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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH.—(No. 228).—The last regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, on Tuesday, the 10th inst. The following brethren were present: Bros. James Hill, W.M.; Snare, S.W.; Halford, J.W.; Piercy, S.D.; Todd, J.D.; Flaws, I.G.; Davies, P.M., Asst. Sec.; Hart, P.M., Org.; J. Terry, P.M., D.C. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. Bros. Quartly and Sarrol. Bro. J. Terry, P.M., then brought forward the case of a brother in distress and proposed a grant from the Benevolent Fund of the lodge. It was seconded by Bro. Piercy, S.W., and carried unanimously. Bro. Davies, P.M., Assistant Secretary, announced with regret that the father of the lodge, Bro. Joseph Crump, P.M., and Bro. Winsland, P.M., Treasurer, were absent from this, the last meeting, on account of severe illness; and Bro. Terry, P.M., proposed, seconded by the W.M., and unanimously carried, that a vote of sympathy be recorded in the minutes, and the Assistant Secretary be requested to communicate the same to the brethren in question. The lodge having been formally closed until the second Tuesday in October next, the brethren adjourned to banquet, to which ample justice was done. On the removal of the cloth the toasts were given, "The Queen and the Craft," followed by the National Anthem, "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales" was drunk with enthusiasm, the W.M. remarking that he was glad to see that H.R.H. had recovered from his late indisposition, and trusted with the help of T.G.A.O.T.U., the change of climate will restore H.R.H. again to good health. The usual Masonic toasts followed, that of "The Visitor" being responded to by Bro. Dr. Whitmore, who took the opportunity to state that it was over thirty years since he had the pleasure of visiting the Lodge of United Strength, but even in that space of time it had not lost its reputation for good working, as he had witnessed that evening the Third Degree worked by the W.M. in the best possible manner. Several capital songs enlivened the proceedings of the evening. Among the visitors present we noticed Bros. Dr. Whitmore, J. D. Loverdo, C. J. Hilliard, S. S. Bacon, and others.

WOOLWICH.—Union Waterloo Lodge (No. 13).—Under the presidency of our esteemed Bro. F. G. Pownall, W.M., this good old lodge, the mother and most respected of all the lodges in the district, is steadily increasing, not only in years but in strength and position, and we feel sure that no one could have seen the splendid working of the ceremonies on Wednesday, the 11th inst., without feeling both pleasure and pride at the opportunity of being present where such good Masonic work was so well and ably done. The business before the lodge consisted of the balloting for and approval of Messrs. Debraclair, Jones, and Deans, which being effected, those gentlemen were duly initiated into Masonry, and Bro. Girdlestone received the Sublime Degree from the hands of the W.M. The following officers were present beside the W.M.: Bros. G. Davies, P.M.; G. W. Reed, S.W.; J. P. Moore, J.W.; J. Henderson, P.M. and Treas.; H. Syer, Sec.; T. Hutton, S.D.; W. Brown, J.D.; H. Harding, Org.; B. Norman, Tyler. Bro. Masters, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Reilly, acted as I.G. The visitors included Bros. C. Coupland, P.M. 913, and P.G. J.W. for Kent; W. Weston, W.M. 1536; T. Butt, W.M. 700; W. T. Vincent, W.M. 913; A. Jessup, Treas. 913; J. Chapman, J.D. 913; J. Sevenake, 1255; J. W. Miller, 700; J. Frankling, 913; C. J. Bowden, 299; W. Hallerman, 1536; W. Taylor, 1536; S. Standing, 1536; C. W. Harris, 871; W. A. Watkins, 1536; W. Cobb, 700; G. W. King, 77; and C. Jolly, 913. The whole of the work being finished, and charity, the mainspring of all Masonry, not forgotten, the brethren re-assembled for refreshment. The eloquent W.M. put the usual toasts in good and effective style, and the brethren as loyally responded, and a rare flow of harmony conduced to the comfort of this truly happy gathering.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Lodge (No. 41).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall on Thursday, April 5th. All the officers were present, namely, Bros. F. Wilkinson, W.M.;

Brown, I.P.M.; Falkner, S.W.; C. Wilkinson, J.W.; Ashley, P.M. and Treas.; Braham, Sec.; Wilton, P.M. and Dir. of Cers.; Carey, P.M. and Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Gummer, S.D.; Hunt, J.D.; Radway, I.G.; Robinson, Stwd.; Bigwood, Tyler; as P.M.'s of No. 41, Bros. Cooper, Clark, Rubie, and Mitchell; also Dr. Hopkins, P.P.G.S.W. for Warwickshire, and P.M. 43 and 958; and many members. The visitors were Bros. Gore, W.M., and Dickenson, J.W. 379; Col. Ford, P.M.; Edwards, W.M.; C. Collins, Sec.; W. Collins, Rolfe, Marillier, Hughes, all of No. 53; Tucker, 70; Bedford, P.M. 304; Watts, P.M. 626; Forckler, 35; Pegler, P.M. 304, 52, 578, 1026; Reynolds, Fuller, and Sumsion. After the lodge had been opened by the W.M., the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for five candidates, which proving unanimously favourable, they will be initiated at the next meeting. The subject of the exclusion of Jews from Masonry in Germany was considered, and the W.M. was commissioned to sign the petition in their favour on behalf of the members of No. 41. Messrs. Harris, Peach, Davis, and Baldwin, previously balloted for, were presented for initiation, and the ceremony was very creditably performed for the first time by the W.M., Bro. Cooper, as usual, giving the charge, and Bro. Falkner the explanation of the working tools. A printed copy of the Treasurer's annual report was presented to every member, which, notwithstanding some heavy expenses during the past year, showed a satisfactory balance of nearly £60. A proposition to reduce the subscription by one half to members, not being officers, who reside more than fifty miles from Bath, having been recommended by the permanent committee, it was carried unanimously. In the course of the evening, considering that there were four initiations, a ballot for five candidates, and proposition of two others, Bro. Ashley, P.M., took advantage of an interval to impress on the members, especially the younger ones, the importance of strict inquiry and perfect satisfaction as to the eligibility of candidates as regards character, and strongly to urge that in no case should a name be brought openly before the lodge until it had been privately mentioned to the W.M. and Wardens, and had received their sanction. A vote of thanks for their attendance was passed to the visiting brethren by acclamation, and responded to by Bros. Gore, Edwards, Bedford, and Pegler. Bro. Mercer proposed a joining member, and Bro. Brown a candidate for initiation. The lodge was closed at a quarter to ten.

TRURO.—Lodge of Fortitude (No. 131).—The regular meeting of this ancient lodge was held on Tuesday, the 10th inst., and was rendered an especial one from the fact that the members decided to add to the list of their honorary members the name of Bro. C. Eugene Meyer, of Philadelphia, U.S.A. Bro. Meyer is well-known to the members of every legal Masonic degree in America, from the First to the Thirty-third, and much respected by the leading brethren, especially of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter (R.A.) of Pennsylvania. As Chairman of the Library Committee of the former, and Past Grand High Priest of the latter, his services on behalf of the Craft especially have been most continuous and valuable for years, and certainly are "beyond all praise." The members of the Lodge of Fortitude had, however, before their minds not only a certain handsome gift he had made to them, in appreciation of the literary labours in connection with Freemasonry by one of their Past Masters (Bro. William James Hughsan), but remembered with evident gratitude the kind assistance he had rendered to an unfortunate member of their lodge, and they intend, by the special honour thus conferred, to mark their warm approval of his Masonic career generally, and as they have witnessed it particularly. The only other brother so honoured is the Right Hon. the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe, Prov. G.M. of Cornwall. The lodge possesses a centenary warrant, and numbers on its roll some of the best "workers" in the country. We trust that Bro. Meyer will long live to enjoy the deserved honour thus bestowed upon him by an English lodge.

LANCASTER.—Lodge of Fortitude (No. 281).—This lodge held its regular meeting in the Masonic Rooms, Athenaeum, on the evening of the 11th inst. There was a good attendance both of members and visiting brethren, Bro. Richard Taylor, the W.M., presiding. The lodge having been opened with the usual formalities pertaining to the Craft, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Mr. William Melrose, engineer, which proving unanimous, he was duly admitted into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry by the W.M., the E.A. charge being given by Bro. Geo. Kelland, P.M. A candidate was then proposed for admission at next meeting, and the usual proclamation made, which elicited hearty good wishes from the visitors, and the lodge was subsequently closed in love, peace, and harmony.

BRADFORD.—Shakespeare Lodge (No. 1018).—On Wednesday evening, the 11th inst., the installation of Bro. R. G. Latimer as the W.M. of the above lodge took place in the Masonic Rooms, Salem-street, Bradford, Yorkshire, in the presence of a large number of members, and also of W.M.'s, P.M.'s, and visitors from other lodges in the town and neighbourhood. Bro. Wm. Morgan, P.M., went through the preliminaries, and the degree was bestowed by Bro. Monkman, P.M. On the re-assembling of the Master Masons, Bro. W. Morgan presented the W.M. elect with the implements of our profession, which are emblematical of our conduct in life. A well-merited compliment was paid to the W.M. elect, who is highly respected in the town, and he received the hearty good wishes of all present. The other officers were appointed as follows: Bros. R. F. Harrison, I.P.M.; Wm. Longley, S.W.; G. H. Swithenbank, J.W.; I. M. Thorpe, Treas.; F. Ronnfeldt, P.M., Sec.; Henry Harrison, S.D.; Ed. Farrand, J.D.; Wm. Hy. Haley, I.G.; Samuel Bulmer, Tyler; Ed. Misdale, Org.; H. Tordoff, John Jolly,

and F. S. Garner, Stewards; and Thornton Wood, S. of W. and M.C. After the close of the lodge a grand banquet was held, and on the removal of the cloth the W.M. elect gave the following toasts, which were drunk with full Masonic honours: "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, and the Officers of Grand Lodge," "The following toasts were likewise heartily received and duly honoured: "Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., J.P.D.L., Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire," "The Worshipful Bros. Thos. W. Tew, Deputy Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire, and the rest of the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge," "The Retiring Master, Bro. R. F. Harrison," "The Worshipful Master," "The Worshipful Masters of the Visiting Lodges," "The Worshipful Past Masters and Brethren of Visiting Lodges," "The Worshipful Past Masters of the Shakespeare Lodge," and "The Officers of the Lodge." From the speeches it was gathered that the lodge is in a satisfactory financial position; that the members evince much earnestness in the pursuit of knowledge, and that complete harmony prevails amongst the whole of them. During the evening several songs were well rendered, and some classical music was performed on the grand pianoforte by Bros. Misdale and Atkinson. Throughout the proceedings were most successful, instructive, and enjoyable.

WESTERHAM.—Amherst Lodge (No. 1223).—This lodge held its second meeting of the season on Saturday, the 7th inst., at their lodge house, the King's Arms Hotel. The lodge was opened in due form by Bro. Newsom, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Alfred Sydney Owen was then advanced to the sublime degree of a M.M. Bro. Steele, of the SS. Peter and Paul Lodge, 1410, Newport Pagnell, was elected as a joining member, and Mr. Jno. Carr, jun., was initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. This business being completed, Bro. Mortlock, P.M. Industry, 186, proceeded to instal the W.M. elect, Bro. Edw. J. Dodd. The ceremony was performed in that able and impressive manner for which he is so thoroughly appreciated. The following officers were then invested by the W.M.:—Bros. A. W. Duret, S.W.; W. C. Banks, J.W.; R. Durtnell, Treas.; J. H. Jewell, Sec.; C. J. Dodd, S.D.; Jno. Webb, J.D.; Smeeman Smith, I.G.; T. Baker, D.C.; Owen, Std.; and Fullager, Tyler. Bro. Jewell brought under the notice of the lodge the petition emanating from the Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017, respecting the obnoxious law enforced in the German lodges in respect to the exclusion of the Jews from the privileges of Freemasonry, on his proposition, seconded by Bro. Webb, the feeling and of the lodge was signified by an unanimous wish that the same should be signed by the W.M. on behalf of the lodge, and forwarded to Bro. Abrahams for presentation to Grand Lodge. The lodge was then closed in due form, and marshalled by the D.C. to the banquet-room, where a splendid repast was served. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, the W.M., in a neat address, presented the retiring Master, Bro. R. Durtnell, with a very elegant and handsome jewel, bearing the Amherst Arms exquisitely enamelled in colours, and bearing the following inscription: "Presented by the members of the Amherst Lodge to Bro. Richard Durtnell, P.M., as a mark of esteem, and in recognition of the efficient manner in which he discharged the duties of W.M. during the years 1875 and 1876." The call for the Tyler brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

GREAT STANMORE.—Abercorn Lodge (No. 1549).—This summer lodge commenced its third season on the 3rd inst., under the presidency of Bro. J. W. Garrod, W.M., assisted by Bros. Vincent, S.W.; Ledcombe, J.W.; Ebbs, J.D.; Llewellyn Winter, Organist; Rogers, Treas.; Veal, Hon. Sec.; Bros. Best, Peach, Linton; and visitors: Bros. Tickle, P.M. 1196; Hawksley, 1196; Hunt, F.C. 1425; and Garrod, 889. The lodge was opened in the First Degree at 4.45, and disposed of the only business on the summons, viz., to confirm the previous lodge minutes and read the bye-laws according to annual custom. At the last meeting in October the brethren discussed and agreed that the day of meeting for various good reasons should be altered from the first Tuesday to the first Wednesday in the respective months, which was fully confirmed at this meeting, and instructions given to apply for permission to the M.W.G.M., and if possible to be procured by the next meeting in May. A petition was also presented by Bros. Tickle and Hawksley, asking the recommendation of the brethren in support of a new summer lodge, to be holden at the same hotel, by various members of the Urban and other London lodges, proposed to be called the "Sub-Urban," which met with the hearty support and good wishes of all present. The lodge was closed in the usual form at 5.40, one new member being proposed for next meeting. The usual banquet followed, to the satisfaction of all. The musical contributions of the brethren, and the hearty reception of the usual Masonic toasts ably (and appropriately given by the W.M.) were, as usual at this lodge, very enjoyable, many remaining after the Tyler's toast had disposed of all ceremony, and each contributing to the harmony of the occasion.

PUTNEY.—Royal Commemoration Lodge (No. 1585).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Wednesday, 4th inst., under the gavel of P.M. Bro. J. Wright. There were also present Bros. Robinson, Morpew, Holland, Boehr, Collings, Watkins, P.M.'s Smith and Stacey, and a large number of visitors and brethren, including P.M.'s Terry, Swallow, Scott, Wise, Wright, Burrell, and others. The retiring W.M., having raised Bro. Stokes and passed Bro. Hunt, proceeded to instal Bro. Robinson, the W.M. elect. On the re-assembling of the brethren the newly-installed W.M. was proclaimed in the

usual manner, and having invested the following brethren as his officers, viz., Bros. J. Wright, I.P.M.; Morpew, S.W.; Jackson, J.W.; H. Smith, P.M., Sec.; Watkins, Treas.; Holland, S.D.; Bochr, J.D.; Collings, I.G.; T. H. Smith, D.C.; and Harrison, W.S., proceeded to initiate Messrs. Kohler and Tanner into the ancient Order. Before closing the lodge three candidates were announced, and the lodge was adjourned to October. The usual loyal toasts were given after the cloth had been cleared, and were heartily received, as well as the following:—"The Visitors," "The Initiates," "The W.M.," "The I.P.M.," "The Consecrating Officer, Bro. Terry," and "The Officers of the Lodge." During the evening the I.P.M. was presented with a very handsome Past Master's jewel, and Bro. Steed having given the Tyler's toast, the brethren separated, having spent a very pleasant evening.

