

CONTENTS.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS:—

Craft Masonry 305

Royal Arch 306

Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex 307

Provincial Grand Lodge of Monmouthshire 307

Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Middlesex and Surrey 308

Freemasonry in New Zealand 308

Reviews 308

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls 309

Visit of Pupils of the Girls' School to Wimbledon 309

New Masonic Hall in Norwich 309

Supreme Grand Chapter 309

Masonic and General Tidings 309

Our Great Metropolitan Charities 310

The Surrey Masonic Hall 310

The New Masonic Hall in Sheffield 310

Masonic Uncharitableness 311

Freemasonry in Dispersion 311

Opening of the new Masonic Hall in Sheffield 311

CORRESPONDENCE —

The Surrey Masonic Hall 312

Masonic Letteries 312

Charity Organisation Reform 312

The Girls' School Election 313

The Shakespeare Controversy 314

A Correction 314

Masonic Canvassing 314

Roll of Lodges 314

Ifa Body 314

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys 314

Third Class by all Trains 314

Advertisements 314, l. ii. iii. iv. v. vi.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

THE CRUSADERS LODGE (No. 1677).—The members of this new lodge, the consecration of which we fully reported on June 23, held an emergency meeting on Wednesday, the 18th inst, the following brethren being present: Bros. Jarvis Maples, W.M.; Dr. W. J. Hunter, J.W.; F. Rothschild, J.D.; Davis, I.G.; J. S. Knight, D.C.; A. Millward, W.S.; W. C. Gay; Cummings, S. S. Bacca, Manns, J. D. Loverdo, F. Goode, W. Goode, Taylor, Stuckall, and J. G. Defriez, Sec. This lodge is much to be congratulated on the success it has already achieved. The want of a new lodge in Clerkenwell has been long felt and several energetic brethren, after a great deal of preliminary discussion, necessary upon an undertaking of this sort, constituted themselves as founders, and petitioned Grand Lodge for a warrant. The simple fact that, prior to the grant of the warrant, there were on the lists fifteen candidates, demonstrates sufficiently that a new lodge was really needed, and that the founders have rendered a service to Freemasonry in establishing the Crusader's Lodge. The members are also to be congratulated upon the place they have chosen for their new lodge. No spot could possibly be more appropriate than St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, an edifice as full of historical associations as it is unique in London. It is the only relic of the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, the members of which, the famous Knights Hospitalers, are so closely identified with the history of the Crusades. This society was founded in the year 1100, by Gordan Briset and Muriel his wife, persons of rank, and received its consecration from Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Meek and humble at first, they soon became arrogant and proud. They received vast endowments and the great riches they enjoyed infected their manners and mode of living. They had as many as 19,000 manors in different parts of Christendom. In the beginning of the 14th century the immense revenues of the English Knights Templars were bestowed on them, and this increased their importance to such a degree that the prior assumed the dignity of "first baron of England." So widespread was the knowledge of their luxury that the rebels, headed by Wat Tyler, burnt the priory to the ground, only however, to rise again in greater splendour. As is well known, the property of this great society was confiscated by Henry VII., the last prior, Sir William Weston, receiving a pension of £1000 a year. The vicissitudes of "The Gate" have been many. Sylvanus Urban made it his home and printing office, and from here was issued the first number of the *Gentlemen's Magazine*, Johnson, Goldsmith, Burke, Reynolds, Garrick and others were frequently the guests of Mr. Urban at "The Gate," where some of them wrote their contributions to the Magazine. The place was afterwards neglected until it fell into the hands of Mr. Ben Foster, a man of considerable archaeological and literary attainments, who improved its condition, and made it the centre of some excellent literary societies, as well as Masonic lodges. The Urban Lodge, and the Urban Club, hold their meetings here, and now the Crusaders Lodge has found a home within the walls of the ancient and venerable building. The chief business of the evening of the 18th inst. was to initiate the following gentlemen: Messrs. Thos. M. K. Gilbert, William F. Garrad, Samuel Rushton, M. Moorhouse and B. Jackson. The balloting being in their favour they were regularly initiated into our mysteries, the ceremony having been very ably performed by the W.M., who was efficiently assisted by his officers. The bye-laws were then read and passed with the exception of the initiation fee, which was raised from five to seven guineas. The lodge closed, the brethren adjourned to the hall, where a supper was prepared by Bro. W. C. Gay. The usual loyal toasts were proposed by the W.M., the brethren responding musically. The toast of "The Initiates," then followed and the W.M. remarked that it would be useless for him to dilate at any length upon their merits, as they were all well known to the Crusaders. At the same time he would add his testimony to the excellent recommendations given by the proposers and seconders, by expressing his confidence and reliance as to the high character borne by each initiate. He hoped they would all endeavour to the best of their ability so to distinguish themselves as Masons that their ap-

pointment to the chair he had the privilege to occupy, a position which must for ever be regarded as the blue ribbon of all Masons, would be but the natural reward of their labours and the sweet fruit of their endeavours for the preservation, continuance and glory of Masonry. The initiates responded to the effect that they were grateful to the W.M. for the kind expressions he made use of, and also to the Crusaders for the honour they conferred upon them by electing them as members. They would always use their best endeavours to prove worthy of the confidence reposed in them and of one day rising to the exalted post so honourably occupied by the W.M. Bro. Rushton added that for a long time it had been his ardent desire to join the ranks of Freemasonry, and hearing that a new lodge was to be established in his neighbourhood he immediately expressed his wish to Bro. Dr. Hunter, his proposer, to belong to it. He was thoroughly impressed with the solemn beauty of the ceremony through which he had to go, and although he was not as yet in a position to say much with regard to Freemasonry, yet he had seen enough to induce him to believe that it is an institution eminently calculated to promote the welfare and happiness of mankind. The health of the W.M. was feelingly proposed by Bro. Defriez, and was suitably responded to by the W.M. The next toast was that of "The Visitors," to which Bros. Manns, Loverdo, and Bacca replied. The toast of "The Officers" then followed, the W.M. passing a high eulogium upon them for the very able manner in which they performed their duties. This well-merited tribute was received with great applause. Some very excellent music was given during the evening by Bros. A. Millward, Rushton, Knight, Jackson, Rothschild and Davis, the last of whom created great laughter by the humorous mimicry with which he delivered an Irish song by Lover. The Tyler's toast brought to a close a very interesting, very pleasant, and, in all respects, an exceedingly harmonious evening.

