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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

ROCHFORD.—Lodge of Friendship (No. 160).—The annual festival of this lodge was held at the Old Ship Hotel, Rochford, on Tuesday, the 26th ult., when Bro. F. V. Jillings was installed as the W.M. by Bro. A. Lucking, P.M. 160, P.M. and M.E.Z. 1000, Prov. G.D.C. The W.M. invested the following as his officers, viz., Bros. Rev. H. J. Hatch, P.P.G. Chap., I.P.M. W. Allen, jun., S.W.; Dr. King, J.W.; H. Wood, P.M., P.P.G.O., Treas.; G. Burgess, P.M. P.P.G.D., Sec.; G. Goodman, S.D.; H. Harper, J.D.; A. Lucking, P.M., D.C.; J. Harrington, I.G.; W. Bishop and W. Newsome, Stewards; J. Allen, Tyler. There were also present Bros. J. A. Wardell, P.M. 160 and 1000, P.P.G.D.; J. Reeve, P.M.; W. Allen, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; J. Allen, P.P.G.S.B.; E. E. Phillips, P.M. 379, P.M. and P.Z. 1000, P.P.G.D.; G. F. Jones, I.G. 1000, Prov. G. Steward; Z. Pettitt, J. C. Underwood, and others. Visitors:—Bros. Power, P.M. 142; J. Nicholls, P.M. and Sec. 276, P.P.G.W.; W. C. Bell, W.M. 1024. After the lodge was closed the brethren adjourned to a first rate banquet. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

STONEHOUSE.—Lodge Sincerity (No. 189).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, 25th ult., at St. George's Hall, when the W.M. elect, Bro. J. E. Moon, was installed by the retiring P.M., Bro. T. Waldo Howe. At the close of the installation the following brethren were invested as the officers of the lodge for the ensuing year:—W. Bros. T. W. Howe, I.P.M.; and the Rev. T. W. Lemon, P.P.G. Chap., S.W.; Bros. George Jackson, J.W.; the Rev. F. A. S. Bellamy, M.A., Chap.; W. Bros. T. S. Bayly, Treas.; and R. H. Rac, Sec.; Bros. Colonel Fitzgerald, S.D.; C. Croydon, J.D.; Godfrey Evans, I.G.; H. Horton, D.C.; R. E. Holmes, A. S. Hendry, and E. Prout, Stewards. In the evening the brethren dined together at the Farley Hotel.

LIVERPOOL.—Mariners' Lodge (No. 249).—The members of the "Old Mariners" met at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, on Thursday, the 5th inst., for the purpose of assisting at the annual installation ceremony of the W.M. Bro. John Lloyd, W.M., occupied the chair at the opening of the proceedings, and amongst those present were Bros. H. P. Price, I.P.M.; J. Hayes, P.M.; J. J. Rose, P.M.; Rev. R. Pinnington, P.M.; J. C. Robinson, J.W.; Dr. J. Kellett Smith, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., Treas.; R. Collings, Sec.; W. Garlick, S.D.; W. P. Jennings, J.D.; F. Barnett, I.G.; W. Corbett, S.; J. Whally, S.; W. H. Ball, Tyler; J. Jenaway, J. Middleton, B. Thompson, J. Pye, J. Lear, W. Bolitho, H. Owens, R. Jones (2), J. Wilson, W. Mooney, W. H. Vernon, H. W. Parry, G. C. Beecham, J. Molloy, T. Robinson, E. Cargill, J. Wainwright, J. Whittal, E. Olden, W. Sambrook, W. Smith, W. Wilson, W. Yates, J. Hyams, A. Barnard, J. P. Jones, J. Crebbin, C. Leighton, P.M. 249; M. Goldstone, J. Williams, N. Cohen, T. Lesuph, R. Morrin, T. Grayson, E. A. Wright, J. Wilkinson, C. White, R. U. Veale, F. E. Wendel, T. Daniels, W. Williams, T. Roberts, S. Kirkpatrick, C. W. Davis, and W. Gamble. The visitors included Bros. W. Wood, P.M. 1182, W.M. 1620; J. R. Goepel, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Healing, W.M. 1264; J. R. Bottomley, J.W. 1675; J. Pemberton, P.G.S. of W.; John Hill, 1609; L. B. Goodman, 594; W. M. B. Whitehead, 1032; J. Skeaf, G.O.P.; W. M. Pendlebury, 1675; H. Burrows, W.M. 673; M. Hart, W.M. 1502; J. W. Burgess, W.M. 1325; J. W. Johnson, S.D. 1675; Hugh Williams, P.M. 249; J. F. Davies, 1393; R. Brown, P.M. 241, Hon. Sec. of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution; A. Gilfillan, 1393, &c. After some introductory business, the position of Installing Master was taken by Bro. Dr. J. Kellett Smith, P.M. 249, P.P.G. Reg., who placed Bro. John C. Robinson in the chair of W.M. in a most impressive and efficient manner, Bro. J. Hayes assisting in some parts of the interesting ceremony. The W.M. appointed the following as his officers during the ensuing year:—Bros. I. Lloyd, I.P.M.; F. Barnett, S.W.; W. P. Jennings, J.W.; Dr. J. K. Smith, P.M., Treas. (re-elected for the fifth time); R. Collings, Sec. (re-appointed for the fifth time); W. Corbett, S.D.; J. Whally, J.D.; H. W. Parry, I.G.; H. P. Price, P.M., D.C.; W. G. Veale, O.; C. J. Jones

S.S.; W. H. Vernon, J.S.; W. Mooney, A.S.; J. Smith, -A.S.; and W. H. Ball, Tyler. Special votes of thanks were ordered to be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Dr. Smith for his valuable services as Treasurer, and also for the excellence of his work that day as Installing Master. It was also unanimously resolved to present Bro. J. Lloyd, I.P.M., with a P.M.'s jewel as a token of the esteem of the brethren. After five candidates had been initiated, a most recherché banquet was served by Bro. Fairhurst (Fisk and Fairhurst) in the large dining room, to which upwards of 100 sat down. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given by Bro. Robinson, W.M., during the evening, and the harmony of the meeting was greatly enhanced by the musical efforts of Bros. J. Skeaf, P.G.O.; John Hill, T. J. Hughes, A. Gilfillan, W. G. Veale, and others.

LIVERPOOL.—St. John's Lodge (No. 673).—The brethren of this lodge celebrated the annual festival of St. John on Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, where there was the largest and most influential gathering of the fraternity seen for a long time. The value of the meeting will be seen from the fact that no fewer than between thirty and forty W.M.'s and P.M.'s were present, and the long list of visitors showed how wide-spread is the popularity of the lodge and the W.M. elect, Bro. Henry Burrows. There were altogether about 150 brethren present, and the entire proceedings passed off with an amount of éclat which must have proved satisfactory to those who were "at the helm" of No. 673. The lodge was opened by Bro. T. Roberts, the retiring W.M., who efficiently finished his year's work by initiating three brethren into the mysteries and privileges of the Order. He was supported by Bro. J. W. Digges, P.M.; J. T. Callow, P.M.; M. Corless, P.M.; J. Thornton, P.M.; H. Burrows, S.W.; H. Nelson, P.M.; E. Kyle, P.M.; J. Hocken, P.M.; D. Jackson, J.W.; T. Clark, P.M., Treas.; W. T. May, P.M., Sec.; W. Brackenbury, S.D.; L. Herman, J.D.; J. Ledson, I.G.; T. Falshaw, S.; and R. Whitehead, Org. The members present were Bros. W. Alderson, J. K. Isbister, G. Nixon, T. Smyth, G. Bell, T. Williams, E. Brown, J. Buckley, A. Simcock, J. Farmer, S. Dickens, J. Gurney, R. Ewens, N. Webster, H. Tinney, J. Martin, J. R. Coombes, J. Nichol, G. Edwards, C. Marsh, J. Lolley, R. Hulme, G. Godfrey, W. S. Matthews, J. Milligan, H. Marshall, J. Nelson, and S. Hague. The visitors included Bros. J. W. Baker, P.M. 241; W. R. Warr, W.M. 758; J. Coxhill, J.W. 758; W. Mellor, S.D. 758; W. Cotterell, P.M. 823; J. E. Jackson, P.M. 667; J. Jones, P.M. 594; John Burgess, W.M. 1325; J. Hayes, P.M. 249; S. E. Ibbes, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Savage, 241; H. Pearson, P.M. 249; J. Skeaf, P.G.O.; D. Morris, 1182; J. W. Ballard, P.M. 667; J. J. Rose, P.M. 249; H. Morris, W.M. 1505; J. W. Pillow, 1393; S. Tickle, J.W. 220; A. D. Hesketh, S.D. 1182; J. C. Robinson, J.W. 249; R. Brown, P.M. 241; J. H. Stringer, 1609; E. O. C. Rothwell, P.M. 1356; J. Le Comber, W.M. 594; G. Musker, Sec. 1182, and others. The chair was taken by Bro. T. Clark, P.M., who efficiently installed Bro. Henry Burrows in the chair of W.M. for the ensuing year, valuable help in the latter part of the ceremony being given by Bro. W. T. May, P.M. The following were the officers subsequently invested:—Bros. T. Roberts, I.P.M.; D. Jackson, S.W.; W. Brackenbury, J.W.; T. Clark, P.M., Treas.; W. T. May, P.M., Sec.; R. Whitehead, Organist; L. Harman, S.D.; J. Seddon, J.D.; T. Falshaw, I.G.; J. T. Callow, P.M., D.C.; T. Smyth, S.S.; C. Marsh, J.S.; H. Marshall, A.S.; and W. H. Ball, Tyler. Before the close of the lodge the newly-installed W.M. presented Bro. T. Roberts, I.P.M., with a valuable P.M.'s jewel, in recognition of his excellent services to the lodge during his year of office. The brethren subsequently dined in the large banqueting hall, and during the evening the W.M. felicitously proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. The annual picnic excursion of the lodge took place on the following day, and it certainly proved one of the most successful and enjoyable which has ever taken place. No fewer than about 300 ladies and brethren started from the Liverpool landing-stage, and proceeded to Monks' Ferry, from whence they proceeded by special train to Ruabon. By the kind permission of Bro. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., M.P., R.W.P.G.M. of Shropshire and North Wales, who is known as an earnest Mason in his own and other provinces, Wynnstay Park, in pleasant walking distance of the town, was thrown open to the picnic party, and no more pleasant spot could possibly have been found. A large tent was erected in the park adjoining the house, which proved quite sufficient to accommodate at dinner all who were present. After a delightful walk through the avenue of splendid oaks, the picknickers were permitted to view the lovely pleasure grounds, and a short musical service in Sir Watkin's private chapel (Bro. J. Skeaf, P.G.O., presiding at the organ) formed no small item in the day's excursion. The party was afterwards allowed to have a run through the house, and the splendid decorations and rare collection of family and other pictures were the subject of universal admiration. A capital dinner was provided in the large tent by Bro. Murless, of the Wynnstay Arms, Ruabon, and the afternoon was pleasantly spent in dancing, games, &c., while some enjoyed walks in the neighbourhood, so charming and attractive. The "special" left shortly before nine o'clock, and the company arrived safely at the stage about half-past ten o'clock, every one seemingly satisfied with the day's delightful excursion.

COCKERMOUTH.—Skiddaw Lodge (No. 1002).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst. There was only a small muster, owing to a variety of other engagements elsewhere. The following were present:—Bros. W. Taylor, W.M.; W. Shilton, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., as J.W.; R. Robinson, P.M. and Treas., P.P.G.S.D.; W. H. Lewthwaite, P.M. and Organist; W. F. Lamonby, P.M. and Secretary (Freemason); T.

Bird, S.D.; C. Gibson, I.G.; J. Raine, H. Peacock, T. C. Robinson, and W. Potts, Tyler. Bro. R. W. Robinson, Domestic Lodge, No. 177, London, was also present as a visitor, and kindly took the chair in the West. Bro. Rule being unavoidably absent for the Third Degree, Bro. R. Robinson explained the First and Second Tracing Boards, after which Bro. Lamonby moved, Bro. Shilton seconded, and it was unanimously agreed, "That in accordance with Article 3, page 93, and Article 8, page 64, of the Book of Constitutions, the regular place of assembly of Skiddaw Lodge be removed to the new rooms in Station-street." It was also resolved that the lodge stand adjourned till the first Tuesday in September, in order to facilitate the fitting up of the new lodge premises in Station-street, in time for consecration, on the occasion of the forthcoming Provincial Grand Lodge festival. The lodge was then closed in form.

GRIMSBY.—St. Alban's Lodge (No. 1294).—The brethren of the above lodge celebrated the festival of St. John the Baptist on Monday evening, the 25th ult., in their lodge room at the Royal Hotel. After the lodge had been opened by the W.M., Bro. John Nelson, Bro. P.M. Anderson Bates delivered a lecture on Freemasonry in Grimsby, from its introduction to the fall of the Apollo Lodge. He stated that in the beginning of this century, on Grimsby opening the Old Dock, and recovering from a long commercial depression, some Hull Freemasons came to reside here and formed a lodge. They worked under a warrant originally granted to the Urania Lodge at Brigg, in 1792, and met at the Freemasons' Tavern, which then stood on the site of the shop of Mr. Frith, fish and game dealer, Victoria-street. About 1806 or 1807 David Simpson built a lodge-room (which now forms the chambers of two cottages) behind his own house, near the New Market-place, and there the brethren located themselves. It was in this room that Dr. Oliver, in 1810, first presided over a lodge of Freemasons as Master. In 1812 Stephen Kitching built for the brethren the Apollo Lodge-room, which, in 1813, was opened with great ceremony. This place stands near the music hall, and now belongs to Mr. Thomas Brown, druggist. Bro. Bates described the internal Masonic decorations of these rooms; gave some very interesting facts relating to Masonry; mentioned several of the prominent brethren of the time, and briefly noticed the way in which they conducted their meetings and passed their social evenings. He also referred to an error on the tablet to the memory of Dr. Oliver in the Pelham Pillar Lodge, on which it was stated that the doctor introduced Masonry into Grimsby in 1811; and then traced the decay of the lodge until its dissolution and sale of its effects in 1833. The warrant was returned by Dr. Oliver to the Grand Lodge in 1834. At the close of the lecture Bro. John Sutcliffe highly complimented Bro. Bates on the success which had attended his efforts to collect a record of the facts concerning the once illustrious Apollo Lodge, and proposed a vote of thanks to him for the industrious researches he had made. Several of the brethren spoke in support of the motion, which was passed with acclamation, and a unanimous desire was expressed to Bro. Bates that he would permit the lecture to be published in order that the landmarks of the Order in Grimsby might be preserved.