Royal Arch.

LION AND LAMB CHAPTER (No. 192).—The April meeting of the above chapter was held on Wednesday last, at the Cannon-street Hotel. Companions present: F. D. R. Copstick, Z.; H. Birdseye, H.; T. C. Chapman, J.; G. Phythian, P.S.; George Kenning, Treas.; C. Arkell, N.; Francis Fellows, E.; Thos. Cohe, Charles Lorkin, Wm. Medwin, J. Curle, E. Roberts, P.Z.; T. B. Yeoman, G. Bartholomew, George Newman, P.Z.; J. Kent, W. H. Brand, Cheese, and Vickers. Visitors: Comps. Lee, Darcy, jun., Clarke, and others. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Comp. F. D. R. Copstick proposed, and Comp. Birdseye seconded that a jewel be presented to Comp. G. Newman, for his excellent working during his year of office as M.E.Z. Notice of motion was given by the Treasurer to raise the subscription from 1½ to 2 guineas. A notice of motion was also given by the Treasurer that £10 10s. be granted from the funds of the Chapter to the Muggeridge Testimonial.

Bro. Emma Holmes, Collector H.M. Customs, Woodbridge, Suffolk, has been appointed Collector H.M. Customs, Fowey, Cornwall, by the Honourable Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs.

The installation meeting of the St. John of Wapping Lodge No. 1366, took place on the 11th inst. A report of the proceedings will appear in our next.

A handsome stained-glass window, designed and executed by Bro. Wm. Ramsey was inserted in the Guildhall on Tuesday last. It is a gift from Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., the late Lord Mayor, to the Corporation of the City of London, and consists of four divisions, the upper two of which depict the presentation of an address to the Prince of Wales and the lower two illustrating the presentation of the loving cup to the Princess of Wales.

Sir Wyndham W. Burrell, Bart., the new member for, and whose influence is all potent in the Rape of Bramber, is understood to have attained the dignity of P.G.M. for Sussex, Lord Pelham, the late representative of Lewes, having ceased to act.—*Mayfair.*

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Devon will be held at the Victoria Hall, Queen-street, Exeter, on Monday, April 23rd, at 2 p.m., and the brethren will march in procession, in order of precedence, to the New Masonic Hall in Gandy-street, where the honorary Treasurer and Secretary, Bro. Samuel Jones, P.P.G.S.D., will request the Provincial Grand Master of Devon, and Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, P.G. Chaplain England, to dedicate the new premises to the purposes of the Craft, according to ancient rules and ceremony. The ceremony being concluded, and the hall having been dedicated to "Universal Benevolence and Charity," the brethren will march back to the Victoria Hall, and the Provincial Grand Lodge will then be closed. It being St. George's Day, the members of St. George's Lodge will afterwards proceed to the new hall and instal the W.M. elect as W.M. for the ensuing year, and at 5 o'clock a banquet will be partaken of. Covers, will, however, only be laid for those brethren who give three days' previous notice of their intention to be present.

THE ADELPHI LODGE (No. 1670).—The consecration of this lodge will take place this (Saturday) afternoon at 4 o'clock, at No. 4, Adelphi-terrace, Strand. The ceremonies will be worked by Bro. John Hervey, P.G.D., Grand Secretary; the officers designate being Bros. John Llewellyn Jones, W.M.; Robert Gallon, S.W.; and H. Western, J.W. A full report will appear in our next.

The anniversary festival of the Royal Society of Musicians was held in the Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, who, in proposing the toast of the evening, drew attention to the progress of musical education in England.

Cheap excursion tickets to Stratford-on-Avon will be issued by the London and North Western Railway, available by the train leaving Euston-square on Monday morning at 10.10, and Broad-street at 9.40, to enable London brethren to attend the Shakespeare Memorial Masonic Gathering, and to return the same evening by the 7 o'clock train. The tickets will also be available for any ordinary train on the following day.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Gout, Rheumatism, Sciatica.—These maladies are always more or less connected with disorder or disease of the digestive organs, hence the facility with which they yield to Holloway's remedies. Temporary alleviation immediately follows the proper application of this soothing Ointment, while the Pills, taken internally, reduce the digestive functions to order and avert all inflammatory tendencies. Nervous invalids will derive ease and consolation from the influence of these medicaments, which are free from mercury and all noxious ingredients. Holloway's celebrated Ointment and Pills present, at a trifling outlay, the means of preserving the health or uprooting diseases which have assailed the body through accident, luxury, indolence, or other causes.—ADVT.

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, when it was opened, and amongst those who were present may be named Comp. G. D. Pochin, P.G.J.; H. S. Alpess, P.G.S.E.; R. Dodgson, P.G.A.S.; T. Armstrong, P.G. Treas.; J. Skeaf, P.G. Org.; H. Williams, P.P.G.S.B.; T. Buxton P.P.G. Second A.S.; P. Ball, P.G. Janitor; B. B. Marson, P.Z. 1356; J. Barker, Z. 1345; J. Bell, Z. 1356-E. B. Harding, H. 1345; R. Pearson, P.P.G. Reg., P.Z. 995; J. Jones, Z. 216; J. Wells, H. 580; J. Thornton, Z. 673; R. A. Brooke, Z. 1225; W. Laidlaw, P.P.G. First A.S.; H. W. Johnston, P.P.G.J.; J. F. Roberts, P.Z. 613; J. C. Gillman, P.Z. 1345; J. Wainwright, P.Z. 613; T. Dodgson, P.Z. 995; J. Case, P.Z. 995; J. Frank, 203; P. Macmurdrow, Z. 1094; W. J. Chapman, P.S. 1356; T. O. Dutton, 13563; B. Thompson, 249; W. Jones, Z. 1086; J. Sumner, Z. 113; E. Kyle, P.Z. 220; C. Fryer, P.G.S.B. 113; Dr. J. V. Worthington, Z. 220; E. Airey, P.Z. 1051; T. K. Hughes, P.Z. 241; A. Whittle, 1356; T. Chesworth, P.Z. 1086; Joseph Wood, Treas. 249 (*Freemason*); J. Baxendale, P.P.G.A.S. 580; S. Wyld, Z. 580; R. H. Evans, H. 292; H. Pearson, Z. 249; W. D. Holbrook 163; T. Evans, Z. 203; W. Fletcher, 292; H. Nelson, P.G.D.C. 673; J. Seddon, 673; J. Kirkman, 673; D. Jackson, S.E. 673; H. Burrows, 673; J. Hayes, S.N. 1094; D. R. Davies, 1094; Dr. J. Kelleit Smith, P.G. Reg. 1094; W. Boyle, P.P.G.J. 249; A. Morrison, 249; J. W. Burgess, P.S. 1094; T. H. Arden, 1094; Hocken, P.Z. 673; P. Buck, 1356; P. J. Edleston, Z. 148; J. T. Callow, P.G.S.B. 673; J. Pemberton, P.P.G.S.B. 1094; A. Woolrich, Treas. 1356; E. O. C. Rothwell, J. 220; R. Young, Z. 86; R. Langley, P.Z. 249; C. Fothergill, 249; W. Inwood, 1094; J. Russell, P.Z. 292; R. Wylie, P.P.G.D.C., 292; J. R. Goepel, P.P.G. First A.S., 86; and others.

After the Provincial Grand Chapter had been opened in due form, the minutes of the previous annual convocation were read and unanimously confirmed, and the balance-sheet was passed. His lordship then invested the following companions as the officers for the ensuing year:—

- J. Prescott, 580 Prov. G.H.
- J. C. Gillman, 1345 Prov. G.J.
- H. S. Alpess, 680 (re-appointed) ... Prov. G.S.E.
- R. A. Brooke, 1225 Prov. G.S.N.
- J. Sumner, 314 Prov. G.P.S.
- Dr. J. V. Worthington, 220 Prov. G. Ast. S.
- B. B. Marson, 1356 Prov. G. 2nd Ast. S.
- T. Armstrong, 216 (re-elected) Prov. G. Treas.
- T. Chesworth, 1086 Prov. G. Reg.
- E. Airey, 1051 Prov. G.S.B.
- T. Evans, 203 Prov. G. St. B.
- J. Jones, 216 Prov. G.D.C.
- J. Skeaf, 216 (re-appointed) Prov. G. Org.
- P. Macmurdrow, 1094 Prov. G.S.
- P. Ball, 1094 (re-elected) Prov. G. Janitor.

On the motion of Comp. R. Wylie, P.P.G.D.C., seconded by Comp. J. R. Goepel, P.P. G. First Assist. Soj., the following votes were agreed to on behalf of the Charities:—Ten guineas to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; ten guineas to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; £10 to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons; ten guineas to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution; and £10 to the Hamer Benevolent Fund (West Lancashire).

As there was no other business of importance, the Provincial Grand Chapter was closed in proper form by Comp. Lord Skelmersdale, P.G. Supt.

In the evening nearly all the companions present sat down to banquet in the large dining hall, under the presidency of Lord Skelmersdale. Bro. W. S. Vines, P.M., P.G.S., of the Canton Hotel, was the purveyor, and his catering, as usual, gave much satisfaction. The P.G. Superintendent gave "Her Majesty the Queen," and in submitting the toast of "The Prince of Wales, the First Grand Principal, and the rest of the Royal Family," his lordship enlarged on the many merits of the Prince as a hard-working Mason, having the best interests of the Craft very near his heart, and actuating him in all his Masonic deeds.

Comp. Brooke, P.G. Secretary, gave "The Earl of Carnarvon, Pro First Grand Principal, Lord Skelmersdale, Second Grand Principal and Provincial Grand Superintendent, and Lord de Tabley, Third Grand Principal." In referring to Lord Skelmersdale, Comp. Brooke spoke of the warm interest he took in Masonry generally, more especially in the province over which he ruled; and said that by his genial manner, warm Masonic interest, and strict justice in all his dealings, their Prov. G. Master and Prov. G. Supt. had endeared himself to every brother and companion in West Lancashire as well as throughout England.

Lord Skelmersdale, in response, thanked the companions for the cordiality with which the toast had been given and responded to, and assured them that he always felt a delight in coming into the province to attend to his Masonic duties. He also spoke of the Earl of Carnarvon as a most accomplished Mason, to whom no work, either in lodge or chapter, was ever strange.

"The Three Provincial Grand Principals and the Officers of the Provincial Grand Chapter," given by Lord Skelmersdale, was cordially received and fittingly responded to.

Comp. H. S. Alpess, P.G.S.E., in proposing "The Principals of the Various Chapters in the Province," spoke of the desirability of having uniformity of working in all the chapters, and referred to various other points which ought to be remembered.

Comp. Ball, P.G. Janitor, gave the last toast, "To all Poor and Distressed Masons, &c."

Excellent music was provided by a small glee companionship, under the direction and with the piano accompaniments of Comp. J. Skeaf, P.G.O.

The proceedings terminated about nine o'clock, his lordship staying until the close.

The programme of music was admirably rendered by Comps. C. Haswell, T. Armstrong, P.G. Treas.; J. Jones, P.G.D.C.; and Bro. T. J. Hughes, 216. Comp. H. Gill gave a performance on his enchanting "Fairy Bells," which greatly delighted every one present, and so delighted Lord Skelmersdale that he asked permission to examine the ingenious instrument, which he did most minutely.

CONSECRATION OF THE PROVINCIAL 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.

At two o'clock the brethren began to assemble. The Keystone Lodge was opened by a special dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, and Bro. J. C. Manning was advanced to the Mark Degree also by special dispensation. The Most Worshipful the Rev. Bro. Portal then opened the Provincial Grand Lodge in due form, and was apprised of the fact that the Provincial Grand Master designate was without, and was desirous of being installed. The patent of approval and appointment was then read by Bro. Binckes, Grand Secretary for England, after which Bro. Homfray was introduced in proper form and duly installed, with all the solemnities. The Right Worshipful Grand Master then announced the appointment, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, of Bro. Colonel Charles Lyne, Past Mark Master 109, who was invested. The following Grand Officers were also appointed and invested: Bros. Captain S. George Homfray, P.G.S.W.; George Arthur Brown, P.G.J.W.; Henry Hellyer, P.M.O.; E. V. C. Haldane, P.S.O.; R. J. Chambers, P.J.O.; Rev. Edward Jones, P.G. Chaplain; Walter West, P.G. Registrar; William Watkins, P.G. Secretary; Jonathan Piggford, P.G.A. Sec.; James Horner, P.G. Treas.; W. H. Wickey Homfray, P.G.S.D.; Chas. P. Evans, P.G.J.D.; Alfred Taylor, P.G. M. of W.; Captain A. T. Perkins, P.G. Dir. of Cer.; Nichol Bradley, P.G.A.D.C.; John Lewis, P.G. Swd. B.; Henry Howell, P.G. Standard Bearer; H. J. Groves, P.G. Org.; A. McMahon, P.G.I.G.; Hy. Fletcher, P.G. Tyler; W. H. Wheeler, Samuel Davies, and E. Swendenback, P.G. Stewards.

Votes of thanks were then accorded to Bro. Portal for the great ability shown by him in the performance of the installation ceremony, and other resolutions having been passed thanking several brethren of distinction for being present, the lodge was closed. The following brethren were present during the ceremony:—Bros. G. R. Portal, P.G.M., Prov. G.M.M. Hants and Isle of Wight; Walter West, 109, P.G.R.; Geo. Arthur Brown, P.M. 185, P.G.J.W.; Nichol Bradley, J.W. 185, P.G.A.D.C.; John Lewis, S.B., P.G.S.B.; J. Horner, P.G. Treas.; Alfred Taylor, P.G. Insp. of Works; C. P. Evans, P.G.J.D.; Henry Bonell, P.G.S.; W. H. Wheeler, P.G.S.; Jonathan Piggford, 109; William Williams, W.M. Ashlar, 185; E. Jones, S.W. 1098, P.P.G.C., S.W.E.; Samuel Bryant, P.G.M.M.O., D.P.G.M. Bristol; F. Binckes, G. Sec.; L. A. Homfray, P.M. 109; S. G. Homfray, P.M.; Henry Hellyer, P.M.; George F. Tuckey, P.M. 119, P.P.G.S.W., P.G.S.; W. H. W. Homfray, P.M. 683; John Phillips, D. L. James, A. M'Mahon, P.G.J.D.; James Stallard, Samuel Davies, Shadwell H. Clerke, P.M., J.W. Studholme; C. R. Davy, P.M.; A. T. Perkins, S.W. 109; E. T. Inskip, P.G.J.D. England; Wm. Watkins, W.M. 109; R. J. Chambers, C. P. Evans, Thomas Gage, H. Richards, H. J. Groves, Alf. Taylor, H. Howell, S. Bryant, E. Swendenbank, W. Williams, W.M. Ashlar Lodge; Thos. Harry, F. G. Lake, R. Bond, Nelson D. Marks, W.M. Langley Lodge; T. G. Glass, Edward Jones, J. T. Firbank, J. C. Manning, and other brethren.

