelings entertained towards him by every member of the lodge; not only under him prevailed that harmony that was characteristic of it, but "law and order" became something more than synonyms under his firm but judicious sway. It had often struck him that there must be some peculiar influence at work in the happy choice they made of their W.M.'s, an influence that shed a halo of success round them and their efforts, and which had for many years attended, and still continued to attend, the Pattison Lodge, and every succeeding Master seemed to catch the lustre shed upon his predecessor. In all societies the one thing necessary for success was to have a leader, who must at times stem the tide not only of interest, but of opinion, and by a judicious but kindly courtesy turn that current into courses that would lead gently and surely to the one grand object in view, viz., commutual good and stable prosperity, and in their W.M. they had such a leader. He was a rising man, not only in his present position,—for there he was constantly rising to say something; but better than all he was rising both in Masonry and in their good feeling. Bro. Vincent in reply did not think himself at all equal to his ideal of the Master of a lodge. He thanked Bro. Ellis for his many graceful and kind remarks so elegantly put in proposing his health. He considered it the duty of the Master not only to carry out the duties of the lodge in it, but to act as a sort of arbitrator in all those little differences that at times spring up among the brethren, and so promote continued harmony and good feeling. He was happy to think they were an united and prosperous lodge, and he trusted that when he was relegated to the left of the chair he should have the satisfaction of knowing that in their opinion he had faithfully discharged his duty. "The Health of the Initiate" followed, Bro. Haslett modestly returning thanks. "The Visitors" followed, coupled with the names of Bro. Weston, W.M. of the United Military, and Bro. Butt, W.M. of the Nelson, who returned thanks most appropriately. In proposing "The Health of the Past Masters," the W.M. spoke highly of their good work done, and justly designated them as the "backbone" of the lodge. Bros. Ellis and Penfold eloquently responded. "The Officers" followed, and in putting it the W.M. said there were two officers, who, because they were generally very silent and subdued in lodge were passed over in the general eulogy, but they were nevertheless the most trusted and valuable officers. He referred to Bro. Jessup, their Treas., and Bro. Denton, their Sec.; they had long and faithfully filled those offices and deserved well of the lodge. Bro. Butter, S.W., replied, thanking them for their enthusiastic reception of the toast, and Bro. Hayes, J.W., added his thanks, and then the Tyler's last concluded one of the most enjoyable meetings ever held by this excellent and influential lodge.

ECCLESHILL.—Eccleshill Lodge (No. 1034).—On Friday, the 23rd ult., this prosperous lodge held its annual festival at the Freemasons' Hall. The lodge was called at the early hour of 3 p.m. There was a numerous gathering of brethren, a considerable number of the Past Masters of the lodge, and many visitors, amongst whom were Bros. Chas. Crabtree, W.M. 600; R. T. Harrison, W.M. 1018; Jas. Powell, P.M. 1301; Ed. Nixon, 1108; Wm. Margerison, W.M. 1522; Jos. Hammond, P.M. 1522; S. O. Bailey, P.P.G. Supt. of Wks., W.M. 1648. The lodge being properly opened in the First Degree at 3.30, the ballot was taken for Mr. Wm. Parkinson and Mr. Richard Revell, who were duly elected, and afterwards were each separately and properly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, by the W.M.,

Bro. Jas. Hartop, assisted by Bro. Wm. Beanland, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Wks. The initiations and other business being concluded, the J.W. called the brethren from labour. After a short interval the business of the lodge was resumed, and the W.M. called upon Bro. Wm. Beanland, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Wks., to present Bro. Benjamin Walker Flaxington, P.S.W., for installation as W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. Flaxington having been unanimously elected at the preceding lodge meeting. The Secretary, Bro. J. W. Nicholson, P.P.G.O., having read the ancient charges, to all of which the W.M. elect gave his unqualified assent. A Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. B. W. Flaxington was duly and properly installed in the chair of K.S. Bro. C. Pratt, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Wks., acted as Installing Master, and performed the duties in a masterly and most impressive manner. The ceremony of installation being completed the Worshipful Master thanked the brethren for the honour done to him, and pledged himself to maintain to the utmost of his power, the high position of the lodge. He then proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Bros. Jas. Hartop, P.M., as I.P.M.; John Davis, S.W.; Joseph Hardwick, J.W.; Rev. A. L. Cooper, Chap.; John Procter, P.M., Treas.; Fred. W. Nicholson, P.P.G.O., as Secretary and Organist; James Southworth, S.D.; Fountain Read, J.D.; Richard Thomson, I.G.; Joseph Lightfoot, O.G.; A. Elsworth, A. Wormald, S. Robinson, Jas. Busfield, W. B. Woodhead, Jos. Hainsworth, Stewards; George Ball, P.J.W., as Master of Ceremonies. Bro. W. Pratt, P.M., was unanimously elected to the office of Charity Steward, and in him the charities will have a most efficient advocate. The late Charity Steward (Bro. J. G. Hutchinson, P.M., P.G.S., who has since been appointed Prov. G. Registrar for the province of West Yorks), thanked the brethren for the support they had given him, and expressed his great pleasure at the appointment of Bro. Wm. Pratt, P.M., as his successor. Bro. Pratt, in acknowledging the honour done him, hoped to be able to render a good account of his Stewardship, by keeping the lodge, in respect to its charities, A 1 in the province. After the usual business, alms were collected for poor and distressed Masons, and the lodge was closed in peace and harmony, and according to ancient usage, at 6.25 p.m. The brethren then adjourned to celebrate the festival of St. John the Evangelist. A most recherché banquet was provided, at the close of which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured. Some excellent speeches were made, the visiting P.M.'s speaking in the highest terms of the manner in which the business had been conducted. Songs, recitations, &c., followed in rapid succession, and the whole of the proceedings passed off in the most agreeable manner possible.

WALTHAMSTOW.—Beaconsfield Lodge (No. 1662).—The general meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, the 7th inst., at the Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow. The following brethren were present, Bros. W. T. Christian, W.M.; W. Groom, S.W.; W. B. Brand, J.W.; J. Pinder, P.M.; F. Hallows, Hon. Sec.; C. T. Saunders, S.D.; T. Franklin, J.D.; A. Oldroyd, I.G.; T. Upward, Org.; J. H. Cambridge, W.S.; W. Gilchrist, Tyler. The lodge was opened in the First Degree, and the minutes of the last lodge meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and the following brethren were passed, viz., Bros. Dendy, Carter, Hunt, Delvalle, and Clark. The lodge was then resumed in the First Degree, and the ballot taken for Mr. W. Moffatt, which proved unanimous in his favour, and he being present was initiated into Freemasonry according to ancient rite and custom. The Bye-laws of the lodge were then submitted to the lodge by the W.M., and carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed in due form and adjourned until Saturday, the 5th May. Amongst the members present were Bros. W. G. Hallows, and A. Field. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. Crouch, W.M. 1297; R. Allison, 1602; B. Blimson, 742; J. J. Bere, 1178; E. Brown, 1598; C. Carter, 1607; E. A. Trebeck, 1445; and others.

Mark Masonry.

CROYDON LODGE (No. 198).—An emergency meeting of this Mark Lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on Friday, the 6th inst., when were present W. Bro. George Yaxley, W.M.; Bros. J. K. Pitt, J.W.; W. J. Nicholls, S.O.; R. W. Brown, J.O.; H. A. Pocock, Sec.; Samuel Griffiths, S.D.; W. J. Purvis, J.D.; Geo. Haddock, D.C.; A. Long, I.G.; Wm. Grant, Tyler; the V.W. Bro. Stevens, P.G.J.O.; Bros. Byron Ridge, G. Grossmith, Thos. P. Dixon and visitors, Bros. A. J. Thomas, of the Mallet and Chisel Lodge, and Bro. Sheadd. The lodge was opened by Bro. Stevens as W.M.; Bro. Yaxley acting as P.M.; Bro. Sheadd, S.W.; Bro. Nicholls, M.O.; Bro. Griffiths, S.O.; Bro. Haynes, J.O.; and Bro. Thomas, Org. The minutes of the consecration meeting were read and confirmed, and ballots taken for brethren proposed at the last meeting for advancement, and also for Bro. Wolgemuth, of Fowke, No. 19, as joining members. Bros. Dickin, Ridge, and Grossmith were then admitted and advanced to the honourable degree. Subsequently Bro. Dickin was elected as Treasurer, and the W.M. then appointed and invested Bro. Ridge as Organist, and Bro. Grossmith as W.S. Propositions were taken for two candidates for advancement, to be balloted for at the next meeting, and after some further routine business the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment, separating at an early hour for London and other trains.

The Quarterly Convocation of the Metropolitan College of the Rosierucian Society, will be held at the Royal Masonic Hall, 8, Air-street, Regent-street, on Wednesday next, at half-past 5 precisely.

INSTALLATION OF SIR GEORGE ELLIOT, BART., M.P., AS PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER OF SOUTH WALES (E.D.)

On Wednesday, 4th April, a large and influential gathering of Freemasons took place at Aberdare, under the banner of St. David's Lodge, on the occasion of the installation of Sir George Elliot as R.W.P.G.M. for E.D. of South Wales. The ceremony took place in the Temperance Hall, which was fitted up as a lodge-room. At one end, upon the platform, which was draped with crimson and purple cloth, fringed with gold, was placed the throne, enriched by a zone of imitation marble, surmounted by a crown. Banners and bannerets were tastefully arranged at various points, and the open spaces of the platform at each end were filled with flowering plants and shrubs from the floor nearly to the ceiling. Imitation marble pillars graced the walls all round the interior, and the gallery was covered with crimson drapery. The windows were all draped with blue and chocolate-coloured drapery, looped up with orange-coloured rosettes, the whole having a very striking effect. Soon after one o'clock the brethren assembled in large numbers, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, as the rain came down in torrents.

At 1.30 Prov. Grand Lodge was opened by Bro. Æneas McIntyre, Q.C., Grand Registrar, supported by Col. Burdett, P.G.M. of Middlesex, as D.P.G.M.; J. B. Monckton, President of Board of General Purposes; J. C. Parkinson, J.P., P.G.D.; and Thos. Fenn, P.G.D., who acted as Director of Ceremonies.

An announcement was then made that the D.P.G.M. of Monmouthshire, with over twenty of his P.G. Officers, was at the door waiting admission.

Capt. S. Geo. Homfray was then introduced by Bro. Fenn, and took his seat on the dais, and was saluted according to ancient custom.

The warrant of installation was then read.

A deputation, consisting of P.M.'s of the province, was then formed to wait upon the P.G.M. elect.

Sir George Elliot was then introduced, and after being invested and installed, was saluted. He then appointed the following brethren as his officers:—

J. E. Price	Prov. G.S.W.
John Rogers	Prov. G.J.W.
Rev. J. W. Jones	Prov. G. Chap.
Rev. W. Watkins	Prov. G. Chap.
J. Jones Hewson	Prov. G. Reg.
Evan Jones	Prov. G. Sec.
T. G. Glass	Prov. G.S.D.
D. Hopkins	Prov. G.J.D.
J. R. Robinson	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
D. Watson	Prov. G.D.C.
W. P. Garrett	Prov. G.A.G.D.C.
R. Webb	Prov. G.S.B.
A. S. Streeve	Prov. G.O.
G. H. White	Prov. G. Purst.
Geo. Bullerwell	Prov. G. Tyler.
G. H. Noel, J. Williams, H. Briscoe, W. Dobbs, W. T. Canton, and W. Young	Prov. G. Stewards.

Contributions were then voted for Masonic charities, and cordial votes of thanks accorded to Bro. McIntyre for the able manner in which he had performed the installation; Bros. Col. Burdett and J. B. Monckton for their presence, and to Bro. Fenn for the ability displayed by him in conducting the ceremony.

Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed by Bro. Sir George Elliot, and the brethren proceeded to St. Elvan's Church, where an excellent sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. J. W. Jones, P.G. Chap.

Amongst the numerous brethren present, numbering over 400, we noticed Bros. Capt. S. G. Homfray, Past A. G.D.C. and D.P.G.M. Monmouthshire; C. W. Newmarch, D.P.G.M. Gloucestershire; Rev. W. L. Stradling; T. Marsden; W. B. Broad, P.G.O. Monmouthshire; C. Olliver, P.G.W. Monmouthshire; R. C. Chambers, P.G.W. Monmouthshire; W. Williams, P.G.S.D. Monmouthshire; W. Watkins, P.G.S. Wks. Monmouthshire; J. Piggford; J. Richards; G. Phillips; W. Brown, of Homfray Lodge; W. H. Rees, J. T. Davis, J. Bidder, J. Westren, of Neath Lodge; W. D. Preswell, of Pleiades Lodge, Devon; S. Hern, S. Weichert, C. Manders, J. Newton, J. Woodman, T. Haynes, of Bute Lodge, Cardiff; C. Miles, Neyland, Sladen, Rosser, White, Livingston, Williams, Mitchell, Andrews, Perrin, Roberts, Davis, D. C. Jones-Clare, of Caradoc Lodge, Swansea; and Bro. F. Binckes, Secretary Boys' School.

Banquet was held in the Market Place, which had been tastefully decorated and fitted up for the occasion. The P.G.M. presided.

Dinner being over, the P.G.M. gave "The Queen and the Craft," which was heartily responded to. He then proposed "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," and suggested that it should be given with "three times three." The next toast, "The Pro G.M., D.P.G.M., and G. Officers" was coupled with the names of Bro. Monckton, McIntyre, and Fenn.