PLYMOUTH.—Lodge Prudence (No. 1550).—The annual meeting of the members of this lodge was held at the Huyshe Temple, on Saturday, the 23rd ult., for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. Charles Philp. There was a large attendance, and the Past Masters present comprised Bros. J. E. Curteis, P.M. 189, P.G.S.W.; Isaac Latimer, P.M. 189, P.P.G.J.W.; E. Aitken Davies, P.P.G.S.W.; J. J. Avery, P.M. 1550, P.G. Treas.; T. Hicks, W.M. 1529; J. H. Toms, P.M. 1091; R. B. Twose, P.M. 105; J. Rendle, P.M. 1247; J. T. Avery, P.M. 156; L. D. Westcott, P.P.G.S. Wks.; J. B. Gaver, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; R. G. Bird, P.M. 1550; and S. H. Earle, P.M. 1255. There was a large number of other brethren present. Bros. Rendle and Holt acted as Organists, and the ceremony of installing the W.M. was admirably performed throughout by the retiring Worshipful Master, Bro. J. P. Rogers. After the W.M. had been duly installed he proceeded to invest his officers for the ensuing year. The following were appointed:—Bros. J. P. Rogers, I.P.M.; J. G. Kevern, S.W.; A. S. Stuart, J.W.; J. Y. Avery, Treas.; R. G. Bird, Sec.; R. G. Tippetts, S.D.; W. Garland, J.D.; J. Webber, I.G.; J. G. Lane, Org.; Cloke, Deputy-Organist; Shillabeer, Asst. Steward. Bro. R. G. Bird was elected as the representative of the lodge to the Committee for Petitions. When the appointments had been made the W.M. proposed that a vote of thanks should be given to Bro. Rogers for his highly valued services while he had been the W.M., and that those thanks should be conveyed to him on vellum. The proposal was seconded and cordially supported by several members, and a committee appointed to carry it out. The question as to the most convenient day for the members of the lodge to meet was considered, and eventually it was determined to ask every member and to request his answer in writing, so that a time might be agreed upon that would be most generally suitable. At the close of the business the brethren adjourned to Farley's Hotel, in Union-street, to dine. The banquet was all that could be desired. The W.M. presided, and there was a large attendance. He was supported on his right and left by several of the Grand Officers of the Province, Past and Present, and by the Past Masters, whose names have been already mentioned. There were also several Cornish brethren present. The W.M. gave several of the toasts, and in response to that of the health of the Grand Master of the Province, the Rev. John Huyshe, and the D.P.G. Master, L. P. Metham, V.W. Bro. Curteis expressed his great regret at the long-continued and severe illness of their most excellent chief, and also of his Deputy, both of whom he eulogised in the warmest terms. Much sympathy was felt for the Grand Master, whose illness

has been long and severe. The customary toasts were given and responded to, and a very pleasant day was spent.

INSTRUCTION.

LIVERPOOL.—Merchants' Lodge (No. 241).—A special meeting of the Lodge of Instruction in connection with the Merchants' Lodge, No. 241, was held on Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, for the purpose of hearing a lecture from Bro. Younghusband, P.M., P.Z., P.P.G.J.W., on the emblems upon the ancient chairs belonging to the lodge. Bro. Younghusband was the founder of this Lodge of Instruction, and the lecture, as might have been expected from his standing and experience in Masonry, proved most interesting and instructive, and was duly appreciated by the brethren.

Red Cross of Constantine.

PORTSMOUTH.—Naval and Military Conclave (No. 35).—The quarterly meeting was held at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 26th inst. The N.P.S., Sir Kt. Jn. Harrison, was supported by Sir Kts. Dr. C. Knott, I.G., Hants; J. Clark, D.I.G.; G. A. Green, Eus.; C. G. Adames, S.G.; W. Tuck, J.G.; J. Clay, P.S. Treas.; A.R. Robinson, P.S.R.; Skeens, S.B.; Past Sovs. W. Sharp, C. Croom, B. Sinister, and others. The conclave was duly opened and minutes of last convocation unanimously adopted. The ballot was then taken for P.M., Bro. W. C. Redward and Bro. Jn. Brickwood, and proved unanimous in favour of each candidate. Bro. J. R. Crook (an accepted candidate) was then introduced, installed and proclaimed, and the Hist. Oration delivered by the Viceroy in his usual masterly style. Bro. Brickwood was then announced at the portal, introduced, installed and proclaimed, when the Sir Kts. had the second opportunity of appreciating the eloquence of the acting H.P. P.S. Clay then requested, in the name of a few subscribers, that the M.P.S. would kindly oblige the admirers of their old friend and N. Comp. P.S. Groom, by presenting to him a P. Sov. jewel, at the same time stating he was one of the earliest installed members at the revival of the Red Cross Order, under Lord Kenlis some years since, and, so to speak, a veteran of the degree. M.P.S. Harri on said it afforded him great pleasure to be the medium of conferring this token upon P.S. Groom, and he sincerely hoped he would be long spared to continue his membership of the conclave, and transmit this mark of their kindly feeling to his son. In reply, P.S. Groom stated, with evident emotion, that he was more than grateful for this handsome mark of their appreciation of his humble services, and although he had done little in the past, it would be an incentive to him to do all that he possibly could in the future for the furtherance of the beloved Order, and so continue to merit their approval. The conclave was closed in solemn form until Tuesday, 25th September next.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF KENT.

Continued from p. 278.

The Prov. Grand Master, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, which was proposed by Bro. J. S. Eastes, said: We have now met together for a good many years, and I am glad to see that the cordiality with which this toast is greeted has not diminished. I should be sorry if it were, because I should feel then that in failing to keep your regard and esteem I was doing harm to the Craft in the province. Having at my heart the wish to forward the welfare of the Craft in the province, nothing can be more grateful to me than to see as years go on your reception of me becomes not less. Believe me, brethren, on these occasions when we meet together for social conference and for provincial festivities, it is very pleasant indeed to be so received; and, as my Deputy was good enough to say, if you were good enough to endorse the sentiment, that he wished me many years of health and strength to preside over you, so wish I; and if by God's blessing I have the health and strength to bear the care of the province, I hope to do so, and to receive from you approbation expressed in the same cordial manner. Then we shall go on as a flourishing and united province, and that is the object of my visits on these occasions. And now, brethren, I do not undertake at these meetings to make many remarks about Freemasonry in the province; it is so thoroughly understood that I make them at the preliminary meetings that we have for business, when we have the Masters and Wardens of the lodges assembled. Those remarks are conveyed by those brethren to the other members of their lodges. I have been slack, I confess, in past years to refer to the subject I am now going to mention, but I see that it has been done in other provincial lodges. In some quarters some importance is attached to brethren appearing at the Prov. Grand Festivals not in proper costume. Now, I know that evening costume is laid down in the regulations as the proper costume; but I do not think it necessary that we should have it. Most of us who attend Provincial Grand Lodges have to leave our homes to come here at a very early period in the morning, when evening costume is out of place, and I, myself, who live in London, if I wore it in the morning might be asked if I was not returning from some late festival of the night before. Even if we were to start from our homes in morning costume, and dress after we got to lodge, we might not find places of accommodation for the purpose, and there would be serious inconveniences, and we might have, perhaps, the sad spectacle of one brother leaving with another brother's pair of trousers. What I would recommend is that we should appear in morning costume, with a black coat, a black or white waistcoat, and black trousers. I think we should then be

more in conformity with the words of His Royal Highness the Grand Master. It is but a small point, but it is a small point which adds more dignity and seemliness to our meetings, which we are all so anxious to maintain. With regard to other matters of the Craft, I have said I have no intention of making any long remarks. Suffice it to say the members of the Craft have not diminished, they have increased, during the last year. It has been my study to maintain the position of the Craft, and I am glad to see that with the increase in the numbers of the Craft there has been no degeneracy. We are strong enough now in numbers in the province of Kent to look less to the increase in the numbers of the brethren than to maintaining our respectability, not that I wish to see the numbers flag in any degree. The impulse given to our progress by the Prince of Wales becoming Grand Master is an undoubted fact; and as this circumstance has led to the addition of new lodges to the roll, it is my duty in this province to scrutinise carefully the grounds on which the petitions are based, and to see whether they are such as in my opinion are likely to promote the true interests of the Craft. Wherever I find in an important and populous district there are those who if they joined our Order were a lodge established in their neighbourhood would be likely to do honour to the Order, I have little difficulty in recommending a new warrant. I have been glad to recommend two such warrants in the past year; and from what I saw when I attended the consecration meetings of those two lodges, I think the province of Kent will have no reason to be ashamed of the new additions. On the contrary, I think they will find that these lodges will add considerably to our strength, and even perhaps more than that, to the position the Craft now holds in the province. But I do entreat the brethren not to allow themselves to be carried away by the ambition of making their lodges the largest in numbers. We can afford now to pick our recruits. As in time of war, the standard by which men are chosen in the army goes down, so it is in Freemasonry. In times of peace the standard in the army goes up; and in Masonry, whilst we are in a good position, let us maintain a high standard. Then I shall have no fear that the recruits brought into the Order will be a credit to it. Those two pieces of counsel are the only two I wish to give. We are met for pleasure. Seldom have we met on a more pleasant or agreeable spot, and if we could not carry out the whole of the ceremonies of the Craft in the building we are now assembled in, we have perhaps some consolation from the circumstance that the abundance of openings have conduced to our physical comfort. And so, brethren, hoping that as years go on these annual meetings of pleasure may continue to be as enjoyable as the present (I cannot say more enjoyable), that each brother in the Craft may enjoy himself as much, and that each new recruit to our ranks may be as creditable to the Craft as those who are now in it, I have only to conclude by thanking you for the warm and cordial way in which you have honoured this toast.

The Prov. G.M., in proposing "The Deputy Prov. G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers," trusted that the brethren who had been invested that evening would, at the end of their year of office, bear as pleasant recollections of their year of office as those brethren did who had been in office during the past year.

Bro. J. B. Eastes, who was the first to respond, after thanking the Prov. G.M. for the honour he had conferred upon him, said that though when he was first entrusted with the duties appertaining to the possession of the Deputy Prov. G.M.'s collar, he had felt some diffidence, he had none now. Three years ago he was able to say he had visited every lodge in the province. Unfortunately, through illness, he had not been able to do the same in the last year; but he trusted that no brother and no lodge could say that the interests of the one or the other had been in any way neglected. He had endeavoured to the utmost of his power to recommend to his lordship every brother who was entitled to promotion, and he trusted that what he had done had been satisfactory. He could not hope to satisfy everybody, but he hoped that he had satisfied the larger number. All his energies would be devoted to the interests of the Order. He loved Freemasonry from the bottom of his heart, and not only to the general interests of Freemasonry in the province, but to incite the brethren to do all they possibly could for the charities of the Order, he should use his best efforts.

Bros. Douglas and Spurrell also responded. The Rev. W. A. Hill, Prov. G. Chap., responded to a special toast proposed in his individual honour. After touching lightly on the subject of the proposed testimonial to him, he referred to the progress made by the Order, and said that the brethren should bear in mind that with prosperity dangers occurred. Let them keep to the good old landmarks. Most of them, no doubt, read the *Freemason*. He had been invited to take the paper in, and he did; but he was mortified at seeing many things in the paper, more especially with reference to other lands. What had they to do with Milan and the Pope? They looked beyond their own little frith, the silver streak bordering this province, on to the continent, across the Alps into the glorious realm of Italy, and saw things which did not satisfy them. They might take objection to what the town of Milan and the Roman Catholic Church did with regard to Masonry; but, although knowing how Masonry had been attacked and cruelly used by that body, it was contrary to the principles of Masonry to interfere and get up a cry against the religious worship of the Catholic body. Let a cry be got up against it if they liked, but let them not bring Masonry into it. We have seen also in connection with the Grand Orient of France very sad quarrels, which we must look upon as very unsatisfactory, and we should take them as a warning to ourselves, and say "Let brotherly love continue." We should be on terms of friendship with each other, Masonry acting with us as the genial oil which ran down

Aaron's beard even to the skirts of his garments. But they might bear in mind that it had been proposed by the Grand Orient that the Masonic candidates should no longer be bound to their vows upon the Sacred Law. If that sort of tone was carried out here the people of England might think Masons atheists. Masons left men free, but it required them to honour God and be loyal to their Sovereign. If we seek the annals of Freemasonry we should find it had always been so. If we took the time of the Virgin Monarch, whose life was something like the life of Queen Victoria, except that Queen Victoria was the loving mother of a splendid family, we should find that there were many Masons, and Queen Elizabeth wishing to know something about them requested Archbishop Parker to ascertain what sort of people the people the Masons were. The Archbishop was made a Mason and of course saw the proceedings. He reported to Her Majesty, and what was the report he made? Not that they were disloyal to Her Majesty. He said "They are an honest and respectable body of men, loyal to their Sovereign and attached to God." It was the same now, and if they kept to the old lines and the old landmarks they would always be so. If they were they would be ready at any time for removal to the Grand Lodge above.

Bro. Thorpe, Treasurer, in replying to the toast of "Treasurer and Secretary," remarking on the progress Masonry had made in the province, said that when he first became its Treasurer the Provincial dues were in the year £26 14s; but in the last year they were £400.

Bro. Spencer, Secretary, asked but three things of the brethren; first to be attentive to the necessary communications to the Prov. Grand Lodge; secondly, for each individual lodge to be careful whom it admitted; and thirdly, not to form cliques.

The Prov. G.M. proposed "The Lodge of St. John and St. Paul, the entertaining lodge."

Bros. Dr. Spurrell, Knight, and Andrews responded.

The Prov. G.M. proposed "The Masonic Charities," charities being the raison d'être of Masonry.

Bro. James Terry replied. Kent had in the present year contributed £1229 16s. 6d. to the three institutions: £493 3s. to the Benevolent; £175 4s. 6d. to the Girls; and £561 9s. to the Boys. But Kent had ten boys in the Boys' School, who cost £42 a year each (£420); ten old men on the Benevolent Institution, at £40 a year each (£400); six widows at £32 each (£192); and two widows receiving half their late husbands' annuities (£40), or £632; and five girls in the Girls' School at £36 each (£180). So that Kent was receiving yearly from the three institutions £1232, or £2. 4s. more than she had contributed in the present year. Kent was not such a large and important province as West Yorkshire, or East or West Lancashire; but it had contributed to the charities a sum of which it might well be proud when comparing what it had done with what had been done by those important centres of Masonry. Looking at what it had done, every candidate it put forward was entitled to be successful.

The brethren shortly afterwards separated.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CORNWALL.

The annual Provincial Grand Lodge and General Communication of the Freemasons of the Province of Cornwall was held on Thursday, 5th inst. The place of meeting was Launceston, or Dunheved, or Llanstephadon, as that ancient corporate township is variously recorded in its early history. Launceston stands on the main coach road through the centre of Cornwall, but from one of those odd changes effected in railway times by the innovations of the iron road is now difficult of access from the greater part of Cornwall. Notwithstanding that inconvenience, there was, however, a large attendance of the officers of the Province at Thursday's meeting, many of them having slept at Plymouth or Tavistock the previous night. Over four hundred were present.

The room was tastefully fitted up with the banners of the Order, the usual Masonic insignia, national colours, and festoons of foliage.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at the Western Subscription Rooms, at 10.30 a.m., by the R.W. the P.G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Mount Edgemount, supported by the acting officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, of whom the following were in their places: R.W. Bro. E. T. Carlyon, P.P.S.G.W., Deputy P.G.M., pro. tem.; W. Bros. the Rev. G. L. Church, P.S.G.W.; E. Dixon Anderson, P.J.G.W.; the Rev. J. B. Jones, M.A., P.J.G. Chap.; W. Tweedy, P.G. Treas.; W. Jenkins, P.G. Registrar; E. T. Carlyon, P.G. Sec.; R. John, P.P.G.D.C., Assistant to Prov. G. Sec.; J. Cardew, P.P.G.D.; T. White, P.G.S. Wks.; J. W. Chegwidden, P.G.D.C.; T. Gill, P.A.G.D.C.; J. Vivian, P.G.S.B.; R. Carter, P.G.O.; A. T. Grant, P.G. Purs.; W. Rooks, P.G.A. Purs.; T. Webber, C. G. Archer, G. Barnes, T. C. Polglaze, J. Burgess, W. Tonkin, T. C. Stephens, P.G. Stewards, and W. Rusden, P.G. Tyler.