The installation banquet took place at the King's Head Hotel at five o'clock. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master presided. Among the guests, who were numerous, were Sir George Elliot, Bart., M.P., R.W. Prov. G. M. of the Eastern Division of South Wales, and Bro. Parkinson, P.D.G.M. Middlesex. Nearly the whole of the brethren who took part in the installation were present at the banquet, which was served up in a way that gave entire satisfaction. Dinner being over,

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master proposed "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England,

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and Officers of Grand Lodge of England." He said he wished to couple with the toast the name of one who was installed at Aberdare on Wednesday as the chief of an adjoining province. He alluded to Sir George Elliot. (Cheers.) They were all delighted to hear that Sir George had so very successful a gathering, which they might accept as a pretty fair guide that the right man had been selected, and he was quite sure the province would prosper very much under his Mastership. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated Sir George on his having taken the office, and he congratulated the province on having so popular and so able a Mason to rule over it. He hoped the two adjoining provinces would co-operate with each other in furthering the best interests of Masonry, which they all had so much at heart. (Cheers.)

Bro. Sir George Elliot responded, and while seeking to impress Masons with the true value of Masonry, he hoped the provinces would go hand-in-hand harmoniously together, in furtherance of principles which were calculated to work so great an amount of good socially, morally, and religiously.

Bro. Major Clerke next proposed the toast of "The Most Worshipful the Grand Mark Master, the Earl of Limerick, and Officers of the Grand Lodge of England." The speaker expressed sympathy with the Earl of Limerick in reference to a recent affliction, and was quite sure he had the sympathy of the entire Order. Major Clerke enumerated six M.W. Grand Masters who had retired from office, one of whom was present among them that night. He proposed the toast, coupling with it the name of Bro. Parkinson.

Bro. J. C. Parkinson, in responding, said the Mark Degree would have good reason to congratulate itself in future upon the very happy selection that had been made that day, in placing Bro. Homfray there as the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Mark Masonry in Monmouthshire. (Cheers.) With regard to the Earl of Limerick, there could not possibly be a more estimable gentleman or a better Mason.

Bro. Portal next proposed "The Health of the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Mark Master, Bro. L. A. Homfray," in doing so he paid a tribute to the ability of Bro. Homfray, in his Masonic capacity, and felt sure from his great popularity that the proceedings of that day would be the starting point of a new era in Mark Masonry in Monmouthshire. He advised them, however, that numbers did not always mean success, and had no doubt, bearing that in mind, that, while doing their best to further the interests of Masonry, they would not forget to weigh members before they counted them. He felt that the matter in this respect, in Monmouthshire, was in very able hands, and he augured exceptional success from their proceedings that day.

The R.W. Prov. G. Master, in responding, said he thanked them very sincerely for the hearty manner in which his name had been received by them, and for the kind words which had been spoken in his behalf. He also thanked them for the proud position in which they had that day placed him, and said he felt that the toast which they had just drunk, and which had been so ably proposed by Bro. Portal, was not alone the expression of a wish with regard to his health, but was health and success to the province of Mark Master Masons which had that day been constituted. He had his own doubt whether he was really the right man in the right place. At the same time he would do everything that lay in his power to promote the furtherance of Mark Masonry in the province over which they had placed him. He had always maintained that no province of the same size could boast of a greater number of more enthusiastic Masons than Monmouthshire, and he hoped that when Bro. Portal came into the district next he would find double the number of Mark lodges that he had now found at this, his first visit. He would now propose another toast for their acceptance, that of "The Very Worshipful the Deputy Provincial Grand Mark Master, Bro. Colonel Charles Lyne, and Officers of Provincial G.M.M.M. Lodge." (Cheers.) He could not but regard it as a great compliment that Colonel Lyne should have accepted the office of Deputy under him. He regarded it as an honour to the Provincial Grand Lodge that two of his principal officers—the Deputy Grand Master and the Senior Warden—should be the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master of Masonry in the province. He felt that under such auspices the lodge must prosper. (Hear, hear.) He had found some difficulty in fixing upon officers, not that good Masons were too few, but that they were too many, and he scarcely knew how to decide between them. He had, however, adopted the system of seniority, and he hoped the brethren would give him credit for strict impartiality. (Hear, hear.) He might also add that in future selections he should consult Masters of lodges as to the capacities and seniority of brethren, thereby, he hoped, getting the very best men for the vacant places. (Hear, hear.) He proposed the toast, coupling with it the name of Bro. Homfray Grand Senior Warden.

Bro. Homfray, in responding, paid a very high tribute to the Masonic ability of Colonel Lyne, than whom, he said, he never sat under a better Master. With regard to himself, he felt it to be an honour to be selected by his brother to take office in the new Grand Lodge, and regarded it as a kindly and thoughtful act in being selected to fulfil the duties, which would, at all times, have his best attention, with a view to the success of the lodge and the furtherance of the principles of the Order.

The Right Worshipful Master next proposed "The Consecrating and Installing Master, the Most Worshipful the Rev. G. R. Portal, P.G.M.M.M. of England," and commented on the very able way in which the ceremonies of the day had been gone through.

Bro. Portal responded, and hoped the new Provincial Grand Lodge would be attended with abundant success.

The Senior G. Warden next proposed "The Visitors," coupling with the toast the names of Bro. Davey and Bro. Major Clerke, both of whom responded.

Bro. Davey proposed "The Lodges of the Province," to which Bro. Davies responded.

The toast of the "Masonic Charities," proposed by Bro. Parkinson, was responded to in a speech of characteristic eloquence and vigour by Bro. Binckes, which, with the Tyler's toast, brought the proceedings to a close.

It should be stated, in justice to the newly-installed Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Mark Master, that the whole of the regalia and jewels of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge were a free gift, presented by him to the lodge, and that, as part of the lodge business, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to him for his valuable present.

In the evening a Grand Masonic Ball took place at the Kings Head Hotel.

CONSECRATION OF A MARK LODGE AT BURNLEY.

As was briefly stated in last week's *Freemason*, the consecration of the Scarlett Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 184, took place with great eclat at the Mechanics' Institute, Burnley, on Friday, the 6th inst. There was a large gathering of Mark Masons, to whom the interesting ceremonies of the afternoon appeared to give the greatest pleasure. It may be stated that the Scarlett Mark Lodge has been holding its meetings under a dispensation since towards the close of 1875, but the formal consecration has not taken place until now, as the brethren were anxious that the head of Mark Masonry in Lancashire (Lord Skelmersdale), should perform the ceremony. They therefore waited until his lordship found it convenient to attend and redeem his promise, and, taking the opportunity afforded by the Easter Parliamentary recess, he was present to consecrate on the occasion named. Besides R.W. Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, P.G.M.M.M., there were in attendance Bros. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, P.G.W. and D.P.G.M.; Robert Mc. D. Smith, P.G.J.W.; Augustus A. Bagshaw, P.G.A. Chap.; Jno. Chadwick, P.G. Sec.; Jno. Bell, P.P.G.S.B.; Thos. Hindle, P.P.G. S.O.; Robert Butterworth, G.S.; Thos. Hindle, P.P.G.J.O.; Robert Wade, 159; Joseph Wood, 65, P.P.G. Sd. B. (*Freemason*); Richard Nelson, S.O. 14; Edward Heywood, W.M.M. 159; Geo. Whiteley, 56, Sec.; Jno. Watson, P.S.B.; Christopher Furness, 159; W. Barraclough, S.W.; J. W. Kenyon, P.P.G.J.O. 123, Bury; Ralph Fletcher, 123; Thos. West, 56; Jno. Watson, P.P.S.B.; Thos. Oakden, P.G.M.O.; Jno. Alcock, P.G.J.D.; Thos. Horsfall, P.G. Org.; Geo. A. O. Niel, P.G.O.; W. H. Prince, P.G.O.; Wm. Roberts, P.P.G.S.D.; Ed. Hartley, P.P.G.J.O. West Yorkshire; Ed. Diggle, J.W. 56, S.D. 189; Jno. Greenwood, S.W. 14; Thos. Knowles, M.O. 14; Wm. Pilling, P.M. 56; Jas. Charnock, 14; J. Taylor, W.M.; Tom Bradshaw, P.G.A.D.C.; R. W. Waterson, P.G.P.

His lordship consecrated the lodge with the usual formalities and ceremonies, assisted by prominent members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and at the close of this portion of the proceedings the following brethren were invested officers for the ensuing year:

Bros. John Rawcliffe, W.M.; H. Wadsworth, S.W.; Tom Bradshaw, J.W.; S. Alexander, M.O.; R. W. Waterson, S.O.; Jno. Bollard, J.O.; Wm. Smith, Treas.; B. Whitaker, Sec.; George C. Ogden, Reg.; E. Diggle, S.D.; W. Morsden, J.O.; Jas. Dent, I.G.

The brethren subsequently banqueted under the presidency of the P.G.M.M.M.

SAD ACCIDENT TO A BROTHER IN LIVERPOOL.

A large circle of Masonic brethren in and around Liverpool will learn with deep regret that death has suddenly taken away one who was universally esteemed and admired. On Friday, the 6th inst., Bro. Marmaduke George Bateman, a Steward and Auditor of the Temple Lodge, No. 1094, who was only 39 years of age, was inspecting a number of houses which he had erected in Bedford-street South, Liverpool. He and Mr. F. Bage, painter and plumber, ascended one of the buildings to inspect the work being done by his men. A plank used by one of the workmen engaged in "pointing" the outside projected, and upon Bro. Bateman and Mr. Bage, who were heavy men, stepping upon the wood it gave way, precipitating both gentlemen to the ground, a distance of twelve feet. The injury to Mr. Bage was not so severe, but two of Bro. Bateman's ribs were broken, and after suffering intense agony he died at his mother's residence, 5, Berkeley-street, on the following Monday. The plank was made of new wood, but it unfortunately gave way at a knot which had not been observed. An inquest was held on the body on Thursday, the 12th inst., when the jury returned a verdict of accidental death. The sudden death of the deceased, who was a master builder, was feelingly alluded to at the annual installation meeting of the Temple Lodge, and it was resolved that a letter of condolence should be sent to Mrs. Bateman under the distressing circumstances.

The remains of the deceased were interred in St. James's Cemetery, on Friday, the 13th, when the following officers and brethren of the Temple Lodge were present: Bros. R. C. Yelland, W.M.; R. R. Martin, P.M.; W. Healing, I.P.M.; T. G. Winstanley, J.W.; Joseph Wood, Treas. (*Freemason*); J. Tyson, S.; A. Horspool, S.; Dr. Speer,

Deacon, &c. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Eben. Cargill, incumbent of St. Philip's Church, Hardman-street.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The quarterly meeting of the subscribers to this institution was held on Saturday last at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Lieut. Col. John Creaton, Vice Patron, was voted to the chair. As usual at these quarterly Courts on which the election is taken there was a very large assemblage of the brethren; and on this occasion there were present among others, Bros. J. Wordsworth, P. Kirke, Geo. Jeffery, Pierce Egan, Henry Smith, S. Rawson, W. H. Tomlinson, Thomas Hill, Raynham W. Stewart, Thos. Massa, T. Prideaux Saunders, Hy. Potter, R. B. Webster, Wm. Stephens, Charles Lacey, J. J. Berry, H. Massey (*Freemason*), C. F. Matier, A. H. Tattershall, G. Bolton, Hyde Pullen, Griffiths Smith, J. Tyerman, H. Browse, H. A. Dubois, E. Letchworth, F. Pendered, W. H. Spaul, J. G. Stevens, Geo. Kenning, F. I. Pownall, Fredk. Adlard, J. Bodenham, J. Smith, Leopold F. Ruf, Col. H. S. Burney, J. S. Hine, J. Terry, J. A. Birch, Thos. W. White, John Symonds, E. H. Finney, A. F. A. Woodford, H. C. Burt, T. Cubitt, Jesse Turner, H. Hacker, F. J. Sabine, H. G. Warren, W. H. Radley, F. W. H. Ramsey, M.O., W. F. C. Moutrie, Peter De L. Long, H. Cowland, F. B. Davage, and R. Wentworth Little (Secretary).

After the minutes had been read by Bro. Little, Bro. S. Rawson, P.D.G.M. China; proposed the re-election of Bro. Samuel Tomkins, G.T., as Treasurer of the Institution.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, P.G.D., seconded the motion, which was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The following brethren were elected the General Committee for the year:—Bros. H. Browse, jun., Cargill, Corbin, Dodd, Gossett, Law, H. Massey (*Freemason*), Moore, Peacock, W. Spencer, Jesse Turner, and J. W. Berrie.

The undermentioned brethren were elected the Scrutineers of votes for the election:—Bros. A. H. Tattershall, R. B. Webster, S. Rawson, Jardine, J. J. Berry, R. W. Stewart, Cullen, Matiere, Ramsay, Constable and Tyerman.

Bro. H. G. Warren, P.G.S., then rose to propose the following motion, of which he had given notice:—

"That, having regard to the increased income of the Institution and the altered position of the Secretary and Collector, it is expedient that Rules 74 and 75 shall be so amended as to provide that the Secretary shall give security for £1000, the Secretary's Chief Clerk £500, and any other Clerks £250 each. Such security to be provided through an approved Guarantee Society, and the premiums paid by this Institution, so as not to be a burthen on the officials."

In bringing the motion before the notice of the meeting Bro. Warren said he was induced to do so for the reason mentioned in the motion, the altered position in which the institution stood at the present time compared with what it was when the law was made fixing the securities of the Secretary and Collector. At the time when the securities were fixed at £300 and £200, the whole of the income of the institution did not exceed £3000 a year. He thought he was within the mark when he said that the income of the institution was now £14,000 or £15,000. Therefore when the brethren found, according to the rules, that the Secretary was required to find security for £300, and the Collector for £200, together only £500, they would see that the proportion that the security bore towards the income was small when compared with the proportion it bore to the income at the last time it was fixed; for whereas it then was at the rate of one-sixth of the income it was now about one-forty-seventh. The brethren would probably see therefore that it was proper that the amount of the securities should be increased. How it was to be obtained was a matter of indifference to him. By his resolution he proposed that it should be a guarantee society, for the reason that this plan was generally adopted by the government and all commercial offices of any consideration. He had proposed also that the premium should be paid by the institution, because after the salary of the Secretary had been fixed he did not wish that it should be taxed by the deduction of a premium for security. Under the circumstances that they had now only one person filling the two offices of Secretary and Collector, and that he was only giving the security which the Secretary gave when Secretary only, and when that Secretary's salary was only a third or a half of what it was now, he (Bro. Warren) had thought it right to bring this motion before the court.

The Chairman asked whether any brother seconded Bro. Warren's motion. After waiting some little time, as no one spoke, he added that there being no seconder the motion fell to the ground.

Bro. Warren said that if the brethren were content with so small a security as £300, he had nothing to do but submit to their opinion.

Bro. John Symonds, P.G.D., said Bro. Warren was wrong in saying that the security was only £300. The Secretary being the Collector as well as Secretary gave security for both offices—the £300 and the £200.

Bro. Warren begged to be allowed to say that he mentioned in his opening address that the security required by the law was £500, but at present, in consequence of the alteration made by doing away with a separate Collector they had now security for £300 only.

Bro. John Symonds said that this was a matter for the consideration of the committee.

The next business on the paper was the consideration of Bro. Dr. Ramsay's motion.

"That the proposition of Bro. Warren, as to the Guarantees, be referred to a Select Committee composed of

Bros. Col. Creaton and Col. Burdett, Trustees; W. Hyde Pullen, Wm. Roebuck, D. M. Dewar, Raynham W. Stewart, John Mason, and Dr. Ramsay, with power to add to their Number."

Dr. Ramsay said he thought after the sense of the meeting with reference to Bro. Warren's motion had been so unmistakably shewn it would be unnecessary for him to bring forward his proposition. He therefore would withdraw it.