WOOLWICH.—Nelson Lodge (No. 700).—The last of a series of brilliant gatherings in this district took place at the Masonic Hall, William-street, on Wednesday, the 18th inst., the occasion being the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. S. Waters, into the chair of the above lodge, and truly the universal verdict "magnificent," pronounced by all who heard Bro T. Butt, W.M., install his successor may be recorded in the annals of the Nelson Lodge as evidence of a triumph of studious research, and unflinching decision; not a word or action was omitted that could bring the beautiful sentiments of that superb ritual home to the hearts of his hearers, but vividly and pathetically eloquent, Bro. Butt went through his work to the end, and hearty and spontaneous was the applause that greeted him when he for the first time took his seat on the left of the chair. Among the brethren present were Bros. R. Russell, P.M. 299, and P.P.D.C. Kent; G. Spinks, W.M. 1536; W. Gamble, W.M. 706; W. Steel, W.M. 1472; J. Dorton, W.M. 1076; W. B. Holliday, P.M. 1876; J. White, S.W. 1076; F. Brien, J.W. 1076; Manning, S.W. 1472; W. B. Lloyd, J.W. 913; T. Hutton, J.W. 13; A. Jessup, Treas. 913; H. Balls, 77; E. Farwig, 180; G. R. Nichols, 1567; C. Jolly, (*Freemason*) 913; and others. The following Past Masters of the lodge were also present: J. Rowland, G. Crawford, F. G. Dawson, W. Graham, E. Bowles, S. Goddard, C. Norman, C. M. Hobson, and J. Henderson. The lodge having been opened and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed, Messrs. Wright and Harris were, after approval, initiated into Freemasonry; and Bro. Epsom passed to the Second Degree. Bro. Waters was then installed with the usual ceremonies, and duly honoured; Bro. Butt, as before observed, filling the position of Installing Officer. Bro. Waters then invested his officers as follows: A. Woodley, S.W.; J. Warren, J.W.; C.M. Hobson, P.M., Treas.; J. Henderson, P.M., Sec.; J. Wilkins, S.D.; B. B. Hobsen, J.D.; W. M'Coy, I.G.; G. Beaver, D.C.; and B. Norman, Tyler. The addresses having been delivered, it was proposed by Bro. Butt, I.P.M., and seconded by Bro. W. Graham, P.M., that the sum of ten guineas each be given to the Boys and Girls School Charities, and carried unanimously. Bro. Butt was then presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel and it was resolved that a vote of thanks be presented to him, and that the same be inscribed upon the minutes of the lodge, for his masterly performance of the installation ceremony that day. After Bro. Butt had returned thanks, the lodge was closed, and the brethren sped away to Gravesend, where at Bro. Lockey's house, "The New Falcon," a superb banquet awaited them, splendidly served and in profusion. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured most cordially, and in proposing that of the W.M., Bro. Butt compared him to a ship captain just about to sail forth upon the broad ocean, his craft freighted with many cares and responsibilities, but they one and all wished him a safe and prosperous voyage, and that when once again he returned into port, might he be loaded with all that was good and creditable both to himself and his owners, the brethren of the Nelson Lodge. They had seen Bro. Waters in the minor offices, and from what he knew of him he believed Bro. Waters would faithfully and honourably carry out the duties of the office in which they had placed him. (Applause.) Bro. Waters briefly replied, asking them to help him to carry out his duties, and assuring them of his sincere desire for their prosperity and comfort. "The Health of the Initiates" followed, and was responded to severally. The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by Bros. Gamble, Spinks, Hutton, Jessup, Farwig, and Pillar, Bro. Spinks saying that it was a matter of hearty congratulation that so good a feeling existed between the United Military Lodge and the Nelson. At the winter banquet of the latter he could not help noticing that a large number of the guests were military brethren, and upon enquiry he found that, with but few exceptions, they were individual invitations from the Nelson brethren. That would at least show that a close bond of social union

existed between the brethren of the two lodges. (Loud cheers.) Bro. Butt excused himself from replying for the "Past Masters," having been such a short time among them that he hardly knew or felt the responsibilities of the office yet; but they had among them an old Past Master, who would speak for them from the experience of many years. He alluded to their senior Past Master, Bro. J. Rowland. (Cheers.) Bro. Rowland said the Past Masters looked upon the chair with a deal of jealousy. It was a position they had all filled with credit, and they wished to see the Mastership of the Nelson Lodge retain its ancient prestige in the person of good men and good Masons. (Cheers.) The brother who had just vacated it had added, if possible, new honour to it by his firm and determined, yet courteous rule. (Applause.) The incoming Master they felt sure would never suffer those glories to grow dim, and when his day shall have come, they would welcome him among their ranks with the same pleasure they had that day received the I.M. (Loud cheers.) To the toast of "The Officers" Bro. Woodley briefly responded. The W.M. then gave the toast of "The Masonic Press," coupled with the name of Bro. Jolly, who he said had by his reports made their lodge known all over the world. The toast was most enthusiastically received, and Bro. Jolly returned thanks, and then the Tyler's toast wound up the meeting. Several of the brethren on their way from the Grand Provincial R.A. meeting at Chatham gave a call, and were received with *eclat*, notably Bros. Coupland, Pownall, Denton, Penfold, and Hayes, all of whom are of eminence both in the Province of Kent and Woolwich District.