Bro. J. B. Monckton, in response, said he esteemed it a distinguished honour to reply to this toast, for it was a pleasure to represent one's highly esteemed colleagues—officers of the Grand Lodge—even for a few moments. In their names he begged cordially and briefly to respond to the kind remarks of the Provincial Grand Master. But he was compelled to allude to a further and greater pleasure; he alluded to the privilege of being present in the eastern division of South Wales on this most interesting and most auspicious occasion. There were many present older in Masonry than himself, and although his connection dated many years ago, he could not remember having attended a meeting which had given him greater Masonic pleasure and satisfaction than that of to-day. These might appear somewhat formal words, but it was

not because this was a Provincial Grand Lodge met, to do ordinary provincial work, nor because the lodge was gathered together on an exceptional occasion, installing the new Grand Master, but it was because there was such devoted loyalty to the man whom they rejoiced to see placed over them that induced him to pronounce this an extraordinary occasion. They who had come from the metropolis had been more and more astonished as the day had gone on, and he would tell them frankly that when he was invited to be present at this installation, he thought he was coming to a new country place called Aberdare, and that they would have to get on as best they could. He had no conception when he arrived at the little place called Aberdare that he was going to see such splendid and business-like preparations as were witnessed in the two buildings that day. (Cheers.) And when he heard it whispered that a great deal of the good taste displayed was to be attributed to a young Mason, and a member of the youngest lodge in the province, he affirmed that there must be a great deal in Masonry that could evoke such enthusiasm from a young brother; but that good taste of the young brother would have gone for little without kindly fraternal hands to assist. (Cheers.) It would have been most ungracious to come here and enjoy the hospitality and Masonic pleasures of the day if he failed in the names of those afar off to acknowledge the manner in which they had received the toast of the Grand Officers. He, in conclusion, wished prosperity to all present. (Cheers.)

Bro. McIntyre then said the Craft looked with the greatest affection upon their Queen, as well as upon His Royal Highness the Prince who took his chief title from the principality in which they were then assembled, as the chief ruler of the Craft. The Prince of Wales reflected credit upon Freemasonry throughout the whole of England, and particularly in Wales whose title he bore. But when they began to look nearer home, when they found a gentleman whom they all knew personally presiding over Freemasonry amongst those with whom he also was personally acquainted, and among whom he laboured, as Sir George Elliot did, they could not but look upon him with an intensified fraternal feeling as their ruler, and hail him as such with all the warmth of feeling and loyalty at their command. He felt it to be a high honour to propose, as he now did, "The Health of Sir George Elliot" and a very great pleasure to wish him long life and prosperity. (Cheers.) He could not desire to see Sir George Elliot more happily circumstanced than he was then, surrounded by neighbours and friends, nor could he doubt but that he would be at all times as warmly supported, because he would always be found maintaining their Masonic rights and privileges, seeking to retain their regard, and always desirous of promoting good feeling amongst them. (Cheers.) Every man present knew Sir George, and had long known him, and he was quite sure that as years rolled on they would come to regard him as their Masonic ruler with even more affection in the future than they had done in the past, for they would find him a man whose kindness of heart and true Masonic feeling would animate every brother of every lodge in the province, in the exercise of those very qualities which he possessed in so eminent a degree. He proposed with much pleasure "Health and Long Life to the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master." (Loud cheers.) The toast was drunk with "three times three."

The Provincial G.M., who was warmly received, said that he spoke the feelings of his heart when he declared how proud he felt at hearing his name mentioned so kindly and received so warmly as had then been the case. It was surely from no personal excellence on his part, at least, he was not able to discover it himself if it were so. It seemed to him that there must be some secret worth about him which had brought about this great result, and all he could say was, that he was ignorant of it. Masonry had its secrets to the outer world, and those who were privileged to exercise the rights of brotherhood, saw in the system something which they could not explain, but which brought about results of which the outer world knew nothing. Whether this arose from its moral, social, or religious aspect, he could not tell, but there the something was amongst them which drew them together in the bonds of brotherhood, and friendly intercourse, and he supposed he must look to that something for an explanation of the very kindly way in which he had been received by them. If it were possible for the world to be made acquainted with all they themselves knew and felt, he thought the great acquisition to the Craft which had characterised it of late years, would be even still greater, and the momentum which it had received be still further accelerated. Speaking of himself, if he could be at any time a medium of Masonic strength between a brother and a brother, or between a province and a province, he should esteem it a pleasure to exercise his functions in that behalf, and could only say that throughout his Masonic life he should deem it his duty to further their interests to the fullest extent of his ability. He said this not in a moment of festivity, nor was it a feeling of a common moment only. It arose from a desire to exercise towards Masonry a solid sentiment of fidelity and enduring usefulness at all times, and as long as his Masonic life lasted. (Loud cheers.)

The P.G.M. then proposed "The Health of the Installing Master, Bro. McIntyre," which was drunk with three times three.

Bro. McIntyre responded to the toast, and thanked them heartily for the kindness they had shown towards him since his advent into South Wales. He had not been long amongst them, but he had made more friends during that short time than he could ever have been made aware of. He invited those who were eligible to attend Grand Lodge to visit them in London, and to see if they would not be received with befitting hospitality. He assured them that this would be the case. He hoped they would visit Grand Lodge often, and would thus help, by giving them in

London an insight of what Masonry was in the provinces, to further the interest of Freemasonry and the welfare of mankind.

Bro. J. C. Parkinson said: As a P.M. of the Aberdare Lodge, and as one who is connected with the adjacent Province of Monmouthshire by the closest ties of friendship and of material interest, I have peculiar pleasure in proposing the toast of "Our Visiting Brethren," and in asking you to pay special honour to the other Provincial Grand Lodges here represented. The St. David's Lodge of Aberdare deems it a high honour that this Provincial Grand Lodge should have been held under its banner, and I am only expressing the feeling of its members, and of the Eastern Division of South Wales generally, when I say that we shall always refer with pride to the number of visiting brethren who have assembled, many of them from long distances, to testify their interest in the occasion. And as no innocent pleasure is ever entirely lost, but abides to enrich the memory and sweeten reflection, so the pleasant fruits of this meeting will remain with us, when this day shall become historical, and when South Wales Masons will date incidents as they happened before or after this great fraternal gathering at Aberdare. We trace in our mind's eye our visitors to their homes. We see them disinterestedly arranging their private concerns, perhaps for weeks beforehand, so as to enable them to be with us to-day; and we all know from personal experience of the struggles, of the turmoils, and the exactions of this work-a-day world, how much may be involved in keeping an engagement, the end and aim of which is to serve no interest, but to pay a semi-public homage to abstract principles, for I place the vast attendance to-day upon no lower ground. There has been no doubt a generous desire to pay honour to the new Provincial Grand Master on his formally assuming the dignities and responsibilities of his high position; but beyond and above this has been the resolve of every man present to testify his deep attachment to the Order, and his determination to uphold it at all times and in every practical way; for Freemasonry, apart from its mysteries and solemn rites, which we all value so highly, is a voluntary association, wherein men are pledged solemnly to principles which are clearly defined. A Mason's first obligation is absolute obedience to law, and throughout our elaborate symbolic system the vital truths of religion, and the duties of toleration and of charity, as well as those stringent rules which are at the foundation of social order, are enforced with great and increasing solemnity, and the discipline of the Craft might be compared not inaptly to the institutions which form nations, make themselves self-contained and endow them with lasting power. Our form of Masonic government, our zealously guarded rights, our absolute obedience to our constitutional head and the wise limitations of his power, our reverence for law, our perfect system of representation, our respect for tradition, our free exercise of private judgment, and our enlightened conservatism, all tend to foster a love for good government, and are brought home to the mind and made familiar by illustration to every working Mason. These are the principles our visitors represent and share, and in the name of which we bid them hearty welcome. There are other and equally important sides to Freemasonry upon which I have not touched. Of its beneficent and far-reaching charity we know our neighbours and friends to be most efficient exponents; and for that we thank them, satisfied that they reap their reward not merely in the successful, but not ungenerous rivalry, but in the highest sense of duty performed and obligation discharged. I give you "The Visitors," coupling with the toast the name of Col. Francis Burdett, P.G.M. of Middlesex, and Capt. Geo. Homfray, D.P.G.M. of Monmouthshire.

Bro. Burdett briefly responded to the toast. He said that Sir George Elliot had held office as his deputy for Middlesex, and he received Sir George's resignation with great regret. He could assure them that no member of the province was a greater lover of Masonry, or had the Craft more at heart, than Sir George, and the more they knew of him the more they would like him. (Cheers.)

Bro. Capt. George Homfray thanked them sincerely for the kind reception which they had given him, and also thanked his Provincial Grand Officers for mustering in such force as they had done that day. Although Sir George had been installed at Aberdare, they did not forget that he had a large stake in the county of Monmouth, and it had been the wish, this being so, that as many as possible should attend the installation from his province. He assured Sir George that they would always be found co-operating in every way to further the cause they all had in hand. He thanked Bro. Parkinson for the kind way in which he had spoken of him, and for the readiness with which he at all times held out the right hand of fellowship to him, and for the assistance he had given him whenever he desired it.

"The Health of Bro. Fenn" was proposed and responded to, and several other toasts were proposed and duly responded to, amongst them being that of "The Masonic Charities," to which Bro. Binckes, Secretary to the Boys' School, responded in his usual forcible manner. A correspondent writes:—There are few social positions in England which are more indicative of high standing than that of Provincial Grand Master of the Fraternity of Freemasons. From the time, now more than sixty years ago, when the Duke of Sussex, as the chief of one portion of the Fraternity in England, and the Duke of Athol, as representative of the other branch, agreed to a solemn act of union, and the Craft worked henceforth under one constitution, its position of trust and dignity have been filled by men of the highest station. Freemasonry has been the special care of the reigning family. Their late Royal Highnesses George IV. (when Prince Regent), the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of York, the Duke of Kent, and the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV., all filled high

positions in the Craft, and in our day, under his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, there has been no diminution in the social prestige of the Provincial Grand Masters of England. A mere glance at the present lists of Provincial Grand Masters sufficiently proves it. Lord Suffield, K.C.B., who is the last appointed, was installed Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk in April, 1876, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales himself performing the ceremony. The next junior Provincial Grand Master is His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, who was installed Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire in December, 1875. So that it will be easily understood that the youngest Provincial Grand Master to-day, Sir George Elliot, his good reason to be satisfied with the position which has two immediate predecessors fill, and running rapidly over the names of the Provincial Grand Masters of England, and selecting almost at random, we find Sir Watkin Wynn, Bart., M.P., for North Wales, the Lord Leigh for Warwickshire, the Lord Methuen for Wiltshire, the Lord Sherborne for Gloucestershire, the Marquess of Hartington for Derbyshire, the Viscount Holmesdale for Kent, the Lord Waveney for Suffolk, the Duke of St. Albans for Lincolnshire, the Duke of Manchester for Northamptonshire, the Earl of Limerick for Bristol, the Earl of Beective, M.P., for Cumberland and Westmoreland, the Lord Pelham, M.P., for Sussex, the Earl of Carnarvon for Somersetshire, the Earl Percy, M.P., for Northumberland, the Earl of Shrewsbury for Staffordshire, the Earl of Hardwicke for Cambridgeshire, the Lord Skelmersdale for Lancashire (W. Division), the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe for Cornwall, the Earl Ferrers for Leicestershire and Rutland, the Earl of Zetland for Yorkshire (N. and E. Riding). Sir George Elliot's name is now added to this illustrious list, and it will be readily understood that the somewhat unusual delay in filling up this appointment on the death of the late Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Theodore Mansel Talbot, heir to one of the oldest families in Great Britain, has been due to a natural anxiety on the part of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to select the fittest man for the responsibility.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WARWICKSHIRE.

By command of Lord Leigh, the Provincial Grand Master, a Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Leamington on the 3rd inst. The officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge present were the Right Hon. and Right Worshipful Bro. Lord Leigh, P.G.M.; W. Bro. Lieut-Colonel Machen, D.P.G.M.; Bros. J. T. Collins, P.G.T.; Geo. Beech, P.G. Sec.; John Vaughan and E. Worrall, P.G.W.'s; Rev. T. N. Rigby, P.G. Chap.; S. C. Cowan, P.G.R.; C. B. James, P.G.S.D.; J. Gilbert, P.G.J.D.; W. Hammond, P.G.S. of Works; R. Dawson, P.G.D.C.; W. Manton, P.G.S.B.; A. J. Sutton, P.G. Org.; W. H. Haseler, P.G.P.; J. Mavius, P.G.A.P.; J. F. Kekwick, P.G.S.; J. Loverock, P.G.S.; G. V. Hafford, P.G.S.; J. Pursall, P.P.G.W.; C. Lee, P.P.G.W.; Captain Salt, P.P.G.W.; T. Howkins, P.P.G.C.D. There was a large attendance of P.G. officers and of visitors not members of the P.G. Lodge.

The Guy's Lodge, No. 395, was first opened, and the Right Worshipful the Prov. G.M. and his officers were then received.

After the calling of roll, the minutes of the P.G. Lodge, held at the Elkington Lodge, No. 1016, Birmingham, &c., were confirmed.

The report of the Benevolent and Annuity Fund Committee was next received, and the committee's recommendations of applicants for relief were considered.

A collection was then made in aid of the building fund of the new church, and the sum of £52 was collected.

The lodge was then adjourned, and the brethren, headed by the Militia band, marched in procession to the site of St. John's Church, the foundation-stone of which was laid, with Masonic rites, by the Prov. G. Master.

Although the rain was pouring in torrents, a large number of persons witnessed the procession and ceremony.

When completed, the church will accommodate about 1000 persons on the ground floor, the internal dimensions being 152 feet in length and 57 feet in breadth, with a height of 55 feet to the apex. It is being built with the red bricks of the neighbourhood, having windows and other dressings of Bath stone. The style is of very plain early English character, with lancet windows, having nave and chancel, with north and south aisles, and vestries for the clergy and choir. Grants have been made by the Incorporated and Diocesan Societies, but at the present time about £800 is required in order to complete the nave and aisles, which it is hoped will be forthcoming, that this part of the church may be at once completed for use, as the temporary church is altogether insufficient. The architect is Bro. John Cundall, P.M., on whom the plans reflect great credit, and the builder Mr. John Fell, of Leamington.

After the Chaplain and brethren had alternately recited a psalm, the P.G. Master announced the purpose for which they had assembled.

The P.G. Secretary (Bro. Geo. Beech) read a copy of the inscription placed in a phial and deposited with the coins of the realm in a cavity of the stone.

The inscription was as follows:—"Provincial Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Warwickshire. At a special meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held at the Guy's Lodge, Leamington, on Tuesday, the 3rd April, in the 41st year of the reign of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, this, the foundation stone of St. John's Church, Leamington, was laid in solemn form and according to ancient usage by the Right

Honourable William Henry Lord Leigh, Lord-Lieutenant, and Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire; assisted by the Worshipful Brother Colonel Machen, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire; the Worshipful Brother John Vaughan, Prov. Senior Grand Warden; the Worshipful Brother Edmund Worrall, Prov. Junior Grand Warden; Brother the Rev. F. M. Beaumont, Brother the Rev. T. N. Rigby, P. Grand Chaplains; J. T. Collins, P.G. Treasurer; George Beech, Provincial Grand Secretary; and in the presence of a numerous body of P. Grand Officers, Past P. Grand Officers, and Brethren of the Province of Warwickshire."