Among the other additional officers present were also the following:—W. Bros. W. J. Hughan, P.P.G. Sec., P.G.D. England; Col. Peard, P.P.G.S.W.; J. G. Mason, P.P.S.G.W.; F. J. Hext, P.P.S.G.W.; T. Geach, P.P.G. J.W.; I. Latimer, P.P.G.J.W. Devon; H. G. Colwill, P.P.G.S.W.; the Rev. G. Ross, P.P.G. Chap.; the Rev. W. S. Sloane Evans, P.P.G. Chap. Devon; the Rev. H.A. No.1, P.P.G. Chap., Aberdeen; the Rev. W. H. Bloxsome, P.P.G. Chap.; E. Holmes, P.M. 114, P.P.G. Reg., and P.P.G.D.C. Suffolk; W. Lake, P.P.G. Reg.; C. T. Pearce, P.P.G.J.D.; W. H. Bickford, P.P.G.S.D.; H. Cochrane, P.P.G.J.D.; S. Holloway, P.P.G.J.D.; D. H. W. Horlock, P.P.G. Reg. Oxon; W. N. Glencross, P.G.S. Wks. Oxon; W. D. Pearce, P.P.G.S. Wks.; E. Aitken Davies, P.P.G.S. Wks. Devon; Jno. Du Pre,

P.P.G.D.C. Devon; T. M. Hillfrey, P.P.A.D.C. Devon; N. B. Bullen, P.P.G.O.; W. Guy, P.P.G.A.D.C.; W. W. Dymond, P.P.G.O.; E. A. Courtney, P.P.G.D.C.; J. H. Tonkin, P.G.A.D.C. Devon; Saml. Willoughby, P.P.G.S.B. Devon; and others.

The minutes of the last meeting of the P.G. Lodge, held at Falmouth June 22nd, 1876, were read by W. Bro. R. John, and confirmed.

At that meeting it was resolved—"That the brethren of the Prov. G. Lodge desired to record their gratitude to the Great Architect of the Universe for the safe return of their Most Worshipful Brother his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England, from India;" and the Secretary was directed to communicate that resolution to his Royal Highness.

Bro. John read the following letter in reply from Sir William Knollys: "Marlborough House, Pall Mall, S.W., July 8th, 1876.—Sir William Knollys is desired for the Prince of Wales to thank the P.G.M. and the Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of Cornwall for the address of welcome and for their congratulations on his safe return from India. It is a source of great thankfulness to his Royal Highness that he has been enabled by a visit to one of the most important possessions of the British Crown to acquire a personal knowledge of its characteristic features, its interests, and institutions, and to promote, by intercourse with all classes of its inhabitants, the friendly feelings which it is so essential should subsist between the mother country and every part of her vast empire.—To the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe."

The reply was received with warm appreciation, and direction given to record it in the minutes.

The annual statement of the Prov. G. Treasurer was read by the Treasurer (W. Bro. W. Tweedy). It showed on receipts for the year balance from last account, £58 6s. 10d.; collection in church after sermon at Falmouth, £15 8s. 4d.; fees, £17 6s. 6d.; dues from lodges, £153 8s. 6d.; dispensations, £2 5s.; total, £246 15s. 2d. Expenditure for the year, £160 6s. 4d. Balance in hand, £86 8s. 10d.

W. Bro. R. John read the following Secretary's report:—"Province of Cornwall.—Number of lodges in the province, 27. For the year 1876—Number of initiations, 155; joining members, 40; previous members, 1272; total, 1467. 1875—Number of initiations, 167; joining members, 64; previous members, 1202; total, 1433. Decrease in 1876 as against 1875, 12 initiations; ditto decrease joining members, 24; increase of membership to carry on, 70; clear increase during the past year, 34. I must congratulate the province on the fact that the returns for the past year still show an increase in our ranks, and from what I have been able to collect from those returns I should certainly gather that the advice of our Provincial Grand Master has had its effect, and that the new additions during the last year are, taken altogether, an evident improvement. I much wish that in each year every Master and Secretary of his lodge on leaving office would be good enough to hand over at once all papers and returns to their successors, so that unnecessary correspondence and delay may be saved.—E. T. Carlyon, P.G. Sec."

Both reports were unanimously received and adopted. Bro. J. C. R. Crews, the Assistant Secretary of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund, read the report of the Committee of the fund. It stated: Receipts—Balance from last account, £123 17s. 6d.; donations and subscriptions for the year from the lodges and brethren, £154 14s., a decrease of £4 2s. 6d. from the results from the like source in the previous year; vote of Prov. Grand Lodge, £25; part of collection at church, £6 3s. 4d.; interest on Cornwall Railway Stock, £20 4s. 5d.; Great Western ditto, £9 17s. 6d.; Russian bonds (since sold), £9 17s. 6d.; Debenture Trust Fund, £7 8s. 2d.; Pennsylvania mortgage bonds, £5 18s. 6d.; total, £239 3s. 5d. Result of sale of Russian bonds, £456 19s.; total, £819 19s. 11d.; expenditure, £49 3s. 3d.; purchase of £600 of the West Hartlepool Railway four per cent. stock, £612 8s. 6d.; balance on account of the trustees at the Cornish Bank, £158 8s. 2d.; total, £819 19s. 11d. Two vacancies for annuities had been declared, and there were two candidates for election, one from the Love and Honour Lodge, Falmouth, the other from the Peace and Harmony Lodge, at St. Austell. The Committee appointed at the last Prov. Grand Lodge meeting to revise the rules of the fund had met, and the alterations suggested by them had been forwarded to each lodge, and would be submitted for the approval of the Grand Lodge. The report was adopted, and W. Bros. J. M. Thomas and H. G. Colvill appointed scrutineers of the votes at the election for the annuitants. The result was that both candidates were elected, one by 507, the other by 506 votes.

A communication was received from Bro. Reginald Rogers, D. Prov. Grand Master, stating his inability from severe illness to fulfil the duties of Treasurer to the Annuity and Benevolent Fund, and requesting the acceptance of his resignation. He thanked the brethren for the previous kind confidence they had placed in him for so many years, but stated his belief that his labours for Masonry were over, and that he did not believe he should meet in the lodge again. The resignation was accepted, but great regret expressed at the declining health of Bro. R. Rogers, and a vote passed to that effect, which was desired to be communicated to him. The P.G.M. undertook that fraternal office.

W. Bro. W. Tweedy was elected Treasurer to the fund. The Secretary, Bro. T. Chirgwin, whose absence was apologised for by Bro. Hughan, was re-elected, and W. Bros. J. M. Thomas and Capt. H. G. Colvill elected the Auditors.

The whole of the proposed alterations in the rules of the Annuity and Benevolent Fund recommended by the Committee were unanimously adopted without discussion.

W. Bro. W. Tweedy read the report of the Committee of Relief, which stated that during the past year two brethren had been relieved. Petitions had been received from two brethren of Lodges 450 and 699, and two widows of Lodges 917 and 450, and finding that the bye-laws had been complied with in each case, and that in the opinion of the Committee the cases were very deserving, it was recommended that gratuities of £8, £10, £5, and £10 be respectively granted. The Committee would hope in future that applicants for relief being widows would not look on that as the only fund, but would make application to the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund also.—Adopted.

W. Bro. Hughan read his report on the management of the votes of Cornwall for the great Masonic Charities of London. He begged to thank the P.G.M. and P.G. Lodge for their kindly placing the sum of twenty guineas in his name on the list of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys (for which he was acting as Steward) in lieu of payment of his out-of-pocket expenses, which he declined. It increased his list as Steward in a very pleasant manner, and raised the total to over £450, which was the largest single list in England for 1876. They had no candidate for the Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls or Boys at the October and April elections for 1876-77, so the votes for those charities were utilised for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and secured the election of the brother who was a candidate for that charity. They had now four of those annuitants, and from that fund they were receiving £152 per annum. They had also a girl in the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. He was glad, also, to state that at the present the province owed no votes to any one. They had votes to receive from the P.G.L. of Devon in April, 1878, having assisted that province to the utmost in obtaining the election of their candidates, and whenever the province of Cornwall wanted to borrow a thousand votes its credit was sufficiently good to be able to get them.—That report was received and adopted.

The P.G.M. said it was a most satisfactory report, and did great credit to Bro. Hughan, for the assiduity, zeal, and success he exhibited in the matter.

The Committee of Relief was elected, on the proposition of Bro. John Thomas, W.M. 589, in an appropriate speech, and was constituted as follows:—Bros. E. D. Anderton, P.M. 331, P. Prov. G.W.; S. Holloway, P.M. 131, P. Prov. G.D.; C. Truscott, P.M. 496, P. Prov. G.S.B., and Prov. Grand Treas.; and Sec., Bro. Hughan.

Bro. W. J. Hughan brought forward the proposition to increase the fees payable to the Provincial Grand Lodge to 5s. instead of 3s. on the initiation of a candidate. The former, he said, was the general fee paid in other provinces, and although a trifle to each lodge, it would amount in the aggregate to a sum worth obtaining. Cornwall has been very successful with the charities, but to keep up that prosperity it was necessary to maintain its character for contributions to those, and this money would become useful in increasing them. The proposed increase of fee on a brother joining a lodge, he said, he must withdraw, as it was found to clash with the present rule of Grand Lodge.

The propositions were seconded and unanimously adopted.

On the question of the grants to the Cornwall Masonic Annuity Fund, and the Great Masonic Charities, £25 was voted to the Cornwall Fund, and Bro. Hughan renewed his advocacy of the Great Masonic Charities being liberally supported by Cornwall, on account of the amount that province was receiving from them.

The P.G.M. said perhaps it was advisable that he should take a Stewardship for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Fund, and stated his intention of so doing. £50 was voted to the charity, and Bro. Hughan hoped that the P.G.M. would succeed so well in his Stewardship that his list on the occasion would be second to none in England.

This concluding a large portion of the business, the lodge proceeded in procession, in full regalia with banners and emblems displayed, and headed by the Launceston Volunteer Band, to the church of St. Mary Magdalene, where an eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. J. B. Jones, M.A., to a crowded congregation, on the text 1st Epistle of Peter, ii. chap., 17th verse. An offertory was made, £12 14s. 0d., the proceeds of which was appropriated, in accordance with former custom—two-fifths to a local charity (the Rowe Dispensary), two-fifths to the Benevolent Fund, and one-fifth to the clergyman for charitable distribution.

The brethren then returned in procession to the Subscription Rooms. Redruth was selected as the next place of meeting, and the following officers were invested for the ensuing year:—

- Sir F. M. Williams, Bart., M.P., P.G.W. D. Prov. G.M.
- D. H. W. Horlock, 789 Prov. G.S.W.
- T. C. Stephens, 1151 Prov. G.J.W.
- Rev. J. B. Jones, 1272 Prov. G.S. Chap.
- Rev. F. Wintle, 893 Prov. G. J. Chap.
- W. Tweedy (re-elected), 331 Prov. G. Treas.
- J. F. Childs, 510 Prov. G. Reg.
- E. T. Carlyon, 331 Prov. G. Sec.
- T. Webber, 75 Prov. G.S.D.
- J. Hawkins, 789 Prov. G.J.D.
- J. Burgess, 1006 Prov. G.S. Wks.
- J. H. Reynolds, 589 Prov. G.D.C.
- T. C. Pulglaze, 75 Prov. G.A.D.C.
- Captain W. E. Michell, 1528 Prov. G.S.B.
- J. M. Thomas, 967 Prov. G.O.
- George Barnes, 1164 Prov. G. Purs.
- W. Rookes, 331 Prov. G. Ast. Purs.
- T. Hawken, 1529; J. Crang, 330;
- P.F. Sincoe, 189; W. Foxwell, 1071;
- J. C. R. Crews, 131; N. Henwood,
- 1164 Prov. G. Stewards.
- T. Wise Prov. Tyler.

From the Subscription Rooms the Prov. Grand Lodge then proceeded in procession to the "Dunheved Masonic Hall," where the P.G.M. consecrated that building in due form to the purposes of Masonry. The hall is a handsome and substantial building, erected by the Dunheved Lodge in the environs of Launceston, on the Plymouth-road. Bro. Hine, of Plymouth (a member of the lodge), was the architect. The new lodge room is very handsomely fitted up, and provided with a convenient alcove in the south-east angle as an organ chamber.

W. Bro. W. W. Dymond, P.P.G.O., with the assistance of W. Bros. J. Rendle, T. Goodall, and Bro. G. Firks, of Plymouth, rendered the musical parts of the consecration. At the close of the consecration the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in the new hall in due form.

A large party of the brethren then adjourned to dine at the Central Subscription Rooms, where the P.G.M. presided until 5.30 p.m.

A bazaar was held during the afternoon and evening in the grounds of the Castle in aid of the building fund of the New Masonic Hall, and continued the next day.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SUFFOLK.

The annual Grand Lodge of the Province of Suffolk was held on Friday, the 29th ult., at Hadleigh, under the banner of Lodge Virtue and Silence. The preparations for the reception of the brethren were admirably carried out, and the inhabitants had done their utmost to put on the appearance of geniality.

Grand Lodge was opened in due and ancient form in the old Town Hall, the chair being taken by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Brother Lord Waveney.

The minutes of the late Provincial Grand Lodge and the opening of the new lodge at Gorleston were taken as read and confirmed.

The obligation attached to his office was taken by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, he having been appointed to that office upon the death of the Rev. E. J. Lockwood.

Bro. Lord Henniker made a suggestion that a committee should be appointed in the province which would have the government of the votes of the various lodges and members. The centralisation of the votes in this way would be far more advantageous to such candidates as were selected by the committee than the present method. By centralising the votes exchanges could be made with the committees in other provinces by which the election of one or more candidates from each province could be ensured.

A long discussion ensued, in the course of which some brethren expressed themselves in favour of the scheme, while others thought that any other plan than the present would prevent individual members or lodges taking that interest in the charities which they now did.

Eventually a proposition was made by Bro. Lord Henniker, and carried, "That a committee of six be appointed to take various schemes into consideration, and report to the Board of General Purposes. The lodges afterwards to discuss the recommendations of the Board and the scheme reconsidered for decision at next year's Grand Lodge."

The representatives of lodges in the province stated the position of their lodges, which were considered extremely satisfactory.

The report of the Board of General Purposes stated that the balance in hand was £73 18s. 1d., as against £70 last year. The report, with a proposition of Bro. W. T. Westgate's, that no brother below the position of W.M. should take office in Provincial Grand Lodge, was carried.

The R.W.G.P.M. alluded in feeling terms to the loss the province had sustained by the death of the late Deputy P.G.M., expressions which the brethren fell in with heartily.

The nomination and investiture of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with as follows:—

- W. P. T. Phillips Prov. G.S.W.,
- Eltham Prov. G.S.D.
- Wrightson Prov. G.J.D.
- W. Clarke Prov. G.D. of C.
- Paine Prov. G.A.D.C.
- Whitmore Prov. G. Purs.
- Rev. J. T. Hassall Prov. G. Chaplain
- Laughlin, Dodd, and W. B. Jeffries ... Prov. G. Stewards
- Huddleston Prov. G. Treas.
- Syer Prov. G. Tyler.

Lodge was then closed in the usual manner, after a sitting of about three hours.

Among those present at lodge were—Bros. the R.W. P.G.M. Lord Waveney; the D.P.G.M. the Rev. C. J. Martyn; Lucia, Secretary; J. Terry, Secretary Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; Lord Henniker, 555; T. J. Huddleston, P.G. Treas.; W. Boby, P.P.S.G.W.; J. H. Bevan, P.G.S.W.; W. Clarke, P.G.D. of C.; W. D. Paine, P.A.D.C.; W. Hait, P.P.G.J.D.; W. T. Westgate, P.P.G. D of C.; W. W. Walesby, P.P.G.S.W.; Rev. A. Tighe Gregory, P.P.G.C.; F. Spalding, P.P.S.D.; J. A. Pettit, P.G.S.W.; B. Head, P.G.D.; H. Diaper, P.G.S.; W. Wilmhurst, P.P.G.S.B.; W. Gardiner, P.P.G.D.; J. R. Thompson, P.G.S.B., and the brethren representing the various lodges of the province.