LIVERPOOL.—Everton Lodge (No. 823).—The members of this "crack" lodge, which is one of the most numerous and flourishing amongst the strong representatives of eighty in the Province of West Lancashire, met on Wednesday for the purpose of assisting at the installation of the W.M., elect, which took place at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool. The popularity of the W.M. elect (Bro. John Houlding), the respected vice-chairman of the West Derby Board of Guardians, the *eclat* which has marked the year's office of Bro. Wm. Wilson, the retiring W.M., and the prestige which rightfully belongs to the "Everton" were clearly shown by a large and most influential attendance of visitors, among whom were a good sprinkling of P.G.L. officers. There were altogether upwards of 40 W.M.'s and P.M.'s present, and amongst those who attended to do honour to the occasion were ten guardians belonging to the Board of which Bro. Houlding is Vice-Chairman. The lodge was opened by Bro. W. Wilson, W.M., who was supported by Bros. T. Shaw, I.P.M.; J. R. Goepel, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; G. Turner, P.G. Treasurer, P.M.; W. Cottrell, P.M.; T. Ashmore, P.M.; J. Houlding, S.W. (W.M. elect); H. Ashmore, J.W.; W. J. Lunt, P.M., Treasurer, J. S. Cuthbert, Secretary; P. W. Oglesby, S.D.; T. Webster, J.D.; W. Boulton, P.M., D.C.; J. Boyle, I.G.; and T. H. Carefull, S. The members present included Bros. J. Beesley, C. E. Kidd, E. H. Bryson, F. J. Pentin, J. M. King, W. Lowe, R. Brough, J. Brough, C. King, R. H. Webster, J. Worthington, D. Callow, J. A. Forrest, J. Brunton, A. Strother, R. Milne, R. Lowry, E. Morgan, R. Ellis, C. Mawdesley, J. Douglas, J. W. Robinson, S. Millikin, I. Hughes, W. Maddock, W. Gaskell, W. Brassey, J. G. Hassall, R. O. Duck, T. R. Grandy, J. R. Broadbent, J. Marsh, D. G. Ross, S. Campbell, R. Thompson, J. Smallwood, J. C. Corris, J. Holden, J. Carson, E. Kelly, S. Doughty, W. H. Spenceley, T. Cunningham, J. Rosburgh, &c. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Dr. J. K. Smith, P.P.G. Registrar; J. Peters, P.P.G.S.W. North Wales and Shropshire; R. Martin, jun., W.M. 1182; T. J. Hughes, 216; J. Skeaf, P.G.O.; T. McCracken, 1620; J. Hill, 1609; W. Savage, 216; J. R. Bottomley, J.W. 1675; J. Busfield, 216; H. Burrows, W.M. 673; W. T. May, P.M. 673; R. H. Evans, P.M. 1393; J. T. Callow, P.M. 673; J. Marshall, W.M. 1547; J. W. Baker, P.M. 241; J. M'Carthy, P.M. 1393; J. Lunt, P.P.G.D.C.; C. Winkill, P.M. 1325; J. Devaynes, P.M. 667; E. Dutch, 1393; C. R. Twist, 292; J. Jones, P.M. 216; J. W. Ballard, P.M. 724; Dr. D. D. Costine, S.D. 216; W. Doyle, P.P.G.J.D.; W. H. Cooper, W.M. 1350; R. P. France, P.M. 594; T. Berry, P.M. 155; W. King, 1620; J. Lecomber, W.M. 594; J. Pemberton, P.P.G.S. of W.; J. W. Burgess, W.M. 1325; T. Holden, 1182; J. P. Platt, P.P.G.J.W. Cheshire; J. Hayes, P.M. 249; J. C. Robinson, W.M. 249; J. Burgess, 1356; H. Liversage, 1299; F. Knight, P.M. 1325; J. Jones P.M., 594; A. C. Wylie, S.W. 1264; P. Sammons, W.M. 1393; H. Pearson, P.M. 249; S. P. Gore, 1356; &c. After the transaction of the usual preliminary business, Rev. W. Wilson, the retiring W.M., closed an honourable and distinguished year of office by installing Bro. John Houlding as W.M. for the ensuing year. The major part of the ceremony was performed by Bro. Wilson, in a masterly manner, the concluding portion being entrusted to Bro W. Boulton, P.M. The following were invested by Bro. Houlding as his staff of officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. W. Wilson, I.P.M.; H. Ashmore, S.W.; J. S. Cuthbert, J.W.; W. J. Lunt, P.M., Treasurer (re-elected for the tenth time); P. W. Oglesby, Secretary; T. Webster, S.D.; J. Boyle, J.D.; T. H. Carefull, I.G.; J. Beesley, S.S.; J. Hunter, J.S. (by proxy); W. Brassey, Assistant S.; R. Webster, Assistant S.; W. Boulton, P.M., D.C.; R. Brough, Organist; and W. H. Ball, Tyler. The anthem at the close of the ceremony was sung with fine effect by Bros. J. Jones, P.M. 216; J. Busfield, 216; and T. J. Hughes, 216; Bro. J. Skeaf, P.G. Organist, presiding at the harmonium. As the first act of his official year in the chair, Bro. Houlding, W.M., initiated several candidates in a manner which clearly indicated the experience and aptitude which he brought to bear on his important position. At the close of this section of the business, a valuable P.M.'s jewel, along with a handsome clock and bronze figure en suite, were presented to Bro. Wilson, I.P.M., as a token of

the esteem of the brethren and in recognition of the excellent services he had rendered to the lodge during his Mastership, and also while he had held various offices in the lodge. The good wishes of numerous lodges were conveyed to the W.M., there being a large representation of brethren connected with the West Derby Board of Guardians, of which Bro. Houlding is the Vice-Chairman. The brethren subsequently banqueted under the presidency of the W.M., and the usual loyal, Masonic, and charitable toasts were given and responded to during the evening. In continuation of the celebration of the festival of St. John, the Evertonians and their fair friends held their annual picnic on the following day (Thursday), within the grounds of Hawarden Castle, which, by the kindness of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., were most courteously thrown open for the special occasion. A special train, starting from Lime-street shortly before ten o'clock, conveyed about 250 to the scene of the day's festivities, and the outers were increased by the arrival of others at a later stage of the day's pleasant proceedings. The weather looked rather threatening, but, beyond one or two slight showers, there was nothing in this direction to mar the complete enjoyment of the Everton picnic. On arriving at Queen's Ferry, specially hired vehicles conveyed a large section of the party to Hawarden, while others preferred to walk the pleasant two-mile road which led them to the village. Amongst those present were Bros. J. Houlding, W.M. of the lodge; W. J. Lunt, P.M., Treas.; T. Ashmore, P.M.; W. Boulton, P.M., D.C.; W. Cottrell, P.M.; T. Shaw, P.M.; W. Wilson, I.P.M.; nearly the whole of the officers, and a large representation from other lodges, including Bros. H. Liversage, 1299; E. Dutch, 1393; J. Jones, P.M. 216; and others. According to previous custom, on arriving at the prettily situated village of Hawarden, the ladies and brethren proceeded to the church, where all joined in singing "The Old Hundredth," Bro. J. Jones, P.M. 216, presiding at the organ. The Rev. Stephen Edward Gladstone, rector of the parish, who kindly granted the use of the sacred edifice for this appropriate portion of the day's proceedings, was present, and at the close of the short service of praise, he gave a brief address to those who had assembled. He said they would not expect from him in that place the fuller and more cordial greeting which he would otherwise have given them to Hawarden, but in God's name he welcomed them to that place, and in God's name he was able to assure them that the praises which had been sung that morning, if from the heart would be heard in heaven. They had come to that place of worship to sanctify the proceedings of the day, and he need not say that by that act of worship they all intended the day should be one of holy pleasure. Pleasure had two aspects; it had its earthly and temporal aspect, and it had also its heavenly and joyous aspect. If the people of this world had only the wisdom to see that true pleasure was to be found in the latter aspect, the earth would be a far purer place than it is. In God's name he greeted them in His house, and he rejoiced that they had commenced the day in that becoming manner. The service was closed with prayer by the reverend speaker. The party then left the church and proceeded to a large tent erected within the castle grounds, where dinner was served. In the afternoon the ladies and gentlemen had the privilege of going through the grounds of Hawarden Castle, and by the kindness of Mr. Gladstone the private green within the ruins was placed at the disposal of the pleasure seekers. Bro. Captain Vickers, the agent of Mr. Gladstone, was present during the afternoon, and did all in his power to promote the enjoyment of all who were present. An inspection of the ruins, which included the magnificent view from the summit, a glance at the wonderful subterranean passage leading to Ewloe Castle, a ramble through the grounds with their magnificent trees and walks, and a visit to the orphan asylum, which is one of the special features of Mrs. Gladstone's benevolence in the neighbourhood, constituted the chief features of a most enjoyable visit to Hawarden Castle. Dancing on the green in the old castle ruins was also kept up till about five o'clock, when the Evertonians returned to tea in the tent at the village. The return train started from Queen's Ferry about half-past eight o'clock, and arrived in Liverpool shortly before ten o'clock.

LIVERPOOL.—Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 1035).—The annual picnic in connection with the Prince of Wales Lodge, which meets at the Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool, took place on Wednesday, the 18th inst. The brethren, with their lady friends, left Exchange Station shortly before noon for Rufford, where a substantial dinner was provided by Bro. Ashcroft, at the Hesketh Arms Hotel. The travellers afterwards adjourned to the park, where, by the kind permission of Sir Thos. Fermor-Hesketh, Bart., they spent a pleasant afternoon in going over the grounds, conservatories, &c., and in dancing to the strains of the police band, conducted by Mr. Beardhall. Bro. Willis, W.M., presided at the dinner, and was supported by the Past Masters and officers of the lodge. The brethren, after a substantial tea, spent the evening in various amusements, and returned to town, after spending a most enjoyable day. It was generally acknowledged that this was one of the most successful of the Prince of Wales picnics.