The stone having been lowered, the architect presented to the P.G. Master a splendid trowel, for which his lordship tendered his warmest thanks to Mr. Cundall.

The P.G. Master then addressed the spectators as follows:—"Men, women, and children here assembled to-day to behold this ceremony, know all of you that we are lawful Masons, true and faithful to the laws of our country, and established of old with peace and honour in most countries to do good to our brethren, to erect magnificent structures, and to fear God, the Great Architect of the Universe. We have amongst us, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which cannot be divulged, but these secrets are lawful and honourable, and not repugnant to the laws of God or man. They were entrusted in peace and honour to Masons of ancient times, and have been faithfully transmitted to us, and it is our duty to convey them unimpaired to the latest posterity. Unless our Craft were good, and our calling honourable, we should not have lasted for so many centuries, nor should we have been honoured with the patronage of so many illustrious men in all ages, who have ever shown themselves ready to promote our interests and to defend us against all adversaries. We are assembled here to-day in the presence of you all to assist in laying in ancient form the foundation-stone of this church, which we pray Him to prosper for the promotion of godliness, harmony, and brotherly love, till time shall be no more.

After other formalities had been observed, the P.G. Master gave the stone three knocks with a mallet, and declared it properly laid in accordance with the ancient rules of architecture.

The P.G. Master then placed grains of wheat upon the stone as emblems of plenty; poured wine and oil as emblems respectively of cheerfulness and joy, and prosperity and happiness; and sprinkled salt on the stone as the emblem of wisdom, fidelity, and perpetuity.

The Prov. G. Chaplain offered a short prayer.

Lord Leigh, having laid the stone, then addressed the assembly. He said he had now had the great pleasure and the privilege of laying the foundation-stone, in that important town, of a church, which he prayed the Great Architect of the Universe might prove of inestimable benefit to the district. When he had the honour of being asked to lay that foundation-stone he felt great hesitation in doing so, as he felt that a lady who lived in the district, and who was sitting on his right, Mrs. M. Wise, should do so. It was not until he was assured that neither that excellent lady nor any member of her family would undertake the duty, that he consented to lay the stone, with the assistance of the brethren of their ancient Craft in that province. It was well known and universally allowed, that the old travelling Freemasons in ancient times had erected many of the most beautiful temples of the world. Although Masons of this day could not claim to be, like their brethren of old, practical Masons, still they were as ready as their predecessors to promote any good work that might be for the benefit of their fellow-creatures. If it was necessary to prove that statement he might mention that that was the eighth memorable occasion on which the old and well-worn mallet which he held in his hand had been used. It was the property of the Guy's Cliff Lodge of Freemasons in that town, and, as the inscription would show, it was used in 1832 by the lamented Lord Charles Percy in laying the foundation-stone of the Warneford Hospital. In 1837 the late Bishop of Worcester laid with it the foundation-stone of Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham. In 1840 it was used by a predecessor of his own in the office which he had the honour to hold—Lord Howe—in laying the foundation stone of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. He (Lord Leigh), as P.G.M. of the province since 1856, had five times used that mallet in connection with occasions similar to the present. He congratulated the district of South Leamington on the commencement of the present work. In reference to the many friends who had so nobly assisted the movement, he must especially mention Mrs. Matthew Wise, who had given £1000 towards it. Her son, the Rev. W. G. Wise, had promised £500. Mrs. W. Hitchman, widow of the lamented Dr. Hitchman, had given the site of the church and £100. Mr. F. Manning, of Leamington, had also given £500; and Mr. and Mrs. Watson £300. He hoped that the rich and important town of Leamington would speedily raise the required sum of £1000, so that in the autumn the Bishop might consecrate the church.

The Rev. T. E. Franklyn, the minister of the district, tendered to Lord Leigh, in the name of the committee, their thanks for his kindness in laying the stone, and their thanks to the brethren of the province for their handsome donation of fifty guineas.

The Rev. T. N. Rigby, P.G. Chaplain, then delivered the following address:—

Right Hon. and Right Worshipful Sir, Brother Wardens, and Brethren,—Although I am fully conscious of my inability to do justice to the object for which we are met together, yet I must express the gratification I experience in giving an address on this occasion, and I am sure I speak the sentiments of the brethren present when I say that it is with peculiar pleasure that we are here assembled in answer to your summons, Right Worshipful Sir, to assist you in laying the foundation stone of a build-

ing—a building hereafter to be dedicated to the service of our God. At all times we as Masons are ready—yea, esteem it a privilege, to aid in any good work, but more especially in the erection of a temple for the worship of Him in the advancement of whose glory every man, but more so every Mason, should take a deep concern; for we know that He who inhabiteth eternity and dwelleth not in temples made with hands is yet pleased with the devotions of His people. Constituted as man is, his duties to his Creator must be expressed by sensible acts, and if we travel back to earlier times we shall find Noah and the patriarchs building altars and offering sacrifices to Him. Coming down the stream of time, we find David purposing to erect a temple for the worship of Jehovah, and although he was not permitted to carry out his heart's desire, yet the same was approved of by God. "Thou didst well that it was within thine heart to build." That high honour was left to Solomon, his son, as a legacy, and he, our Proto Grand Master, carried out the work with a magnificence and a grandeur that exceeded, perhaps, even what his father David had he lived to see it could have pictured. 'Tis true the records of the laying the foundation-stone of that temple have not been handed down to us. We read of its master-workman and of craftsmen; we read of the dedication thereof, with its splendid ceremonial and costly offerings; we read of its marvellous erection, during which

No hammer fell, no ponderous axes rung—

Like some tall palm, the mystic fabric spring—
Majestic silence.

And now, Right Worshipful Sir, you have just declared the foundation-stone of this church to have been properly laid according to the plumb, the level, and the square, in the erection of which the hammer will fall and the ponderous axe will ring, and we would hope, though not amid majestic silence, the sacred fabric will also be successfully completed. It will not, of course, approach many, if one, of those grand and wonderful piles reared in former days by the skill and aid of those members of our ancient and honourable Craft. It will stand, by way of example, at a very, very remote distance indeed in architectural beauty and structural grandeur from that majestic edifice—one of the glories of our land—St. Paul's Cathedral, the fruit of the brain and the masterpiece of the creative genius of one of our Craft, Sir C. Wren—a large-hearted and unselfish brother, in whose epitaph is said, "*Qui vivit bono publico*," and who has no other monument to his memory than a small tablet on the side of the window of the crypt, on which is inscribed, "*Si monumentum queris, circumspice*." But still the house will not be without its beauty and its glory, consecrated as it will be to the hallowed services of our common Father. I will not now, Right Worshipful Sir, enter into any laudation of Masonry. In this county of Warwickshire, where it has borne such fruit, surely that were unnecessary. No words of mine—no words of any man—could add to its lustre, nor could the calumination of any man detract therefrom. It is based on principles which are immortal—immortal because Divine. But I trust I am not in error in making a practical use of those Masonic emblems which have already been referred to in this ceremony. As the building is being raised each stone must obey the plumb-line, the level, and the square, so that all contribute, the one with the other, to the stability of the common structure. So may we hope that the living stones hereafter to be built up within these walls as a spiritual temple to God, by dedication to His service, may answer in all respects to the teaching which these our Masonic emblems so forcibly suggest. May the emblem of corn remind them of the plenteous blessing that comes from Him who is the author and giver of all good things; may the emblem of wine, that maketh glad the heart of man, remind them how much there is of refreshing cheerfulness and joy in squaring their lives according to God's established rule; may the emblem of oil remind them that prosperity and happiness can only be secured by a cultivation of peace and brotherly love, so beautifully imaged in the figure of the oil which flowed down from Aaron's beard, even to the edge of his clothing; May the emblem of salt remind them of that higher wisdom such as that with which our Proto Grand-Master was endued, and which comes only from God, of fidelity to their promises of obedience made, and of perpetuity, in holding fast that which they have that no man take their crown. But what, Right Worshipful Sir, is the foundation upon which this spiritual building is to rest? I unhesitatingly say it is our Great Light—the Book of the Law of God. That alone is the plumb-line by which men are to adjust their actions so that they walk uprightly. That alone is the level that will enable men to regard themselves as equal in the sight of God, and rich and poor to worship together as his common offspring. That alone is the square by which the teaching in that temple should be tried and adjusted, bringing it at all times to the standard of the law and the testimony. And sure I am, Right Worshipful Sir, that if this spiritual work which I have cursorily touched upon, so far as the services of this earthly temple are concerned, be thus carried out, then those who have partaken thereof will see the topstone crowning their faith, and love, and hope, shining under the bright beams of a never-setting sun in another—that upper temple, not made with hands, but glorious in the heavens; and with harps tuned to the most perfect melody will sing—Grace, grace, unto it.

Other formalities having been observed, the procession was re-formed, and the P.G. Lodge was resumed and closed in due course.

In the evening the brethren dined at the Crown Hotel.

It is stated that the Emperor of Russia will not go to Ems this year to take the water as usual. This decision is said to be "unconnected with pending political questions, and adopted solely on medical advice." His Majesty is in excellent health.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

[We take this from the *Bradford Observer*, kindly forwarded to us by Bro. H. Smith, P.G.S. for West Yorkshire.]

On Wednesday, 4th inst., the annual meeting of the West Yorkshire Freemasons was held at the Church Institute, Bradford, under the banner of the Pentalpha Lodge, No. 974, when about 200 brethren of the province assembled. The customary salutations having been heartily accorded to the Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, Sir H. Edwards, Bart., and to the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. T. W. Tew.

The Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, in reply, said: Brethren of West Yorkshire, we have assembled by the generous invitation of the Rev. R. W. Loosemore, W.M., and the officers and members of the Pentalpha Lodge, No. 974, for our annual meeting, in the centre of one of the greatest industries of the North of England. Amongst the marvellous towns of the West Riding of Yorkshire Bradford has a remarkable commercial history as interesting as either that of Sheffield, Leeds, Batley, or Dewsbury. Certainly with these the town in which we meet to-day has had a development equally rapid, and in a very brief period of time its inhabitants have done as much as those of any other town in the province to increase the wealth of the nation. In 1811 Bradford had a population of 7767, in 1871 of 146,000, and this population has unquestionably conferred a boon even upon the world at large. Development has succeeded to development; improvement has been made upon improvement, until to-day its commercial importance and magnificence are concurrent with the gigantic prosperity of its trade and the tastes of the times. Let us hope that the present suspension of the intense activity of its pursuits is due not to a diplomatic postponement of painful eventualities in the East, but to the simple awaiting the commencement of a settled basis of affairs, and that Bradford will start again on a course of development as brilliant in the future as in the past (applause). As is recorded in its history since 1811, Freemasonry in Bradford has developed with its commercial developments. Under two previous Chairmen of our Charity Committee—Bro. Manoah Rhodes and Bro. Thomas Hill, names brilliant in Yorkshire Freemasonry (applause)—a policy of Masonic prosperity and success has been built up, which has placed the Freemasonry of West Yorkshire on an influential footing, unsurpassed by any other province in the Grand Lodge of England. Pentalpha Lodge is an offspring of the famous Lodge of Hope, No. 302, and it has striven to emulate in charitable deeds the efforts of its munificent parent. The Pentalpha was established in 1863; in 1864 it was consecrated by Bro. Bentley Shaw, and has now sixty active members. Since its establishment up to this day it has liberally contributed to our charities. We thank Pentalpha for this day's invitation, for its support of our institutions, and Bradford for its fraternal welcome accorded to the Provincial Grand Lodge. Called myself by our Royal Grand Master to the government of this great province, I have now to observe that this day's ceremonial closes another year of my occupancy of this chair, and the commencement of another period of its tenancy. Therefore, in accordance with a practice of my illustrious predecessors, I shall trespass upon your attention with some comments upon the more prominent features of interest to the Craft in this province during the past year. Without flattery to the province, I may venture to say this, perhaps, is the only province in England containing a like number of lodges—sixty-three—of which it could be said that every lodge has made its annual returns for the past year, and thus enables me to put before you its position in the Craft. The income from quarterly fees has been £357 6s. 6d., and we have a balance in hand of £921 2s. 3d. to the credit of next year. But the balance for charitable purposes will be at least six times the amount. I shall be able to say more on that subject at our July meeting. The number of active members returned for this province is 3065. During the past year the lodges have enrolled 250 new members. Fifty-three members have died, and in some of them valuable charitable votes have lapsed, thus increasing the difficulties of the Charity Committee with regard to voting powers. Let me earnestly impress upon Worshipful Masters and Treasurers the importance that subscriptions should be applied for and paid at the commencement of each year instead of at the end of the year, and thus the list of arrears would probably be reduced to insignificant proportions, and many excellent but negligent brethren would be retained on the muster-roll of this province. I have made a written communication to Lord Carnarvon that one of the Masonic lifeboats (in commemoration of the Prince of Wales's safe return from India) should be placed on the Yorkshire coast, and have pressed the special claim of Robin Hood's Bay upon the attention of his lordship, and am glad to inform this Provincial Grand Lodge that, assisted by the co-operation of North and East Yorkshire, the Pro Grand Master has said the application shall have the fullest consideration of himself and the committee (applause). I cannot allow the retiring Provincial Grand Officers to vacate their chairs without expressing to them the obligations of the province for their zealous and able services. To the Mayor of Wakefield and to the Provincial Grand Junior Warden my sentiments towards them are those of unbounded gratitude for the time and ability they devoted to the performance of their executive responsibilities. In the nomination of officers to fill their places I feel myself confronted with the grave and difficult task of selection of a few from a band of brethren of exalted merit, and to entrust these few new officers with the practical administration of the government of this province for the ensuing twelve months, viz., to carry out the duties of a well-organised Provincial Grand Lodge, whose ruling and guiding principles alone are framed and directed on the written as well

as the unwritten laws of the Craft, and which all thoughtful and patriotic Provincial Grand Officers regard as of supreme importance. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the discrimination of this selection, I feel sure you will one and all recognise the justice of the claims of the brethren it is my duty to appoint to office, and that you will give them loyal and hearty Masonic support, and obey faithfully our Prov. Grand Lodge bye-laws, accepting my prerogative and resting your approval in accordance with my own upon the sure and solid foundation of that beneficent self-government the superstructure of which has been built up by the letter and spirit of fidelity to the Book of Constitutions. (Hear, hear.) I call, therefore, upon the old and new officers to unite with the brethren in unselfish efforts to secure, as heretofore, to our province, under the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe, the faithful development of justice, piety, and virtue, and the practice of a liberal charity, the principles upon which Freemasonry is founded, that we may exhibit to the outside world that amongst us we fervently decree:—"That all things may be ordered and settled upon the best and surest foundation; that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established amongst us for all generations." (Loud applause.)