An interval was made in the proceedings of the lodge, when a procession was formed, and the brethren attended St. Mary's Church. The banners were not carried in the procession, but the Freemasons appeared in their full Craft clothing. The Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, Lord Waveney, and other officers of a superior grade, occupied positions near the pulpit. The sacred edifice was well filled. Service commenced with the hymn "When I laid

the foundations of the earth the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." The usual afternoon service was then performed, with the exception of the Psalms, which were special for the occasion. The anthem, "Behold how joyful," was well sung by the choir. The prayer before the sermon was appropriate to the occasion. An admirable sermon was preached by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, the Rev. J. T. Hassall, rector of Watisfield, who took for his text the 8th verse of the 6th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Micah—"And what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly."

The organ was played by Bro. G. Hardacre, formerly of Hadleigh, P.P.G. Organist Oxford, who played a voluntary as the procession entered the church, and again as it went out.

A banquet took place at the Town Hall, and was admirably supplied by Bro. Aldous, of the White Lion Inn. The chair was taken by the R.W.P.G.M., who was supported on his right by the D. Prov. G.M. and on his left by the Prov. Grand Chaplain. Several Past Provincial Grand Officers also occupied seats at either hand of the Right Hon. Brother. Grace having been said by the P.G. Chaplain,

The Prov. G.M. gave the first toast of the evening, "The Queen," which was responded to very heartily.

In giving the toast of "The Grand Master of England, the Prince of Wales," the Prov. G.M. referred to the great interest His Royal Highness took in the Craft.

In giving "The Pro. Grand Master of England, the Earl of Carnarvon," the Chairman asked the brethren to honour the toast Masonically, as the hon. gentleman was one who spared a great deal of his time as a statesman to benefit the Craft.

"The D.G.M., Lord Skelmersdale, and the rest of the Grand Officers, past and present," was next given, coupled with the name of W. Bro. Head. The Prov. G.M. expressed the pleasure felt when Grand Officers came amongst them to diffuse their knowledge of Masonry.

Bro. Head, in responding, thanked the brethren for so warmly receiving the toast, and for the invitation given him to be present on the occasion, associated as he was with Suffolk—his native place. He had been a true Mason for 50 years, and on no occasion had he regretted it, and could assure the brethren that the same might be said by themselves the longer they were in the Craft.

The R.W.P.G.M. gave "The Charities," and illustrated their advantages.

Bro. Terry, Secretary to the Benevolent Institution, in responding, said the three charities were prospering in a manner which was never expected by their projectors. Since February last no less a sum than £36,000 had been received, a larger sum than ever previously was announced. With this large sum, though, there was the reverse side, the expenditure. He said it was a great pity that with the large number of applicants it was impossible to elect a larger number, but at present such a thing could not be done. With regard to the Old People's Institution at Croydon, it was impossible to extend the building, and now a large sum was expended as annuities to old people who were allowed to reside in their own homes. He next alluded to the contribution sent by the province, comparing it with other provinces, and appealed to the brethren to do more for the noble work.

Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn proposed the toast of the evening, "The health of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master (Bro. Lord Waveney)." He said the province was increasing, under his lordship's direction, in as prosperous a manner as possible, and paid a high tribute to his Lordship's interest in the Craft. He thought the province should be proud in having his lordship as their head. The toast was drunk in Masonic style with cheers.

Lord Waveney thanked the brethren for the hearty manner in which they had responded to the toast. He quite agreed with Bro. Terry in his remarks as to the province and the charities, and hoped the brethren would take the matter into their deep consideration. He could not say more than he had on previous occasions. He was under a great debt to the brethren for the way in which they supported him. The officers who were always appointed were such that would be of credit to the province, and he had no anxiety as to their competence. He had a Deputy whom he could with confidence leave in charge of the province, as was shown by the manner in which the proceedings connected with the Gorleston Lodge were carried out. He was sure the future would be as glorious as the past in prosperity. He sincerely thanked them for their response to the toast.

Lord Waveney gave "The Health of Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn."

The D.P.G.M., in responding, thanked the Chairman for the many kind things he had done for and said of him. He felt very proud of the position given him by his lordship. The presence book, which he had just seen, showed that in 1856 he attended the Provincial Grand Lodge at Hadleigh, and he little thought at that time he would attain his present position. With God's grace he would carry out his appointment to the utmost.

Bro. the Rev. J. T. Hassall replied to the toast of "The P.G. Chaplain and the Clergy of the Province."

To "The Past Officers and Wardens of the Province," Bro. Wright and Boby responded.

The remainder of the usual Masonic toast list having been gone through, the meeting concluded.

The vocalists were Bro. Hitchcock, of Hadleigh, and Bros. Large and Lawler, from Westminster Abbey. A choice selection of music was excellently rendered by these gentlemen, Bro. Hardacre presiding at the pianoforte.

MIDDLE TITIENS.—We regret to learn from Worthing that Middle Titens shows little, if any, sign of improvement.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BENGAL.

A Quarterly Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal was held at Freemasons' Hall, 55, Bentinck-street, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 21st day of March, 1877. Present: W. Bros. Henry Hoover Locke, Past Dep. D.G.M., as D.G.M.; F. Jennings, P.D.D.G.M., as D.D.G.M.; John Blessington Roberts, P.D.D.G.M.; Thomas Jones, D.S.G.W.; I. J. Whitty, D.J.G.W.; W. H. Fitze, D.G. Treas.; W. H. Jones, P.D.G. Treas.; W. B. Mactavish, P.D.G.W. as D.G. Reg.; G. C. Farr, D. G. Sec.; J. H. Turner, D.S.G.D.; A. L. LeFranc, P.D.G.D., as D.J.G.D.; P. C. Dutt, P.D.G., Asst. Dir. of Cers., as D. G. Dir. of Cers.; W. G. Amos, P.D.G.D. as D.G. Swd.B.; C. H. Compton, P.D.G.O., as D.G. Org.; A. Friedemann, D.G. Purst.; H. M. Rustomjee, D.G.B.B.; E. J. Dean, D.G., F. C. B. Siddons, E. G. Sinclair, Thos. Duke, Stewards; G. Alexander, D.G. Tyler. There were also present representatives of Lodges Star in the East, 67; Industry and Perseverance, 109; True Friendship, 218; Humility with Fortitude, 229; Anchor and Hope, 234; Courage with Humanity, 392; St. John, 486; Excelsior, 825; Temperance and Benevolence, 1160; Sandeman, 1374; Dalhousie, 639; and visitors: Bros. W. F. Baker, 218; E. Molinero, 232; H. W. Pellatt, 232; J. Read, 232; H. R. Cameron, 486; A. Todd, 486; W. L. Francis, 486; W. H. Payne, 486; J. Parker, 486; G. Cole, 1160; J. Cunliffe, 1374; C. Manell, 1374; W. Herbison, 1374; T. Coker, 1374.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in due form at 6.30 p.m.

The District Grand Master in the chair addressed the District Grand Lodge, and said—Worshipful Brethren, before we proceed with the ordinary business of this District Grand Lodge, I wish to execute a trust which has this evening been reposed in me. Amongst Freemasons art has at all times held a high place, and I am certain that the work of art now before you, and which has been entrusted to my care for presentation to you, will be fully appreciated. Bro. Marshall Wood, of Lodge "St. Andrews," No. 256, E.C., London, an eminent sculptor, of whom doubtless most of you have heard, has sent you this bust of his Royal Highness, our Most Worshipful Grand Master, and in Bro. Wood's name I now present it to you. It is, I am sure, needless for me to suggest to you that the thanks of this District Grand Lodge should be conveyed to the brother who has sent you this beautiful gift. He is unable to attend District Grand Lodge this evening, and he has therefore commissioned me to place his gift before you.

Bro. T. Jones, D.G.S.W., moved that a special vote of thanks of this District Grand Lodge, for the handsome gift of Bro. Marshall Wood, be conveyed to him, and that the same be engrossed on vellum. Seconded by Bro. F. Jennings, P.D.D.G.M., and carried unanimously.

W. Bro. J. B. Roberts, P.D.D.G.M., enquired of the District Grand Master in the chair by whom the District of Bengal was being ruled, W. Bro. J. B. Knight, D.D. G.M., having left the district. The District Grand Master in the chair said he had intended to refer to the subject at the time when such matters were usually entered upon, namely, when the Presiding Officer, according to the agenda paper, would "address the District Grand Lodge," that is to say, immediately after the confirmation of the minutes of last communication; he, however, had no objection to give the information at once, and accordingly announced that W. Bro. J. B. Knight, the Deputy District Grand Master, who had been in charge of the district, had left for England yesterday, having previously made over charge to W. Bro. J. Pitt-Kennedy, P.D.D.G.M. W. Bro. Kennedy was unable to preside in District Grand Lodge that evening, being out of town, and he (Bro. Locke), at his request, and as next on the roster of Deputy District Grand Masters, now occupied the chair.

W. Bro. W. H. Fitze, D.G. Treas. moved, and W. Bro. W. G. Amos, P.D.G.D., seconded—That the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 27th day of December, 1876, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read.—Carried.

W. Bro. P. C. Dutt, P.D.G.A. Dir. of Cer., moved, and W. Bro. J. H. Turner, D.G.S.D., seconded—That the minutes of proceedings be confirmed.

W. Bro. W. B. Mactavish, P.D.G.S.W., moved—That the protest regarding the minutes of the 22nd September, 1876, referred to in the speech of the Acting District Grand Master, ought, in common fairness to the writer (who was absent), to be published in the proceedings of the December meeting, or, if not, that the remarks of the Acting District Grand Master should be expunged. The motion having been seconded by Bro. H. R. King, S.W. 825, and W. Bros. F. Jennings, P.D.D.G.M.; J. B. Roberts, P.D. D.G.M.; T. Jones, D.G.S.W.; and W. H. Fitze, D.G. Treas.; and the proposer and seconder, respectively, having addressed the District Grand Lodge upon the subject of the motion, and the proceedings and letter to which the same had reference, the motion was put to the District Grand Lodge and was declared to be lost.

The proposition moved by Bro. P. C. Dutt, P.D.G.A. Dir. of Cer., and seconded by W. Bro. J. H. Turner, D.G. S.D., was then put to the vote and declared carried.

The District Grand Master in the chair addressed the brethren as follows:—

Worshipful brethren: According to the agenda of business the officer acting as District Grand Master should now address you. I regret very much, however, that I am not in a position to put before you any information as to the condition of Masonry in the province, having been dissociated from any executive work in District Grand Lodge for some time past, and having had no communication made to me of the affairs of the past quarter or the state of the district, beyond the fact that there is one exclusion to be reported to you this evening. I have already informed to you of the departure of Bro. Knight and the consequent change in your ruler.

The report of the Committee of General Purposes, having been printed and circulated, was, on the motion of W. Bro. F. Jennings, P.D.D.G.M., seconded by W. Bro. W. H. Jones, P.D.G. Treas., taken as read.

W. Bro. J. Mumford, W.M. 67, moved, and W. Bro. Jones, P.D.G. Treas., seconded—That the accounts, as exhibited in the abstracts contained in the report of the Committee of General Purposes, be accepted as correct and passed.—Carried.

W. Bro. W. B. Mactavish, P.D.G.S.W., moved, and W. Bro. A. L. LeFranc, P.D.G.D., seconded—That the report of the Committee of General Purposes be adopted and recorded.

The District Grand Master in the chair drew attention to the last paragraph in the report of the Committee of General Purposes, relative to the duties of Lodge Pioneer, No. 1490, and pointed out that the procedure adopted in that case was not in accordance with the resolution of this District Grand Lodge, passed at a communication held on the 24th day of March, 1874, whereby the Suspense Account which had theretofore appeared in the District Grand Lodge accounts was abolished. The District Grand Master in the chair read from the report of proceedings of the communication of the District Grand Lodge, held on the 21st March, 1874, the following extract from the report of the Committee of General Purposes, dated the 16th day of March, 1874, explanatory of the resolution:—"The Committee further recommend the abolition of the Suspense Account, from which many inconveniences have been found to arise. They are of opinion that all moneys paid into District Grand Lodge should be at once credited under the several heads of account, in respect of which they purport to be rendered. Provision has been made in the form referred to in the preceding paragraph for showing any errors of short or excess payments, and any such inaccuracies can be as easily rectified under the system of accounts now proposed as when the whole sum paid in by a lodge is kept 'in suspense' until every mistake of the smallest kind in its return is purged. Under the present system the usufruct of considerable sums is lost by District Grand Lodge and the Fund of Benevolence, while no useful end appears to be served, the 'Suspense Account' being, it is believed, as distasteful to the lodges as it is unthrifty towards ourselves."

The District Grand Secretary said, that after carefully reading the resolution and the above extract from the report of the Committee of General Purposes, he must acknowledge that the procedure adopted by him with reference to the dues of lodges, the returns accompanying which required revision and correction, had not been in accordance with the resolution, but promised that in the future the resolution should be fully carried into effect.

The motion of W. Bro. W. B. Mactavish, P.D.G.S.W., seconded by W. Bro. A. L. LeFranc, P.D.G.D., was then put to the District Grand Lodge and carried.

W. Bro. F. Jennings, P.D.D.G.M., moved, and W. Bro. W. H. Nelson, W.M. 1374, seconded—That the report of the Grand Committee Bengal Masonic Fund of Benevolence, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read.—Carried.

Wor. Bro. W. H. Fitze, District Grand Treasurer, moved, and Wor. Bro. I. J. Whitty, D.G.J.W., seconded. That the report of the Grand Committee of the Bengal Masonic Fund of Benevolence, be recorded.—Carried.

The District Grand Master in the chair said, with reference to the notice of motion standing on the agenda paper in his name, that as he was not present at the last communication of the District Grand Lodge, the motion should not have been postponed, but should then have been allowed to fall through. It would be illegal for him now to move on the original notice of motion. When he should again desire to move the matter he would give due notice.

The undermentioned brethren who were respectively appointed to the office mentioned opposite their respective names, but who in consequence of their absence from the communication of this District Grand Lodge, held on the 27th December, 1876, were not then invested with the collar and jewel of their respective offices, were conducted to the east and invested by the District Grand Master in the chair.

C. F. Egerton Allen, W.M. 109 Dist. G.D. of C.
F. C. B. Siddons, 67 Dist. G. Stwd.
E. G. Sinclair, 229 Dist. G. Stwd.
Thos. Duke, 392 Dist. G. Stwd.

The District Grand Secretary reported the receipt of apologies from several brethren for unavoidable non-attendance that evening.

The District Grand Secretary, referring to the letter received by him from the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, in October last, requesting him to communicate with the several lodges in the District, and to ascertain for the information of the Most Wor. the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon, their views, as to the appointment of a successor to Wor. Bro. J. B. Roberts to the office of District Grand Master for Bengal, said, that in accordance therewith, he had immediately after the receipt of that letter, issued a circular to all the lodges in the district, and that to date he had received replies from eleven of the 28 lodges in Bengal; five lodges expressing a desire to have Wor. Bro. J. Pitt-Kennedy, P.D.D.G.M., appointed to the office; two lodges desiring the appointment of Wor. Bro. T. Jones, D.G.S.W.; two Mofussil lodges desiring to delegate their respective votes to the District Grand Lodge; and two other Mofussil lodges intimating their inability to express an opinion on the subject, being unacquainted with any brethren eligible for the office. The District Grand Secretary also reported, that he had communicated the above information to the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, and had promised to advise him of any further replies to the circular, as received.