SANDGATE.—Sandgate Lodge (No. 1436).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Sandgate, on Monday, the 9th inst. The officers present were Bros. R. H. Pledge, W.M.; F. H. Field, S.W. and W.M. elect; A. Keeler, J.W.; J. Dickson, S.D.; B. Simmonds, J.D.; J. Cain, I.G.; R. Butcher, Tyler; also Bros. R. H. Fynmore, I.P.M.; C. Gosby, P.M., P.G.S.B.; E. Sheppard, P.M.P., District Gd. D. Madras; J. English, P.M.; J. Bray, J. McGonagil, T. Moore, R. W. Dunan, J. Hodgson, J. McGovern, F. Norris, C. Grimwood, T. G. Lockyer, A. Keeler, J. Syson, and J. B. Candell. Visitors: Bros. Spencer, P.G. Sec.; R. White, P.M. 1331, P.P.G.P. Hants and Isle of Wight; L. Earn-

shaw, W.M. 558, P.P.G.J.D.; Kennett, 558, P.P.G.O.; Stock, P.M. 558, P.P.G.S.W.; Evenden, W.M. 125; W. H. Hoad, Andrews, Klatt, Tiffen, Josephs, 558; Busby, Cullen, Minnie, Noakes, 1043; Steele, 177; Pulley, Elms, 1201; Sneesby, and several others. The business of the meeting was the initiation of Mr. A. Taylor, passing Bro. Grimwood, and installation of the W.M. elect. The ceremony of initiation and passing was ably performed by the retiring W.M., Bro. R. H. Pledge, after which Bro. F. H. Field, S.W. and J.W., of 558 and 1331, was presented for the benefit of installation. After the customary obligations had been made, all brethren below the rank of Installed Masters retired. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed (there being eleven present), when Bro. Field was duly inducted in the chair of K.S., the ceremony of installation being performed by Bro. R. White, P.M. 1331, P.P.G.P. Hants and Isle of Wight, and it has seldom fallen to our lot to witness the ceremony so ably and impressively performed. The brethren below the chair were then re-admitted, when Bro. Field was successively declared W.M. of the Sandgate Lodge for the ensuing twelve months. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows, viz.: Bros. R. H. Pledge, I.P.M.; Adam Heeler, S.W.; J. Dickson, J.W.; R. Jenner, P.M., Treas.; Gosby, P.M., Sec.; J. B. Caudell, S.D.; J. McGonagil, J.D.; J. Hodgson, I.G.; and Butcher, Tyler, accompanying each investiture with a few appropriate remarks. The Installing Master then delivered the customary addresses, which met with unwonted applause from the brethren present. Hearty good wishes having been offered by the visiting brethren, the lodge was closed about five p.m. The brethren, to the number of 51, then adjourned to Bro. A. Keeler's, Kent Hotel, where a most recherche banquet had been provided in a spacious marquee on the lawn, facing the sea. After substantial justice had been rendered at the banquet table, the W.M. rose to propose the toasts, the whole of which were prefaced by a few apt remarks. In reply to the toast of the Prov. Grand Officers, Bro. Spencer, P.G.S., stated, in responding, that it was very gratifying to see such an important gathering in so young a lodge. He was sure that every brother present gave the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Viscount Holmesdale, credit for having the true interests of Masonry at heart. Never on any occasion did he omit forwarding anything which tended to benefit Masonry, especially in the province of Kent, but he thought it as well to state that he could but repeat the words of the P.G.M., that Masonry having received such a stimulus through the Royal patronage, it behoved the brethren to be especially careful whom they recommended for admission into Freemasonry. The province was now in a flourishing condition—good men and true ranged under its banners—and it was incumbent on the masters of all lodges to exercise the utmost care to preserve the tone of the Order, so that it might not be entered with a view to personal benefit or self-aggrandisement on the part of new initiates, but rather in conformity with the tenets of the Craft, each candidate having a sincere wish to render himself more extensively useful to his fellow creatures. On behalf of the Prov. Grand Officers, he thanked the brethren present very heartily for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and coupled with his name. The toasts of The Installing Master, P. Masters, W.M., Officers, Visitors, Masonic Charities, &c., having been severally proposed and responded to, the Tyler's toast brought a very enjoyable evening to a close about 10 p.m.

TWICKENHAM.—Francis Burdett Lodge (No. 1503).—The summer meeting of this highly prosperous lodge was held on the 11th inst. at the Albany Hotel. There were present, amongst others, at the opening of the lodge, Bros. C. Horsley, P.P.G.R. of Middlesex, who officiated in the unavoidable absence of Bro. W. H. Saunders, P.G.S. of Surrey, W.M.; S. H. Knaggs, S.W.; Court, J.W.; Tomlinson, P.P.G.S.D. of Norfolk, Treas.; Taylor, S.D.; Vaughan, J.D.; Court, jun., Asst. Org. The I.P.M. and Sec., Bro. Wigginton, P.G.S. of Wks. Middlesex, was present later in the evening. Bro. Buckland, P.M. Dobie, &c., was a visitor. The minutes of the last regular meeting and an emergency meeting of June 11th were read and confirmed. The principal officers present on the latter occasion were Bros. Saunders, W.M.; Knaggs, S.W.; Court, J.W.; Wigginton, I.P.M. and Sec.; Tomlinson, Treas.; Taylor, S.D.; Vaughan, J.D. The two candidates for passing—Bros. Taylor and Clarke—were impressively inducted by Bro. Horsley. A financial question having been satisfactorily disposed of, the lodge was closed, and the brethren partook of a collation. The preliminary toasts having been duly honoured, the acting W.M. proposed, in happy terms, "The Health of the R.W.P.G.M." The toast of "The R.W.D.P.G.M., and the rest of the P.G.O.'s, Past and Present," followed, and gave Bro. Wigginton, P.G.S. of Wks., an opportunity of making a very excellent reply. "The Health of the W.M. and his deputy that evening," was proposed by the I.P.M., and drew from Bro. Horsley, P.M., a characteristic response. "The Visitor" came next, and having been warmly received, Bro. Buckland duly acknowledged the compliment. In consequence of the lateness of the hour the remaining toasts were quickly disposed of. Bro. Wigginton replied on behalf of "The Past Masters," and Bros. Tomlinson and Knaggs for "The Officers."

Royal Arch.

WHITEHAVEN.—Sun, Square, and Compasses Chapter (No. 119).—The quarterly convocation of this chapter was held on Friday, the 20th inst., in the Freemasons' Hall, College-street, Whitehaven, where the companions mustered at four o'clock. There were present Comps. John Barr, P.Z., P.M. 119; W. Sandwith, H., P.M.