After the usual preliminary routine business had been gone through, the officers for the ensuing year were invested as follow:—

I. Booth, 61	Prov. S.G.W.
J. Hurst, jun., 337	Prov. J.G.W.
Rev. R. Oldfield, 275	Prov. G. Chap.
Rev. H. J. Day, 1513	Prov. G. Chap.
R. I. Critchley, 208	Prov. G. Treas.
J. G. Hutchinson, 1034	Prov. G. Reg.
H. Smith, 387	Prov. G. Sec.
J. F. Moss, 296	Prov. S.G.D.
S. Summerscales, 205	Prov. J.G.D.
J. Simpson, 910	Prov. G.S. of W.
T. Collinson, 139	Prov. G.D.C.
George Haigh, 149	Prov. G.A.D.C.
E. Walshaw, 448	Prov. G.S.B.
W. Glover, 1221	Prov. G. Org.
W. Schofield, 290	Prov. G. Purs.
T. E. Yates, 750	Prov. G. A. Purs.
J. C. Malcolm, 304; T. Ruddock, 276; C. D. Mason, 303; A. H. Kirk, 208; T. M. Tindall, 1239; W. B. Alderson, 498	Prov. G. Stwds.
Lee, 290	Prov. G. Tyler
J. Sneed, 208	Prov. G.A. Tyler

The report of the Charity Committee was then read and received, and the lodge was closed.

The July meeting will be held at Sheffield, and will take part in opening the new Masonic Hall there.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The General Committee of subscribers to the Masonic Boys' School met on Saturday last, in the Board-room, Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Benj. Head in the chair. Among the other brethren who attended were Bros. Geo. Murray, A. H. Lilley, S. Rosenthal, John Boyd, Herbert Dicketts, W. A. Barrett, John W. Dennison, Frederic Davison, C. F. Matier, Geo. Angold, H. Browse, G. M. E. Snow, A. Durrant, Capt. N. G. Phillips, Col. J. Somerville-Burney, James Booker, Hyde Pullen, H. Massey (*Freemason*), Jesse Turner, Robt. B. Webster, W. F. C. Moutrie, D. Clarke, Rev. Dr. Morris (Head Master), J. G. Chancellor, Charles Horsley, W. Pass, Geo. J. Palmer, E. J. McIntyre, Grand Registrar; Henry W. Hunt, F. Adlard, and F. Binckes (Secretary).

After the reading of the various minutes, some outfits were granted to boys who after leaving the School had obtained situations. The report of the head master of the School was read to the brethren, and from it the information was given that twenty-eight boys from the School attended the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations, and out of this number only two failed. Fourteen passed with honours, and twelve obtained certificates. This is the greatest success that has ever attended the examinations of boys from this Institution, and the brethren expressed their great pleasure at the result.

Bro. Binckes then read the following report of the House Committee on the subject of providing accommodation at the School for a larger number of boys than are at present maintained there:

The House Committee, to whom, by resolution of the Quarterly General Court of Monday, 15th January, 1877, it was referred,

"To consider the entire question of increased accommodation at the Institution at Wood Green, and to report, through the General Committee, to a Quarterly General or Special General Court," submit as follows:—

They have carefully considered various suggested plans for the contemplated enlargement, and are unanimously of opinion that the best and most feasible is that which provides for the removal of the present laundry and drying ground, and for the erection on the site thereof of a spacious dining hall 100 by 50 feet, extending from east to west, to which access may readily be obtained both through the present west (kitchen) corridor, and by means of the existing covered way from the school and classroom in the main building. One prominent advantage of the locality of the dining hall is its propinquity to the kitchen, which it is believed, by the annexation of the scullery adjoining, will be amply sufficient for the cooking and supplies requisite for the fullest number of boys the increased premises would be capable of accommodating. Scullery room would be found by a re-adjustment of the present store-room and offices.

The new block of buildings would cover an area of 110 by 55 feet, and would comprise three floors. It would start in a line from the eastern end of the new dining-

hall and extend northwards.

On the ground floor would be commodious class-rooms; four in number, with assistant master's sitting-room, lavatory, map-room, and other requisite provisions, with convenient exit to closets, urinals, &c.

The second and third floors would contain six dormitories, each for twenty boys, assistant master's bed-room, assistant matron's bed-room, and servants' bed-rooms, isolated, and with separate staircase.

The number of boys thus provided for is 120, in addition to the 184 in the main building.

The cost is estimated at about £22,000, or, perhaps, it may be more safely stated at £25,000.

In recommendation of this scheme, which may be thought by some to be more expensive than is absolutely required by present exigencies, it may be stated that to provide for a smaller number say 70 boys, would reduce the cost only £3000.

The question of annual maintenance of so large an addition to the present establishment has not been lost sight of by the Committee. It is one which deserves most serious consideration, and at the first blush would seem to present insuperable difficulties; inasmuch as if the whole 120 boys were admitted as soon as the building was ready for their reception; the annual ordinary expenditure could hardly be estimated at less than £12,000, and might possibly exceed that amount; to say nothing of the sum required for "special expenditure," which varies from year to year, the average probably being about £1000.

It must be remembered, however, that heavy and continuous as are the demands upon the resources of the institution, there happily does not exist the necessity at present for the admission of extra boys to anything like the extent of those provided for, nor is it contemplated that such will be the case for some years to come. The Committee are of opinion that an addition of 60 boys would fully meet the wants of the present generation, as it is not considered advisable, or for the interests of the Institution, that every boy qualified as a candidate under the laws of the Institution should as a matter of course be admitted, or, indeed, that election of candidates should be rendered too easy, and indifference and carelessness in selection be thus fostered and encouraged.

The immense and rapid increase in the numerical strength of the Order is an admitted fact, as is also its advance in material prosperity, while the largely augmented contributions in support of our institutions are matter of heartfelt congratulation. The considerations arising out of this favourable condition of affairs are not without weight with the Committee, but they cannot forget the arduous duties of the last 16 years in connection with this Institution, and how much has been done by the Craft at large in assisting them in bringing it to its present position.

The crucial question with the Committee is—Is the Masonic body prepared to find the means to carry out the proposed extension?

In the absence of a favourable response the Committee do not feel justified in undertaking so serious a responsibility within so comparatively brief a period of the release of the Institution from a burden of debt, its invested capital being only £3000, which on no account can they consent to be utilised for the object under consideration.

The Committee therefore conclude:

1. They recognise fully the legitimacy of the demands for further accommodation.
2. They have ascertained the feasibility of carrying out the extension.
3. The issue—Shall such extension be proceeded with?—they leave entirely to the decision of the fraternity.

The Committee, before closing this report, desire to add one word on a suggestion published with reference to a "Preparatory School." They express no opinion as to the advisability of making provision for the sons of Freemasons at an age earlier than at which they can now be received, 8 years, contenting themselves with stating that the suggested scheme, if adopted, would enable the pupils from 8 to 12 to be accommodated in the new building, the elder boys, from 12 to 16, being retained in the present building. The advantages of this arrangement, both educational and disciplinary, the Committee feel will be so apparent as to render unnecessary any enlargement thereon.

Bro. George Snow then rose to move "That this report be not submitted to the Quarterly Court on Monday next." He said that if the report was adopted, and the brethren resolved to carry out the scheme for enlargement mentioned in the report, every child admitted to the Institution would cost £200. What would any of the brethren say to a family of seven children costing £700 a year? It was something preposterous. The London Orphan Asylum formerly accommodated 500 children, and when their school at Clapton was sold to the Metropolitan Asylums Board it fetched £35,000. The Masonic brethren were now asked to expend £22,000 for the accommodation of 100 children. What did the brethren say to going on with this continual expense? Let them advertise for competitive drawings, and let them say in the advertisements that they wished for accommodation in their schools for 100 more children, and required drawings, designs, and plans of a building for that purpose; also that they would not bind themselves to accept any plans, but would give a premium of £50 for the best, £30 for the second, and £10 for the third. He ventured to say that they would get plans for what they wanted, which would show that the building could be erected, not at this enormous cost, but at the rate of 5d. per cubic foot for each child. The Institution was going in for glorious results no doubt. There was a large amount of Masonry afloat at the present moment, and there were a great number of Masonic brethren at the present moment seek-

ing the benefit of the Institution. At this very time there were 60 or 70 candidates for the next election of this Institution, and only one-fourth of that number could be accommodated. The Institution was not a college—that was where they were going wrong—they were not to provide a collegiate education for the children, but a home into which they might be taken and kept from being starved. Why should they see so many of the poor brethren left with children on their hands? There was one case which he knew of where a widow was left with seven children, and why should not this Institution provide a home for three or four out of that number. Let them see if they could not erect a building that would be a home, and give board and lodging for the children of the brethren, and afford them an education equal to the board schools. He maintained that the children could be accommodated at £35 a head. The idea of being asked to erect a building for 100 boys for £22,000 was simply absurd and disgraceful. He would propose that the report which had just been read should be sent back to the House Committee, with the message that it was not wanted. He had not had an opportunity of stating before that the head master's house, which was but a small one, had been painted and papered under the direction of the surveyor. What did the brethren think that work cost? Why, £83. Did the brethren mean to submit to this sort of thing? He would not see the fraternity robbed in the wholesale manner in which they had been robbed by builders, for it was nothing more or less than a downright robbery (Laughter.)

Bro. S. Rosenthal said that the brethren were used to strong language from Bro. Snow, and consequently heard these observations without surprise.

Bro. F. Binckes remarked that the report said "either this or some other well-considered plan." When the matter was referred to the House Committee, he felt it his duty to take care that the House Committee should not meet without having before them a sketch to guide them in their deliberations. The Committee had carefully guarded themselves against being pledged to a recommendation of the present plan. If the report was read at the Quarterly Court, that Court might recommend that the Institution should advertise for plans. The House Committee would do that, and then when the plans were obtained they would be submitted to a Quarterly Court. The brethren were not going to pledge themselves to spend this sum, or any sum of money. If Bro. Snow told him that they could provide for 100 or 120 boys for £4200, he must beg leave to differ from him.

Bro. A. Durrant said that at the last meeting he supported the proposition that the school should be enlarged, but he did not go the length that Bro. Snow went. He proposed that they should stop at 70 more boys. Could not they have 30 or 40 more, or some number in reason? For his part, he thought the House Committee had not grappled with the matter in the manner they should have done. They were not tied to the number of 120 boys. He agreed with Bro. Snow to this extent, that they should be left in the hands of no one person to give an estimate, but they should have estimates from several people. Bro. Snow had mentioned the subject of education, but that was not the question on this occasion. He thought the House Committee should again consider the matter, and instead of wasting the time of the General Committee with such a report as they had prepared, they should be prepared with some other plan that would be feasible, and enable the committee to do something for a larger number of boys than were at present in the Institution. The Institution was not able to admit as many boys it should. The list for next election was very large—he did not know of any Institution where the candidates were so numerous; and he greatly regretted that the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys could not provide for the admission of more than would be elected next Monday. In conclusion, he considered that the report of the House Committee was not in a fit state to be carried to the Quarterly Court, and he would suggest that the matter be referred back to the House Committee to see if it was not possible to devise some plan by which an extension could be carried out in moderation.

Bro. Binckes: Restricted to what number?

Bro. Durrant: 60, 40, or any number.

Bro. Jesse Turner thought the committee deserved great thanks for bringing up the report, for it opened the question, though it was not an exact report. If there were any of those dreadful mistakes in it which had been forecast by his friends who had spoken, the brethren had now an opportunity of discussing them; and he would move that the matter be deferred to the next meeting, in the meantime the report to be printed and circulated among the members of the committee. This would afford them an opportunity of looking into the report and considering whether its statements were true or untrue. The report was in a very crude form, at least it so appeared to him. He had never heard it read before. He could not help thinking that the statements of Bro. Snow were open to a great deal of debate. The statements of the report might be true or untrue; but there was also such a thing as hypothesis. The matter had been submitted to the House Committee to enquire into, and the House Committee brought forward what they considered facts. Now, it was for the brethren to consider whether they were facts. He did not know what the Craft might do. The Institution had been very successful, and he could not help thinking that it was possible to get intoxicated with success. No doubt the brethren had done a great work, but they might do too much. There was such a thing as over-educating. The proposition for enlarging the Institution was one of such large proportions that this committee should weigh every part of it well. It might get into the newspapers, and the Craft at large would know all about it. The matter should be discussed in detail, and then

it would go before the Quarterly Court and meet with the approbation of the Craft. He would propose "That the report of the House Committee in reference to the enlargement of the School be deferred to the next meeting of the General Committee, and in the meantime that the report be printed and circulated among the members of the committee."

Bro. George J. Palmer, P.M. No. 11, seconded the motion.

Bro. George Snow moved as an amendment, "That the House Committee be authorised to advertise for competitive plans and drawings for increasing the Institution so as to accommodate 30, 40, 50, 60, or 120 more boys, and that the sum of 30 guineas be awarded for such plans; that the plans be sent in only in lines, and that the cost of enlarging should not exceed £50 a head."

This amendment, meeting with no seconder, fell to the ground, and Bro. Jesse Turner's motion was put and carried nem. dis.

The petitions of candidates, to the number of eight were then considered, and the proceedings closed with the customary vote of thanks to the chairman.