The District Grand Master in the chair enquired of the District Grand Secretary whether any circular on the subject had been addressed to the W. Masters of the lodges in the district, subsequent to the circular referred to as having been issued, immediately after the receipt of the letter from the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge; and, upon receiving a reply in the negative, he directed the District Grand Secretary at once to refer to the Deputy District Grand Master in charge, relative to the advisability of issuing a second circular upon the subject. The District Grand Master in the chair thought that a second circular had been rendered the more necessary by reason of two circular letters, regarding the nomination of a brother to fill the office of District Grand Master, which had been very irregularly issued by a brother who appended to his signature the word "Chairman, Committee of Masters;" a body wholly unknown to the Constitutions, and in no way authorised to address the W. Masters of lodges. The circulars so irregularly issued were, generally, mistaken for official communications from District Grand Lodge; and they had had the effect of altogether paralysing the action of many of the Mofussil lodges.

W. Bro. J. W. Browne, P.M. 218, said that the circulars referred to by the District Grand Master in the chair had been issued by him; but that before dispatching them to the W. Masters of the lodges in the district he had shown them to the Deputy District Grand Master then in charge of the district, and had obtained his sanction to their issue.

There being no further business to be brought forward, the usual collection was made for the Fund of Benevolence. The amount collected was announced to be Rs. 68-8, and was made over to the District Grand Treasurer.

District Grand Lodge was then closed in form, and the brethren were dismissed by the District Grand Master in the chair with the following exhortation:—"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of Love and Peace shall be with you."—2 Cor., xiii., 11.

FREEMASONRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

The triennial convale of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America (Sir James H. Hopkins, Grand Master; Sir T. S. Parvin, Grand Recorder); will be held at Cleveland, Ohio, on Tuesday, August 28th, 1877. The Grand Commandery of Ohio has appointed a Committee, of which Grand Commander Sir Chas. C. Kieffer, of Dayton, is Chairman, and Sir Samuel Briggs, of Cleveland, Secretary, with local sub-committees in Cleveland, to secure quarters and accommodations for visiting commanderies and Knights. Philadelphia Commandery, No. 2; St. John's, No. 4; and St. Mary's, No. 36; have already signified their intention to participate, and are making all the necessary arrangements to ensure this pilgrimage an enjoyable one. Full particulars will be published at an early date.

NEW YORK.—Saturday evening, the 16th June, Republic Lodge, No. 690, met at the large Templar Hall at the Temple for the purpose of conferring the Third Degree of Masonry in full form, and when the ceremonial began there were present more than five hundred brethren, probably the largest gathering of Craftsmen ever met together under the auspices of a single lodge. Among those present were Grand Master Couch, P.G. Masters Thorne of New York, and Pembroke of New Jersey; D. Deputies Conant, Addoms, Ehlers, and others; Grand Marshal Jas. E. Morrison, Chas. D. Brown, Robert Boyneage, William T. Woodruff, some twenty-five Masters of Lodges, and delegations from Washington, Ohio, Lafayette, Jersey City, Pioneer, and Joppa Lodges of New Jersey, and Beacon Light, Hiawatha, Altair, Montauk, Bedford, Brooklyn, and Aduym Lodges of this jurisdiction. All the distinguished visitors and delegations were received with the honour and courtesy due to their positions, and the scene was largely inspiring as the evidence of good-fellowship and wide-spread interest in the workings of the Craft. Of the work done we need not speak, the fame of the Republic Lodge being already established, and its Past Masters remaining as active at labour as when they respectively held the gavel of command. The committee previously appointed a series of touching and appropriate resolutions on the death of the late Bro. Irah Chase, who was an honorary member of this lodge, which were unanimously adopted, and we may sum up the whole in the words of our caption, as a most noteworthy meeting.—*Keystone*.

COLORADO.—The fraternity of Georgetown, Colorado have established a Masonic Cemetery. It illustrates the mountainous character of the surroundings, to say that the only level place that could be secured is four miles down the valley, at the head of which the city is located. There the fraternity have laid off a showy site, covering about five acres. The plan embraces a circular plot, planted with ornamental trees, and to which all the alleys in the cemetery point. About \$1200 have already been expended in this "city of the dead" since its consecration in 1869, and several craftsmen are now lying there "between that evergreen sprig" awaiting the resurrection.

The number of Colorado Lodges at present is nineteen, the largest membership (125) being No. 5.

Many a story is told of the difficulties the old Masons encountered in holding their lodges securely for want of suitable halls. In Boulder City a log cabin is still exhibited where the first meeting in that vicinity were held. Two Tylers were found necessary to keep off "cows and eavesdroppers," and satisfy the just scruples of a suspicious circle of Masons.

At Georgetown the lodge is held at a point 8120 feet above the sea level. This is probably nearest heaven than

any terrestrial lodge. It will be a pity indeed if any of the good fellows whom I met in that enthusiastic band should fail by neglect of privileges to reach heaven at last.—*Masonic Journal*.

TENNESSEE.—In looking over the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee for 1857, we notice that the subject of forming Grand Lodge Libraries was agitating the Masonic mind. Virginia commenced forming a library in 1855, by the purchase of a copy of the Universal Masonic Library. North Carolina did the same thing. Missouri commenced by asking donations of books. Massachusetts was reported as having 196 bound volumes on hand. Iowa had 100 volumes. Tennessee had nothing, but agreed to commence the formation of a library. Arkansas, Maryland, Kentucky and Wisconsin had small libraries. In all fourteen Grand Lodges had concluded up to that date to have a Masonic library. Now there is not a Grand Lodge in America but what is forming a library. The older jurisdictions are adding year by year to their already large collections. In a literary point of view, Grand Lodges are improving their standard for intelligence.—*Masonic Jewel*.

FREEMASONRY IN SOUTH WALES.

Last week we published a rumour which had been for some time past current that Sir George Elliot had offered the honourable and important office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master of this province to Mr. Marmaduke Tennant. We are now able to state that Mr. Tennant has determined to accept the office and the onerous duties imposed thereby, and in doing so we sincerely congratulate Sir George Elliot on the choice which he has made, as one certain to conduce to the interests of the province, and highly acceptable to the brethren generally. Mr. Tennant is well known as an accomplished Mason, and he has done good service to the charitable institutions in connection with the Order. The members of the "Afan" Lodge may look with pardonable pride upon the circumstance that from their ranks have sprung a Provincial Grand Master and Deputy Prov. G.M. of the Province of the Eastern Division of South Wales, and that a member of the lodge is also the Provincial Grand Treasurer.—*Central Glamorgan Gazette*.

The death is announced of two prominent brethren of the Grand Lodge of Egypt, Bro. Coraffan, 33^o of the Lodge Minerva, No. 7, member of the National Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council, and Bro. P. Gasotis, 18^o, of the same lodge. The National Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council of Egypt delegated a commission to pay Masonic honours at the funeral, and Bro. P. L. Dilberoglu, Orator of Lodge Minerva, delivered an oration over the grave.

Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl Percy, M.P., R.W.P.G.M., has left town for Linwick Castle to do duty with his regiment, the Northumberland Militia, which is out for its annual training. The Countess and family remain in Grosvenor-square.

Professor Cavill, who failed to swim across the Channel last year, on Wednesday made an effort, as a preliminary to again attempting the feat, to swim from Southampton to Portsmouth, but he gave up at about two miles from shore.

THE POSTAL UNION.—Her Majesty's Postmaster-General has given formal notice to the Federal Council of Switzerland that the following British Colonies are desirous of joining the Postal Union: The Gold Coast, Gambia, Lagos, Sierra Leone, and the Falkland Islands. The Federal Council has communicated the application to the members of the Union, and if no objection is raised within six weeks the colonies named will be admitted as desired.

The Welsh Miners' Fund at the Mansion House, amounting to £4,445, was finally appropriated on Wednesday afternoon. It will be distributed by the Lord Mayor at Pontypridd on Friday, August 3.

Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W., Deputy Grand Master of England—accompanied by Lady Skelmersdale and family—have left town for their seat in Ormskirk, Lancashire.

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. GEORGE ABBOTT—A meeting of the Executive Committee will take place on the 27th inst. It is requested that intending subscribers will forward their subscriptions, as the list will be closed shortly after that date.

MASONIC SONGS.—A selection of Masonic Songs set to popular airs, written by Bro. R. Philpots, M.D., F.R.G.S., is now ready, forming a handsome volume bound in cloth, with gilt edges, price 3s. Sent post free from the office of this paper on receipt of Post-office Order for 3s. 2d.

Reports of the Imperial George Lodge, No. 78, Middleton; Yarborough Lodge, No. 244, St. Helier's, Jersey; and Pattison Lodge, No. 913, Plumstead, unavoidably stand over, but will appear in our next.

Roan, Gilt Edges, elastic band or tuck, price, post free 2s. 2d. The Cosmopolitan Masonic Calendar Diary and Pocket Book for 1877. It contains lists of Lodges, Chapters, Encampments, Conclaves and Grand Councils, with the names of Officers in England, Scotland, Ireland, and all parts of the World. Single copies ordered by letter may be paid for by stamps; orders for more than one to be accompanied by Post Office Order payable at the Chief Office, London. Address Publisher, 198, Fleet Street, London. (Advrt.)

Masonic and General Tidings.

Bro. the Rt. Hon. Lord Inverurie was installed on Wednesday last Provincial Grand Master of Kincardineshire, at Stonehaven.

Bro. D. Murray Lyon, R.W. Grand Secretary of Scotland, having resigned the Proxy Grand Mastership of the West India Islands, Bro. John Baird has been nominated by the Prov. Grand Master, the Hon. J. K. Watley, as his successor.

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.—A Provincial Grand Lodge will assemble on Thursday next, July 19th, at 33, Golden-square, W., immediately after meeting of the Royal Bruce Chapter, for the purpose of promoting candidates, and for the appointment and installation of the Provincial Grand Officers. The dinner will be on table at the Café Royal, Regent-street, at seven o'clock. The brethren will appear with the Star of the Order and the green ribbon under the coat.

A special meeting of the R.A. companions of the Province of Kent, will be held on Wednesday next, in the Lecture Hall, Chatham, for the purpose of installing Comp. Lord Holmesdale, M.P., as Prov. Grand Supt. His lordship will be installed by the Most Excellent Comp. Wm. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. Grand Supt. of Hampshire.

The Mark Benevolent Festival will be held on Wednesday, the 1st of August, not the 25th of July, as previously stated.

Der Freimaurer for the current month contains two interesting biographical sketches—one of the Emperor Francis I., the same who was initiated into Freemasonry in 1731 at an occasional lodge specially convened for the purpose at the Hague, and the other of Bro. Joseph Hayden, the celebrated composer, who was received into Masonry in 1785, in the Lodge Zur Wauern Eintracht at Vienna. Of this lodge he remained a member till the day of his death, on the 31st May, 1809.

Mark Master Masons will be pleased to learn that the first regular meeting of the Duke of Connaught Mark Lodge of Instruction was held at the Havelock Hotel, Albion Road, Dalston, on Thursday, July 5th, at 8.30 p.m. Present:—Bros. J. B. Shackleton, W.M.; Jas. Lovelock, S.W.; J. Stokes, J.W.; Ernest Dietrich, M.O.; O. Dietrich, S.O.; Geo. Ferrer, J.O.; F. Bonner, S.D.; C. Johnson, J.D.; F. Delafous, I.G.; and others. Lodge was duly opened, and the ceremony of advancement rehearsed. Bye-laws were duly discussed, and it was arranged that the future meetings for Instruction should be held on the first and third Thursday in each month. Lodge was then closed, and adjourned until the 19th inst.

Bro. the Rt. Hon. Lord Suffield, R.W.P.G.M. Norfolk, has presented the Rev. H. J. Bodington, M.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, to the Rectory of Suffield.

It is expected the Queen will leave Windsor for Osborne on Tuesday next.

Sir Stafford Northcote has promised to preside at the two hundred and thirteenth anniversary festival of the Scottish Corporation, which will take place on St. Andrew's day, Nov. 30.

THE COLORADO BEETLE IN IRELAND.—The Colorado beetle made its appearance on the Dublin quay on Tuesday last, close to the Liverpool Docks. The specimen discovered was a large one, and was found crawling on a rope.—*Dublin Express*.

LAMBETH PALACE.—His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury gave his annual dinner on Wednesday, at Lambeth Palace to the Stewards of the Festival of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy. A large and distinguished company was present.

By command of the Queen a State Ball was given on Wednesday evening at Buckingham Palace, which was attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal family.

Bro. His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, R.W. P.G.M., Oxfordshire, laid the first stone, on Wednesday, of the New Infirmary of the Asylum for Idiots at Earlswood, Surrey, and afterwards presided at a *dejeuner* given by the managers of the institution.

A meeting of the Frederick Lodge of Unity, No. 457, will be held on Tuesday next, the 17th inst., at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon. Lodge will be opened at four o'clock.

The Attorney-General has appointed Bro. Douglas Straight junior counsel for the Treasury at the Central Criminal Court, in place of Mr. W. C. Beasley, resigned.

Bro. Alderman Hadley has promised to preside at the general meeting and midsummer election of the Asylum for Fatherless Children, to be held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Tuesday next.

GUELPH LODGE No. 1685.—The first regular meeting of this new lodge will be held on Saturday at 4 o'clock at the Red Lion Hotel, Leytonstone, a report of which will appear in our next. An Emergency meeting took place on Friday.

Letters from Caprera state that General Garibaldi, whose health has not been good for some time past, is now in a precarious position.

"We state with the very heartiest goodwill that these PENS are nothing less than a literary indulgence, which makes the very act of writing a pleasure."—*Hereford Journal*.

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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.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS to ensure insertion in current week's issue should reach the Office, 198, Fleet-street, by 12 o'clock on Wednesdays.

NOTICE.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

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

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.

"Encouragement to the Ladies" in our next.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

"Bolletino Officiale del Grande Oriente Nazionale Egiziano;" "Scottish Freemason;" "Masonic Advocate;" "Hajnal;" "Risorgimento;" "Keystone;" "Unity Trade Marks;" "London Chatham and Dover Panoramic Guide."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

EDMONDS.—On the 21st ult., at St. Oswald's-road, Fulham, the wife of J. H. K. Edmonds, of a son.
PEARSE.—On the 4th inst., the wife of D. W. Pearse, of a son, at 6, Colville Terrace, East, Bayswater.
TORKINGTON.—On the 6th inst., at Cheriton, the wife of Capt. Torkington, 41st Regt., of a son.
ZETLAND.—On the 9th inst., at Upleatham, Marske-by-the-Sea, the Countess of Zetland, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BURLEIGH—WATSON.—On the 7th inst., at St. Matthew's Denmark-hill, Camberwell, William Frederick, son of the late B. Burleigh, C.E., to Lucy, daughter of S. G. Watson, Esq., of Coldharbour-lane.
MACNEILL—AGNEW.—On the 10th inst., at St. George's Hanover-square, Duncan Macneill, Esq., to Louisa Lucia, daughter of Sir A. Agnew, Bart.

DEATHS.

BARNES.—On the 7th inst., at Ventnor, I. of W., Lowther Graves Colebrooke Barnes, aged 31.
HARVEY.—On the 9th inst., at Albert-road, Brighton, Rosengrave, infant son of Capt. F. R. Harvey.
HOLMES.—On the 18th inst., at 260, Portobello-road, Notting-hill, Caroline, the beloved wife of Frederick Holmes, aged 42.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1877.

MASONIC BETTING CARDS.