119; J. J. Robinson, as J., P.M. 872; E. Tyson, Scribe E.; J. D. Thompson, Scribe N.; W. F. Lamonby, P.S., P.M. 1002 (*Freemason*); J. Rothery, 1st Assist. S.; J. W. Young, 2nd Assist. S., P.M. 1400; G. Fitzgerald, Janitor; W. Armstrong, P.M. 371; T. Dixon, W.M. 1400; T. Atkinson, P.M. 872; Rowland Hill, jun.; J. R. Banks, J. S. Wilson, W. F. Hunter, C. Hooper, J. W. Miles, J. R. Smith, J. S. Braithwaite, F. Hodgson, D. Reece, T. B. Roxby, T. Wood, J. W. Meredith, H. Waiting, W. A. Smith, and John Smith. In the unavoidable absence from Whitehaven of the M.E.Z., Comp. E. Fearon, P.M. 119, Comp. Barr, P.Z., took the presiding officer's chair. After the minutes were read and confirmed, two candidates for exaltation, out of four on the agenda paper, presented themselves, and were duly exalted to the degree of R.A., the M.E.Z. in the chair performing the long and beautiful ceremony (including the mystical lecture) with that correctness and effect for which he is so well and favourably known in the north. Comp. Sandwith, H., also delivered the historical and symbolical lectures in capital style. The next business was the election of officers for the ensuing twelve months, which was conducted by ballot, and proved a lengthy operation, on account of the keen contests (in two cases ties), the final results being as follows:—Comps. W. Sandwith, Z.; E. W. Henry, M.D., H.; W. F. Lamonby, J.; E. Tyson, Scribe E. (re-elected); J. J. Robinson, Scribe N.; J. Rothery, P.S.; J. M'Kelvie, Treas. (re-elected); and G. Fitzgerald, Janitor (re-elected). Comp. Rothery announced his intention to appoint his assistants at the installation convocation. The Past and Present Principals and Scribes were then appointed a committee to audit the accounts, after which Comp. T. Dodgson, P.Z. Furness Chapter, 995, was proposed as a joining member, as also a brother of Lodge 962, Workington, as a candidate for exaltation. The chapter was then solemnly closed. Subsequently the companions adjourned to the banqueting hall, where a couple of hours were harmoniously whiled away in toast and song, under the presidency of Comp. Barr. Sun, Square, and Compasses Chapter is now one of the strongest and best worked in the North of England, having largely increased in membership during the past three years. Apropos of Royal Arch Masonry in the province of Cumberland and Westmoreland, petitions have been sent to the Supreme Grand Chapter for the formation of a Provincial Grand Chapter, which will, no doubt, be granted, seeing that there are seven chapters in the two counties.

HAMPTON.—Era Chapter (No. 1423).—A convocation of this newly constituted chapter was held at the Island Hotel on the 14th instant. There were present, amongst others, Comps. Sabine, P.Z., P.G.P.S., M.E.Z.; Thielley, H.; Smeed, P.Z., acting J.; Dubois, M.E.Z.; Lebanon, Treasurer; F. Walters, P.Z., P.P.G.A.S., S. E. Mason, P.Z., S.N.; T. C. Walls, P.S. 185, First Assistant; Faulkner, Second Assistant; W. Hammond, P.Z., P.G.A.S., D.C.; Baldwin, M.E.Z. Mount Lebanon, W.S.; Gilbert, Janitor. The minutes of the previous convocation and emergency meeting having been read and confirmed, the M.E.Z., assisted by Comps. Smeed and Walters, exalted Bros. T. W. Ockenden, D.C. 1512, and Sec. 1656; Tagg, 1326; and Austin, 1567, to the Sublime Degree of the R.A. very impressively. The draft bye laws were then read, and each clause having been thoroughly eliminated, they were passed. The convocation having been closed, the companions adjourned to an excellent collation, well served by Comp. Tagg, in a marquee erected in the grounds. This *al fresco* arrangement was somewhat marred by the too liberal favours of Jupiter Pluvius, and brought the proceedings to an early termination. The preliminary R.A. toasts having been duly honoured, the M.E.Z. proposed "The Health of the Exaltees." In the course of his remarks he congratulated the chapter upon the admission of three such excellent Masons, who would, he had no doubt, in the end also prove worthy members of the R.A. Order. Having been well and worthily recommended, they had successfully passed the threshold of the Sublime Degree, and he personally was delighted that they had been received into so newly a constituted chapter as 1423, and in conclusion he wished them long life, and every domestic and Masonic prosperity. Comp. Ockenden, in reply, said that from the moment he had entered Freemasonry he had experienced a great veneration for the ancient science, and that feeling he hoped would ever continue. In concluding he stated that he had been highly impressed with the whole degree that he had passed that day, thanks to the able way he had been inducted. Comps. Tagg and Austin having replied in similar terms, Comp. F. Walters proposed in very felicitous language "The Health of the M.E.Z." In the course of his remarks he stated that he had initiated Comp. Sabine in 1863 and was greatly pleased at having been the means of introducing so excellent a Mason as their M.E.Z. had proved to be. He, Comp. Sabine, had filled the chair of his mother chapter with great success, and he believed that he would give equal satisfaction to the discharge of his duties in No. 1423. This toast having been well received the M.E.Z. made an excellent reply. He stated that he was a great admirer of the charitable principles of the Order and that he had never turned a deaf ear to the sacred calls of charity. He hoped that they would pardon his mentioning that in 1869 he had served the three institutions, and taken up nearly £1000, thanks to the hearty support he had received from his brethren and friends. (Hear.) Fourteen years was a very considerable time to be devoted to Freemasonry, but he had not, and he hoped he never would begrudge any time so spent, and concluded by forcibly remarking that he had always endeavoured to do his duty not only in Masonic but also in social life. The remaining toasts, "The Second and Third Principals" and "The Officers," were given briefly, and responded to on behalf of all absent and present by Comp. Thielley, Comps. Tagg, Walls, and Thielley vocally entertained the companions, who separated at 8 o'clock.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MIDDLESEX.

On Wednesday afternoon the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex was held at the Town Hall, Twickenham, under the presidency of Col. Burdett, Provincial Grand Master. Bro. F. Davison occupied the G.S.W. chair, and Bro. H. G. Buss that of G.J.W. There was a crowded attendance of brethren, amongst whom were General Brownrigg, Prov. G.M. for Surrey; Col. Wigginton, Major Shadwell Clerke, W. Hyde Pullen, H. C. Levander, H. A. Dubois, Lord de Clifford, T. J. Sabine, Dr. Ramsay, Sir C. Bright, Captain Reginald Williams, G. A. Smith, W. H. Green, A. H. Tattershall, Lieut.-Col. James Peters, J. Lewis Thomas, E. Kimber, Thos. Massa, W. H. Pearce, W. Hammond, J. M. Stedwell, and H. Massey (*Freemason*).

Lodge having been duly opened, the minutes were read by Bro. H. Levander, Prov. G. Sec., and after their confirmation, the balance-sheet of the province was submitted to the brethren. This showed a balance in hands of the Treasurer of £200 9s. 5d., a result which was hailed with much cheering by the brethren.

Bro. Levander, after the balance-sheet had been received and adopted, by direction of the P.G.M., read the patent of appointment of Bro. R. W. Little as Deputy Prov. G. Master, and Bro. Little having been formally obligated, was invested by Col. Burdett with the clothing of his rank, the ceremony being accompanied with hearty signs of approval by the Grand Lodge.