CONSECRATION OF THE PROV. GRAND MARK LODGE OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

A Masonic ceremony of more than ordinary interest to Freemasons took place at Newport, on Thursday, the 4th inst., being the constitution of a Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for the Province of Monmouthshire. The district had not previously been formed into a province, but steps were taken to have it so constituted; and the Grand Lodge of England and Wales having been memorialised, a constitution was sanctioned, and Bro. Lorenzo Augustus Homfray, whose name was submitted from the district, was accepted as the first Right Worshipful Grand Master for the province. The installation of Bro. Homfray took place on the 4th inst., together with the ceremony of consecrating the Grand Provincial Lodge. There was a large attendance of brethren of the Mark degree. The ceremony was performed in the Masonic Hall by the Most Worshipful the Rev. G. Raymond Portal, M.A., Past G. Mark Master Mason of England, and Past Grand Master of Hants and the Isle of Wight. A full report of the proceedings is in type and will appear in our next.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

The annual convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter of the Western Division of Lancashire (as briefly announced in the *Freemason* last week) was held at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, on Wednesday afternoon, the 4th inst. There was a numerous attendance of companions of rank and influence, nearly every chapter in the large province being represented, some very numerous. Comp. the Right Honourable Lord Skelmersdale, Prov. Grand Superintendent, occupied his place in the Provincial Grand Chapter.

A report of the proceedings will appear in our next.

It is said that we are to have two volumes of poems from distinguished authors, viz., Prince Leopold and the Marquis of Lorne. This is the first occasion of publication by His Royal Highness, but he has always been devoted to literary pursuits and studies. The Marquis has already marked his stature as a poet, and his fresh effort in competition with Mr. Tennyson shows that the hereditary courage of the Campbells is not lacking in the heir to the dukedom.

On Thursday the Duke of Connaught, who had been staying with the Earl of Cloncurry, went over to Parsonstown and presented the 53rd (Shropshire) Regiment with new colours.

The Duchess of Edinburgh has appointed Lady Harriet Grimston to be Lady-in-Waiting, in the room of Lady Mary Butler, now an extra Lady-in-Waiting to her Royal Highness.

The Empress Eugenie has left Florence for Naples. Prince Louis Napoleon has gone to Spezzio.

THE BRITON LIFE ASSOCIATION.—We have pleasure in directing attention to the financial and first annual report—see last page current issue—of the Briton Life Association. The stability and progress of the company is deserving of all praise, and will especially commend itself to Masonic brethren from the fact that a large majority of the directory are fellow members of the Craft. Under the able management of Bro. John Messent, P.M. 231, Actuary and Secretary, (whose experience of Assurance business extends over a quarter of a century), combined with extensive town and provincial connections, the association ensures a great success, and we commend it to the favourable consideration of our readers. Among the special features comprised in the system of business of the Company is absolute security, the company having made the customary government deposits of £30,000; moderate rates of premium and specially advantageous terms for assurance on invalid lives and on lives proceeding to India or China. Also a new system on assurance by which policies are made payable during lifetime.

Bro. T. A. Adams, P.M., P.G.P., will preside at the working of the 15 sections in the La Tolerance Lodge of Instruction, No. 538, on Wednesday week the 25th inst.

The Fifteen Sections will be worked by the members of the Hyde Park Lodge of Instruction, No. 1425, for the first time on Monday next at 7 o'clock, at the Westbourne Restaurant, 1, Craven Road, Paddington. Brethren are invited to be present.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.—A fine statue in terra cotta of the late Prince Consort, by Theed, and generally considered to be one of that artist's masterpieces, presented to the town of Southampton by Sir F. Perkins, M.P., has just been mounted on a pedestal on a vacant piece of ground under the walls of the old Castle, near the platform, looking eastward down the Southampton water.

Some recent English travellers in Palestine relate that near Mount Carmel they came upon a small German settlement belonging to a band of Christian sectaries who called themselves "Templars." Among other opinions, they hold that as soon as the whole of the soil of the Holy Land is cultivated the Messiah will come. With a view to hasten the millennial period they have become cultivators themselves, and founded colonies at Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Caiffa. Their settlements wear a most prosperous aspect. Small neat houses, substantially built of stone, cluster round their chapels. There is always a good school, and the well-farmed land (such a contrast to the barrenness of the surrounding country) testifies alike to the industry and profits of the colonists.—*Church Bells.* [Query who are these Templars?—Emra Holmes.]

We are authorized to state that Her Majesty's birthday will be kept on Saturday, 2nd of June, instead of Saturday, the 25th of May, as originally announced.

Although it is not officially announced, I believe it is understood that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Grand Master of English Freemasonry, has bestowed the Provincial Grand Mastership of Dorset on Mr. Montague Guest.—*Mayfair.*

It is not generally known that the gifted lady amateur who recently stirred the pulses of the critics in London, at the Opera Comique, is the wife of Mr. John Braddick Monckton, the town clerk of London. The fact of "Bro. Monckton" being a high Masonic as well as civic official, perhaps accounts for Mrs. Monckton's next performance being in aid of the two great Masonic schools.—*Mayfair.*

The *Tatler* states nearly the whole of the house has been sold for the performance for the benefit of the Freemasons' Schools on May 5th at the Opera Comique. "Fears," with Mrs. Monckton and Captain Gooch, and "Cox and Box" will be performed.

The new Mark Lodge, designated Scarlett, No. 189, was consecrated with great eclat at the Burnley Mechanics' Institute, by Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, on Friday the 6th.

The brethren of the Peckham Lodge, No. 1476, intend giving a Masonic ball at the Surrey Masonic Hall, on Monday the 23rd inst., the net proceeds of which will be devoted to the Masonic Charities. Brethren will appear in Craft clothing, a special dispensation for the same having been procured.

Lady Skelmersdale was present at the annual meeting of the Liverpool Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, held at the Town Hall, on Thursday week, and, on behalf of the Ladies' Committee, her ladyship presented a number of carters, cabmen and donkey drivers with rewards for their general kind treatment of the animals under their charge. Her ladyship also presented prizes to a number of boys and girls who had written essays on "Kindness to Animals." A cordial vote of thanks was given to Lady Skelmersdale on the motion of Mr. Melver, M.P., seconded by Mr. Clark Aspinall, J.P., Borough Coroner.

SOUTHERN STAR LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, (No. 1158).—The ceremony of Installation will be worked in this lodge on *Thursday*, April 26th, not Tuesday as we stated in our last.

Bro. Wm. Malthouse, of the Smithfield Lodge, No. 1623, has issued an address to the electors of the Ward of Farringdon Without, offering his services as representative in the Court of Common Council, when a vacancy should occur. Having had many years experience in parocihal matters, Bro. Malthouse considers himself qualified for so important a position.

Bro. His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, R.W. Prov. Grand Master Oxfordshire, has most kindly promised to lay the foundation-stone of the new Infirmary of the Asylum for Idiots, Earlswood, Red Hill, Surrey. Bro. Wm. Nichols, Secretary, will give due notice of the day and proposed arrangements.

We are requested to announce that the Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, which formerly met at Winsley-street, Oxford-street, on Wednesday evenings, no longer exists, but "La Tolerance" Lodge of Instruction, No. 538, to which all the members of the late Royal Union belong, is held the same evening at 7.45, at the Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, under the able Preceptorship of Bro. T. A. Adams, P.M., P.G.P.

A report of the consecration of the Royal Leopold Lodge, No. 1669 is unavoidably postponed until next week.

ST LUKE'S LODGE OF INSTRUCTION NO. 144. In this lodge on Friday next, the 20th inst., at the White Hart Tavern, King's-road, Chelsea, Bro. Dr. Egan, W.M. 858, will work the Installation ceremony. The lodge will be opened at 7.30 p.m.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—If the action of the skin be suppressed, internal congestion of the Liver, Stomach, and Kidneys often results. This fact should be borne in mind during the Spring months, when a bright sunny day tempts one to throw off clothing and neglect other precautions. Care must be exercised at this season of the year, and if unfortunately unpleasant symptoms arise an alterative should at once be taken. Holloway's Pills soon relieve internal congestions of all kinds, and have a mild aperient effect on the bowels, without causing griping or undue purging, this renders them suitable for all persons, their mode of action being at once simple and yet thoroughly effective. They are thus confidently recommended.—*Advr.*

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.

An important letter from Bro. Poynter on the Stamp duty will appear in our next. It arrived too late for insertion this week.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Keystone; New York Dispatch; Proceedings of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts from March 7th to Dec. 27th, 1876; Proceedings of the Commandery of Knights Templar and the appendant orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for the year ending Oct. 27, 1876; Boletín Oficial del Gran Oriente de Peru; X.Y.Z. Railway Guide; A Selection of Masonic Songs, by Bro. E. P. Philpotts; Glanville's Guide to South Africa.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

BRIDGES.—On the 9th inst., at Court House, Overton, Hants, the wife of Lieut. Col. Bridges, of a son.
GODDARD.—On the 10th inst., the wife of C. Goddard, of Aldbridge-road-villas, Westbourne Park, of a son.
ROPER.—On the 9th inst., at Granville Park, Blackheath, the wife of A. Roper, of a son.
SMART.—On the 9th inst., at Mildmay Park, Stoke Newington, the wife of J. Smart, of a son.
TURNBULL.—On the 7th inst., at Kelso, N.B., the wife of G. H. Turnbull, M.D., of a son.

DEATHS.

BRADLEY.—On the 7th inst., at the Park, Nottingham, Bernard Bradley, aged 38.
GREEN.—On the 14th inst., at 58, James-Street, Oxford-street, after a long and painful illness; William Green, in his 63rd year. Friends will please accept this intimation.
LECKENBY.—On the 7th inst., at Scarton, John Leckenby, Esq., J.P., aged 62.
PETTY.—On the 8th inst., at Sidecup Green, Kent, Walter Petty, aged 61.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1877.

THE MOVEMENTS OF OUR ROYAL GRAND MASTER.

According to the *Times* and the *Daily News* H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, accompanied by Bro. Lord Suffield, R.W. Prov. Grand Master Norfolk, and Bro. Knollys, left the Charing-cross station of the South Eastern Railway on Wednesday evening by special train, at 8.30, for Paris, via Folkestone and Boulogne. Prince Christian, the Duke of Teck, Count Schouvaloff, M. Villebois, and other gentlemen were assembled on the platform to receive His Royal Highness. The train was in charge of Mr. John Shaw, the manager and secretary, and Mr William Cockburn, superintendant of the line. The Prince of Wales arrived at Folkestone Harbour at 10.14. Here he was received by Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., Chairman of the Company, and immediately went on board the special steamer Victoria. The steamer left for Boulogne at 10.20. The Prince is expected to stay but a short time in Paris, and then to leave for the South of France, en route to Villa Franca, to meet the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. Our Boulogne correspondent telegraphs that the steamer Victoria arrived at 12.20 this morning, and that His Royal Highness, after a brief rest, would proceed to Paris by special train. With reference to the health of his Royal Highness the *Medical Examiner* says:—"The progress of the Prince's case has been in all respects extremely satisfactory, and, in the opinion of Sir James Paget and Mr. Oscar Clayton, his Royal Highness's health at the present time is excellent." The *Lancet* has great satisfaction in recording the rapid and well-nigh complete recovery of the Prince of Wales. The malady indicated in its previous article has been relieved. The Prince's condition has greatly improved, and it is hoped an early sojourn in a warmer climate may conduce to perfect restoration and renewed strength. Meanwhile, it is but a loyal hope to express, that His Royal Highness may recognize the need of rest, and such abstinence from exertion, physical and mental, as may render the full benefits of change of scene and climate available. It was no mere passing interest which the people of England evinced in the welfare of the Prince of Wales when he lay on a bed of sickness, and it is no mere formal solicitude which this suggestion is intended to convey. H.R.H. the Princess of Wales arrived at Brindisi on the 8th inst. The civil authorities were in waiting at the railway station to receive her Royal Highness, who left at midnight for Athens on board the Royal yacht Osborne. The Osborne is expected to reach Corinth on the 10th inst. Her Royal Highness is in good health. The Princess of Wales arrived at Athens on the 10th inst., at 4.30 p.m., and was greeted with an enthusiastic reception. She was met at Corinth by the King, who accompanied her across the Isthmus to Kalamaki, whence she proceeded in the Royal yacht to the Piræus.

THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND FREEMASONRY.

At the approaching meeting of the Grand Lodge of England, which will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, the 25th of the present month, the Prince of Wales will be formally proposed for re-election as Grand Master, and will, of course, be accepted by the lodge. His Royal Highness will then nominate, either personally or through the Earl of Carnarvon (Pro Grand Master), His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as Senior Grand Warden, and His Royal Highness Prince Leopold as Junior Grand Warden. Their Royal Highnesses will, in that case, succeed the present Grand Wardens, the Earl of Donoughmore and Colonel the Hon. William Vernon. The other Grand Officers will include the Rev. W. L. Onslow (Chaplain in ordinary to the Prince of Wales), Grand Chaplain; Bro. Samuel Tomkins, Grand Treasurer; Bro. Aeneas M'Intyre, Q.C., Grand Registrar; Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary;

and Bro. Ernest Wendt, Grand Secretary for German Correspondence. Should the Prince of Wales be unable to attend, the Earl of Carnarvon will preside at the ceremonial, which promises to be one of unusual interest and importance, as there is no precedent for three princes of the blood in Grand Lodge at the same time.

[We take this from our paper in Scotland, the *Scottish Freemason*, but we have not, however, as yet heard any confirmation of the statement.]

SUGGESTED INCREASE OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The report of the House Committee, presented at the last General Committee, which appears in another column, is we understand to be printed and circulated, so that practically no action can, we apprehend, be taken in the matter at present, or at the Quarterly Court. At the meeting on Saturday Bro. Snow made one or two statements, which require to be received with the greatest qualification, for they are, in fact, altogether erratic as to fact and reality, and very unjust to the school. Were it not that we strongly feel that they might lead to many misconceptions, we should have left them to tell their own tale, as they bear with them their own answer. But experience shows that the most improbable statements are believed, and the most reckless assertions credited, even though the ratification and correction of them be close at hand. Bro. Snow stated that if these alterations were persevered in—on the estimate—the boys would have cost £200 a head. It is quite clear that Bro. Snow has no statistical authority for such a statement, and the way he arrives at it appears to be equally simple, ingenious and amusing. He takes the present number of the boys, and divides the capital expended on the School by them and the 100 to be admitted, at least we presume that such is the basis of his wonderful calculation. But he forgets that such a "divisor" can by no means represent all who are benefitted by the outlay, neither can such a "quotient" answer to those who will hereafter reap the advantages of our labours and sacrifices. We must add to the actual number of pupils, all who have been in the buildings since they were raised, and who are yet to inhabit them; in fact, an "unknown quantity." Nothing could be more fallacious, more unfair, or "ad captandum," than to say, buildings and land have cost so much, we have so many boys to educate, therefore the cost per boy is so many hundreds per head. There is positively no eleemosynary society of late years which could stand such a test, especially in London, where building sites are very dear. With all respect to our worthy Bro. Snow, we may therefore dismiss his florid remarks, as they do not affect the question at issue one way or the other. We shall, we fancy, be expressing the sentiments of all our brethren when we say that the best course of proceeding would be to call a Special General Court of the Institution, when the specific report can be considered, and the architect's statement received. We quite endorse all that Bro. Jesse Turner said on the last occasion, the more so as we believe that the one wish of the Craft is to advance the interests and efficiency of the School.