Does the bare mention of such a state of things take away the breath, almost, of some of our readers? Well, we can only assure them of the fact, and propose, on the present occasion, to call the attention of our Craft to the subject. Betting clubs and betting cards are an institution of the day, and constitute one of the greatest sources of temptation and causes of wrong-doing, especially among domestic servants, young clerks, and a large portion of the criminal population. Ask any detective officer in Scotland-yard or the City, and he will tell you at once that few people, except themselves, who have to deal with it hourly, can form any conception of the prevalence of the nuisance, of the serious forms of evil it assumes, and the wide extent and spreading growth of this plague spot, this running sore, in our social existence to-day. Many a happy home is broken up, many a promising career is blighted, much and enduring sorrow falls to the lot of the innocent and the helpless, when some confidential clerk, some rising young cashier, some hardworking bread-winner, is lured into the fatal vortex of this betting maelstrom, and is whirled, here and there, in its dangerous eddies, until in a dark moment he robs his employer, in order to find "grease" for the wheels, or "grist" for the mill. That is to say, in plain language, he steals his employer's goods or money, in order to fulfil his engagement of dishonour (not honour), at the betting club, with the Vendor of this baneful poison. Perhaps at first he is undiscovered, and so he is tempted to repeat the easy process, until, emboldened and hardened, he sins, with a high hand, is detected, is exposed, and finds himself in the hands of the police and in a cell at Newgate. What wretchedness he has brought on his wife and children, how he has blighted a fair fame, and thrown away an honest career, it needs not for us to say here. Suffice it to add, that hardly a day passes but our police reports tell us of this great and growing evil. Indeed, it is a hard task to attempt to gauge the depth and width of this cancerous disorder, eating out honesty, confidence, morality, and sobriety amongst us, and making all serious persons feel how alarming is the epidemic, and how needful is a remedy. Can nothing be done to restrain the evil tendencies of these illegal associations? Will no words of kindly warning arrest the young in their downward course, alarm the middle-aged, or even affect the old, for betting cards and betting clubs are no respecters of persons or of age? If, as has been truly said, the "Love of money is the root of all evil," so as surely this inordinate desire of hasty gain is both a sad spectacle and a regrettable malady, inasmuch as it betrays a very unhealthy state of moral perception, and too often proceeds from ill-regulated minds and ill-conducted lives, licentious habits, ill-omened connexions, for which money has to be got somehow, if not by fair means by foul. It is often very alarming for the philanthropist and the moralist to catch glimpses of the corruption underlying outside show and general reputation, and to know and believe that there is, as it were, a growing tendency in all the "strata" of society alike, to seek for unrighteous gains and illegal successes, and to subordinate everything, honour, duty, principle, and religion, to a determination to obtain money for their own unhallowed gratification or debasing habits, at any cost, at any price. And if this be true, as we fear most true it is, in the body politic at large, what can we say of Masonic betting cards but that they are opposed to every principle of Masonic teaching, every axiom of Masonic duty? To realize the fact, that in defiance of the laws of the land, which, as Masons, we profess to obey, betting cards are issued by Masons with Masonic emblems upon them, which are bought up by the young, the unwary, and the credulous, is, indeed, a sad satire on Masonic profession! How far such conduct renders the vendor or distributor of such cards amendable to the Board of General Purposes may be a matter of question,

but of this we feel certain, that if any lodge, after due trial and proved delinquency, expelled a brother from its ranks, as acting contrary both to the laws of the land and the morality of Freemasonry, and the credit of the lodge, for the traffic in betting cards with Masonic emblems, such expulsion would be upheld by our Masonic authorities. As Freemasons we are bound to obey the "ordinances of the realm," both in the letter and the spirit, and our constitutions assume, as a matter of fact, as the common law of Masonry, that we do not disobey in any particular, directly or indirectly, the decisions of the Supreme Legislature. We deeply regret to call the attention of the Order to this subject, but our excuse must be that the effects of this hurtful system have recently come before us in sad reality, and we think it our bounden duty, in the interests of that great Order for which we write, to protest against the evil of Masonic betting cards, per se, and the degradation to Freemasonry, involved in the fact that its signs and symbols may be seen on such illegal documents, alike, as we believe, hurtful to morality and a dishonour to the Craft.

CHARITY AND RELIEF.

Perhaps this is one of the most difficult questions of the day, the problem most hard to solve, whether we consider it in the interests of society or for the welfare of the individual. The giving of charity and the administration of relief to the poor and needy are most largely affected by two opposing principles of action, neither of which, in our opinion, is perfect, per se. The one is the absolute gift to the applicant, without regard to ulterior effects, the other is the refusal to give without inquiry, and the laying down of certain artificial tests of the abstract characteristics of true poverty. No one can defend indiscriminate almsgiving, without inquiry or consideration, because the use becomes an abuse, and true charity is meant to be intelligent charity, and there may actually be times when it is the truest charity not to give at all. To contend that you are bound to give, simply because you are asked to give, and that the act of giving is sufficient in itself, without reference to any other consideration, is not warranted either by the Bible or reason. If we understand rightly the principle of giving, laid down by the Best of all Teachers, charity implies thoughtful consideration and careful treatment. Therefore we by no means join those who declare that in the mere act of almsgiving is to be found either its real essence or its true spirit. But, on the other hand, we cannot agree with those who seek to multiply unnecessarily artificial tests as to the condition of poverty and the claims of the poor, for we feel sure that they will only serve to augment, extend, and prolong the malady. As regards Poor law relief, for instance, we have long felt that though the workhouse test may be necessary, it may be equally too much pressed into the administration of relief, and we are convinced of this, that not only has it not diminished pauperism, but it has even in some cases tended undoubtedly to increase the pauperization of the people. We are going to assert not a paradox, but a conclusion of careful thought and study and administration for years, when we say that the real aim of all poor relief should be to keep people out of the workhouse, not to force them in. As once in, once imbue them with the idea that they are provided for by the State, they will remain paupers in mind to the end of their days, and never seek to regain either the consciousness of independence or the virtue of self-respect. Hence we are against all extremes in such matters, as the "workhouse test" in its abuse, is only the consequence of a reaction against indiscriminate outdoor relief. The technicalities and difficulties of our Charitable Reform Societies will not keep away the rogue or the vagrant, but will only affect "honest poverty," and we therefore deprecate the excess, (on this side somewhat rampant), just as we give up the excess on the other. There is, as usual, a via media in this, as in all other matters here, which we deem worthy of note, and certainly of travelling by, if we wish to make our relief and charity a

reality and a blessing. We must have enquiry, fair, proper, courteous enquiry, but we also require the granting of temporary relief, not the forcing of a person into the workhouse, not the mistake, too often committed, of ignoring the commendable independence in English women and English men and the dislike to seek the workhouse unless in absolute necessity. We have known a most useful charitable society, where the active agent was empowered, having ascertained the truth of the statement, to grant temporary relief, and that is the system we wish to see adopted, instead of the superabundance of enquiry, but the negation of relief now in fashion. There is no reason why the two systems should not work together, and we trust ere long to hear of a needful reform in this respect. But in the meantime let none of us be ashamed to give, when we feel convinced that the case is a good one, and that a little timely help may aid a poor brother or sister in the hour of need. The gentle and genial teaching of Freemasonry bids us compassionate the wants of a suffering brother or sister of the dust, and provided the applicant has a "fair claim" on our consideration, and we feel sure is but a too true emblem of "honest poverty," then may we well call to mind language familiar to us all, that charity is twice blessed, in that it blesses him who gives as well as him who receives.

PERFECTLY RIGHT.

A worthy correspondent, signing himself "Delta," whose letter we published last week, seems rather to object on grounds of "Masonic service" to the presentation of a diamond ring by some brethren of a lodge to a fair sister of ours. We are always willing to recognize Masonic services and Masonic merit, but we do not see what they have to do with the matter in the case before us, as the presenters offered the valuable token of regard to the gentle "presentee" offered it on no such grounds, and for no such reasons, we may well believe. Whatever may have been the reason which prompted this act of Masonic gallantry, it clearly could have nothing to do with Masonry proper, and therefore we think, in the first place, that our excellent brother, the complainant, is "nonsuited," and completely "out of court," and in the second place we venture to hold that such presentation was in very "good form," and reflects no little credit on the sound sense of those who stepped a little out of routine to offer a token of regard and affection to their sister. We often, it appears, to us, ignore too much, not only how friendly our lady friends are to Freemasonry, but how much they do for it, in various quite feminine ways. Some wives could tell a tale of latish hours, &c., but they are most discreet, and say nothing. Not a few might fairly complain of solitary evenings, when Bro. Jiggins is illuminating the lodge with his wisdom, when Bro. Horner is charming it with his song, and when Bro. Jackson is returning thanks for the "dear creatures." As a rule ladies are most interested in Masonry, (as all sensible women should be), and often display the warmest and kindest feelings towards the lodge of which their husbands, or brothers, or cousins—yes—and "young men"—form a part. In one good lodge we could name, (and the list could soon be lengthened), much of the workable furniture of the lodge was prepared by the ready hands of kindly sisters. When this last presentation was made and we think wisely, it was no doubt the consequence of some prevailing feeling on the part of the donors. Perhaps those good brethren thought the gift to the wife would give pleasure to the husband. Some husbands like presents to their wives. Perhaps those good brethren themselves had pleasing memories of that gracious hospitality which woman always so charmingly dispenses, and could recall many evidences of interest in them, and many pleasant days of yore, many long hours of Masonic acquaintances. So as those brethren, like their worthy P.M., valued aright "animæ dimidium suæ," they very properly presented that good lady with a diamond ring in token of brotherly regard and Masonic good-will. And, pace our good friend "Delta," we think that such an ex-

ample deserves to be followed, rather than to be found fault with. Such an act merits praise rather than criticism. We know not a few fair sisters of ours who like Freemasonry, and do not object to Freemasons; and we can conceive no better development of the chivalry of our young Masons, than to offer to those smiling faces, those warm hearts, and those taper fingers, the Masonic souvenir of a diamond ring, which we trust to be able to record in the friendly pages of the *Freemason*, from time to time, as a proof, if proof be needed, that woman's grace and woman's friendliness, and woman's goodness can still find grateful brethren to recognize their worth, and blessing to our good old Craft.

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.]

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—OUR LUNCHEON.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

For the information of your readers, and, I also trust, to lead to an improvement in future in respect of courtesy to the ladies, allow me to trespass upon your valuable space.

On Monday, June 25th, the Stewards and friends visited our Masonic Boys' School, for the purpose of witnessing the examination of the boys, distribution of prizes, &c.

That all present were delighted with the improvement and great progress the boys have made under their excellent master, Dr. Morris, there is no doubt. That brother deserves the warmest thanks for his great care in not only educating, but in the production of happiness to our dear orphan children ("May Heaven bless and prosper them," I heard a lady say; and another "How well they look—happy, cheerful, and full of life.")

To this I could only say Amen, and may their after course in life be marked by honesty and perseverance, never forgetting in their prosperity the institution that reared them.

But I am diverging from my subject—"Our Luncheon."

On the occasion of the annual visit of Stewards the fair sex, consisting of wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters of Masons, form a large majority, and properly so, for there are few opportunities in Masonry for the ladies to take any share in the pleasure of work and interest, and knowing how full the heart of a good woman is of charity, we cannot, as Masons, show her too much of the excellent working of our institutions.

Now it must be admitted that however well the management of our institutions may be, without the annual Stewards, who work hard, the receipts would be very different. Therefore, I think that no trouble should be spared by all concerned to endeavour to make the ladies welcome.

On the annual visit a quiet and inexpensive luncheon is prepared (and properly so) for the ladies, &c. This luncheon could be prepared by the permanent staff of cooks, who every day have to provide for over 200, including boys. Last Monday, after a rush, we are seated at a table, with plenty of good things, including empty glasses for champagne, hock, &c. (no ale glasses). I was seated opposite some ribs of lamb, which I immediately carved for the ladies, and the meal commenced, without a sign of drink. A small card now showed itself, headed "Institution, &c.—Wine List—Bertram and Roberts," which informed us, Moët's champagne, 9s., and Bertram and Robert's (very kind of them to send their own), 6s.; Claret from 3s. upwards, and lemonade (Taylor's) only 6d. per bottle; ale, 1s. and 6d. per bottle. There was also a room in the playground, where you could obtain refreshment at similar prices.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have told all, and it is off my mind. What do you think of it? Why not get a wine merchant's licence, and make our dear Master not only Head Master, (a position never better filled) but our Wine Steward. See what a profit we can make.

Let me repeat, as this gathering is for the ladies, I think that this is a very uncomfortable state of things, and ought to be differently provided for, as it is both annoying to our fair sisters, and places many of us in an invidious position. Cannot the Stewards on some future occasion provide the small quantity of wine needful for the ladies, without causing the gathering to assume the appearance of an outing to a "restaurant?" or are there no brethren to be found in this age of chivalry who will readily assume the part of special ladies' Stewards for the day? I believe that no want of volunteers would be found in so good a cause.

Yours fraternally,

A SPECIAL STEWARD.

(Summoned at three o'clock.)

MASONIC LOTTERIES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have read Bro. Binckes's letter with the attention it deserves, and hasten to send to you a few friendly comments upon it. I hope to write in the same spirit as he has written, and I shall be glad to think that we shall, (let us hope), carry on a fraternal controversy in that kindly temper which especially becomes Freemasons. He, like myself, has frequently heard the same remark, "You are wonderfully fine fellows for talking about 'brotherly love,' but whenever you get into print you are no better than other people." Indeed, I think you become the most

uncharitable dogs I know of anywhere." For once let our astute censors be proved to be mistaken.

Bro. Binckes, though he deems my views "exaggerated and untenable," admits them to be honest in themselves, which they certainly are, and did I not think that there certainly was something in them, I would not obtrude them on your readers. But I know that many of my brethren, equally with myself, have looked with regret on this growing combination of charity and chance.

If I understand Bro. Binckes aright, he objects to the term "gambling," as applied to Bro. Constable's lottery, on account of the absence of actual personal gain. I admit that there is some difference apparently, as between the man who at Monaco puts down one Napoleon, and hopes by so risking a small sum to obtain a large one, and the Mason who pays one shilling and obtains a life-governorship, value £10—200 times in excess of his original stake. But the difference is very small, practically, the essence of the act is the same; is an appeal to a risk on "chances," and for the purpose of winning a sum of money. For though Bro. Jenkins, who has drawn a lucky number, does not get the money paid to him, he receives what is worth £10 for 1s. by a "fluke," to use a common expression, and three votes for life.

Surely on every ground this looks like the principle of gambling, though I do not use the word offensively. For it is a great gain, as I have before said, which the winner in Bro. Constable's lottery obtains, though there is no considerable personal gain to himself. And if that be the true test of gambling, I fear that, logically, Bro. Constable's lottery can hardly be upheld, as it will require a very fine-drawn discrimination indeed to separate it from any common lottery forbidden by the law on this very ground, that the excitement of the principle of cupidity is prejudicial to the body politic, as well as to the individual mind. Whether the gain be more or less, direct or indirect, material or positional, matters nothing for the purpose of my argument. Charity, which is based upon the double principle of personal benevolence and self-abnegation, has nothing in common, and ought never, in my opinion, to be associated with the principles of a lottery, which only appeals positively, (regard it as you will) to the individual love of gain—the selfishness, actually, of the "homo."

I do not mean to say—Heaven forbid—that all who bought shilling tickets in Bro. Constable's lottery were actuated by a desire of gain, or any such ignoble aim, but I am objecting to the principle of a lottery as applied to the Masonic Charities, and I am constrained to repeat that, defend it as you will, uphold it as you may, (because directed to a good cause), it does not in any sense harmonise with the true teaching and action of genuine charity—which gives as a duty, and gives on principle.

II. Bro. Binckes very properly gives up at once "the end justifies the means" argument, so I will not prolong the discussion on this head, though I believe he rather makes the end of the lottery take the "support of a deserving institution which has charity for its object," and this is surely a gentle assertion of the old formula that you may "do evil" to bring about "good." I have heard this defence made for the lottery system, and so I thought it needful to deal with it.

III. I am not myself much concerned with the question of "success" and "non-success" further than this—that it is to the growth of the lotteries that I object, for one, and I know with many more, and I cannot see without alarm the extension of a principle of action which I deem equally unsafe and unsound.