The appointment and investiture of Provincial Grand Officers followed, Bro. H. G. Buss, Prov. J.G.W., being first unanimously elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer, amidst loud cheering. The following is the list of the new appointments:—

- Dr. Ramsay..... Prov. G.S.W.
- J. Lewis Thomas..... Prov. J.G.W.
- Rev. W. F. Reynolds Prov. G. Chaplain
- Rev. W. L. Moses Prov. G. Chaplain
- H. G. Buss Prov. G. Treas.
- E. Letchworth Prov. G. Register.
- H. C. Levander Prov. G. Sec.
- J. Mason Prov. G.S.D.
- B. H. Swallow..... Prov. G.J.D.
- Thos. Massa Prov. G.S. of W.
- E. Kimber Prov. G.D.C.
- J. S. Brown..... Prov. G.A.D.C.
- E. Hopwood..... Prov. G.S.B.
- T. C. Walls..... Prov. G. Org.
- J. W. Baldwin..... Prov. G.P.
- J. Driscoll Prov. G.A.P.
- J. Gilbert Prov. G. Tyler.
- Lord B. de Clifford, Sir Chas. T. Bright, G. C. Rushworth, Frank Green, B. Sharp, and W. H. Saunders... Prov. G. Stewards

On the motion of Col. Burdett, seconded by Bro. T. J. Sabine, the following sums were voted by Provincial Grand Lodge:—£10 10s. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; £10 10s. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; and £10 to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Col. Burdett then left the chair, while Bro. Little proposed, and Bro. Buss seconded, "That the sum of £10 be voted towards the Burdett Testimonial Fund, and that all expenses of printing, postage, &c., connected with the testimonial be defrayed out of the funds of the province."

This comprised the whole of the lodge business, and Bro. Levander having announced that letters of apology for absence had been received from Col. Creaton, Maxwell Close, Jas. Terry, J. C. Parkinson, F. Walters and others, lodge was closed and the brethren proceeded to the Greyhound, Richmond, to banquet. At this banquet Col. Burdett presided and he was supported by forty other brethren. The toasts were afterwards proposed in regular order, and Bro. Hyde Pullen responded for the toast of the Earl of Carnarvon, Lord Skelmersdale, and the rest of the Grand Officers.

Bro. H. G. Buss, Prov. Grand Treasurer, proposed "The Health of the Prov. G. Master." After apologising for Bro. Little, D.G.M., not being able to propose the toast on account of the state of his health, he said that the brethren all knew Col. Burdett so well, and the ability with which he had always discharged his duties since he had been G.M. of the Province of Middlesex, that it would be unnecessary to say much in proposing the toast of his health. Col. Burdett was the first Grand Master of Middlesex, and had travelled with it from its foundation through all the difficulties and dangers which must attend a newly formed province. He had weathered all its storms and breezes, and had succeeded in bringing about a happy result. No province could possibly exhibit a better phalanx of Masons than the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex. They were all happy and united together, and, he believed, no province could pay a greater amount of respect or honour to its Prov. G. Master than Middlesex did to Col. Burdett. The Colonel was always among them at their meetings, no matter where they were assembled. He was always willing and anxious to assist them, and in all their undertakings they never found him flagging. When they had a Prov. Grand Master who showed a determination and energy to promote the interest and welfare of the Masonic Order, the brethren could not but set a high value on him. In fact he did not know where a better Prov. Grand Master could be found. It had been his (Bro. Buss's) peculiar pleasure to hold the office of Treasurer of the province ever since its establishment, with the exception of last year, when the honour of wearing the Prov. Junior Grand Warden's clothing had been conferred on him by Col. Burdett; and in the position of Treasurer he had had occasion to refer very frequently to the Prov. G.M. Whenever he did so a letter always came in by return of post. This showed the thorough business-like way in which he performed his duties with regard to the province.

Col. Burdett, in reply, said he felt very much gratified by what Bro. Buss had said, and he was delighted to find by the heartiness with which those sentiments had been received, that the brethren appreciated his endeavours to advance the interests of the province. They might depend upon it that he would exert himself on behalf of the province, and, as far as he was able, of the brethren. He had been ably assisted by the brethren of the province, who had endeavoured to raise the province high among the list of provinces. Though it had only been established seven or eight years, it was able now to hold up its head and say that very few provinces in the South of England were able to compete with it in any way whatever. He believed there were no better set of officers or working Masons to be found in any province in the South of England, or in the north, or any part of the country. He said this not only from hearsay, but from his own experience, derived from visiting lodges in his province. As far as he was able, he visited every lodge. He was always most hospitably received, and he was much gratified at the way the work was conducted. There were some lodges which did not perform the work so well as others, but he was convinced they could come up to the same degree of excellence as the majority. It was the admirable way in which the work was done which gave him his pleasure in visiting the lodges.

Col. Burdett then proposed "The Prov. Grand Master of Surrey."

General Brownrigg, in reply, said that Col. Burdett and he held nearly the same date in the army as they did in Grand Lodge, and when they went into Grand Lodge they usually walked side by side, "shoulder to shoulder," and as soldiers they knew the meaning of that expression, and also of the expression "knee to knee." When the infantry went shoulder to shoulder, and the cavalry knee to knee, they never feared the results. Surrey and Middlesex would always be so, and would assist each other as they should. He would answer for the province of Surrey, and Colonel Burdett could answer for Middlesex. He would tell them now what took place before Surrey and a sister province a little north. Surrey and Berks and Bucks met before the election for the charities and compared notes and assisted each other. The first year this was done Berks and Bucks had a boy they wanted to get into the Boys' School, and Surrey had a girl they wanted to get into the Girls' School. Consequently Surrey gave their boys' votes to Berks and Bucks, and Berks and Bucks gave their girls' votes to Surrey. Both were successful. Bucks and Berks wanted to get an old man into the Benevolent Institution. Surrey wanted to get an old woman in. By an exchange of votes both candidates were got in. So many of the brethren of these provinces belonged to London lodges that they furnished stewards for the festivals and so got more votes. He wished Middlesex to join in the convention between Berks and Bucks, and he threw the hint out for consideration, thinking it would be a profitable arrangement for all.

Col. Burdett proposed "The Health" of Bro. Little, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Every brother was quite aware of what the services of Bro. Little had been to the Province. He had been the instigation of this province, its mainstay, and had placed it in the position it now occupied. On account of the state of Bro. Little's health he would not trouble him to respond to this toast. It would cause him great exertion, and it would be out of a feeling of kindness to him that he wished to spare him the fatigue, of replying. Throughout his life Bro. Little had exerted himself in the cause of Masonry, particularly during the last few years, and more especially for the Province of Middlesex. He did not believe any brother could have done more than Bro. Little had done for Middlesex, for it was to him that Middlesex owed the proud position she now occupied. He would ask the brethren to thank Bro. Little in silence for what he had done.

The toast having been duly acknowledged by the brethren,

Col. Burdett proposed "The Visitors." Among the visitors they had brethren who were very severe critics in Freemasonry, brethren who would perform Masonic duties in the most energetic and perfect manner. In their ranks Bro. Major Shadwell Clerke held a front place; and although that brother might not perhaps think the Province of Middlesex had yet reached the point of excellence it ought to have reached, yet he must remember that the province was a young province. He would however confess that the province was very favourably progressing, and that it had worked satisfactorily and well.