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, P.G.D., then proposed the following alteration in the laws of the institution of which he had given notice:—"That the Quarterly Courts in January and July shall be held in future at four o'clock instead of 12 o'clock." He said he made this proposition for the convenience of many brethren who were business men, for whom it was very important that they should be able to have as much time in the morning and early part of the day as possible. At these Quarterly Courts in January and July there was very little business to do, and brethren who wished to attend were put to inconvenience for very little purpose. But at the Quarterly Courts of April and October, when the election took place they did not mind the inconvenience of coming at 12 o'clock because there was a great deal to be done, and a great result to be obtained. To come away from the City at half-past eleven o'clock in order to be at Freemasons' Hall at twelve was a serious thing to a professional man. It was a great point with business and professional men to be in their offices in the fore part of the day; and when it was remembered that in connection with these institutions the brethren gave their services gratuitously he thought their convenience should be consulted as far as possible. His motion only affected those two days in the year when there was very little business done, leaving the other two days when there was a great deal to be done untouched.

Bro. H. A. Dubois seconded the motion.

Bro. H. G. Warren said he should oppose the motion on the ground that 12 o'clock was a very satisfactory hour for meeting. He was disengaged at 12 o'clock in the day; but at 4 o'clock it would be quite impossible for him to attend, though that perhaps was of no consequence at all. Still there were a great many brethren who could spare an hour in the middle of the day as well as he, or from twelve to two o'clock. At that portion of the day he thought business men were not so much engaged as in the later hours, when they wanted to get their letters off.

Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G.P., said he spoke quite disinterestedly on the subject because it really did not matter to him what hour was fixed. It was not with every brother as it was with Bro. Warren, who was an independent gentleman. To gentlemen engaged in business it was very important to have to leave their business in business hours. When brethren came to Freemasons' Hall at 4 o'clock they generally finished their day and did not go back to business. A great many went to their lodges at that hour, and they did not go back to business then. All the brethren were not independent and able to attend whenever they might be called upon. He did not think that 4 o'clock was an unreasonable hour. He did not see what could be the objection to the proposed alteration. If there were no others than those mentioned by Bro. Warren he did not see why the alteration should not be made. For his part he should vote for the motion.

Bro. John Symonds said this question should be looked upon as one of convenience to both sides. Bro. Smith seemed to assume that as a matter of course business men could come at 4 o'clock; but really to business men that was a most important part of the day, as they were then preparing their letters for the post. For some of them (among whom he himself was one) 12 o'clock was more convenient than 4. But it was in fact a question of the balance of convenience or inconvenience, and no doubt the brethren would give their votes on the motion according as it affected each individually. If the majority should decide that the hour should be fixed at 4 o'clock he had nothing more to say on the matter; he should be happy to conform as far as he could to the wishes of the majority. He would mention another point which had not been mentioned hitherto, Bro. Raynham Stewart's motion would not effect an alteration in the law of the Institution; it would merely make an alteration in the hour of meeting. The necessary alteration in the law must be made by one of these Quarterly Courts to which notice of motion must be given. The brethren had never been in the habit of leaving to any individual the alteration of the working of their laws, but it would be perfectly competent to Bro. Raynham Stewart on his notice of motion to specify a word which would carry out the object. If that was put instead of the present notice it would take the place of the law. It could only be made then at the next meeting for the collateral alteration of law. He had no doubt Bro. Raynham Stewart, with his facility of words, would very quickly be able to frame his resolution to meet the requirements of the case, and then he could submit it to the meeting.

Bro. Thos. W. White, P.G.S., observed that there was another objection to altering the hour. As Bro. Joseph Smith had said, when brethren went to their lodges they went generally at 3, 4, or 5 o'clock, and it would inconvenience a good many brethren in consequence, especially as there were a good many lodges now meeting on Saturdays, and they all met at an early hour.

Bro. J. Bodenham, Prov. G. Treasurer Staffordshire, said that the country brethren were always very glad to attend these meetings, and as they were held on Saturdays they liked to get home for Sunday, which they would generally be precluded from doing if the hour was altered from 12 to 4.

The Chairman said that as regarded the alteration in the hour he himself was quite indifferent, as he was able to attend whether the hour was twelve o'clock or four; but what he greatly objected to was the eternal changes

in the laws of the Institution. It was not very long ago that the day for these quarterly meetings was changed from Thursday to Saturday. Now it was proposed to alter the time of meeting. As far as he was concerned he did not care whether it was four or twelve, but he did object to the alteration of the laws continually happening.

Col. Somerville Burney asked whether it was not more desirable that the meeting should take place before the election than after.

Bro. Little: The question did not arise with respect to the quarterly meetings in January and July, as there were no elections on those days.

Bro. Raynham Stewart in reply said that with reference to the observations of Bro. Bodenham as to the brethren from the country wishing to get home for the Sunday, he would remind him that the reason the quarterly meetings of the Girls' School were altered from Thursday to Saturday was that the brethren from the country might stay till the Monday for the Quarterly Courts of the Boys' School. He however would leave it in the brethren's hands, he himself making no particular point of it. He would leave it to the brethren to vote, and no doubt they would do so, as Bro. Symonds had said, according as it suited each individual.

The Chairman then read the resolution, which Bro. Raynham W. Stewart had altered as follows:—"That Law, No. 29 be amended by altering the hour of meeting in January and July to 4 o'clock instead of, as now, at 12.

The motion was put to the meeting and lost by a small majority.

The brethren afterwards proceeded with the election of 13 girls out of an approved list of 54 candidates. The list of successful and unsuccessful candidates will be found at page 157.

On the motion of Bro. W. Hale a vote of thanks was passed to the Scrutineers, which Bro. W. H. Tattershall, chairman, acknowledged.

A vote of thanks was also passed to Col. Creaton for presiding.

Col. Creaton in acknowledging the compliment said it always gave him much pleasure to come and assist in any way he could their charities.

The proceedings then terminated.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The Quarterly Court of the subscribers and governors of this Institution was held on Monday, in the Board-room, Freemasons' Hall, Bro. John Symonds, Vice-Patron, Presiding. Amongst a large number of brethren present were: Bros. John Symonds, Vice-Patron and Trustee, in the chair; Col. Creaton, H. F. Martin, A. Durrant, Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C.; S. Rosenthal, Vice-Patron; John W. Dennison, H. Hacker, William Biggs, Geo. Bolton, V.P.; Jno. G. Stevens, Hy. Bartlett, John Colstable, Charles Lacey, Jas. A. Birch, H. Massey (*Freemason*), R. B. Webster, S. Rawson, V.P.; Henry C. Burt, Raynham W. Stewart, V.P.; F. W. Ramsay, Leopold Ruf, Hy. G. Warren, Geo. M. E. Snow, V.P.; Jesse Turner, Joseph Boddington, Hyde Pullen, Geo. Smith, Jas. Warner, H. A. Dubois, Lieut.-Col. Somerville Burney, Chas. Lee, Jno. Geo. Moore, W. H. Spaul, Fred. Adlard, V.P.; W. H. B. Tomlinson, Capt. J. Wordsworth, Henry Smith, V.P.; F. B. Davage, and F. Binckes, Secretary.

After the minutes of last Quarterly Court, and of the various Committees held since that meeting, had been read by Bro. Binckes,

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart moved that Bro. George Plucknett be elected Treasurer of the Institution.

Bro. Col. Creaton seconded the motion, which was then put, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, seconded by Bro. Leopold Ruf, the following members of the General Committee were unanimously re-elected:—Brackstone Baker, W. B. Blackmur, Charles T. Dorey, Samuel Gale, Henry William Lindus, H. Law, Noah Martin, Edmund C. Massey, Henry Massey, Percival Sanford, Jesse Turner, and E. J. Tyrrell.

Bro. Binckes said that he might mention here that Bro. Plucknett had called upon him with a letter from the stepfather of one of the boys now in the Institution, a boy who came from the Province of Cheshire. The mother of the boy had married the gentleman who had written the letter, and who said he was well able to support the boy, and considered he was doing an injustice to some other boy if he continued him longer in the school. His desire was therefore to remove him at once. Bro. Binckes added that Bro. Plucknett, who had gone down to the School to see the lad, would take care that the stepfather's wishes were complied with, and he would arrange to take him away on Friday next. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

Bro. Raynham W. Stewart thereupon moved, and Bro. Biggs seconded, "That an additional vacancy be declared for the present election." Carried nem. dis.

The scrutineers of votes were then appointed.

The next business was the consideration of Bro. Raynham W. Stewart's motion, of which he had given notice, of altering the hour of meeting of the Quarterly Courts of January and July to four o'clock instead of twelve, but Bro. Stewart said that he thought after what took place at the quarterly meeting of the Girls' School on this subject on Saturday last he should not like to make an alteration in the rules of the Boys' School which was not carried in the Girls'; and therefore he should defer any proposition he might wish to make on this subject till a future occasion.

Bro. Henry G. Warren's motion for increasing the security to be given by the Secretary and clerks was the next

business on the paper, but Bro. Warren said that after the decision at the girls' meeting on Saturday last he should not proceed with his proposition on the present occasion, as he intended to bring it forward in another form at next meeting. He was about to retire, but before he did so he wished to be allowed to say that he had heard it whispered that he had brought the matter forward in somewhat of an inimical spirit to the Secretaries of the Institutions. Now he begged to say that he had not the slightest feeling in the matter. So little was his feeling on the subject, that he had not interfered in the proceedings of the Institution for nearly twelve years, and he should not have taken the step he had recently adopted but for the alteration in the laws of the Institutions which had been recently made. They had altered one portion of the rules, and he thought he was fully justified in the course which he had proposed to pursue considering that the committee of one of the Institutions had fixed the security to be given by the Collector at £500, and that that security was taken from the Guarantee Society.

The Chairman said it had occurred to him, though he did not know whether it had occurred to Bro. Warren, that it would be desirable that the General Committee should have the power of varying the amount of the security from time to time by giving notice. If it was fixed by the laws it could not be altered without giving notice of motion for one of the Courts, where the brethren would have the opportunity of discussing and considering it fairly and fully. But the General Committee had the appointment of the officers, and it appeared to him that if the law was altered at all it should be left to the General Committee to fix the amount of the security.

Bro. H. G. Warren said that was exactly the object he had in view in saying in his notice of motion that it should be fixed at such sum as might be determined by the committee.

Bro. Jesse Turner said that he was about to remark that at present they had no power to grapple with this question, and that if it was done at all it must be by an alteration in the law. He quite agreed with what had been said by the Chairman.

Bro. Binckes said that with reference to what Bro. Warren had said, as to hearing it whispered that he had a feeling inimical to the Secretaries of the Institution, he (Bro. Binckes) had never mentioned such a thing in any shape or way.

Bro. Warren said he was quite sure of that, and he never intended to intimate that Bro. Binckes had said such a thing. He had heard it, however, in other quarters.

Bro. Dr. Ramsay then referred to the proposal to enlarge the school, and moved "That it be an instruction to the General Committee from the Quarterly Court, to consider the propriety of convening a Special General Court of the Institution, at which their report on the enlargement of the Institution directed by the last Quarterly Court, together with the Architect's report and plans and detailed statement of expenditure may be fully and fairly considered." It appeared to him to be a matter of considerable moment that it should not be carried out in a hurried manner, but carefully and properly digested. Entertaining that view he proposed his motion.

Bro. Binckes said there was no motion before the court.

Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford observed that Bro. Binckes had on a former occasion stated that it was within the power of the court to deal with the question and move "an instruction." Here was a speech of his reported in the *Freemason*, in which he said that if the report was received an instruction would be moved to the Court and to the General Committee that they should advertise for plans. The report had been read for information, as presented to the General Committee, through whom it was to be sent to the Quarterly Court, and, therefore, now equally an instruction to General Committee could be moved.

The Chairman said the report was referred to but not read. (No, no.)

Bro. Binckes informed the court that the resolution come to by the General Committee was to postpone the discussion of the report to the next meeting of the General Committee; therefore it did not come to this Quarterly Court at all.

The Chairman said that although the report to the House Committee was not read, a reference was made to it as being before the General Committee, and he thought Dr. Ramsay was in order in moving what he had moved. The report was ready. This Court, at its last meeting, referred it to the House Committee to consider and report on the subject of the enlargement of the School. The House Committee, therefore, if they had been quite ready, should have reported to-day. They reported, however, to the General Committee, and the General Committee thought they should take time for further consideration. That being so it did not come before the Court to-day, but he thought it was quite competent, nevertheless, for Dr. Ramsay to move an instruction to the General Committee to consider the propriety of convening a Special Court to consider the report.

The Rev. A. F. A. Woodford seconded Dr. Ramsay's motion, because he thought they would all agree that the matter was of very great moment to the Institution. They all, as he believed, in that room—he did not think there was a brother present who did not desire to increase and support the efficiency of the Boys' School. But it must appear to them, after the discussion that had taken place, that the whole matter required the most careful, thoughtful and dispassionate consideration. They had before them a statement which had gone throughout the length and breadth of the Craft, that certain plans had been before the House Committee; and that a certain estimate of expenditure had been made. Without going further into that matter to-day, they were surely justified in pressing upon the General Committee the desirability of considering carefully those details before bringing them

to the Quarterly Court, and a Special Court was certainly the best place to discuss them, where every one might be fairly heard, and the whole matter put in shipshape, with detailed items of expenditure, instead of a bald general statement, which to his mind told them nothing whatever. When they had it all before them, they might say whether they were in a position to increase the school, whether it was advisable to increase the School at all, and how best they should do it if it was advisable or necessary to do it. On these grounds he begged to second the proposal of Dr. Ramsay.

Dr. Ramsay then proceeded to put his motion in writing. While doing so,

Bro. S. Rawson said he should like in the meantime to bring a matter forward for the opinion of the Court, though he was not going to propose a resolution. It was discussed by the Scrutineers of the votes in the Girls' School on Saturday what should be the course adopted in the Secretaries' offices with regard to voting papers which were sent to them to be presented. He (Bro. Rawson) maintained that if sent to the Secretaries' offices they were there as if at other Secretaries' offices, or at a Post Office, and that those voting papers should be sent in to the Chairman of the meeting as any other paper. He found that the Secretaries considered it their duty (he did not blame them for their zeal), if those voting papers were not in order, to take the trouble of sending them back to the brother who sent them, for correction. His point was that in that they were not doing justice to those who did not take the course of sending their proxies to the Secretaries' officers. He thought that all the proxies should be treated alike; they should not be corrected by any official. He did not know whether the brethren were aware that at every election several votes were lost through the irregularities which occurred in filling up the proxies. On Saturday there were as many as 55 papers rejected. Therefore those 55 did not have fair justice done to them if another 55, taking advantage of the kindness of the Secretaries, were sent to the Secretaries' offices for correction. He therefore wished for an expression of the opinion of the Court whether the Secretaries of the Institutions were justified in amending the proxy paper. As he pointed out to the Secretaries on Saturday evening, if such a course was allowed as the proper course they would have everybody desirous for his own safety sending his voting paper to the Secretary. He had no motion to make, but if the brethren present would give their opinion upon the subject he was quite confident the Secretaries would be guided in the future by that expression of opinion.