IV. I confess that Bro. Binckes's argument, however able, does not remove my objection to the lottery system as a matter of policy. Many of those who gain £10 for one shilling and three votes for life are quite able to pay £10, and I fear that the increase of the lottery system will make many say, "I will run my chance by paying one shilling rather than qualify by paying £10." But I do not wish to take an exaggerated view of the whole question, and least of all to find fault with zealous exertions. I am only anxious to call attention to what I think unsound and questionable as regards the great principle of Masonic charity. I for one equally object to the "pious raffle" and the "Masonic lottery," and though not actually, perhaps, of any great consequence, yet they constitute, in my humble opinion, an unsound manifestation, whether as relates to principle or practice.

I have said my say, "quantum valet," and leave it to the friendly criticism of my courteous opponent and your readers. I quite agree with Bro. Binckes that Bro. Constable's exertions are alike remarkable and meritorious in the highest degree. I note that he sent in a list of £1200, and as that represents £800 for his list over and above the lottery, it necessarily represents an enormous amount of labour, and points out Bro. Constable as a most successful pleader in his own lodge and elsewhere for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

W. F.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I think Bro. W. F. deserves our thanks for his letter in your paper of the 30th ult., his remarks seem to apply directly to a conversation I had with a brother a member of our own lodge, a few days after the drawing. I was asked the question if the Life Governors of the Boys' School were not confined to Freemasons, and if anyone outside the pale of Freemasonry could become a Governor of one of our noble institutions, of course I answered that the institution was purely Masonic. To my surprise I was told that the fortunate holder of the ticket, No. 4540, was not a Mason, nor had ever subscribed to any lodge, but that some friend had persuaded him to purchase a shilling ticket (only a shilling), and that he had

a post card sent to him after the draw, informing him that he was one of the Life Governors of the Boys' School. The end may justify the means, and it is right to help them anyway we can, but I certainly think that our brethren should refrain from asking outsiders to take a chance of becoming a Life Governor in one of our schools for the sake of selling a ticket.

I may add that this has been written under purely Masonic motives, and not from any spirit that would tend to mar Bro. Constable's undertaking.

I remain, yours fraternally,

ANCHOLME.

ANALYSIS OF STEWARDS' LISTS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I warmly support your objection to give an analysis of the Stewards' Lists for the charities by provinces or in any other way, save by individuals, because the figures prove a snare to any would-be analytical editor or writer. Each Steward does his best, and procures subscribers from all parts of the country if he be a London Mason, and from any friends in London if he be a country Mason, so that frequently the names of provinces omitted have done their part, though unrecognised, as was the case of my province (Somerset) quite recently.

Yours fraternally,

J. T. C.

VOTES FOR THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

You have done well as Editor to ventilate the question of our voting Masonic Charities, and have earned the thanks of all practically acquainted with the subject. I know several most willing to support you, and Bro. Hughan (P.G.D.) is ready when needful to give facts illustrative of the value of the present system, indeed he has promised so to do, if anything turns up by way of objection of a character requiring attention and consideration.

Yours truly,

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

BOYS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In your leading article of last week you state "Bro. Binckes may pride himself on one great, if simple fact, that he has been privileged to announce the largest amount ever sent up to our Masonic Charities, viz. £13,248 17s. 6d." Will you permit me to state this is scarcely accurate?

While sincerely congratulating my good friend Bro. Binckes on so splendid a result, I am bound in justice to the Board of Stewards who worked so zealously for this Institution in February last, to inform you that the total amount brought in by them was larger than that you justly take pride in placing to the credit of the Boys' School, viz., £13,368 and there are five lists to come in.

Will you kindly insert this in your next, and oblige, yours truly and fraternally,

JAMES TERRY, Sec. R.M.B.I.

THE PRESENTATION OF DIAMOND RINGS TO LADIES BY MASONS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I notice that Bro. "Delta" seems to object to such a presentation, but why? Surely it is a very fraternal proceeding, and is a little "variety" in our Masonic routine. A visit to your worthy publisher's "Emporium" would enable any chivalric brethren to gratify their own taste and that of the fair presentee at the same time.

I for one quite approve of the idea, and Jones of "ours" adds that it is one of those things which a "fellar can understand."

Yours fraternally,

SPOT.

THE ANCIENT CORNISH TONGUE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

As I think the enclosed cutting may interest some of our Cornish brethren, I beg to forward it to you.

"Next year (1878) being the 100th year since the date when, as is commonly supposed in the West of England, the Cornish language actually ceased to be spoken, through the death of the last person who could converse in it fluently—an old woman of Mousehold, near Penzance, who used the language chiefly for the purpose of swearing in it—it has been proposed to commemorate the "centenary" by holding at Penzance or at Truro—probably at the former—a congress of Celtic scholars. At this congress papers will be read and discussions invited upon the history and affinities of the ancient and now extinct Cornish language. Although this language has ceased to be vernacular for so long a period, yet it is well-known that there still remain a number of manuscripts which were written in it, and some of which have been recently translated and published. For instance, sundry of the old Cornish Scriptural dramas, the 'Origo Mundi,' the 'Passio Christi,' and the 'Resurrectio Christi,' by Mr. Norris, and the 'Beunands Meriasek,' by Mr. W. Stoke. It is expected that other similar manuscripts will also shortly see the light under the auspices of the "Cornish Manuscript Society;" and it may be added, as a connecting link with our own times, that not a few old Cornish-British words are still embedded in the modern Cornish dialect. The celebration of this forthcoming 'centenary' is expected to prove the occasion of a re-union, in one of the westernmost towns in the kingdom, of some of our leading Celtic philologists and antiquaries; and the

gathering, if it should be held, will be one of the results of the interesting congresses of the British Archaeological Association held in Cornwall in August last."

I am, yours fraternally,

ARCHÆOLOGIST.

SHAKESPEARE AND FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Do any of your readers interest themselves in the question, whether Wm. Shakespeare was a Freemason or no? To all such I call attention in your pages, to some remarkable lines in King Henry VI., part iii., act 2, sc. v., which appear to me very Masonic, so much so that, in my humble opinion, Shakespeare's quotation and our Masonic verbiage have a common origin.

"When this is known, then to divide the times;

So many hours must I tend my flock,

So many hours must I take my rest,

So many hours must I contemplate,

So many hours must I sport myself."

Perhaps some Shakespearian brother can "cap" this interesting passage.

A LOVER OF SHAKESPEARE.

A RELIC.

A "correspondent of the "Masonic Record of Western India" writes:—

I have in my possession a very interesting relic of Freemasonry in the shape of a "List of Regular Lodges according to their Seniority and Constitution: printed for and sold by J. Pine, Engraver, Little Britain and in Aldersgate Street," and bears date 1729. As a short description of the work may interest your readers who have antiquarian tastes, I venture to send you the following notes:—

On the top of the first page is a male figure, clothed in the flowing robes in which the Apostles are usually depicted. He has in his right hand a square, and with his left he points to a plan of which he probably represents the architect. Opposite to him, crowned, and in the costume of a Roman Emperor, stands a figure which appears to be giving instructions regarding the plan. Behind the latter are discovered two Roman soldiers, clad in armour and bearing sabres. The background of the picture is formed by columns and round arches through which the facade of the temple is discovered. Below this is an engraving of the arms of Lord Kingston, Grand Master. On the four next pages is a list of the lodges, fifty-four in number. Their names are not given, but the dates of constitution, the days of meeting in each month, together with the names of the streets and engravings of the signs of the various taverns in which they are held, are given in parallel columns. Without some special research, which I am not at present in a position to prosecute, it would be difficult to identify the several lodges enumerated in the list, many of which have probably changed their names. This is actually the case with the very first one mentioned in the list, i.e., the world-famed "St. Paul's Lodge," then meeting at the Poker and Gridiron, St. Paul's Churchyard, and now known as the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2.

It was in this lodge that the famous resolution was passed in the year 17—, to the effect that Masonry should from thenceforth cease to be operative, and should become speculative. Although the lodge in question is now described as dating from time immemorial, still I note that the actual date of its constitution is given in the list curiously enough as 1692. Lord Kingston appointed George Pomfret the first Provincial Grand Master of Bengal in 1729, and having resigned in favour of the Duke of Norfolk in 1730, became the first Grand Master of Ireland in the year following. Findel, I notice, describes him as Viscount Kingston, whereas in my list he bears the title of Baron Kingston. In conclusion, I may mention that besides lodges in London, the list refers to others at Bath, Bristol, Norwich, Chichester, Chester, Carmarthen, Gosport, Tottenham, Salford, and Warwick, and even one at Madrid. This latter must, in my opinion, be the one which Lord Coleraine, who was the immediate predecessor of Lord Kingston as Grand Master in 1728, founded under the name of the Lilies, and I am fortified in this opinion from the fact that the sign of the lodge in my list is that of an escutcheon bearing three fleurs-de-llys. The lodge, however, which Lord Coleraine founded in 1727 at Gibraltar appears to have been but short lived, as it is not mentioned in the list.

On the last page is a table showing the number of lodges meeting on the same day of the week. The result is as follows:—

On Monday 13, on Tuesday 7, on Wednesday 11, on Thursday 10, on Friday 5, on Saturday 13, and on Sunday 1.

FREEMASONRY IN THE PUNJAB.

"A Past Master" sends the following to the "Masonic Record of Western India":—

I must send you a few lines regarding a most successful meeting of the District Grand Lodge of the Punjab, held last evening. You may not, perhaps, be aware that our new Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. R. E. Egerton, is a Past Master of the Lodge Hope and Perseverance, No. 782, at Lahore, consequently the members of the Craft were most anxious to present him with an address of congratulation on the honour it had pleased the Empress of India to confer upon him, and to our great satisfaction he was kind enough to attend the meeting of District Grand Lodge to receive the same. Lodge was opened at a quarter before seven, and at seven his honour arrived, and

was received by a deputation consisting of the District Grand Master, his Deputy, the two Wardens and Deacons, and conducted to a seat on the left of the throne. He was received with acclamation, and, on silence being obtained, the District Grand Master welcomed him in a few well-chosen words, and read the address prepared for his acceptance. W. Bro. Egerton then responded and retired, being unable on account of a previous engagement to remain to banquet.

There were present some fifty or sixty brethren, many of them came from out-stations on purpose to be present on so auspicious an occasion, as this is the first time District Grand Lodge has been honoured by a visit from the Lieutenant-Governor of the province. Sir H. Davis was a member of the Craft, and a Life Governor of the Punjab Masonic Institution, but never attended a meeting of District Grand Lodge; in fact, being a Fellow Craft only, he could not have obtained admission.

I was not at all astonished to see that, at last, our brethren of the N. W. P. are going for a District Grand Lodge of their own. Alas! poor Bengal, it will be further deprived of nine lodges, only let me give the brethren one piece of advice, apply for a District Grand Chapter at the same time, and do not follow in the footsteps of the Punjab in that respect, and put off for a year such an application. If this one is granted, the other will be also; for I know for a fact, when the District Grand Master of the Punjab, in 1875, applied for a District Grand Chapter, the only question that arose was, why it had not been granted when the District Grand Lodge of the Punjab was sanctioned. We in the Punjab will heartily welcome the new District Grand Lodge, and wish it all success; I feel certain the more local heads there are the more will the Craft flourish; take our D. G. Chapter—it started in February, 1875, with five R.A. Chapters, and we have now nine in full working order and doing plenty of work. That shows what a little energy and a hope of the honours of the purple will do.

I have no doubt you will in due time receive a copy of the proceedings of the special meeting of District Grand Lodge, with a copy of the address and its reply, and so I will say no more.

BRO. GEORGE KENNING'S ANNUAL EXCURSION.

On Saturday last the whole of the hands employed on Bro. George Kenning's establishment had their excursion for 1877. Bro. Kenning engaged the Citizen steamboat "R." to convey the party to Hampton Court, and by 9 o'clock about 200 persons embarked at Paul's Wharf Pier. Bro. Kenning, who defrayed the entire cost of the day's amusements, accompanied by Mrs. Kenning and the Misses Kenning, Miss Hayward, Bro. Wood, of the Liverpool house; Bro. Bickerton, of the Glasgow house; Bro. H. Massey and Mrs. Massey, Bro. D. W. Pearse, Bro. B. Wright, Mrs. Wright, Bro. H. Cox, Bro. F. A. Kelly, Bro. Toye, with the heads of the different departments, received the party on board, and to the strains of an excellent band of music, led by Mr. Stuart Dudley, the boat proceeded up the river. The journey was a very pleasant one, and to while away the time the party engaged in dancing and singing, which was kept up with unflagging vigour. The passage occupied nearly four hours, but the beautiful scenery of the Upper Thames and the numerous boating parties of ladies and gentlemen afforded a fund of enjoyment which made the time pass rapidly. Arrived at Hampton Court the party proceeded to the Cardinal Wolsey, where they sat down, headed by their worthy entertainer and family, to a bountiful dinner, to which ample justice was done, the ride up having given all a keen appetite. At the conclusion of the repast the holiday makers were left to follow their individual inclinations, some engaging in sports on the commodious green in front of the Cardinal Wolsey, and some (Bro. Kenning and family among the number), selecting the objects of interest in Hampton Court Palace for the afternoon's occupation. After spending three hours among the pictures, the tapestry, and the gardens, and some of the party having ventured on solving the intricacies of the world-famed "Maze," and others the wonderful grape-vine, they returned to the Cardinal Wolsey to tea, which was announced for five o'clock, and to this meal again the visitors applied themselves with the business-like air which is usually attributed to hunters. As the voyage occupied a considerable portion of the day there was not much time to be devoted to many outdoor amusements after tea, and therefore by half-past six o'clock every one was again on board the steamer and the vessel under way. Dancing and singing were of course the main portion of the entertainment on the passage down to London, and these were kept up without any cessation till the boat neared Paul's Wharf at a quarter past ten o'clock. Bro. Kenning had arranged for no speeches to be delivered at the dinner or tea, or, as is the custom on these occasions, some one would have called on the company before re-embarking on the boat to give three hearty cheers for the host of the day. However, as this item had been omitted from the programme to give the pleasure seekers as much time as possible to devote to their al fresco pleasures, the band on passing under Blackfriars Bridge struck up the tune "For he's a jolly good fellow," which the company, without exception, accompanied by giving the words, and concluded with vociferous hurrahs. Before the party separated "God save the Queen," was sung and played, and when they wished each other "good night," expressed their great satisfaction with the cheerful and pleasant day they had spent. These entertainments are given every year by Bro. Kenning, who selects a different spot and a different mode of conveyance to and fro on each occasion. The reunion is always a most enjoyable one, and we need not say that it is looked forward to by both young and old with the greatest confidence in its success. The heads of the different departments, both male and female, exert

themselves to the utmost to give zest to the meeting, and to infuse a spirit of cordiality and friendship amongst the numerous members of the establishment. Amongst the leading figures of the party we must not omit to mention Bro. Kenning himself, Bro. Wright, Mrs. Wright, Bro. Cox, and Bro. Kelly, the last of whom had the management of the weightier portions of the programme, and the general supervision of the arrangements. Bro. George Baker and Mrs. Baker, Bro. Reeves, jun., and a few others went by rail to Hampton Court, and joined the party on the arrival of the boat.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The monthly meeting of the General Committee was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Saturday the 7th inst. Present: Bro. Benjamin Head, in the chair; Bros. S. J. Row, A. Durrant, John W. Dennison, Jesse Turner, C. F. Matier, R. B. Webster, S. Rosenthal, W. Hyde Pullen, E. C. Massey (*Freemason*), F. Binckes, Secretary.