Major Shadwell Clerke replied, and said he had for many years been invited to attend the meetings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex, but unfortunately he had been unable to accept the invitations. It had been a great pleasure to him to be present that day, for he had met several very old personal and dear friends. Also he had seen the working of the Grand Lodge, which although the Prov. Grand Master had somewhat apologised for, was a model to all lodges in England. It was the youngest of the provinces, but it was equal to the oldest and largest. It was very good of the Prov. Grand Master to speak of him (Bro. Shadwell Clerke) in the way he had spoken, and he could assure the brethren that any service he could render to Masonry was a labour of love to him. He might tell the brethren that they were most fortunate in having such a Provincial Grand Master at their head. At the same time they were most fortunate in having such a Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Bro. Little. It was a great pleasure to him (Bro. Shadwell Clerke) to see his old friend and schoolfellow elevated to the position of Deputy Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex, and he hoped he would long be spared to hold that high and honourable office. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. F. Binckes proposed, by request, the toast of "The Masonic Charities," and told the brethren that up to the present time over £36,000 had been received by the three Masonic Institutions this year. He believed that the

greater part of this sum had been taken up by new Stewards for new lodges; and, if so, it showed that the new lodges were started, not for the aggrandisement of the brethren, but for the promotion of the welfare of the Institution. The new lodges had done their duty nobly. Looking around the table he could see a large number of brethren who had served the office of Steward. The brethren were not yet "weary in well doing," and when they saw the officials of the Institution exerting themselves to the utmost on behalf of their respective charities, it was, perhaps, somewhat of an incentive to them to exert themselves. He called on Bro. J. Lewis Thomas to reply.

Bro. J. Lewis Thomas having responded to the toast, Col. Burdett proposed "The Provincial Grand Officers." Dr. Ramsay replied, and the Tyler's toast having been drunk the brethren separated.

During the evening a beautiful selection of music was performed under the direction of Capt. Reginald Williams, by Mesdames Thaddeus Wells and Barnett, and Bros. Thurley Beale and H. Parker.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Monmouthshire took place on Thursday, the 19th of July, at the Masonic Hall, Newport, under the banner of the Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Lodge, No. 1429, when Bro. Lieut.-Col. Lync, P.G.M., presided, supported by Bro. Capt. S. G. Homfray, P.A.G.D.C. of England, and D.P.G.M. Monmouth; W. Pickford, P.G.S.W.; H. Gratte, P.G.J.W.; Rev. J. Osman, P.G. Chap.; C. Rowe, P.G. Sec.; and many other distinguished brethren, including Bros. D. Watson, W.M. of Glamorgan Lodge, 36; J. Hopkins, W.M., and W. Davis, P.M. of Bute Lodge, 960.

The lodge being opened, the Prov. G. Treasurer's accounts were passed, showing a balance of £148 17s. 0d.

The following officers were then appointed:—

- G. A. Brown Prov. G.S.W.
- H. Griffiths Prov. G.J.W.
- Rev. J. Osman Prov. G. Chap.
- C. Rowe Prov. G. Sec.
- W. Pickford Prov. G. Treas.
- W. Parfitt Prov. G. Reg.
- J. Jiggford..... Prov. G.S. of Wks.
- M. Jones Prov. G.S.D.
- R. Spencer Prov. G.J.D.
- F. Orders Prov. G.D.C.
- S. Gorvin Prov. A.G.D.C.
- H. J. Groves Prov. G. Org.
- Jos. Gibbs Prov. G.S.B.
- W. Dovey Prov. G. Pars.
- L. Preece Prov. G. Tyler.
- H. Fletcher..... Prov. A.G. Tyler.
- Wills, Golding, Hermessen, and Martin Prov. G. Stwds.

V.W. Bro. Capt. S. G. Homfray, P.A.G.D.C., and D.P. G.M., having served the office of Steward for the Girls' and Benevolent Institutions, and having taken up over £500 and qualified himself as Vice-Patron, was then presented with the charity jewel by Col. Lync, P.G.M., on behalf of the province, who hoped that he would live for many years to wear it.

Bro. H. Griffiths, on behalf of the Kennard Lodge, proposed that something more substantial should be given to the D.P.G.M. for the valuable services rendered to the province.

Bro. Capt. S. G. Homfray thanked the brethren, and hoped that he might always maintain the same good opinion they had formed of him. When he undertook the office of D.P.G.M., about seven years ago, the province had scarcely any votes for either Institution, and now they had over 130 for the Benevolent, ninety for the Girls, and about seventy for the Boys, and he should never rest until this number was largely increased.

The P.G.M. then stated that it was his intention to act as Steward for the next Boys' School festival, and qualify himself as a Vice-President, he being already Vice-President for the other Institutions, and hoped that when the time arrived the brethren would send him up with a good list.

The business of the Prov. G. Lodge was then suspended and the brethren, to the number of over 150, formed procession, headed by the band from the Industrial Schools, Caerleon, and the Prov. G. Lodge, preceded by the Volunteer Rifle Corp Band, and marched to St. Woolos Church, where a most excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Osman, Prov. G. Chaplain, and a collection made. The procession was then re-formed, and the brethren returned to the Masonic Hall, when £10 10s. 0d. was announced to be the amount collected, which the brethren very generously voted towards the New Organ Fund for St. Woolos Church. A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. Canon Hawkins for the use of the church, and also to the choir for their valuable assistance.

The Prov. G. Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet at the King's Head Hotel, which was presided over by Bro. Lieut.-Col. Lync, P.G.M., supported by Bro. Capt. S. Geo. Homfray and several distinguished visitors, amongst whom were J. Challinder, Lodge 679, E.D. of South Wales; E. Hamer, Lodge 1072, W.D. of South Wales; and Rev. — Laton, of Glosster. The usual Masonic toasts were given, and some excellent harmony was given by the Newport Glee Society, and the P.G.M. thanked Bro. F. Orders, the W.M. of Albert Edward, Prince of Wales Lodge, for the excellent arrangements he had made throughout the day.

SHAKESPEARE AND FREEMASONRY.—A letter on this subject, from the able pen of G. Somers Bellamy, Esq., will appear next week.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF MIDDLESEX AND SURREY.

The annual meeting was held at the New Town Hall, Twickenham, on Friday, the 13th July, 1877.

The New Town Hall is a most handsome, elegant, and spacious building, and was kindly lent for the purpose by C. J. Freake, Esq., who, with great liberality, placed the building at the service of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and must have put himself to much trouble and expense in completing the building for that day.

Prior to the opening of the Provincial Grand Lodge the Francis Burdett Mark Lodge, No. 181, was opened, and the ceremony of advancement was duly rehearsed.