Bro. Binckes said he should like to state the case out of which this question arose. At the Scrutineers' meeting on Saturday a conversation turned upon the various irregularities that occurred in connection with the filling up of the voting papers, and he adduced the case of a brother at Tunbridge Wells, a Past Grand Officer of Kent, and liberal subscriber to the Institutions, who had sent to him (Bro. Binckes) a proxy to be handed in. Looking at this paper, which came to him with a letter asking him to poll the paper, he saw that the paper was improperly filled up. He said to himself that here was a brother, the donor of fifty guineas, virtually disfranchised through an error, and he thought it his duty absolutely to give the brother a chance of correcting it. He put it in this way: They knew there were constantly complaints at the elections made on the Scrutineers' return being given that a less number had been polled in certain cases than the number sent in. A correction was voted, and an explanation was given that a paper had been vitiated by being improperly filled up. What would have been the case with Bro. Sopwith if he (Bro. Binckes) had not given him the opportunity of correcting his mistake? He would have been disfranchised because he (Bro. Binckes) had not had the courtesy to tell him of the error he had committed, there being time for it. The consequence was he got a letter from Bro. Sopwith, enclosing the proxy corrected, and thanking him for what he had done. He (Bro. Binckes) thought that anyone in his position, probably having a paper sent to him to be polled, and in such a state that it could not be passed by the Scrutineers, would do no more than was his duty in sending it back for correction.

Col. Somerville-Burney said it was very seldom he disagreed with Bro. Rawson, but he was sorry to say he must do so on this occasion, for he did think that, knowing as he did the great difficulty there was in getting brethren to fill up their voting papers properly, and the extraordinary—he would call it nothing but stupidity of people well informed on other points—where anybody saw a paper improperly filled up, it was only fraternal and only right to return it and give the voter the opportunity of correcting it.

Bro. Binckes said there was a wonderful difference between him or any other Secretary correcting a paper himself, and sending it back to the donor to correct it.

Bro. S. Rawson said it would come to this, he would never deliver a voting paper in to the Chairman himself, all of his and his friends should be sent to the Secretary.

Bro. Henry Smith did not agree with Bro. Rawson in the slightest degree. He was quite satisfied with the course which had been followed by the Secretary, and he hoped it would prevail at all the institutions, as where an error could be corrected it should be. He should not send his votes to the Secretary, but, if necessary, he should hand them in himself.

Bro. Jesse Turner rose on a point of order. It appeared to him that the Chairman was receiving a motion on a matter which was sub judice. The report being before the Committee, he could not, for the life of him, conceive why the motion was made. The committee might bring up a report to the court which was so perfect and complete that it might be suitable for acceptance and meet the wish of every one. This motion instead of doing good might do harm, by tying the hands of the committee.

The Chairman said (after reading the motion), that he

did not see why it could not be put, as it did not deal with the report. The Committee presented a report in obedience to the last Quarterly Court. The motion was that an instruction should be given to the General Committee to consider it, so that it might not be handed over to be considered by the usual Quarterly Court. The motion was merely an instruction to the Committee as to the mode in which they should present the report.

Bro. A. Durrant said the matter was really in the hands of the General Committee, and was out of the hands of the House Committee. What took place at the last meeting of the General Committee was the consideration of the report deferred. The matter was now out of the hands of the House Committee.

The Chairman said that he must be allowed to call the attention of the brethren to the fact that in this instance the last Quarterly Court constituted the House Committee as the tribunal to make the report to itself (the Quarterly Court). It was as an act of great courtesy, and a very proper thing to do to bring that report before the General Committee. They were not bound to do so, because it was a reference from the Quarterly Court to the House Committee; therefore they were bound ultimately, whatever they might do in the interim, to make the report to a General Court.

Several brethren said the report was to be made through the General Committee.

Bro. Binckes read the minutes of the Quarterly Court bearing on the point, and it appeared that the terms of the original motion were that the report was to be made by the House Committee, "through the General Committee, to the Quarterly Court." The General Committee had deferred its consideration of the report, so that it was not now before this Court at all.

The motion of Dr. Ramsay, seconded by the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, was then put, and carried without a dissentient voice.

Bro. Binckes said he had been authorised by Bro. J. B. Monckton, the President of the Board of General Purposes, to bring to the notice of the Court that on Saturday, the 5th of May, there would be an amateur performance at the Opera Comique under the immediate patronage of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, on behalf of two of the institutions of the Order. Applications for tickets might be at once made at the Opera Comique. Bro. Monckton had guaranteed 100 guineas to this Institution, and 100 guineas to the Girls' School, as the proceeds of this performance.

Bro. Biggs wished to draw a matter to the attention of the brethren, all of whom he knew took a great interest not only in the Institution, but in the boys educated within its walls. Bro. Binckes had read from the minutes that an outfit of five guineas had been granted to George Dodswell. That boy was now out in the cold for want of a situation. If any brother had a berth he could offer him and would communicate with him (Bro. Biggs) he should be glad to receive such communication.

The brethren then proceeded with the election of 13 boys out of an approved list of 59 candidates. A list of the successful and unsuccessful candidates will be found on page 157.

A fourteenth boy having polled the same number of votes as the thirteenth, by resolution of the Court both were declared to be elected.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Scrutineers and the Chairman of the day.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

The monthly meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Joshua Nunn, Senior Vice President; Bro. James Brett, Junior Vice President; and Bro. J. M. Case, Grand Deacon, occupied the respective chairs of President, Senior Vice President, and Junior Vice President. Among the other brethren present were Bros. S. Rawson, Raynham W. Stewart, F. Binckes, S. G. Foxall, William Stephens, H. Garrod, F. G. Pownall, W. T. Howe, John Hervey, Grand Secretary; H. G. Buss, A. A. Pendlebury, H. Browse, H. Massey (*Freemason*), W. Mann, H. Bartlett, Joseph Egles, Col. Somerville-Burney, H. Phythian, Herbert Dicketts, Ex-Sheriff Hutton, Griffiths Smith, John Boyd, C. F. Hogard, M. Weston, C. P. Cobham, C. B. Slec, G. B. Gates, Henry Higgins, J. Fred. Huggins, John H. Cummins, George Tunley, George Angold, C. B. Barham, Walter E. Gompertz, A. H. Alley, E. F. Storr, J. Mowlem Burt, M. P. Barnett, James W. Lambert, G. Waterhall, James Hill, C. E. Walter, George Gregson, John Messent, and Henry Venn.

The lodge first confirmed the grants made at the last Lodge of Benevolence to the amount of £345, and then proceeded with the new cases, of which there were 25 on the list. One, however, had been withdrawn since the petition had been presented. Four cases were deferred. The remainder of the cases were relieved as follows: Two with £150 each (£300); one with £100 (£100); two with £50 each (£100); one with £40 (£40); five with £20 each (£100); two with £15 each (£30); and seven with £10 each (£70).

The lodge having sat three hours and a half, then adjourned.

Bro. the Right Hon. the Marquis of Hartington, R.W.P.G.M. Derbyshire, has kindly promised to take the chair at the Anniversary dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, which will be held at Willis's Rooms on the 5th prox.

It is with sincere regret we announce the death of Bro. Montagu Scott, of Gray's Inn Square, which sad circumstance occurred on Saturday last. We hope to give a short obituary in our next.

Masonic and General Tidings.

Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, and attended by the lords and ladies of the Court, is expected to leave Osborne and return to Windsor Castle about the close of this or in the course of next week. Arrangements, it is understood, had been made for the reception of the Queen at Windsor on Thursday or Friday last, but it is now believed that Her Majesty will not proceed to the Castle so soon as was at first anticipated.

At Windsor, on Saturday, the 20th birthday of her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, youngest daughter of the Queen, was celebrated with considerable rejoicings. Early in the morning, and at intervals during the day, the bells of the Chapel Royal, of St. George and St. John's Churches pealed merrily, and salutes of 21 guns were fired from the artillery in the Long Walk, Windsor-park, also from Fort Belvedere and the Royal Adelaide frigate, Virginia Water.

The consecration of the Ancient Briton Lodge, No. 1675, took place at the Masonic Hall, Liverpool, on Monday last, the 16th inst., the ceremony being performed by Bro. H. S. Alpass, P.G. Secretary West Lancashire. A report of the proceedings will be given in our next issue.

The Duke of Connaught Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 190, will be consecrated on Friday, the 27th inst., at the Havelock Hotel, Albion-rd., Dalston, by the V.W. Bro. Frederick Binckes, G.S. Bro. J. B. Shackleton, P.G.D.C. Middlesex and Surrey, being the W.M. designate.

The many admirers of Mr. Joseph Hatton will be pleased to know that he is writing a new novel, "The Queen of Bohemia," which will commence in the May number of the *Charing Cross Magazine*.

METROPOLITAN LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1056.—The Fifteen Sections will be worked by the members of this lodge of instruction at the Portugal Hotel, 155, Fleet-street, E.C., on Friday, the 25th May, 1877, commencing at six o'clock in the evening, Bro. C. A. Woods, W.S. 145, in the chair.

A warrant has, within the last few days, been granted for a new lodge, to be called the Henry Muggeridge, No. 1679, to meet at the Prince George, Park-road, Dalston. The officers designate are Bros. Henry Muggeridge, W.M., P.M. Panmure Lodge, No. 715; Francis Fellows, S.W. Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192; and E. F. Storr, J.W., W.M. Neptune Lodge, No. 22. The days of meeting have been fixed for the fourth Saturday in every alternate month commencing in May.

FREEMASONRY IN GERMANY.—A Reuter's telegram from Berlin, dated April 12th, says:—"The assertion that Herr von Dachröden, the Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Prussia (Grosse Landesloge), who is at Rome, had become a convert to Roman Catholicism, is declared by his deputy in office, Herr Gaartz, on the authority of a telegram received by him from Herr von Dachröden, to be an infamous falsehood."

"NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE HEART AND PARALYSIS, SOHO-SQUARE, W."—To meet the heavy expenses consequent on repairs necessary to the building on termination of present lease, and to afford more space for in and out patients, a bazaar (under distinguished patronage) will be held on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of next month at the hospital, where contributions of fancy goods, etc., etc., will be thankfully received by the committee. A band will be in attendance daily. On the first day a grand vocal and instrumental concert will be given.

We have received the prospectus of the Masonic Building and Investment Society (Limited), which is to be established for the purpose of affording to "Freemasons, their wives and families," all the advantages of a Land Building and Investment Society; and this class of security has so far improved within the last few years, as to claim the support of the Masonic world. A special feature, amongst others, of this Society will consist of a fund called the "Masonic Relief Fund;" by which, at the discretion of the directors, certain sums will be devoted annually to "assist the wives and children of deceased brother Masons who may be in distress." Masons, their wives and families only admitted as members of the Society, whereby the institution will become absolutely "Masonic." A general meeting will be held at an early date, and all brothers desirous of joining and assisting in the progress of the institution, will oblige by sending their names and addresses as early as possible, so that they may be invited to attend the meeting to discuss the prospects of the Society. Masons desirous of promoting the interests of this Society, will oblige by communicating with Bro. A. G. Newton, Managing Director at the office, 4, Thavies Inn, Holborn, W.C.

THE SCOTTISH FREEMASON.—If there is anything our brethren in the land o' cakes need more than another, it is the benefit of a free press intelligently devoted to the interests of the Craft and determined to break the shell of exclusiveness in which they have heretofore lived. We are glad, therefore, to see that a fortnightly Masonic journal has been started in Glasgow, and that it opens with fair promise of usefulness. We have placed it on our list, and shall be glad to know of its complete success.—*New York Dispatch*.

James Henry Batley being returned a successful candidate at the boys' election on the 16th inst., the mother and friends beg to return their grateful thanks to all who gave their votes to him, the more especially to Bros. Raynham W. Stewart, and Leopold Ruf, for their kind and indefatigable exertions at the election, and to Bros. George Kenning and C. Burmeister, for their interest.

London and North Western
Railway.

SHAKESPEARE
MEMORIAL
Masonic Gathering
AT
STRATFORD-ON-AVON,
Monday, April 23, 1877.

On Monday, April 23rd,

CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS

TO

STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Will be issued by the Train leaving Euston Station at 10.10 a.m., Broad Street 9.40 a.m., and Kensington 9.44 a.m., available to return the same evening by the train leaving Stratford-on-Avon at 7.0 p.m., or by any ordinary train on the following day.

For Fares and full particulars see Bills.

Chief Traffic Manager's Office,

Euston Station, April, 1877.

G. FINLAY,

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.

The following stand over:—

Letters from Bros. Henry C. Tombs, P.S.G.W. Wilts., and Richard Brant, Past G. Sec. German Correspondence. Reports of Lodges Joppa, 188; Ranelagh, 834; St. John of Wapping, 1306; Wandsworth, 1044; Era, 1423; Windsor, 209; Chippenham, 626; Southsea, 1069; Liverpool, 1055; Lancaster, 1051; Liverpool, 1094; Manchester, 1458; Twickenham, 1503; Plumstead, 1536; Hampton Wick, 1656; Chapters, 185, 237; Ipswich, Rose Croix Chapter.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

"The Masonic Eclectic," "Sunday Sun" Philadelphia, "Keystone," "Voice of Masonry," "Masonic Advocate," "Masonic Journal," "New York Dispatch," "Neah's Sunday Times," New York.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

CAMPANELLO.—On the 14th inst., at Hollywood-house, Brighton, the wife of Signor E. Campobello, of a daughter.

HAIGH.—On the 16th inst., at Winchester, the wife of the Rev. H. Haigh, of a son.

LITTLE.—On the 7th inst., at Cliff-house, Dawlish, the wife of J. L. C. Little, Esq., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DUMBELL.—WOOD.—On the 17th inst., at St. Stephen's, Hampstead, Henry Charles, son of G. W. Dumbell, Esq., of Belmont, Isle of Man, to Winifred Charlotte, daughter of C. L. H. Wood, Esq., of Roslyn-house.

MENNELL.—THOMPSON.—On the 16th inst., at the Church of the Servite Fathers, Fulham-road, Wilfrid, son of G. Mennell, Esq., of Exeter, to Alice Christiana, daughter of T. J. Thompson, Esq.

DEATHS.

BARTER.—On the 17th inst., at 367, Edgware-road, W., Mary Ann (Pollie), youngest daughter of Mr. Wm. Barter, in her 22nd year. Friends will please accept this intimation.

SCOTT.—On the 14th inst., Bro. Montagu Scott, aged 55, of Gray's Inn-square.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1877.

THE MOVEMENTS OF OUR
ROYAL GRAND MASTER.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales arrived in Paris on Thursday week, attended by Lord Suffield and Mr. Knollys, and alighted at the Hôtel Bristol, intending to remain a few days. The Prince made the most rapid journey on record between London and Paris. The time occupied was seven hours and three-quarters, including stoppages at Folkestone and Amiens, but exclusive of an hour and a half at Boulogne for supper and rest. The Prince exchanged visits in Paris with Marshal MacMahon, received Prince Orloff, and had a long interview with M. Krantz, the French Commissary-General of the coming Universal Exhibition. His Royal Highness has since gone on to Cannes. He left Paris at 7.15 on the evening of the 15th for Nice. His Royal Highness is in good health.