A MASONIC LOVE OF LAW COURTS.

There seems to be increasing amongst us a tendency, on any pretence, or often on no pretence, to rush into the arena of a law court, quite contrary to the spirit, at any rate of our older regulations. We commented some time back, (for which we were duly taken to task), on some unwise proceedings, in our humble opinion, on the part of a distinguished lodge, because some initiation fees, which ought never to have been allowed to get into arrear, had to be sued for in a County Court; and we described in the last *Freemason* some proceedings at Plymouth, we believe, which certainly seem to suggest to us the need of a little more Masonic caution, consideration, and charity, in all similar matters and on all similar occasions. Some remarks appeared in our last about the solicitor who counselled one of the litigants, but without knowing all the facts of

the case, we cannot, as it seems to us, quite fairly blame a member of the legal profession, (Freemason though he be), who has to deal, as many have, with a self-willed and pig-headed client. We are using general terms and not adverting to this particular case. But having said this, we cannot but express our sincere regret, that Freemasons should resort to the law courts at all to settle petty differences and Masonic complaints, when they could so easily invoke the principles of Masonic arbitration, and arrange any temporary disputes and suppositious grievances on the broad principles of Masonic forbearance, kindness, brotherly love, and good will. As regards the alleged ritual, it would be clearly worthless, per se, and ought never to have been made a bone of contention between two brethren. At the same time, in this free country the law courts are open to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and we must not even allow our love of Masonry and its regulations to supersede the higher claims of the law of our native land. We say this by way of caution, lest, like our Ultramontane friends, in their zeal for what they consider the superior authority of the spiritual power over the temporal, we should even make so great a blunder, as to assume for one moment, that the law of the land and the authority of the crown were not in all temporary matters undoubtedly supreme, alike in respect of all Masonic customs and all Masonic regulations.

DID YOU EVER?

We take an extract from our grave and influential and highly artistic contemporary, the *Graphic*, which we think is likely to create no little sensation in all circles and all classes of our readers, whether old or young, aristocratic or plebeian, male or female, grave or gay. Indeed, it is not too much to say that if this statement is to be depended on, and is not to be relegated to the mythical region of transatlantic sea serpents and talkative mermaids, "mit nodings on," a revolution is on the eve of accomplishment in all departments of creation, of artistic excellence, and of human philosophy, which never was contemplated, whether by the erudition of Tyndall, the researches of Lyell, the assumptions of Professor Huxley, or the discoveries of anatomical Owen. Let our readers one and all carefully peruse the following cutting, which we trust they will "think over" (though all don't like thinking just now), carefully and seriously. It is one of the most striking and interesting, and indeed marvellous, we have ever been privileged to make to our numerous and highly respectable patrons:—"The Blue Light Bath Mania across the Atlantic appears to be on the increase, and General Pleasanton, of Philadelphia, having succeeded in raising gigantic pumpkins under cerulean frames, found that little pigs similarly treated developed into monster porkers, that a young calf rapidly became a splendid bull, while a small baby speedily became the admiration of its friends on blue glass being fitted to the nursery windows. Moreover by the same agency a bald-headed dame recovered her flowing tresses." Another correspondent adds that:—"The azure rays are even said to cure consumption, chronic diarrhoea, dyspepsia, delirium tremens, liver complaint, domestic differences and pernicious habits, or a talkative wife, an erratic husband, and even a too demonstrative mother-in-law." We feel sure that when our numerous kind friends in all parts of the known world peruse this striking extract from that very agreeable illustrated paper, the *Graphic*, they will be struck, as we were struck, we may add, "all of a heap" with the intense and overwhelming importance of the announcement, clearly and considerably made. In fact we hardly ever remember, in our long experience, any such an announcement on sound and safe authority, which held out so much hope to those who are oppressed with an overwhelming sense, both of the cares of existence, the disappointments of life, the troubles of the family and the flesh. To be told to believe, to feel assured, to realize, that by the intervention of blue glass, simple blue glass, we shall behold all our fairest hopes and dearest aspirations fulfilled, the germ become

the perfect creature, and a marvellous growth overpass the slow process of sedate nature, is, indeed, a state of things more befitting the researches of the Hermetics, and the experiments of the searchers after the Philosopher's Stone, than anything within the experience of us and ours, poor, dull, sober, plodding mortals! Just think of the possibilities enumerated, almost too cheering to credit, and almost too extraordinary to accept. That the little porker might become a full grown pig, though striking, is not absolutely incredible in itself, as the growth of pigs is, as all who tend them know, very sudden, and often very exceptional; or that the young calf should all at once develop into a fine bull, is no doubt a very great and much to be desiderated change, as all our bucolic readers will at once admit, the propriety of which we are not prepared to deny. But still we do not feel more than wonder at such statements, though remarkable. But to realize that the small baby becomes a big one in a little space, and a bald-headed lady recovers her flowing tresses and capillary attractions at the same time, is a matter for most serious consideration, and when we understand, moreover, that under the influence of these blue rays, (not merely a cerulean sky), we can find a cure for consumption, chronic diarrhoea, dyspepsia, jaundice, liver complaint, and the like, domestic differences, pernicious habits, a talkative wife, an erratic husband, and an interfering mother-in-law, we can only hope that such things are really so, and we begin to believe that the "good time coming," which has been so long approaching, is now close at hand. Well, we have passed through many trials and disappointments ourselves, we have out-lived heartaches very many, and crosses not a few, we have had to encounter the mortal lot of all our race, Freemasons though we be, but we feel with Heinrich Heine in his well-known words, "Herz mein herz sei nicht bekommen," so well translated in "Flowers from Fatherland on English Soil:"

"Heart, my heart, be not thou troubled.

Bear thy lot, though sad it be,

For what winter takes from thee,

Spring shall give thee back redoubled."

Yes, we repeat, if there be truth in words, if the announcement of the blue rays, (not blue devils), be a fact, there is still hope for us all alike, whether lonely wanderers, or with a noisy and increasing family, whether grave or timid married men, or free and easy bachelors, whether readers of the *Freemason*, or howling fanatics who rail at Masons and Masonry.

QUITE UNNECESSARY.

Prince Louis Napoleon and the ex-Empress Eugénie have, through Cardinal Bonaparte, sent assurances to the Pope that the Prince, during his recent visit to Rome, was not made a Freemason, as has been affirmed.

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.]

THE COMMEMORATIVE LIFEBOAT.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I was greatly pleased to find a letter from "Lucretius" in the columns of your excellent journal a few days ago, asking that a lifeboat should be placed at Scilly, one of the most destructive coasts in Great Britain, and where on an average it appears that between forty and fifty lives, and one hundred thousand pounds worth of property are annually lost. I cannot believe that the columns of any journal can be consecrated to a nobler duty than the advocacy of the whole of "Lucretius's" scheme, which I suppose includes Mr. Festing's (Control Office) ingenious telegraph-buoy. I hope the Royal National Lifeboat Institution will not forget the terrible list of wrecks which the Board of Trade have supplied to "Lucretius."

I enclose my card, and am, yours faithfully and fraternally,

TERRILL.

STAMPED RECEIPTS FOR MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS TO LODGES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

This question was mooted in the *Freemason* a few weeks since, but although some discussion ensued, no definite conclusion (so far as I am aware) was arrived at. It

was, I believe, asserted that the opinion of the stamp office authorities had been asked in some unofficial manner as to whether or not the receipt for lodge subscriptions should or should bear a penny stamp to render it valid, and we were told (as might be expected) that such receipts must be stamped. I for one must candidly confess that I am not at all convinced that this offhand opinion is correct, and I feel perfectly satisfied the subject has not been duly considered in all its bearings. Of course everybody knows that a receipt for money in payment for value received should bear a penny stamp, and that the receiver of the money must pay for the stamp; but everybody does not know that there are cases in which such stamps are not required. I shall cite some of these exemptions, and shall then endeavour to show that lodge subscriptions are on all lodges with such cases, and therefore that lodge receipts need not be stamped. Building societies' receipts for the monthly subscriptions are exempt from stamp duty, and the reason for such exemption evidently is, that the receiver of the money derives no benefit therefrom, and that he simply acts as a convenient depository for the money paid in by the depositor, who at some time or other will receive it back again in some shape or other. To expect the receiver of the money to pay out of his own pocket any sum, however small, because he performs the friendly act of becoming the temporary depository of the investors' or depositors' loose cash is about as reasonable a thing as when the Irish labourer having borrowed a bricklayer's hod of a friend, and having accidentally broken it, sent it back to his friend to get it mended because he wanted to borrow it again. Now I look upon annual subscriptions to lodges in much the same light as I do monthly payments of depositors and investors in building societies. The Treasurer or Secretary to the lodge does not receive the subscriptions for his own behoof or advantage. He has no interest in any amount paid in, nor has any one else than the member himself, if he chooses to avail himself of it. If he does not care to make use of the money for his own personal wants (that being the purpose for which it was deposited), it is disposed of in some other way to which he has previously given his consent. To render the matter clearer I will assume that the members of a lodge have mutually agreed to meet for labour and instruction, say four times a year, and that they find it necessary after labour to have some refreshment. The cost of this is found to be, say, 15s. per head; instead, however, of paying this amount every time they meet the brethren arrange to pay for the four meetings in a lump sum of, say, £3 3s., the extra 3s. being supposed to suffice for postage and printing. Now it cannot be denied that the brother who deposits with the Treasurer or Secretary of the lodge the aforesaid sum of £3 3s. does it in anticipation of the expenses he may incur at the quarterly meetings. It is therefore his money which is available for such purposes, and if he does not use it he quietly resigns it and allows it to be diverted to other uses. I argue, therefore, that inasmuch as the Treasurer is merely the temporary depository of the brother's money, which is to be applied to certain special objects for such brother's personal benefit, the Treasurer cannot be called upon to pay for a stamped receipt.

If I were not afraid of occupying too much of your valuable space I could enter at much greater length into this important subject, which requires to be thoroughly and exhaustively discussed and settled one way or the other without loss of time, as if the Stamp Office authorities are right in the offhand opinion they have given, then all the lodges in the United Kingdom are daily running the risk of very heavy penalties, which can be recovered by a very summary process. It should be widely known that whenever a receiver of money above £2 gives a receipt without a penny stamp thereon he incurs a penalty of £10, one half of which goes to the informer.

If you will kindly give me space, on a future occasion I will endeavour to point out what course should be adopted to bring this matter to a settlement.

I am, yours fraternally,

W.M. No. 766.

FREEMASONRY IN VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

A movement is going on here which is of great importance in placing Masonry on a far better footing, namely, the amalgamation of the four lodges in Victoria into two.

To my mind, as an English Mason, they have a plan of paying the Secretaries of lodges here which is to me most objectionable, as all monies, after paying the ordinary expenses of a lodge, should be devoted to Masonic purposes. I never knew a lodge at home where such a plan existed. As a member of Lodge Sincerity, No. 189, Stonehouse, Devon, I do not know of its existence, and I shall be obliged if you can inform me whether it is the custom in any English lodges to pay their Secretaries.

Your opinion on this point may assist me in my endeavour to turn the flow of funds into what I conceive to be their proper channel.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

MATTHEW COATES,
Staff Surgeon, Royal Navy,
W.M. Victoria Lodge, No. 1, B.C.

MASONIC QUERIES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir, and Brother,—

In your issue of the 31st ult., you report the consecration of a new lodge at Camberwell, and state that the W.M., who was then installed, appointed to office and invested a joining brother as Treasurer. In other words, the W.M. nominated and appointed to a somewhat important position a brother who at the time could have had no connection whatever with the lodge. Before any joining brother can become a member of a regular lodge

he must be proposed and seconded at a regular meeting, and balloted for at a subsequent meeting, but these formalities seem to have been dispensed with on the occasion to which I refer. Again, it is surely customary in all lodges to elect the Treasurer by the votes of the brethren present, but in this case it is scarcely possible that such a farce can have been gone through, when the Treasurer designate, or elect, was not a member of the lodge.

I make these remarks not from any wish to be hypercritical, but simply with a view to eliciting from yourself or from some of your numerous readers an authoritative expression of opinion regarding the legality of the proceedings to which I have called attention. My own impression is that these proceedings were irregular, and that the Treasurer must be invested anew, after he has been elected a member of the lodge, and after he has been appointed to his office by the votes of his brethren.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
M.M. 1216.

FREEMASONS' CLUB.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

May I ask if you or any of your readers are cognisant of the existence of a London Freemason's Club or Institute? Being a countryman, and staying in town for a term, I should much like to avail myself of its advantages. It is some time since that I heard of a London club from my friends, and I have referred to your columns for a few weeks past hoping thereby to ascertain its whereabouts, but in vain.

It unfortunately the club has ceased to exist do you not agree that a united effort on the part of London and country brethren might be made with a view either of re-establishing the old or starting a new club?

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,—
Yours faithfully and fraternally,
P.P.G.O.

[The Offices of the London Masonic Club are at 101, Queen Victoria-street.—En. F.M.]

THE REV. J. C. MARTYN, M.A., P.G.C., &c., AND BRO. COX'S SON.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I must warmly respond to my esteemed Bro. the Rev. J. C. Martyn's appeal, by saying that I will do my best to aid in the election of the son of the lamented and respected Bro. Cox, and but for this appeal coming so late in the day, I should have been able to do something worth while. As the case was made known to me some time since by my friend, the W. Bro. Richard Rodda (Past Prov. G. Reg. of Devon), I understood, however, that the lad's election had been given up as a thing impossible. Surely now it will be assured under such favourable circumstances and distinguished patronage.

Fraternally yours,
WM. JAMES HUGHAN, P.G.D.