The minutes of the last General Committee were read and confirmed. The minutes of the last House Committee and of a Special Committee were read for information. The Secretary, Bro. Binckes, stated that he had addressed a letter to the Grand Secretary in reference to the resolution at last meeting on the subject of the insufficient office accommodation afforded by Grand Lodge for the Secretary of the Institution for Boys, and he believed that similar communications had also been sent in from the Secretaries of the Girls' School and the Benevolent Institution. He had not as yet received any reply, but it was within his knowledge that a committee was sitting at that moment to consider the subject. He, however, had not any hope that Grand Lodge would be able to afford the increased accommodation required, there not appearing to be available space for the purpose, and he thought it not improbable that the three Institutions would have to fall back upon their own resources in dealing with the question. He added that it was absolutely necessary that larger offices should be provided, for with the continual increase of their annual festival it was becoming utterly impossible to carry on the business of the Institution in such confined offices as they had at present.

After some conversation, it was moved by Bro. Head that two members of this committee be appointed to confer with two members of the Girls' School Committee, and two members of the committee of the Benevolent Institution on the subject.

This motion having been seconded, was carried unanimously, and Bros. B. Head and R. B. Webster were nominated to carry out the object of the resolution, and to report.

The petitions for placing thirteen candidates on the list were then read, and some of the children were passed; but three were sent back for better reading.

Bro. Binckes stated that there were 31 unsuccessful candidates at last election, that the petitions already accepted and that the number of candidates, with the ten accepted at this meeting, amounted to 66, and that, making allowance for the boys leaving the school up to March next, the available vacancies were only nine.

After some conversation as to the outlay (about £2000) required to increase the accommodation at Wood Green, to enable them to raise the number of boys admitted to 200, it was proposed by Bro. Turner, that the House Committee be requested to reconsider this question. Carried unanimously. A sum of £5 for outfit was voted to each of the following boys who had left the Institution. F. R. Matthews, Doncaster; Abraham Overend, Leeds; and Frank Harding, shipped to Australia.

Bro. Binckes called the attention of the committee to the services rendered to the Institution by Bro. Constable, who at three Festivals had brought in sums amounting in all to £2000, his list on the last occasion amounting to £1226; suggesting that such services should not pass unrecognised; and it was decided to give notice of motion to the General Purposes Committee, with a recommendation of this Committee that the rank of Hon. Vice President be awarded to Bro. Constable.

Bro. Binckes announced that a sum approaching £13,400, was the result of the late Festival and votes of thanks were passed to Bro. Beach and the Stewards.

Bro. Binckes said that their thanks were also due to Mrs. Monckton for her very valuable services in connection with the amateur performance, the proceeds of which had been divided amongst the Institutions. He did not know the total sum realised, but the sum handed to the Institution for Boys was £115 10s.; whereupon it was resolved that some suitable acknowledgment should be made to Mrs. Monckton.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

Constitutions of the Ancient Fraternity of Free- and Accepted Masons, containing the charges, regulations E. A. Song, &c. A copy should be in the possession of every brother. It may be obtained for 2s. at the office of the *Freemason*, or will be sent post free to any part of the United Kingdom on receipt of twenty-five penny stamps. Address Publisher, 198, Fleet-street, London.—Advt.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—In spite of all competition or opposition, the sterling qualities of these remedies have caused them to maintain the first position as curative and alleviating agents. No other remedies so quickly and effectually cure diarrhoea, cramps, dysentery, and all bowel complaints of a similar character. In the most acute and violent attacks it will be found that no matter how severe the vomiting and pain may be, that the brisk and frequent friction of this Ointment into the pit of the stomach and abdominal surface will allay the irritability of the stomach and soothe the pain. As soon as the vomiting, &c., has ceased, the Pills should be taken internally, to remove away any irritant matter.—Advt.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Portsmouth Mark Lodge Room, Portsmouth, on Thursday evening, the 5th inst. There were present the M.W. and Rev. Bro. G. Raymond Portal, P.G.M.M.M.; V.W. Bro. Hickman, D.P.G.M.M.; V.W. and Rev. Bro. F. W. Thoyts, Grand Mark Chaplain; Bros. H. R. Trigg, P.G.S.B.; T. W. Lamb, P.G.S.W.; H. M. Emanuel, P.P.S.G.W.; Rev. E. Y. Nepean, P.G. Chap.; T. Best, P.P.S.G.W.; R. L. Loveland, P.P.J.G.W.; Geo. Rake, P.J.G.W.; M. E. Frost, P.P.S.G.W.; W. C. Redward, P.G. Treas.; J. E. Le Feuvre, O.G.S.; M. Emanuel, P.G.S.; J. Harrison, P.G.J.D.; J. R. Weston, P.G.M.G. F. Court, P.G.S.O.; A. Cudlipp, P.P.G.J.O.; C. A. Dyer, P.G.S.D.; G. F. Lancaster, P.G.J.W.; G. Cross, P.G.S.B.; Rev. G. R. Johnson, P.G.St.B.; H. J. Guy, P.P.G.St.B.; R. Osborne, P.G.O.; G. G. Tilling, P.G.I.G.; W. Payne, P.G. Steward; J. Watson, P.G., Tyler; E. Groves, W.M. 17; E. D. Godwin, 37; A. Riddle, J.O. 2; H. T. Cecil, 17; G. D. R. Reeve, 17; T. J. Pulley, 54; W. Parsons, 37; Excell, 17; G. Carter, 2; J. Ivimey, 17; T. Maltby, S.D. 17.

The minutes of the last Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, held in Southampton, having been read and confirmed, the P.G.M. Treas., produced his audited accounts, showing a balance of £32 11s. in hand, which were unanimously adopted. Bro. Frost proposed, and Bro. H. Emanuel seconded, the selection of Bro. Redward as Treasurer, which was unanimously carried, the P.G.M.M. thanking Bro. Redward for having reconsidered his determination not to accept office again.

The D.P.G.M. proposed, and Bro. Rake, seconded the selection of Bros. Frost and Maltby as Auditors, which was carried with the same unanimity.

Bro. LeFeuvre P.G. Sec. produced a return showing the number of members in each lodge in the province, the number of times each lodge had met, and the advancements in each. This return showed a satisfactory increase over the figures of last year.

The P.G.M.M. proposed, and the P.G.S.W., Bro. Lamb, seconded, a donation of £5 5s. to the Mark Benevolent Fund, for which Bro. F. W. Thoyts, Grand Chap. was acting as Steward, and which was carried.

The minute books of the lodges having been submitted for inspection, and the P.G.M. having made some remarks on them for the guidance of W.M's. generally, the Provincial Grand Officers were appointed and invested as follows:—

- Hickman..... D. Prov. G.M.
- R. Eve, 54 Prov. S.G.W.
- E. Groves, 17 Prov. J.G.W.
- J. Lillywhite, 2 Prov. G.M.O.
- H. Court, 2 Prov. G.S.O.
- S. B. Ellis, 2 Prov. G.J.O.
- Rev. E. T. Nepean, 63..... Prov. Chap.
- Rev. G. R. Johnson, 17..... Prov. G. Chap.
- W. C. Redward, 2 Prov. Treas.
- W. Parsons, 37 Prov. G.R. of M.
- J. E. Le Feuvre, 63 Prov. G. Sec.
- H. J. Guy, 2 Prov. G.S.D.
- J. Bond, 17..... Prov. G.J.D.
- J. Clark, 62..... Prov. I. of W.
- W. Sowdon, 54 Prov. G.D.C.
- A. Riddell, 2 Prov. G.A.D.C.
- W. Payne, 2 Prov. G.Swd.B.
- S. J. Pulley, 54 Prov. G.Std.B.
- K. G. Westley, 63 Prov. G.O.
- J. E. Ivimey, 17 Prov. G.I.G.

The brethren adjourned for refreshment when a very elegant cold collation was served, which reflected great credit on the culinary resources of the Portsmouth Lodge, No. 17.

After this the usual toasts were offered and responded to with great cordiality, and the brethren separated for another year's work with the hope of similarly successful results.

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

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of this Institution was held on Wednesday afternoon, in the library, Freemasons' Hall, Col. Creation in the chair. There were also present Bros. N. G. Philips, Benj. Head, S. Rawson, Hyde Pullen, Raynham W. Stewart, Thomas W. White, Griffiths Smith, J. A. Farnfield, W. Hilton, W. Hale, Thomas Cubitt, John Newton, Charles James Perceval, C. F. Hogard, Joshua Nunn, H. Massey (*Freemason*), James Terry (Secretary), and George Knill (Collector).

After the reading and confirmation of the minutes, Bro. Terry announced the death of two male and three female annuitants; the males after having received £722 in annuities, and the females £384.

The Warden's report informed the Committee that Dr. Strong, the Honorary Surgeon of the Institution, had presented about a thousand flower plants to the Asylum, and had sent his gardener to plant them.

On the motion of Bro. Griffiths Smith, seconded by Bro. J. Newton, a vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Strong for the present.

Bro. Terry read the following report:—
The Finance Committee beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 1st of April to the 30th June, 1877, inclusive, and do find the same correct.

MALE FUND.	
Balance 30th March, 1877	£3521 2 10
Receipts	2531 9 9
Disbursements	£6052 12 7
	3983 16 7
	£2068 16 0
WIDOWS' FUND.	
Balance	£2574 5 6
Receipts	2514 5 11
Disbursements	£5088 11 5
	2605 9 9
	£2483 18 0
SUSTENTATION OF BUILDING.	
Balance	£27 4 4
Disbursements	5 1 7
	£22 2 9

Total balance ... £4574 0 5
The Chairman having mentioned to the Committee that the sum of £50, which the Secretary hitherto had been allowed to have in his hand for petty cash, was on account of the great increase in the business of the Institution insufficient to meet petty disbursements, on the motion of Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, seconded by Bro. Griffiths Smith, the sum was increased to £100.

A cheque for £106 10s. 9d., for balance of Messrs. Patrick and Sons' account for repairs to the asylum, was ordered to be signed and forwarded to that firm.

Two men and two women were placed on the list of candidates for next election.

The Chairman gave notice of motion for next meeting, That in acknowledgment of the zeal and energy so successfully exerted by Bro. John Constable, P.M. 185, in connection with the various charities, more especially with the festival of this Institution he be enrolled as an Hon. Vice-President of the Institution.

Bro. Terry informed the Committee that the visit of the Stewards of last festival to the Asylum would take place on Thursday, at which he would be happy to see any of the brethren.

The Committee then adjourned.

The visit of the Stewards of the last festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution to the Asylum at Croydon, was made on Thursday. The Stewards, accompanied by Bro. Terry, the Secretary, and several members of the Committee, went to Croydon by train, and after a careful inspection of the building, and visiting the individual inmates, expressed themselves much pleased with the arrangements made for the comfort, health, and happiness of the inmates, and with the recent repairs effected in the buildings. The gardens, which are now in beautiful order, were also much admired.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF THE WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

At a Quarterly Communication held on Wednesday, June 6th, 1877—the Provincial Grand Master in the chair—the Provincial Grand Master laid before the Provincial Grand Lodge a letter to him from Bro. David Murray Lyon, the Proxy Provincial Grand Master, dated 31st March last, wherein Bro. Lyon, after mentioning his promotion to the office of Grand Secretary Grand Lodge of Scotland, says—"This will necessitate my resignation of the Proxy Prov. Grand Mastership of the West India Islands, which I now do, thanking you for the high honour of being your representative in that capacity," whereupon it was resolved that Bro. Lyon's resignation be accepted. On the motion of Bro. Wm. McCall, seconded by Bro. J. W. Elliot, the following resolution was passed unanimously, viz.:—"This lodge, in view of the eminent services rendered to it by Bro. David Murray Lyon during his tenure of office as Proxy Prov. Grand Master, and of the manner in which he sustained the dignity of the office, the resignation of which has been rendered necessary by Bro. Lyon's promotion to the office of Grand Secretary of Grand Lodge of Scotland, desires to record its high appreciation, not only of Bro. Lyon's services as Proxy Provincial Grand Master, but of the manner in which he has upheld the dignity of the office, and while expressing its sorrow on the severance of the tie, wishes Bro. Lyon every success in his new office." That copy of this resolution be forwarded to Bro. Lyon.—*Scottish Freemason.*

FAREWELL TO THE OLD ROOMS.

The following lines were written by Bro. Thomas Blair, P.M. Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239, and were recited by him at its regular meeting held on the 2nd inst.

The Wentworth Lodge, of which Bro. S. B. Ellis is W.M., was the first lodge to meet in the new building of the Sheffield Masonic Hall Company.

The "old rooms" alluded to are the temporary meeting place of the lodges during the re-building of the hall, &c., adjoining, they will now be used as Tyler's Rooms, &c.

The new hall is on the site of the old one, and the very stones of which have been used in the new edifice.

Well; here we are at last, and soon 'twill seem
That our long exile was a summer's dream;
How oft we've wished for this long coming day,
When from that dim retreat we'd wend our way.
Oft by the light of taper or wax-match
Glimpses of grandeur we have striven to catch,
And venturous spirits in the unfinished halls
Have gazed with longing on slow-growing walls.
Still, while the months have dragg'd their weary train,
The inconvenience was not all in vain.
There many a brother first beheld the light,
And learnt the mysteries of our ancient rite.
Sufficient this,—discomfort set aside—
Those walls to honour, if for naught beside.
'Twas their Masonic birthplace, and their home,
To which their thoughts will turn, where'er they roam.
Home of our childhood! how affection clings
And hovers round thee with her seraph wings.
Dearer thy hill, though clad in russet brown,
'Than fairest summits which the cedars crown.
There o'er our duties, many hours were pass'd
And the long evenings only flew too fast:
—Our labours done, a later hour would bring
To those small tables the accustomed ring.
And while each brother at the festive board
Join'd hand and heart in jubilant accord,
O'er outside cares, forgetfulness was flung,
And friendship loos'd the jesses of the tongue.—
The banquet o'er, the dishes cleared away,
Some singing brother tuned his plaintive lay,
"Mavourneen Darling," "Waterloo," "King Cole,"
"The Sexton," "My Old Wife" (with lengthy roll.)
"Albert the Good," or "Woodman spare that tree,"
"Tell me the Sign, John," "Jolly dogs are we."
So happy, happy, we our evenings spent,
And happy, happy, went away content.
'To-night, with some regret, we'll say "farewell"
'To the old house we've loved—ah, pretty well.
Yet recollecting many a jovial night,
And coming here with undisguised delight.
In glad anticipation of the joys before us,
We won't speak lightly of the bridge that bore us
From old to new—and though to part resigned
No shame to cast "one lingering look behind."

WANTED, an Engagement, either as Head-waiter in Hotel or Restaurant, by a Brother and Companion, who speaks, German, French, and English, Age 28, Address M.M., 9, Maner-Street, Ardwick, Manchester.

BRO. FRANK ELMORE begs to announce that he still continues to provide his well-known Musical Entertainments at the Banquets of the City Companies, Masonic Lodges, Concerts, Private Parties, and Charitable Institutions. The best available talent engaged. Books of Words printed, and all arrangements completed at a few hours' notice.—For Terms, Address to his residence, 16, Fernhead-road St. Peter's Park, W.

A Master Mason (aged 30) who at present is occupied as Butler and Steward (a place of great trust and responsibility) in a large establishment in the north of England, desires to procure an Appointment in London as Steward and Manager to a Club, or in any Establishment, where the highest testimonials, combined with energy and efficiency, would be appreciated.—Address W., Post-office, Millom, Cumberland.

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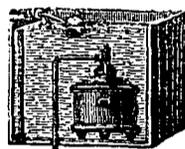
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This is a very handy case for the Study Table or Carpet Bag. It contains the Chief Chemical Tests for Qualitative Water Analysis, and will be found of use by medical and other men who may have occasion to ascertain in a ready manner whether any of the more actual impurities are present or not in water. Vide the "Medical Record," January 29, 1873.
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