LAST QUARTERLY COURT OF
THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

At the meeting on Monday a very wise "instruction" was carried unanimously to the General Committee, namely, to consider the propriety of convening a Special General Court for the purpose of fully and carefully dealing with the report of the House Committee, when ready (be it what eventually it may), with reference to increased accommodation at the Boys' School, as well as the Architect's report, and a statement of the proposed expenditure in detail. Such, we apprehend, is the proper way of proceeding, and one most likely to please all parties. At the Special Court the various conflicting views and opinions can be patiently heard. Those who wish to increase the school at once can receive all attention, when they open out the stern necessities of the case. Those who wish to leave "well alone," or the school in "statu quo," will also be respectfully listened to, while those who may wish for the present to run in, so to say, between the two schemes, on the old adage, "medio tutissimus ibis," will also have an opportunity of clearly expressing their opinion. By this judicious determination of the Quarterly Court, anything like hurry or incompleteness will be avoided, and we shall be able to approach the subject with that calmness of consideration and clearness of vision which the interests of the Institution and the feelings of the Craft generally alike demand at our hands. The matter, as Bro. Dr. Ramsay well said, is a most important one for the best interests of the school, and the sooner, after due notice, that the whole matter is brought "ship shape" before the subscribers in a Special Court, the better, we venture to think, it will be for all concerned.

THE CITY GUILDS.

Friendly as we are to all measures tending to social improvement and educational extension, we cannot sympathise, as Freemasons, in that attack on the "Guilds" which has been for some time carried on and culminated in a recent discussion in the House of Commons, for we venture to conceive that this attempt to interfere with the management and expenditure of the Guilds of the City of London is alike archaeologically, and legally, and equitably, untenable. Archaeologically it is quite clear, without any possible controversy, that the Guilds of London, as elsewhere, are voluntary associations, supported by the contributions of the members, not in any way endowed by the Crown or the municipality—simply a sodality of citizens, for the purposes of trade, mutual assistance, craft handiwork, religious usages. If they were incorporated by royal charters, as Guilds in all times have been, even from Anglo-Saxon times, it was simply because otherwise they could not hold landed property, be sued or sue, or have a common seal. No doubt in the time of Richard II., the Parliament ordered a return of all the Guilds to be made, and many hundreds of these

returns then made still may be found in the archives of the Record Office. The Guilds generally were, as it is known, suppressed in the reigns of Henry VIII., 37 Henry VIII., and also by Edward VI., c. 14, the London Companies escaping as trading Guilds. When, then, it is said that the London Guilds own lands without the payment of any duties to the Government, it must be remembered that in the reign of James I., all, we believe, of the City Guilds, as appears from the records in the State Paper Office, paid a composition to the Crown for all lands which could in any way be supposed to have been left for what were termed "superstitious uses." The simple fact as against the City Companies appears to be that they exist, and are rich, or as Mr. Pease ingeniously and ingenuously puts it, their property is three-fold "known, semi-known, and unknown," therefore, according to the oriental logic of the day they must be "squeezed." As the Solicitor General well contends for all sums left for charitable purposes they are responsible to law; for the money left by private members of the Guild they are not bound to give account unless so ordered by an express Act of the Legislature. The *Times* places the matter very truly and logically before us, when it says "These institutions appeal directly to some of the strongest influences and traditions of English life. They combine some of the characteristics of Clubs, Benefit Societies, Trade Societies, Charitable Associations, and municipal organizations. All these characters were claimed for them or imputed to them in the course of the debate, and with some degree of propriety. They do not fall with exactness under any one of such descriptions, and they differ widely among each other. But in the lapse of long centuries they have assumed one function after another, and they rest on a corresponding range of the most varied interests. Their property is held by some of the oldest tenures in the country, and long traditions at once determine and sanction the manner in which it is employed." Most clear too, is the argument which follows: "The property of the Companies is really of two kinds. There is one class of it which has been bequeathed or bestowed for charitable purposes. This constitutes, strictly speaking, their trust property, and it is to be borne in mind that in respect to its administration the Companies are already under the control and supervision of the law. Their fulfilment of such trusts can be tested at any time, and they can be compelled to give an account of it. But another large portion of their funds was given, beyond question, for purposes entirely confined to the interests or even to the pleasures of the members. A sum, for instance, of £20,000 was left to one Company in order that the members might "make themselves comfortable." Of course it is open to any one to be of opinion that they might have been left for a more useful purpose: but, supposing it had been left to one individual for the same object, neither Parliament nor the law could interfere, and it is hard to see how the case is altered by the fact of the money being left to a number of individuals." We shall all agree with the following neat little bit of argument, ad hominem: "What could be more natural or more reasonable than that it should become a kind of ambition for a man to leave to his Company the means of maintaining such friendly intercourse and of exhibiting the hospitality associated with it? Money left for this purpose can no more be claimed as public property than the funds of the great Clubs in Pall-mall. Of course, if a positively injurious use were made of it, the Legislature would have the same right to interfere for the protection of the public as it has in respect to all other kinds of property. But the injury done must be a definite and unmistakable matter of fact, and not a mere opinion that all the good is not done with the money that might be done." As for the argument that the Companies spend too much on eating and drinking, and too little on public improvements, as one of their duties is "hospitality," there can be no question that they are quite right in carrying out the Scriptural precept, and some of their incriminators may well remember the admonition of "not grudging" a legitimate and munificent hospitality. We quite agree with another remark:

At any rate, the Companies have a right to resent the presumption that they make such a selfish and unjust use of their property as the motion supposed. Rogues and swindlers are no more numerous among the members of these Companies than elsewhere; and there will never be lacking plenty of honest men to see that the funds of their Company, whether intended for charitable or social purposes, are duly applied." We believe that the City Companies, like most Englishmen, fully recognise the duties and responsibilities of an important "cestuique trust," and that we shall always find them most ready to co-operate in all matters that tend to advance the interests of education, to uphold the credit of the City, to preserve the great principle of local self-government, and to develop the proper regulation of these interesting and important Guilds.

RIDICULOUS EXCUSES.

The course of journalistic literature, like that of love, is not always a pathway of roses, does not, in fact, always "run smooth." Few, perhaps, except those behind the scenes, know how many are the struggles of proprietors, publishers, and editors, and how wonderful in their abasement are that littleness of the human intellect, and that unworthiness of human nature, in thought and action, with which they are too often and too closely, for the matter of that, brought into contact. The most idle, the most petty, the most unfair excuses are often made by those who ought to know better, and act better, because they do not feel inclined to recognize the fair claims of that true support, and that kindly countenance which the press, whether Masonic or un-Masonic, has a right to ask at their hands. There are many, for instance, who profess the greatest interest in literary pursuits and studies. Hear them talk, "ore rotundo" (what a wonderful thing is the "gift of the gab,") you would suppose that no more zealous, intelligent, self-sacrificing patrons of literature can be found than those who speak so nobly and so well. But, wait a bit. Ask them for personal aid—that is a subscription for value received, (90 per cent, in fact, ad valorem, if you like), and what is the reply too often, but the cold shoulder, complete silence? Many a prosperous little literary venture goes down, (some will say not improperly because if it does not succeed it is not wanted), because Higgins, and Stiggins, and Jiggins, great in praise of literature, per se, do not like to pay, whether for results or non-results. We have been led into these remarks by complaints which come before us frequently, and principally in the American Masonic periodicals. In that great brotherhood of over 600,000 members, the position of the Masonic press, for instance, especially appears to us to be unprecedented and inexplicable. Indeed, we shall be greatly obliged to any American correspondent who will try to let in a little light on so dark a subject. In America Masonic literature, even that of a high order, seems to be alike most precarious in its position, and most uncertain in its conditions. It is supported largely to-day, it is given up without a struggle to-morrow; and we read constantly the calm yet almost despairing avowal from publishers that they cannot naturally afford to lose their time and give their paper gratis, and we listen to excuses for non-support also, which appear to us alike most conflicting and most un-Masonic. There is no doubt an amusing side to the entire question, What is the density of the "Excusing Mind," and the absurdity of the excuses given. Indeed, the latter are so puerile and so ridiculous as to become even amusing from their utter want of appreciation, either of the value of Masonic literature per se, or of the important question at issue. We quote the following choice little extract from an American contemporary, partly a newspaper and partly a magazine. "A country editor received the following: 'Dear Sir,—I have looked carefully and patiently over your paper for months for the death of some individual I was acquainted with, but as yet not a single soul I care anything about has dropped off; you will please to have my name erased.'" This may be a good joke, but it contains a useful moral. For this is about the

staple of the value of excuses for non-support or discontinuance, which Masonic and non-Masonic publishers and editors often receive, and serves to afford us a laughable and amusing commentary on the "high falutin'" of talkative "dilettanti," and the utter unreality too often of mere profession. The *Freemason* has happily but few complaints to make, and finds itself warmly supported by a larger and more zealous clientele than at any period of its existence. But it is well for us all to bear in mind what is often going on around us, close to our own doors, of which we may be utterly ignorant, and to express for others that sympathy, though we need it not ourselves, which in the great struggle of life is due from all like ourselves, who are sensible of the claims and wants, the difficulties and drawbacks, the condition and progress of journalistic literature. There is as we before observed, no doubt another side to the whole question, which we may be tempted to advert to in an early issue.

WAR OR PEACE.

As we write these lines these two great alternatives appear to be trembling in the balance. The clouds of contention are hovering over, and the dogs of war seem ready to be loosed, on patient and agitated Europe, and when we next greet our readers it is not beyond the bounds of possibility even that the fell influences of war will have overthrown the smiling hopes and happier influences of peace. As Freemasons we cannot but deplore that war, with its devastating horrors and destructive cruelties, shall be allowed to usurp the more beneficent and blessed regime of kindly and fraternal peace. War is objectionable "per se," on account of the hateful feelings it invokes, and the cruel bloodshed it sanctions, the deeds of rapine, horror, brutality, which are its inevitable accompaniment. No doubt a defensive war is a justifiable necessity, just as a patriotic and honourable war may be a painful but an unavoidable duty, but as a general rule, and it is of that we are now speaking, all war is, "qua-war," to be avoided, except as a "dernier ressort." In our humble opinion no war can be justified, "foro conscientiae," which is not carried on either as a defensive or a patriotic war. If Russia and Turkey commence hostilities, as now appears to be most likely, it is difficult to see or say where it will end, or who may and will be eventually drawn in to it, what complications may ensue, or what disorders may fall on suffering Europe. As Freemasons our only wish can be that somehow peace may be preserved, and that by honourable concessions and a mutual understanding, Europe may yet be spared the sights and the horrors, and the cruel consequences of war.—So mote it be.

THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.
The following are the successful candidates:—

No.	NAME.	VOTES.
1.	Kingcombe, Clara	1603
2.	Ward, Hannah Mabel	1522
3.	Feltham, Mary Jane	1487
4.	Mills, Kate Isabel (last)	1355
5.	Cecil, Alice Warburton	1339
6.	Clase, Ada Huyshe	1332
7.	Gregory, Maria Edith	1260
8.	Ludlow, Eleanor Amy I.	1233
9.	Healey, Ada Hartley (last)	1162
10.	White, Mary Ellin	1106
11.	Langley, Jessie (last)	1027
12.	Johnson, Mary Anne	916
13.	Collins, Kathleen Isabella Alicia	896

The following were unsuccessful. The votes polled by them will be carried over to the next election:—

14.	Nichols, Annie	870
15.	Tanare, Ada Blyth	838
16.	Morris, Diana Gordon	797
17.	Mey, Gertrude Henrietta	697
18.	Cates, Annie Susannah	477
19.	Hughes, Rosa Marian	477
20.	Cowley, Maud Mary	466
21.	Kirke, Amy Laura	384
22.	Smith, Mary Mildred C.	362
23.	Goddin, Maria Gertrude (last)	346
24.	Fordham, Amelia Anne	323
25.	Skeates, Agnes Martha	323
26.	Peele, Eleanor Margaret	255
27.	Potter, Annie	248
28.	Lindeman, Alice Eveline (last)	229
29.	Priestley, Emily Jane	224
30.	Scott, Dorah	217
31.	Busher, Lucy Jane	214
32.	Carter, Ada	211
33.	Line, Amelia	198

No.	NAME.	VOTES.
34.	Corney, Annie Edith	190
35.	Parker, Kate Louisa	178
36.	Pelham, Eveline Edith	173
37.	Jay, Gertrude Alice	160
38.	Spurging, Eleanor Elizabeth	143
39.	Hood, Harriett Emily	99
40.	Reed, Bessie	85
41.	Wright, Clarissa Elizabeth	63
42.	Thomson, Louisa Marion	62
43.	Moore, Emily Alice Gertrude	62
44.	Wilton, Florence Eliza	57
45.	Weston, Florence	35
46.	Daly, Gertrude Annie	25
47.	Cooper, Marion Selina	25
48.	Piddock, Helena	23
49.	Hopkins, Florence Annie	10
50.	Hill, Evalina Mary	3
51.	Chrimes, Harriett	2
52.	Whyatt, Marion	—
53.	Nettle, Alvena	—
54.	Stephenson, Lilian	—

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The following are the successful candidates:—

No.	NAME.	VOTES.
1.	Wisby, Herbert Pattison	2129
2.	Sparks, Clifton	2100
3.	Owens, Henry John	1895
4.	Barnett, William Glen	1755
5.	Cunnah, Edward Shaw	1706
6.	Pow, Frederick Wildman	1620
7.	Sutton, William Arthur	1571
8.	Emmott, William	1563
9.	Batley, James Henry	1553
10.	Percy, Hugh Joscelyn	1549
11.	Edwards, Hatton Josiah Henry	1523
12.	Bryant, Wrightson Robert	1497
13.	Head, Richard George	1491
14.	Butterwith, John	1491

The following were unsuccessful. The votes polled by them will be carried over to the next election:—

15.	Stevens, Alfred	1482
16.	Searle, Harry Bulmer	1141
17.	Stanton, William	1049
18.	Shury, Solomon Hiram	997
19.	Waddington, Thos. Herbert	940
20.	Dyer, Frederick	726
21.	Shrapnel, Harold Vivian Needham Scrope	701
22.	Johnson, William Studer	602
23.	Cox, George Samuel	551
24.	Sharp, Colin Bell	495
25.	Mackay, James Montague Hele	448
26.	Crew, Frederick Alt	406
27.	Gurney, John Henry	360
28.	Wilkinson, Percy Charles	358
29.	Fairman, William Harry	339
30.	Wait, Emanuel	338
31.	Day, Arthur Harris	309
32.	Watkin, Hugh Robert	249
33.	Deeley, Richard Percy Francis	238
34.	Taylor, Ernest George Wm. J.	237
35.	Busher, Samuel Longton	230
36.	Ceeley, John Robert Gordon	215
37.	Watkins, Alfred Charles	196
38.	Green, Charles William	187
39.	Rogers, Gordon	169
40.	Furze, William Ernest	163
41.	Tippler, Leonard Charles	155
42.	Slate, James Thomas London	145
43.	Williams, George Alfred	128
44.	Johnson, Arthur Edwin	102
45.	Barclay, Henry Gavin Hackett	93
46.	Ridpeth, Lovel Hope	93
47.	Denton, Herbert	46
48.	Marshall, Robert James	38
49.	Gover, Joseph	33
50.	Newbould, Harry	27
51.	Evans, John McMillan	26
52.	Cole, Alfred Thomas	20
53.	Frost, Christian Frederic	10
54.	Morley, William Moore	8
55.	Allin, Charles James Fox	4
56.	Edmonds, Richard Herbert	3
57.	Matthews, Robert	2
58.	Woodhouse, Sam	2
59.	Minshull, Sam Bradford	—

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.]

RECEIPT STAMP DUTY ON LODGE DUES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

With some degree of diffidence, and after considerable hesitation, I have arrived at the conclusion that the construction of the Stamp Act, 1870, by the Secretary of the Inland Revenue department, cited by Bro. Snowden, P.M., in your impression of the 10th ult., is correct, and that, therefore, written receipts for lodge dues, exceeding forty shillings in amount, require the penny stamp, impressed or adhesive.