BRO. KENNING'S MASONIC CYCLOPEDIA.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I quite fall in with the views of Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, M.A., P.G.C., and Bro. D. Murray Lyon, M.A., Grand Secretary of Scotland, as to the necessity of delaying the publication of the "Cyclopedia" so as to ensure almost absolute perfection, and to avoid all irrelevant matter, as well as to obtain particulars of the latest discoveries in Masonic Archaeology, some of which are only now being confirmed.

Of the latter, I might mention the records of the Prov. G. Lodge of Munster, about which full and reliable information will shortly be given by Bro. J. H. Neilson, P.M. 620, Dublin (Rep. of the Grand Orient of Egypt, &c.), and other subjects have yet to be completely examined in the light of the latest investigations.

The last few years have witnessed most important changes and discoveries, with respect to Masonic History especially, and some points of consequence, affecting the origin of Freemasonry in France, and other parts, are only now in progress of elucidation.

Bro. Woodford's idea is to present to the subscribers, in a compact and handy form, a condensed account of the history of Freemasonry generally, in the form of a "Cyclopedia" for ease of reference, and facility obtained by the alphabetical arrangement, and paragraph style.

Whilst the work will in no case aim at supplanting the "Encyclopedia of Freemasonry" of the learned Dr. Mackay's, or the "Royal Cyclopedia" of the erudite, mystic Bro. Mackenzie, it will fill up a department entirely its own, and be indispensable to all who desire an accurate Masonic vade mecum.

I am pleased to be able to speak in the most favourable terms of the parts submitted to me, and as I have seen the proofs to the letter I, subscribers will not have to wait many months ere the work will be published.

Yours fraternally,
WM. JAMES HUGHAN, P.G.D.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Allow me to call your attention to another evil relative to this Institution.

The voting papers for April, 1877, really make men of common sense think there must be something radically defective in the management of the Girls' School.

Read the following extract from the List of Candidates for April, 1877:—

Candidate No. 34, Daly, Gertrude Annie, Father (dead) a Mason for (actually) four-and-a-half years!!! Never subscribed to the Charities. Three children only in

family. Two now in this Institution. The third child is the present candidate.

Was there ever a grosser misapplication of a society's funds attempted than by allowing such a case to be adopted? (I remember one case about two years since, where there were 4 children out of 5 participators in the benefits of the Boys' and Girls' School.)

What are we to say of the bye-laws of an institution permitting the possibility of three members of the family of such a Mason, even at any time, much more the same time, becoming recipients of its funds and advantages?

What is to be said of the managers who allow such bye-laws for one moment to continue in force?

What will the orphans of old and deserving and charitable Masons say when they find they are deprived of their rights through the defects of such improper regulations?

What will Masons generally say? Why, that it is discreditable to our institutions to permit such a state of things when so many candidates (ten times more deserving by reason of their parent's longer association with the Craft) every half year are thrown over and spoiled of their birthright.

Yours fraternally,
HENRY C. TOMBS,
P.S.G.W., &c., &c., Wilts.

P.S.—I am writing against the principle and not the candidate, with whom and her friends I am entirely unacquainted.

CONSECRATION OF THE PHENIX CHAPTER, No. 173.

The consecration of this new chapter took place last Saturday afternoon at Freemasons' Hall. The Consecrating Officer was Comp. James Terry, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Herts, who occupied the chair of M.E.Z. He was assisted by Comps. G. Ward Verry, Provincial Grand Principal Sojourner Herts, as H.; the Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.Z. 771, as J.; H. G. Buss, Prov. Grand Treasurer Middlesex, as D.C.; and F. G. Baker, P.Z. 753, as I. The complete list of the companions present included the above names and those of Comps. J. D. Massey, G. Wilson, G. R. Green, C. J. J. Salmon, F. R. Vine, James Blyth, G. H. Humphreys, Wiles, James Burford, D. Betts, H. 507; Chas. B. Payne, P.Z. 177; G. T. Carter, H. Massey (*Freemason*), John C. Mathew, H. 174; C. A. Woods, 145; W. Steedman, 174; W. Bonsor, 174; W. T. Parker, P.Z. 507; W. Hilton, Z. 507; Fred. Frampton, Z. 749; Charles K. Killick, 749; H. Cornick, 753; F. B. Davage, 185; W. Watson, P.Z.; H. Middleton, M.E.Z. 2; I. Distin; Frederick H. Cozens, 1216; and T. C. Walls, 185.

After the chapter had been opened and the companions admitted, Comp. Terry shortly addressed them on the nature and object of the meeting, and the Rev. R. J. Simpson delivered the oration, in which he said that he was not much accustomed to the practice of Royal Arch Masonry, and he therefore felt himself in somewhat of a new position when called upon to deliver the oration at the consecration of a new Royal Arch chapter. Still he would say a few words upon the subject of the signs and symbols made use of in the chapter, but more particularly he would allude to the things signified by those signs and symbols—in other words Masonic consistency. At the consecration of a lodge recently he had dwelt especially on the valuable effects of an exhibition of moral courage, and he had shown on that occasion that it was quite possible to speak one's mind without doing so offensively. If this practice was followed up it must produce in all those with whom we had to do a respect for our opinions and a confidence in our utterances, which would never be produced if we expressed ourselves one way and acted another, or hesitated to give expression to our opinions, and yet took any particular course of action. The same might be said of all our actions in life after we became Freemasons—for if we acted without regard to our profession as Masons we were producing an injurious effect on the whole Order. In Royal Arch Masonry as in Craft Masonry there was a moral conveyed in all its symbols, and there was consequently a necessity imposed on all Royal Arch Masons to observe the moral precepts of the Arch, to act up to their profession, and to shew to the outer world that it was not a mere form which they went through when they joined the Order, but that they took upon themselves certain obligations which they intended to influence their daily life. Thus, to take one of the teachings symbolised by the arch-stone which compressed and bound the whole structure—the duty of submitting to every lawfully constituted authority—the non-observance of this rule by a Royal Arch Mason must necessarily prove that the principles of the degree had been in vain taught when he was considered worthy to share its secrets. He had frequently had occasion to exhort Freemasons to carry the principles of the lodge with them when they were without its walls, and he did so in the firm conviction that there was a regenerating power in Freemasonry which must humanise the world on which it acted, and bring about such an improvement in our social state as would spread peace and happiness throughout the community. What he advised in the lodge he advised in the chapter; and as when Masons took the Royal Arch Degree they advanced a step higher in Freemasonry, so should they advance a step higher in the principles they professed, and carry out, if it were possible, even more strictly the practice of virtue and morality.

The chapter was then formally consecrated and dedicated, the ceremony being aided by the performance of sacred music by Comps. Theodore Distin, G. T. Carter, and F. H. Cozens. After the ceremony Comp. John Daniel Massey was installed in the chairs of J., H., and M.E.Z., respectively; Comp. Geo. Wilson was installed in the chair of I., and Comp. George Robert Green in the chair of J. The following companions were inducted as follows:

C. J. J. Salmon, S.E.; J. R. Vine, S.N.; James Blyth, P.S.; G. H. Humphreys, 1st A.; Wiles, 2nd A.; James Burford, Treas.; and C. T. Speight, Janitor.

The S.E. afterwards read a letter from Comp. John Hervey, in which he expressed his great regret and disappointment at not being able to attend, a circumstance which was caused by his being called upon to consecrate a lodge, through the unexpected illness of the brother who was to have performed the ceremony.

The S.E. afterwards read a long list of candidates for joining and exaltation at the next meeting.

On the motion of the M.E.Z., seconded by the H., a vote of thanks to Comps. Terry, Verry, Simpson, and W. Watson was unanimously passed, and the honorary membership of the chapter was conferred upon them.

Comp. Terry briefly acknowledged the compliment, and in the course of his remarks said it was not often that a companion occupied the First Principal's chair in a chapter while he was W.M. of his lodge. He knew that Comp. Massey's working was good, and he trusted that the companions who had just been elected honorary members would have some opportunity of witnessing that working.

Chapter was then closed, and the companions adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern, where a *recherché* banquet was provided by Bro. Dawkins, the manager. The usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts were afterwards proposed and honoured.

The Rev. R. J. Simpson, in responding to the toast of "The Grand Officers," said he was very glad to hear Comp. Wilson say, in a little "aside," "Let us be sharp," for it was a very excellent precedent to follow, to make short speeches. He thanked the companions very much on behalf of the Grand Officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter, as a very humble member of that body. He said what he really felt when he said that to him to enter a Royal Arch chapter was in fact "darkness visible," for he was so supremely ignorant of the working of Royal Arch Masonry that he ought to have been almost ashamed to have shown himself there, and had it not been for the great kindness and hospitality of some of the companions he should scarcely have ventured upon the bold enterprise that he had that evening. He thanked them exceedingly for the kindness which they had shown him; and he also thanked Comp. Terry for the coaching he bestowed upon him before going into the chapter. He merely wished to say, before he sat down, that under the auspices of the M.E.Z. and the two other principal officers he had little doubt that this chapter would flourish. He had certainly been most gratified to see the working of the chapter that evening, and also to have discovered many familiar faces around the table, which made him feel not entirely a stranger. In fact, the word "stranger" was not a word to be used in Masonry at all, for in Masonry one always discovered familiar faces, and was glad to do so. He ventured to think that in Royal Arch Masonry we had what may be called a higher life than they had even in Craft Masonry; in fact, we professed more; and he hoped, according to the very humble advice which he had given in the chapter, they would not only profess more but do more. The more he saw of Masonry the more thoroughly he felt that it might become a great means in England as well as in the world of helping to raise the standard of men's moral worth, both as citizens and as men; and as such he not only cultivated it, but he was happy to tell the outer world he esteemed it as a most important auxiliary, not only in promoting the moral, but the religious advancement of mankind. He believed it was only the abuse of Masonry that would ever bring it into contempt, and the abuse of any gift was a very poor argument against its use. He therefore felt in Royal Arch Masonry, as in Craft Masonry, that there was an important auxiliary to improve man's condition—he felt it daily—and at the same time to advancing the peace and happiness of those around us—not only to cultivating as we ought to do our gratitude to the Most High, but also that brotherly love which we should have one towards another.

Comp. James Terry proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z." He was confident the companions had a most efficient officer in Comp. Massey, although he was very young in Royal Arch Masonry, having been a R.A.M. six months. No doubt there were many companions around the table who had aspired to this position; though they had not achieved it quite so rapidly. It was very well known what an excellent Master Comp. Massey was in a Craft lodge, and no doubt he would be equally as good a First Principal in a Royal Arch chapter. There were a large number of exaltees for the next meeting of the chapter, there being no less than 22, so that the M.E.Z.'s working would be put to the test. It was no easy task, but Comp. Massey would be able to go through it, especially with such efficient officers as the H. and J.

The M.E.Z., in responding, said he rose with a great amount of diffidence to thank Comp. Terry for what he had said, which had almost overwhelmed him. As far as in his power lay he would do his duty. Some of the companions knew that in Craft Masonry when he was elected to the chair, though the brethren pushed him on so rapidly, he did his work to the best of his ability. He left it to them to say whether the work had been satisfactorily done. In Royal Arch Masonry he would do the same. They all knew that when once he entered upon a course he would never go back. As far as God gave him strength to do his work he would do it.

The M.E.Z. next gave "The Health of the H. and J.," and said he was quite sure they would do credit to their appointment.

Comp. Wilson, H., in his reply, narrated the circumstances connected with the formation of the chapter, and explained to the companions how great were the exertions of the M.E.Z. in promoting it. The Phoenix Lodge had been in existence many, many years, almost a century, but they had never been able to meet a companion who

was a member of the lodge in a chapter connected with the lodge. For a long time a chapter had been in contemplation, and by consultation among themselves, and by the determination of Comp. Massey, they had formed the Phoenix Chapter. The M.E.Z. had really done all the work in connection with the getting up of this chapter himself. The H. and J. would now render him every assistance in keeping up its dignity. During their year of office they would support the chapter as zealously as they had always supported the lodge. He would not leave a stone unturned to make the chapter prosperous, and to have the business conducted in a proper manner.

Comp. Green, J., also responded. He thought he would have great difficulty in copying the M.E.Z.; but he would endeavour to approach it.

Comp. Terry responded to the toast of "The Consecrating Officer." He hoped that the Phoenix Chapter would flourish, and be an ornament to Royal Arch Masonry, and that the M.E.Z. might be spared to see many succeeding M.E.Z.'s taking his position. He had no doubt Comp. Massey would take more and more interest in the chapter, especially as it progressed. He felt confident that no one would be admitted to the chapter but those who were true and worthy men.

Comp. H. G. Buss replied for "The Visitors," and said that all the companions felt grateful to the promoters of the Phoenix Chapter for the great treat they had had in seeing the consecration ceremony so ably performed by Comp. Terry, and one of the ablest Masons in the Royal Arch. It was a source of great pleasure to see the Phoenix Chapter arise. He did not know what the ashes might have been on which the bird was sitting, as depicted at the head of the summons, but the companions might depend on it that the life created that evening would be of great service to the cause of Masonry. The energy and perseverance of the M.E.Z. had been spoken of, but perhaps no one had seen it more than he, who had come in contact with Comp. Massey, officially and otherwise, and had heard him express his wish that everything should be done in proper form and order, and that the chapter should be conducted in proper and truly Masonic form. That it had been so accomplished was due to the energy Comp. Massey had put forth, in which he had been ably seconded by the other Principals. The other companions were equally gratified, and they were all delighted with what they had seen and heard that day.

Comps. Salmon, Vine, Burford, and Blyth also replied to the toasts proposed in honour of the S.E., S.N., P.S., and Treasurer, respectively; and Comp. Speight having given the Janitor's toast, the companions separated.

Comps. Distin, Carter, and Cozens entertained the companions with a beautiful selection of music in the intervals between the toasts.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The committee of this Institution met on Wednesday in the Library, Freemasons' Hall, Col. Creaton in the chair.

There were also present Bros. S. Rawson, J. A. Farnfield, Joseph Smith, James Brett, William Stephens, G. Bolton, C. F. Hogard, J. M. Case, John Newton, Thos Cubitt, W. Hale, Dr. Hogg, Griffiths Smith, Joshua Nunn, Thos. W. White, John M. Stedwell, E. C. Woodward, H. Massey (Freemason), Dr. Erasmus Wilson, Capt. Nordsworth, H. Levy, and James Terry (Sec.)