Let us examine the language of the latest, and therefore now the governing, statute: 33 and 34 Vict., cap. 97; sec. 120, defining the statutory meaning of the word "receipt," says:

"The term 'receipt' means and includes

(a) "Any note, memorandum or writing whatsoever whereby any money amounting to two pounds or upwards, or any bill of exchange or promissory note for money

amounting to two pounds or upwards, is acknowledged or expressed to have been received, or deposited, or paid; or (b) "Whereby any debt or demand of the amount of two pounds or upwards is acknowledged to have been settled, satisfied, or discharged, or which signifies or imports any such acknowledgment, and whether the same is or is not signed with the name of any person."*

If the reader has kindly attended to the division I have above attempted to render obvious, he will see that the legislature apparently intended to provide for two descriptions of payment, or deposit, of money, (a) voluntary disbursements, (b) satisfaction of legal obligations, and to attach, with certain limits, payment of a revenue duty to both.

Now, I suppose, it will be conceded—at all events, I must assume—that with the second class (b) we have nothing at present to do. Lest, however, it should be thought that I seek, by a mere cursory reference, to evade the examination of the question, whether a debt due for dues payable to a Masonic lodge constitutes a legal obligation, I may as well warn the reader that at a later period of this letter, I propose, as an inevitable corollary to my general argument, to bestow a little consideration upon this very delicate subject. At present I have to ascertain whether, assuming payment of lodge dues to be wholly voluntary, a duty to the revenue attaches when the amount paid is above forty shillings.

Now, to clear the ground as we go on, I presume that every brother, certainly every legal brother, will agree with me that the duty is not chargeable upon the payment *per se*, i.e., upon the act or fact of disbursement. It is clearly only payable upon the written voucher, and, if I read the first part of the above section correctly, payable upon that documentary evidence of the amount having been paid, without reference to the object for which the payment is made. Concede that the payment of dues to a lodge is wholly for the purposes of charity—a large concession by the way—*prima facie* there is no intrinsic necessity for taking written receipts at all for money disbursed for the purposes of charitable relief; there is obviously no obligation to give a documentary voucher for the payment unless the donor requires one, but, the recipient electing as an evidence of his good faith to give, rather than to refrain from giving, a written receipt, or, the donor requiring for his own purposes the delivery of such a document, or, putting the case in other words, making his donation conditional on a written voucher being furnished to him, the transaction would appear by the delivery of the instrument to be brought within the provisions of the statute, and the duty therefore to attach.

The Act of Parliament, however, imposing the duty definitively, provides certain exemptions from liability. Starting from my point of view, that the charge is upon the document evidencing, and not upon the manual act evidenced, a claim to exemption must be expressly brought within the category thus specially detailed, or within the general exemptions from liability to stamp duty. The former will be found in Tillsley's Treatise on the Stamp Laws (3rd edition, 1871), page 523; the latter in the same work, page 531.

And before I allude further to these exemptions—reminding my readers that the legal practitioner is trained to make every word of a statute speak, i.e., to give to each expression a meaning—to attribute to the employment of every phrase a well considered and earnest intention, either to enact directly, or by illustration, or analogy, to remove doubts as to the general object of the legislation essayed—I would call attention to the use of the word "deposited" in the section I have quoted above. It is obvious from that word that a voluntary bailment of money—a *depositum* to the bailor's own use—will come within the liability to duty unless that liability be displaced by an express proviso or the general law of exemption; and this is proved by the statute, in its schedule, in the very first exemption (No. 1) under the heading "Receipt," exempting from liability to the duty moneys deposited with a banker; *q. e. d.*, all other voluntary deposits and *à fortiori* voluntary payments exceeding the statutory amount are liable. I readily admit a certain amount of plausibility in the letter in your last impression of W.M., No. 766, but of course no amount of plausible argument will prevail against the express words of a statute. His inference from the exemption of building societies fails, because, as I shall proceed to show, those institutions enjoy a specific statutory exemption, while his argument as to the non-liability of a receipt for a deposit seems to have been specifically answered by anticipation, by the employment of the word "deposited" in the first paragraph of the section cited above.

Par parenthèse, I may observe that there is a widely spread delusion that inasmuch as a cheque bears a penny stamp the receipt for a payment of more than 40s. made by cheque is exempt from receipt stamp duty, the penny having been already paid. There was formerly some colour for this impression, for before 1870 an exemption statutorily relieved "Receipts or discharges written upon promissory notes, bills of exchange, drafts, or orders for the payment of money duly stamped according to the laws in force at the date thereof, or upon bills of exchange drawn out of, but payable in, Great Britain or Ireland respectively." But by the act of 1870, cited above, the exemption, by what I venture to think must be regarded as an explanatory or declaratory rather than a restricting or amending enactment, is defined to extend only to a "receipt written upon a bill of exchange or promissory note duly stamped." The exposition thus hazarded may not be without its use to those lodges where considerable payments are usually made by cheques or drafts payable to order or bearer.

* Of course the italic initials, and the other italics, are my own, and for the punctuation the Parliamentary printer is responsible, acts not being punctuated in their engrossment on the Parliamentary roll any more than the printed pleadings delivered in legal actions, or other legal instruments.

To return to the exemptions. No other class interests us, or can be even remotely suggested as being analogous to Freemasons, than provident or friendly societies; but I need not occupy your space by a laboured endeavour to prove that Freemasons do not come within a category so strictly defined by statute as these voluntary associations. Some doubt is expressed in the editorial postscript to the letter of Bro. Richard Brown in your impression of the 31st ult. as to the exemption of friendly, provident, and building societies, and you courteously request information on the point. The Friendly Societies' Act (England), 18 and 19 Vict., cap. 63, sec. 37, (and see also secs. 2 and 5); the Industrial and Provident Societies' Act, 30 and 31 Vict., cap. 117, sec. 3, and the various acts relating to building societies, too numerous to be cited here, specifically provide these exemptions.

I conclude, then, that even were the dues entirely devoted to purposes of relief a written acknowledgment of their payment to an amount exceeding 40s. would, in each case, be liable, *quâ depositum*, to the penny duty.

But are all the moneys so received devoted to the relief of distress? Of course, if my construction be correct, this is an immaterial question; but when Bro. Snowden quotes a view of the law which I, as I have said, believe to be erroneous, as held by a P.M., and goes on to say, "I am at a loss to understand upon what grounds such an opinion could be for one moment entertained by a P.M." I am constrained to give some reasons why I do not share his expressed astonishment.

Now, a P.M. had two very plausible, very popular, and, as I have tried to prove, two very inaccurate views to rely upon in justification of his contention:—

Firstly. That documents purporting to be receipts for money given in charity were not liable to stamp duty.

Secondly. That documents purporting to be receipts for money not legally recoverable were not so liable.

I have, I think, almost conclusively dealt with the first view, but I must for a moment, in connection with this, hark back to my query—Are all the moneys received as dues devoted to the relief of distress? Roughly—mentally—analyse, say, an annual subscription of five guineas paid to a lodge, the brethren of which like to enjoy themselves, deduct from the sum the proportion payable for the brother as his share of the working and the convivial disbursements of the lodge, would not the charity-devoted residuum in the vast majority of cases be a sum over which no controversy could arise, inasmuch as it would be considerably beneath the statutorily chargeable forty shillings? And here let me protest that I intend no sneer at the propensities to social enjoyment credited or debited to the members of the Craft. God forbid! The proportion of the revenue of an ordinary lodge devoted to charity must necessarily, in the vast majority of instances, be considerably less than the amount directly allotted to ordinary lodge expenses—the very nature of the organisation to render the body, as a philanthropic association, a machine equal to the performance of its duties, necessitates this result; but every one of my brethren will, I presume, readily endorse my view, that the direct amount contributed in each year out of the regular revenue of a lodge to our noble Charities bears but a small proportion to the stream of benevolence its influence evokes from the individual bounty of its members.

Well, then, if I am right, in the vast majority of instances, an immensely preponderating per centage of payments of lodge dues could not claim exemption from stamp duty on the ground of being devoted to objects of charity, even if that formed a legal ground of exemption, which, in my opinion, it does not; but try this by an extreme illustration. The very converse is the case with Grand Lodge. There the proportion of receipts applied to office and general expenses is conspicuously small, the amount devoted to relief overwhelmingly large; yet the authorities at Grand Lodge, with, what of course I consider to be, a sound view of their legal obligations, invariably affix a receipt stamp when they acknowledge payment of a sum above forty shillings.

I have, I am afraid, very nearly exhausted the whole of the space I can in decency ask you to allow me, and I have still greater fear than I have of your individual indulgence of having exhausted the patience of my wearied readers. However, I must just touch upon the above "secondly," the assumed non-liability to stamp duty of receipts for the payment of money not legally recoverable.

In a case cited in Tillsley's work, referred to above, at pages 119 and 435, and the same reference given in the note at each page, the learned author states a judicial decision, that a receipt stamp was not required on a document which did not purport to be an acknowledgment of the payment of "an antecedent debt." It is, however, never safe to adopt the conclusion from any case of an author, however learned, without referring to the report itself, and as in this instance I have spent many hours in vainly trying to find "Carey v. Eccleston" from the unknown and inexplicable reference "1 C. & D.," I am compelled to pass by this authority, which, if it says all the author maintains it affirms, and if—a very large "if"—it has been decided since the statute of 1870, might render necessary a reconsideration of much that I have written above. Familiar as I am, however, with most of our reports, as they must necessarily be in use with me every day, and industriously as I have searched; those learned reporters "C. & D." yet remain to me alphabetical characters "*et prætereâ nihil*," and the judicial wisdom of "Carey v. Eccleston" is, notwithstanding the digests, hidden from my prying eyes. If I come across it hereafter I will inflict upon your readers, if necessary, my view of how much, if at all, it qualifies the position I have attempted to take up.

As at present but partially enlightened, however, we must, I fear, face the *vexatâ questio*: Is the initiation fee, the subscription to a lodge, a debt legally recoverable? This point was argued out before the learned judge of

the Westminster County Court, than whom a sounder lawyer does not adorn the minor judicial bench, on the 10th of October last, and the report, reprinted from the *Sunday Times*, appeared in your impression of the 28th of that month. The able judge (Bayly, Q.C.) decided that a member of a Masonic lodge did not by being initiated and joining (*à fortiori* by joining only) contract any legal obligation for fees and dues, and I confess I think that he was right. My learned friend, Mr. Stone, ably endeavoured to make use of the Judicature Act, 1875, Order XVI., rule 9, and the analogous provisions of the Consolidated County Court Orders, Order V., rule 8, but these would only technically have helped him, by enabling him to substitute a personal entity for an abstract party, whereas I think that upon the merits he had no case, that is to say, no contract with any party could be proved, and that the real cause of the defeat of the plaintiff was, therefore, the exact converse of that stated in the letter of the Master of the Hervey Lodge, appearing in your columns of the 11th November last. I have looked into my learned friend's authority, "Pollock on Contracts," and, so far as I have had time to examine that author's views, taking it fairly and with the context, it appears to me to be rather against Mr. Stone's contention. And here let me, I think justifiably, complain of the slovenly reporting of the original reporter (you, of course, are blameless, as, as you are aware, you merely transcribed from a contemporary). The case cited as "Rugot v. Bishop," with such a preposterous reference as "Law Reports 733," should be "Raggett v. Bishop," and the correct reference is 2 Car and Payne 343, while the reference to Pollock, printed 795, I find should be 595. In the admirable work of the latter author, however, the whole subject of the liability of members of voluntary associations is exhaustively treated at pages 195 to 210.

The matter is of importance, because it might be thought, though, for the reasons above urged, I do not well see how it can be, that receipt stamp duty only attaches to payments made in discharge of a legal liability, in which case it becomes, of course, an indispensable preliminary to enquire whether payments of Masonic dues are legally compulsory or not.

In conclusion, I readily own that my interpretation of the law may be unsound. When a much greater lawyer than ever I can hope to be was gravely informed that he had committed an error of construction, he composedly replied, "And I trust I may be spared to commit many more errors." I can only say that I shall be truly thankful to any brother who, differing from my view, will kindly through your columns set me, and those who think with me, right if we are wrong; and as this is not a case where a professional man should, under the veil of a *nom de plume*, however transparent, affect to conceal his identity, or seem to shrink from the consequences of his deliberately formed opinions, I do not write anonymously, but beg to subscribe myself,

Dear Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,
SAMUEL POYNTER,
P.M. and Treas. Burgoyne, No. 902
P.M. Athenæum, No. 1491;
Member of the Board of General
Purposes, Colonial Board, and
Lodge of Benevolence.

THE INSTALLATION AT ABERDARE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Will you permit me to call your attention to an omission in your report last week of the above important event.

All the officers chosen by Sir George Elliot were mentioned, with the exception of Bro. John Jones, 833, who was re-elected Treasurer of Prov. Grand Lodge.

I am, yours fraternally, J. F. H.

Multum in Parvo; or Masonic Notes and Queries.

ORGANIZATION OF CRAFT MASONRY IN ENGLAND.

The *Craftsman* quotes the following passage from that very interesting work, "Fort's Early History and Antiquities of Freemasonry":—

According to Findel, Freemasons were first organized as a Craft in England in the year 1202, at the building of Winchester Cathedral; but according to Fort, the English Craft was organized nearly a century earlier, in A.D. 1136, at the building of Melrose Abbey, by John Moreau. Forty years later William of Sens reconstructed Canterbury Cathedral in A.D. 1176. From the inscribed tablets on Melrose Abbey, it appears that John Moreau, or Morow, was the Master, perhaps the Grand Master, of all the Masonic work or lodges, at St. Andrew's, around the Cathedral of Glasgow, and at the churches of Paisley, Niddisdale and Galway.

But it is to be observed, first, that the "Winchester Guild" was only incorporated by Bishop Lucy, to aid in the work of Winchester Cathedral, and that the operative Masonic Guilds themselves were of earlier origin undoubtedly. Secondly, it would, I think, be more correct to say that Bishop Lucy's organization, mentioned by Milner, but of which the original charter has not been printed, though it may still exist in the muniment room of Winchester Cathedral, is first alluded to in "The Annales Wintonienses," published by Henry Wharton in the first volume of "Anglia Sacra," 1691.

The "Annales Wintonienses" are said to have been written by a monk of Winchester about 1454. He gives then, in 1454, the account of the formation in 1202 of a Winchester building fraternity or guild, a "confratriam pro reparacione ecclesie Winton," which was only to continue "duraturam usque ad quinque annos completos"—five years.

We still want evidence of an early operative guild charter; and which yet may turn up dating from Anglo-Saxon times.
A MASONIC STUDENT.

Can any brother recommend me a competent person (a brother if possible), to make a search for me among the chapter archives in Winchester Cathedral, and among the MSS. and books in Winchester College library.

A communication addressed to the Editor of the *Freemason*, 198, Fleet-street, London, will be at once attended to by
A MASONIC STUDENT.

Review.

"THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE FOR AMATEUR GARDENERS."
DANIELS BROTHERS, NORWICH.