After Bro. Terry had read the minutes he reported the death of two female annuitants, one after having received £215 in annuities, and the other after having received £385. He said there would now be 21 widows out of 36 to be elected at next election to the Female Fund, and 26 men out of 34 to the Male Fund. Bro. Terry then read the report of the Finance Committee:—

The Finance Committee beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 1st January to the 31st March, 1877, both inclusive, and do find the same correct.

MALE FUND.

Balance, 31st Dec., 1876 ...	£644	18	1
Receipts:			
Dividends on £14,200 3 per cent. consols, half year...	£210	6	9
Grand Chapter, one quarter	25	0	0
Grand Lodge	125	0	0
Donations from Lodges and Chapters	3242	1	6
Annual Subscriptions	739	16	0
	4342	4	3
	4987	2	4
Disbursements	1465	19	6
Balance on this account.....	3521	2	10

WIDOWS' FUND.

Dividends	£122	4	1
Grand Chapter, one quarter	12	10	0
Grand Lodge	75	0	0
Donations from Lodges, Chapters, &c.	3225	7	6
Annual Subscriptions.....	630	19	0
	4066	0	7
Disbursements	1491	15	1
Balance due on this account	2574	5	6
	6095	8	4
Sustentation on Building.....	27	4	4
Total Balance	£6122	12	8

Bro. Col. Creaton, Bros. J. A. Farnfield, and Griffiths Smith were elected the committee to draw up the report to be presented to the annual meeting of the Institution on the 18th of May.

Bro. Terry read a letter from Mrs. Lane, the widow of Bro. W. Lane, late the Collector of the Institution, acknowledging with thanks the receipt of the £100 cheque voted to her. This, she said, she would use to the best advantage of those for whom it had been intended, and she also tendered her best thanks for the condolence of the brethren with her in her bereavement.

Bro. Terry reported that he had engaged Mr. Recknell, who had been educated in the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, to the post of clerk, vacated by Bro. George Knill on his appointment as collector, at a salary of £80 per annum.

Bro. Joshua Nunn, who had known Mr. Ricknell for some time, spoke in high terms of commendation of the character of Mr. Ricknell.

Bro. Terry read a letter from Dr. Strong, honorary Surgeon to the Institution, inviting the brethren to the Asylum at Croydon on Wednesday evening next, when a concert would be given for the entertainment of the inmates, by the Croydon Amateur Musical Society. Bro. Terry said that Dr. Strong was president of the society, and as it was the last meeting of the society for the season he thought that this entertainment should be given to the inmates of his association. Dr. Strong had gone to considerable expense in fitting up a platform, &c., and he would be very much pleased if the brethren would go down to Croydon and take part in the pleasures of the evening.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The late Southwark Conference created a demand for Compressed Tea beyond all expectations. *Eminent Analysts* declare it is only when tea is in its pure and native state that it will yield to pressure under hydraulic power. The *London* and *Provincial* Press unhesitatingly assert that if you want a cup of tea in perfection it must be brewed from tea that has been Compressed. *Economists* advocate the use of Compressed Tea, and say if you want to get double the value out of your tea use it Compressed. *Testimonials* in thousands speak highly of the increased value and advantages in using the finely selected teas of the Compressed Tea Company (Limited). *Families* are making constant applications for the smallest wholesale quantity supplied, and say, "We are compelled to send to the warehouse for Compressed Tea; because the tradesmen in our locality appear to know nothing of it; and as one pound weight of Compressed tea goes as far as two pounds weight of loose tea, we hope you will supply us." Sold in handsome cabinets—1lb. 2s. 6d., 2lbs. 5s., 4lbs. 10s.—got up specially for the Easter trade as *Samples*, carriage free to any part of the kingdom. Works and Warehouse, 36, Southwark-street, London. Arrangements have been completed whereby Tea dealers can have their own blended and selected teas Compressed at a nominal cost per pound for compressing. All applications for Agencies for the sale of Compressed Tea, or from traders desirous of opening up wholesale depots for the sale of Compressed Tea throughout the kingdom must be addressed to the Secretary.

The seventy-ninth anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will be held on Wednesday, June 27th.

Lady Georgiana Hamilton, accompanied by Lady Victoria Edgcumbe, left London on Wednesday for Biarritz, to visit the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.

For the Week ending Friday, April 20, 1877.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 14.

- Quarterly Gen. Court, Girls' School, at 12.—See Advt.
- Lodge 108, London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 173, Phoenix, F.M.H.
- " 1328, Granite, F.M.H.
- " 1361, United Service, Greyhound Hot., Richmond
- " 1423, Era, King's Arms Hot., Hampton-court.
- " 1446, Mount Edgcumbe, Swan Tav., Battersea.
- " 1607, Loyalty, Alexandra Palace, N.
- " 1612, West Middlesex, The Institute, Ealing.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

- Lily, Greyhound, Richmond.
- Manchester, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-sq.
- Star, Marquis of Granby, New Cross-rd.
- Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, S.W.

MONDAY, APRIL 16.

- Quart. Gen. Court Boys' School, at 12.—See Advt.
- Lodge 1, Grand Master's, F.M. Tav.
- " 8, British, F.M.H.
- " 21, Emulation, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 58, Felicity, 101, Queen Victoria-st.
- " 185, Tranquillity.
- " 720, Panmure, Balham Hot., Balham.
- " 907, Royal Alfred, F.M.H.
- " 957, Leigh, F.M.H.
- " 1159, Marquis of Dalhousie, F.M.H.
- " 1201, Eclectic, F.M.H.
- Chap. 12, Prudence, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 1319, Asaph, F.M.H.
- Encamp. 131, Holy Sanctuary, 33, Golden-sq.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

- Prince Leopold, Lord's Alley Tav., Kingsland.

- Strong Man, Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate.
- Sincerity, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-st. Station.
- Camden, Stanhope Arms, Up. James-st., Camden Town
- 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.
- Loughborough, Warrior Hot., Brixton.
- London Masonic Club, 101, Queen Victoria-st.
- West Smithfield, New Market Hot., West Smithfield.
- Leopold, Woolpack Tavern, Bermondsey-st.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17.

- Board of Gen. Purposes, at 4.
- Lodge 30, United Mariners', Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
- " 95, Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 162, Cadogan, F.M.H.
- " 194, St. Paul's, Cannon-st. Hot.
- " 435, Salisbury, Café Royal, Regent-st.
- Chap. 890, Hornsey, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.

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, Wheatsheaf Hot., Hand-court, Holborn.
- Israel, Rising Sun Tav., Globe Road.
- Royal Arthur, Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea.
- Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone.
- Excelsior, Commercial Dock Tav., Rotherhithe.
- St. John of Wapping, Gun Hot., High-st., Wapping.
- Islington, Coopers' Arms, Silver-st., Falcon-sq.
- Metropolitan Chapter, Jamaica Coffee Ho., Cornhill.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18.

- Gen. Com. Grand Chap. at 3.
- Lodge of Benevolence, at 6.
- " Grand Stewards, F.M.H.
- " 140, St. George's, Trafalgar Hot., Greenwich.
- " 174, Sincerity, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
- " 190, Oak, F.M.H.
- " 700, Nelson, M.H., William-st., Woolwich.
- " 969, Maybury, Inns of Court Hot.
- " 1044, Wandsworth, Spread Eagle, Wandsworth.
- " 1150, Buckingham and Chandos, F.M.H.
- " 1349, Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars.
- " 1382, Corinthian, George Inn, Cubitt Town.
- " 1624, Eccleston, Grosvenor Hall, Ebury-st., S.W.
- Chap. 13, Union Waterloo, M.H., William-st., Woolwich.
- " 192, Lion and Lamb, Cannon-st. Hot.
- Rose Croix Bard of Avon 33, Golden-sq.
- " Metropolitan, Rosicrucian College, 8, Air-st., Regent-st.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

- Confidence, Whittington, Moor-lane, Fore-street.
- Mt. Lebanon, Windsor Castle Tav., Southwark-bdg-rd.
- Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich.
- New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.
- La Tolerance, Horse and Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.
- Mount Edgcumbe, 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.
- Whittington, Black Bull Tav., Holborn.
- Lewis, King's Arms Hot., Wood Green.
- Royal Jubilee, 81, Long Acre.
- Langthorne, Swan Hot., Stratford.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19.

- House Com. Girls' School, at 4.
- Lodge 23, Globe, F.M.H.
- " 49, Gihon, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
- " 55, Constitutional, Inns of Court Hot.
- " 63, St. Mary's, F.M.H.
- " 169, Temperance, White Swan, High-st., Deptford.
- " 179, Manchester, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
- " 181, Universal, F.M.H.
- " 733, Westbourne, Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
- " 813, New Concord, Rosemary Branch, Hoxton.
- " 1227, Upton, Spotted Dog Tav., Upton.
- " 1287, Great Northern, F.M.H.
- " 1339, Stockwell, Tulse Hill Hot, Tulse Hill.
- " 1475, Peckham, Surrey M.H.
- Chap. 79, Pythagorean, Ship Hot., Greenwich.
- Mark Lodge, Bon Accord, 2, Red Lion-sq.
- Encamp. E., Observance, 15, Bedford-row.

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.
- Ubury, 12, Ponsonby-st., Milbank.
- Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
- The Great City, M.H., Masons' Avenue.
- 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, APRIL 20.

- House Com. Boys' School, at 4.
- Lodge 143, Middlesex, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 201, Jordan, F.M.H.
- " 975, Rose of Denmark, White Hart Hot., Barnes
- Mark 104, Macdonald, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue.
- " 176, Era, Bridge House Hot.
- Rose Croix Chapter, Invicta, 33, Golden-sq.

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, Prince's Hall, Buckhurst-hill.
 Burdett Coutts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.
 Royal Standard, The Castle, Holloway-rd.
 Ranelagh, Bell and Anchor, Hammersmith-rd.
 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.
 Earl of Carnarvon, Mitre Hot., Gouldborn-rd., N. Kensington

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, April 21, 1877.

MONDAY, APRIL 16.
 Lodge 1532, Israel, M.H., Liverpool.
 Everton L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
 Chap. 32, Jerusalem, M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17.
 Lodge 667, Alliance, M.H., Liverpool.
 " 1225, Hindpool, Hartington Hot., Barrow.
 " 1276, Warren, Stanley Arms Hot., Seacombe.
 " 1325, Stanley, M.H., Kirkdale, Liverpool.
 " 1570, Prince Arthur, 80, N. Hill-st., Liverpool.
 Merchants' L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
 Bootle L. of I., 146, Berry-st.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18.
 Lodge 537, Zetland, M.C., Birkenhead.
 " 823, Everton, M.H., Liverpool.
 " 1086, Walton, St. Lawrence's School, Liverpool.
 " 1345, Victoria, Cross Keys Hot., Eccles.
 " 1353, Duke of Lancaster, Athenæum, Lancaster.
 De Grey and Ripon L. of I., 80, N. Hill-st., Liverpool.
 St. John's L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
 Downshire L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19.
 Lodge 203, Ancient Union, M.H., Liverpool.
 " 343, Concord, Militia Mess R., Preston.
 " 425, Cestrian, M.H., Chester.
 " 905, Combermere, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.
 " 1299, Pembroke, Rawlinson's Hot., West Derby.
 Harmonic L. of I., M.H., Adelphi Hot., Liverpool.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20.
 Hamer L. of I., Liverpool.

Upper Norwood Lodge
 (No. 1586)
BENEVOLENT FUND.

An Evening Concert in aid of the above will take place in the Opera Theatre, Crystal Palace, on Monday, April 23rd, 1877, at 8 o'clock.
 Many talented Artists have kindly volunteered their services.
 Bro. August Manns (Mus. Dir. Crystal Palace) has undertaken the entire Musical Arrangements.
 Prices of Admission:—Numbered Stalls, 5s. and 2s. 6d.; Unnumbered Reserved Seat Tickets 1s.
 Tickets may be obtained at the Office, Crystal Palace; or Messrs. Strohmenger, Westow Hill, and of the Stewards.
 Fuller particulars will be advertised in our next.

THE "MASONIC" BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY (LIMITED).—This Society is being formed, and as it will be kept strictly "Masonic," Brothers are invited to communicate with Bro. A. G. NEWTON, at the Offices, 4, Thavies Inn, W.C.

TO FREEMASONS.—The Directors of the "MASONIC" BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY (LIMITED) are prepared to receive Applications from duly qualified Persons to act as Secretary of the Society. Remuneration £100 per annum. Applications by letter, with copies of Testimonials, to be sent to Bro. A. G. NEWTON, 4, Thavies Inn, Holborn, E.C.

£10 REWARD.—LOST, on Monday, the 26th March, near the Haymarket, a small Hand-bag, containing four Masonic Jewels. Whoever will bring the same to the Office of this Paper, shall receive the above reward.

LODGE FURNITURE for SALE.—3 Mahogany Pedestals and Platforms, and 3 Carved Oak Chairs, to be seen at Bro. T. Kingston's, Southampton-street, Fitzroy-square, W.

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 Music by Bro. WILHELM GANZ, Grand Organist, P.M. 435 Org. No. 4, and of British Chapter No. 8.
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 Invite attention to, and inspection of, their large assortment of BRUSHES, COMBS, CUTLERY, SPONGE, DRESSING CASES, PURSES, and LOOKING GLASSES of every description, which for quality and price cannot be surpassed.
 The very best Tooth Brushes, only 5d. each.
 Mexican Hair Renewer, 3s. 6d., sold at 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Allen's Hair Restorer, 6s., at 4s.; Atkinson's Perfumes, 2s. 6d., at 1s. 6d.; Farina's very best Eau de Cologne, 2s. 6d., at 1s. 6d.; Cooper's Lavender Water, 1s. 6d., at 11d.
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 A. P. 24s. 6d. per box. | H. No. 3 ... 34s. 6d. per box.
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 Samples sent on receipt of P.O.O. value 10s. of each or the whole.
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 Agents wanted in Town and Country, for terms apply to Bro. George Broadway, 24, Steep Hill, Lincoln.
 "These celebrated Pies are really very excellent, fresh, tasty, and well made. Heads of families will find them a serviceable addition to the luncheon or supper table. They are equal to, if they do not excel others, and certainly deserve a trial. Bro. George Broadway, of 24, Steep-hill, Lincoln, is the manufacturer."—Freemason, January 13th.

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