We have looked over, and we may say, studied this very interesting catalogue, of an enterprising firm, with very great pleasure. It is alike suggestive and satisfactory, in the highest degree, clearly arranged, and full of most interesting information to the amateur and the professional gardener. We have been informed on reliable authority, that a recent order given to the firm has been most thoroughly executed, and the quality of the shipment made has been of the highest excellence. Under these circumstances, without going into details, which is impossible in our crowded columns, we can fairly recommend the circular of Messrs. Daniels to the notice of all who possess gardens, knowing that they will have their orders admirably executed, and have full value for their money, expended in respect of that very tempting outlay for trees and flowers, annuals and plants, shrubs and evergreens, pyramids and standards, flower garden and kitchen garden accessories, which so commends itself to those who know anything of the pleasure and happiness of a garden.

HENRY MUGGERIDGE TESTIMONIAL.

A meeting of the above Testimonial Committee was held on Thursday evening, the 12th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, 175, Aldersgate-street. Brethren present: Bros. Hubbuck, Chairman and Treasurer; Myers, Birdseye, Fellows, Phythian, Jonas, Copestick, Geo. Kenning, Storr, F. Fellows, J.W. 192, Hon. Sec.; J. Hamilton Townend, P.M.; G. W. Gray, P.M. 22; G. Phythian, S.W. 22; E. Jones, W.M. 192; H. C. Levander, P.M.; C. Arkell, 192; R. W. Little, D. G. M. Middlesex; W. Hyde Pullen, Past Grand Swd. B.; W. Hopekirk; E. W. Richardson; F. Newton, J.W. 5; W. Pearce, P.M. 657, 1293, G.R. Middlesex; J. Jonas, P.M. 715; and Eames, P.M. 22; F. Fellows, J.W. 192, Hon. Sec.; and others.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary reported that he had received the names of brethren who had kindly offered to support the testimonial:—

- Bro. Lord de Tabley, R.W. Prov. Grand Master Chester.
- " Aeneas J. McIntyre, Q.C., Grand Registrar.
- " F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.
- " Samuel Tomkins, Grand Treasurer.
- " J. B. Scriven, P.G.S., P.M. 5.
- " Sir W. W. Wynn, R.W. Prov. G.M. North Wales and Shropshire.
- " J. M. Clabon, P.G.D., President Board of Benevolence.
- " G. M. Hubbuck, Chairman and Treasurer Grand Steward's Lodge.
- " R. W. Little, Deputy Grand Master Middlesex.
- " J. Hamilton Townend, P.M.
- " G. Phythian, Lodge No. 22.
- " E. Jones, W.M. 192.
- " G. Abbott, P.M. 192.
- " H. C. Levander, P.G.D. Wiltshire.
- " C. Arkell, Lodge No. 192.
- " W. Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B.
- " W. Hopekirk, P.M. 179.
- " E. W. Richardson.
- " F. Newton, J.W. No. 5.
- " D. W. Pearce, P.M. 657, 1229, G.R. Middlesex.
- " J. Jonas, P.M. 713.
- " Eames, P.M. 22.
- " Francis S. Smith.
- " J. F. Jackson, P.G.S., P.M. 5.
- " H. W. Scriven, Lodge No. 5.
- " J. G. West, W.M. 169, P.G.S.W.
- " Eugene Bernard.
- " Jas. Burroughs,
- " D. Law.
- " C. W. Hogg, P.M.
- " H. Birdseye, P.M. 715.
- " F. D. R. Copestick, P.M. 869, P.G.D. Herts.
- " Myers, P.M. and Treasurer 715.
- " E. F. Storr, W.M. 22.
- " J. T. C. Winkfield.
- " George Kenning, P.M. and Treasurer 192, P.G.D. Middlesex.

The first list of subscriptions will be published shortly.

CONSECRATION OF THE PRINCE LEOPOLD LODGE, No. 1669.

The above lodge was consecrated at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, on Saturday, the 7th inst., by the V.W. Bro. John Hervey, P.G.D., Grand Secretary, the officer appointed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the W.M. was installed by the V.W. Bro. R. C. Else, D.P.G.M. of Somerset.

The brethren assembled in the ante-room and walked in procession to the lodge room under the direction of R.W. Bro. Else, and the Presiding Officer took the chair, and appointed the Wardens pro tem.

The lodge having been opened in the Three Degrees, the Presiding Officer addressed the brethren on the nature

of the meeting, and called upon the Acting Secretary, Bro. Thos. Preston, to read the petition and warrant.

The brethren signified their approval in Masonic form of the officers named therein, and an oration on the nature and principles of the institution was given by the Chaplain, the Rev. J. H. Gandy, P.P.G.C.

The anthem "Beloved how good and joyful" was then sung by some of the brethren, and the lodge duly dedicated and consecrated in the usual manner.

The Presiding Officer then constituted the lodge, and the lodge was resumed in the Second Degree. Then came the installation of the W.M., and the following officers were appointed:

Bros. W. H. Thomas, S.W.; Thos. Edmondston, J.W.; Thomas Preston, Sec.; A. C. Bradley, S.D.; A. Woodcock, J.D.; T. Wilkins, I.G.; Edward Moody, P.M., Dir. of Cer.; H. G. Jarman, W.S.; and A. R. Crouch, Collecting Steward.

The ballot was taken for Treasurer, and Bro Dakers, P.M. and P.D.G.T. South Australia, unanimously elected. It was proposed and carried enthusiastically, that the R.W. Bro. His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, K.G., &c., &c., Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire, having been graciously pleased to intimate his willingness to become an honorary member, be elected accordingly. The Consecrating and Installing Officers and the Chaplain were also elected honorary members, and the brethren adjourned to banquet.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS.
For the Week ending Friday, April 27, 1877.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 21.

Audit Com. Boys' School, at 3.
Lodge 1364, Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.
" 1670, Adelphi, 4, Adelphi-terrace.—(Consecration.)
Chap. 1194, Royal Middlesex, Mitre Hot., Hampton-court.
Mark 104, Macdonald, M.H., Mason's Avenue.

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 23.

Lodge 4, R. Somerset House and Inverness, F.M.H.
" 26, Castle of Harmony, Willis's Rooms.
" 28, Old King's Arms, F.M.H.
Rose Croix St. Georges, 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 24.

Audit Com. Girls' at 4.
Lodge 14, Tuscan, F.M.H.
" 92, Moira, Mansion House Restaurant.
" 99, Shakespeare, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
" 141, Faith, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 145, Prudent Brethren, F.M.H.
" 180, Industry, Westminster Chambers, S.W.
" 205, Israel, Cannon-st. Hot.
" 259, Prince of Wales, Willis's Rooms, St. James'
" 1196, Urban, Old Jerusalem Tav., Clerkenwell.
" 1348, Ebury, 12, Ponsonby-st., Millbank.
Chap. 7, Royal York of Perseverance, F.M.H.
Mark 3, Keystone, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-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 25.

Grand Festival, F.M.H.—See Advt.
Lodge 212, Euphrates, M.H., Basinghall-st.
" 507, United Pilgrims, Surrey M.H.
" 754, High Cross, Seven Sisters' Tav., Tottenham.
" 898, Temperance-in-the-East, 6, Newby-pl., Poplar.
" 1056, Victoria, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 1540, Chaucer, Bridge House Hot., London Bridge.
Chap. 753, Prince Frederick William, St. John's Wood.
" 857, St. Marks, Surrey M.H.

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 Edgcombe, 19, Jermyn-st., St. James's.
Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham.
Stanhope, Thicket Hot., Anerley.
Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd.
Southwark, Southwark Park Tav., Southwark Park.
Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav., Dalston, E.
United Strength, Grafton Arms, Kentish-town.
Whittington, Black Bull Tav., Holborn.
Lewis, King's Arms Hot., Wood Green.
Royal Jubilee, 81, Long Acre.
Langthorne, Swan Hot., Stratford.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

Gen. Com. Girls' School, at 4.
Lodge 65, Prosperity, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
" 66, Grenadiers', F.M.H.
" 858, South Middlesex, Beaufort Hot., Fulham.
" 871, Royal Oak, White Swan, High-st., Deptford.
" 1563, City of Westminster, M.H., 68, Regent-st.
Chap. 29, St. Albans, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
" 217, Stability, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 534, Polish National, F.M.H.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Egyptian, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., W.
Finsbury, Jolly Anglers' Tav., Bath-st., City-road.
Temperance in the East, Catherine-st., Poplar.
Ebury, 12, Ponsonby-st., Millbank.
Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
The Great City, 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 27.

Anniversary Festival Stability L. of I.—See Advt.
Lodge 197, Jerusalem, F.M.H.
" 569, Fitzroy, Hd.-qtrs. Hon. Art Co., City-rd.
" 861, Finsbury, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.
" 1601, Ravensbourne, Dist. Bd. of Wks., Catford-bdg.
Mark 199 Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav., Dalston.
(Consecration.)

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. Marylebone, 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., Goulborn-rd., N. Kensgtn.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, April 21, 1877.

MONDAY, APRIL 23.

Lodge 613, Unity, Palatine B., Neville-st., Southport.
" 703, Clifton, Clifton Hot., Blackpool.
Chap. 241, Friendship, M.H., Liverpool.
Derby L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

Lodge 897, Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helen's.
" 986, Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston.
" 1256, Fidelity, Bull Hot., Poulton-le-Fylde.
" 1609, Dramatic, M.H., Liverpool.
Chap. 721, Grosvenor, M.R., Chester.
" 823, Everton, M.H., Liverpool.
Merchants' L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
Prince Arthur L. of I., N. Hill-st., Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25.

Lodge 32, St. George's, Adelphi Hot., Liverpool.
" 86, Loyalty, M.H., Prescot.
" 220, Harmony, Garston Hot., Garston.
" 484, Faith, Gerard's Arms, Ashton-in-Makerfield.
" 580, Harmony, Wheatsheaf, Ormskirk.
" 724, Derby, M.H., Liverpool.
" 730, Ellesmere, Royal Oak Hot., Chorley.
" 758, Ellesmere, M.H., Runcorn.
Chap. 605, De Tabley, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.
" 1052, Callender, Pub. H., Rusholme.
" 1356, De Grey and Ripon, M.H., Liverpool.
Neptune L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

Lodge 594, Downshire, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1313, Fermor, M.H., Southport.
Chap. 216, Sacred Delta, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1086, Walton, St. Lawrence's School, Kirkdale.
Stanley L. of I., 241, Great Homer-st., Liverpool.
Mariners L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27.

Lodge 1393, Hamer, M.H., Liverpool.
Chap. 680, Sefton, M.H., Liverpool.

THE BUCKINGHAM CLUB.

No. 1, REGENT-STREET, WATERLOO-PLACE, S.W.

Owing to the overcrowding of the best west-end Clubs, the Buckingham is established for the accommodation of noblemen, officers in the Army or Navy, professional and private gentlemen, who may be desirous of joining a really first class and aristocratic west-end Club without delay. The Club-house (which is at the corner of Charles-street, and opposite the Junior United Service Club) has recently undergone extensive alterations and decorations at a large outlay to the proprietor. It comprises Library, Dining, Smoking, Reading, Card, and Billiard Rooms; also Bed-rooms for the use of members. The billiard-rooms, which are twenty-one feet high, are pronounced by eminent architects to be the most elegant in London. Entrance fee: Town members, Seven Guineas; annual subscription, the like amount (payable in advance). Officers on home service, with the exception of those residing in London, and country members pay an entrance fee of Four Guineas, and a subscription of Four Guineas. Members abroad, One Guinea. The present strength of the Club is 900 members, but when the number reaches 1000 the entrance fee will be Thirty Guineas. For further particulars apply to

Colonel W. A. M. BARNARD,
Hon. Sec. to Committee.

Or to ALGERNON LLOYD, Secretary.
Office, 1, Regent-street, W.

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Prepared from the receipt of an Eminent Physician; experience has fully justified their recommendation as the most speedy remedy in Irritation of the Throat, Catarrh, Coughs, Bronchitis, Incipient Consumption, Spitting of Blood, &c. To public speakers and vocalists they are invaluable, as they impart a clear and beautiful tone to the voice. Free from opium, and of an agreeable taste. In bottles of one uniform size.

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No Pill is so efficacious in promoting Digestion, strengthening the Stomach, correcting Acidity, preventing or removing Headache, Giddiness, &c., arising from Costiveness, Debilitated Stomach, or Torpid Liver. They require no change of Diet, and the most delicate may take them with safety.

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SARSAPARILLA with the greatest success,
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AROMATIC TINCTURE OF QUINOL-
DINE. For the prevention of FEVER, AGUE, and
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An Unfailing Remedy.
Those who during the campaign in the Crimea, daily took a small quantity, passed unharmed through the Fever and Dysentery, that thinned the ranks. In Half, Quarter and Pint Bottles. Prepared only by

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THE ORIGINAL AND ONLY GENUINE.

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Extract from "INDIAN ECONOMIST."

"We direct the attention of the medical men to a fact observed some years since by ourselves, and corroborated by our subsequent experience, that Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is in many cases of Low Fever immensely superior to Quinine in curative power. We cannot persuade ourselves that the true value of Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne is yet properly appraised in India.

It may be given with absolute safety even to a child three days old. Were medical men but to make a fair and exhaustive trial of it we are persuaded that it would work a revolution in the treatment of two-thirds of the diseases to which children are subject. Its curative power is simply amazing."

"Earl Russell communicated to the College of Physicians that he had received a despatch from her Majesty's Consul at Manilla to the effect that Cholera had been raging fearfully, and that the ONLY remedy of any service was CHLORODYNE."—See *Lancet*, Dec. 1, 1864."

From W. VESALIUS PETTIGREW, M.D., Hon. F.R.C.S., England,

Formerly Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology at St. George's School of Medicine.

"I have no hesitation in stating, after a fair trial of Chlorodyne, that I have never met with any medicine so efficacious as an Anti Spasmodic and Sedative. I have tried it in Consumption, Asthma, Diarrhoea, and other diseases, and am most perfectly satisfied with the results."

From Dr. THOMAS SANDIFORD, Passage West, Cork.

"I will thank you to send me a further supply of Chlorodyne. It was the most efficacious remedy I ever used, affording relief in violent attacks of Spasms within a minute after being taken. One patient in particular, who has suffered for years with periodical attacks of Spasms of a most painful nature, and unable to obtain relief from other remedies, such as opium, &c., finds nothing so prompt and efficacious as Chlorodyne."

From Jno. E. GOULSTONE, M.D., late Principal Surgeon to the Steamship Great Eastern.

"I can confidently state that Chlorodyne is an admirable Sedative and Anti-Spasmodic, having used it in Neuralgia, Hysteria, Asthma, and Consumption, with remarkably favourable results. It relieved a fit of Asthma in four minutes, where the patient had suffered eleven years in a most distressing manner, no previous remedy having had so immediate and beneficial an effect."

From Dr. B. J. BOULTON and Co., Horncastle.

"We have made pretty extensive use of Chlorodyne in our practice lately, and look upon it as an excellent Sedative and Anti-Spasmodic. It seems to allay pain and irritation in whatever organ, and from whatever cause. It induces a feeling of comfort and quietude not obtainable by any other remedy, and it seems to possess this great advantage over all other sedatives, that it leaves no unpleasant after effects."

J. C. BAKER, Esq., M.D., Bideford.

"It is, without doubt, the most valuable and certain Anodyne we have."

CAUTION.—BEWARE OF PIRACY AND IMITATIONS.

CAUTION.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE WOOD stated that Dr. J. COLLIS BROWNE was undoubtedly the Inventor of CHLORODYNE; that the story of the Defendant, Freeman, was deliberately untrue, which, he regretted to say, had been sworn to.—See "Times," 13th July, 1864.

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