At three o'clock the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form. The officers present were the R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Col. Francis Burdett; the V.W. the Deputy Prov. G. Master, Bro. F. Davison; Bro. E. Simpson Bakie, P.G.M.O.; Col. W. Wigginton, P.G.S.O.; Chas. Pullman, P.G.J.G.; C. Hammerton, Treas.; W. G. Brighten, Sec.; J. M. Klenck, Registrar; E. B. Bight, Supt. of Wks.; J. B. Shackleton, D.C.; H. Court, Swd. Br.; W. Taylor, Std. Br.; R. P. Spice and R. Davies, Stewards; and amongst the numerous brethren present were Bro. Lieut.-General J. O. Brownrigg, P.G.W., and W.M. of the new Mark Lodge the Studholme, No. 197; Sir Chas. T. Bright, 7; Rev. Ambrose W. Hall, Chaplain 7; Rev. Thomas Cochrane, J.D. 7; E. Passawer, M.O. 5; A. W. Hume, J.W. 5; J. Kirke, S.O. 13; T. J. Pulley, J.W. 54; Prov. G.S.B. Hampshire; Alfred Clark, W.M. 7; Geo. Yaxley, W.M. 198; Raymond H. Thrupp, P.G.W.; and J. Tomlinson, W.M., with officers and brethren of the Francis Burdett Mark Lodge.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held at the Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street, in March last, having been read and confirmed, the roll of lodges was called over by the Prov. Grand Secretary, Bro. W. G. Brighten, whose report thereon was received with much satisfaction, the returns being now regularly made by each lodge (with one exception only), the number of members being further increased, and three new lodges having been consecrated in the province within the last year, viz., the Studholme, No. 197, the Croydon, No. 198, and the Duke of Connaught, No. 199.

Provincial Grand Lodge was then called off to Divine service at the parish church, where evening service was kindly conducted by the vicar, the Rev.—Limpus, and an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Ambrose W. Hall, who took for his text Ezekiel chap. xlv., 5th verse—“And the Lord said unto me, Son of man, mark well.”

On returning Provincial Grand Lodge was resumed, and the warrant of re-appointment of the Prov. G. Master was duly read, upon which the brethren saluted Bro. Col. Burdett in due form. The Provincial Grand M.M. then re-appointed Bro. F. Davison his Deputy Prov. G.M.M., and the brethren thereupon saluted Bro. Davison in due form, after which the Prov. Grand Mark Master appointed and invested his officers as follows:—

Sir Charles T. Bright	Prov. G.S.W.
J. T. Ritchie	Prov. G.J.W.
Rev. Ambrose W. Hall	Prov. G. Chap.
Rev. Thos Cochrane	Prov. G. Chap.
John Kirke	Prov. G.M.O.
J. Tomlinson	Prov. G.S.O.
Henry Court	Prov. G.J.O.
W. Taylor	Prov. G.S.D.
R. P. Spice	Prov. G.J.D.
R. P. Tebb	Prov. G. S. of W.
J. B. Shackleton	Prov. G.D.C.
George Harrison	Prov. G.A.D.C.
R. Davies	Prov. G. Swd. Br.
Chas. Legg	Prov. G. Std. Br.
Louis Beck	Prov. G. Org.
H. A. Pockock	Prov. G.I.G.
H. Wing Charrington, A. W. Hume, Bernard Meyer, Alfred Clarke, and J. T. Gibson	Prov. G. Stwds.
John Gilbert	Prov. G. Tyler.

The accounts of the Prov. G. Treasurer were then presented, received, and ordered to be printed.

Bro. Col. Wigginton, after speaking in terms of high praise of the sermon from Bro. Hall, now the P.G. Chaplain, proposed, and Bro. R. H. Thrupp seconded, that the sermon be printed, published, and circulated, which proposition was carried unanimously.

After the appointment of Auditors for the ensuing year, Prov. Grand Mark Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet in the large Hall, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

The foundation-stone of Lady Holles's Middle-Class School for Girls, in Hackney, was laid on Monday last by Bro. Alderman Knight, chairman of the board of governors.

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.

“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.”—*Hertsford Journal*.

“They come as a boon and a blessing to men,
The *Pickwick*, the *Owl*, and the *Waverley Pen*.”

6d. and 1s. per box, at all Stationers.

Specimen Box, containing full assortment of all the kinds, by post for 13 Stamps.

Patentees:—MACNIVEN AND CAMERON, 23—33, Blair-street, Edinburgh.

FREEMASONRY IN NEW ZEALAND.

Two lodges have quite recently been added to the roll of the Grand Lodge of England—Lodge “Remuera” was opened on the 11th of April, in Bro. Cunningham's Newmarket Hotel, Newmarket. This lodge was started to meet the requirements of many brethren resident in Newmarket, Remuera, Epsom, and adjoining suburban districts, who found considerable difficulty in attending their respective lodges in Auckland city at all seasons. Bro. M. S. Leers was the acting D.P.G.M., and presided with his accustomed ability. After the consecration ceremonies Bro. Leers installed Bro. Lodder, P.M. of 689, E.C., as W.M. The following is the roll of office bearers:—Bros. H. Reece George, S.W.; H. Haase, J.W.; W. Rattray, Sec.; W. J. T. Bell, F. M. Hewson, S.D.; C. T. Saxton, J.D.; J. Martin, I.G.

The banquet was a great success, toast and song alternating till past midnight.

Lodge Remuera has been inaugurated under very favourable auspices and ought to be a success, most of the leading Freemasons in and around Auckland being present at the opening.

Lodge “Rodney” was inaugurated on the 3rd of May. Bro. Leers again presided as D.P.G.M. This lodge is held in Waskworth, the township of the rapidly rising settlements of Mahurangi, some forty miles north of Auckland. The steamer “Annie Millbank” was specially chartered to convey the brethren from Auckland, and a goodly number availed themselves of the opportunity to assist at the opening ceremonies. On the lodge being opened the usual formalities and business matters were complied with, and after the installation of Bro. W. P. Moat as W.M., the officers were duly installed in their respective chairs. Inclement weather interfered with part of the arrangements, but the banquet and ball were held and were very much enjoyed by those in attendance, dancing being kept up till past three o'clock a.m.

NEW MASONIC HALL AT ONEHUNGA.

The members of Lodge Manukau, 586, S.C., have greatly distinguished themselves by the building of a most respectable Masonic Hall, and have outstripped the older and more numerous scions of the Order which are located in and about the City of Auckland. The Building Committee were appointed but a few months ago, and are to be congratulated upon the speedy and very successful issue of their enterprise. The gentlemen forming the committee are:—Bros. J. W. Waller, W. Dunwoodie, J. R. Hendry, P. Clarke, and T. G. Blakey. The building is situated upon a piece of ground fronting the main street, and within a few minutes' walk of the railway station. The hall has added considerably to the substantial appearance of Queen-street, which has of late years received the addition of several two-storied shops and dwelling-houses. The want of a well arranged public hall has long been felt in Onehunga, and the originators of this Masonic Hall Company had in view to supply the want. The enterprise will thus prove a public boon, and will no doubt be largely patronised by the inhabitants of this rising township. The hall is 72 feet by 36 feet, and is 24 feet high clear from floor to ceiling. On entering the hall from the front there are rooms on each side to be used as dressing rooms. The plan of lighting is similar to that of the Choral Hall, the windows being placed at the top of the walls. The style of finish inside is remarkably neat and striking. The walls are panelled, inside the panels being papered with green tinted paper having gold borders, and the proscenium is being finished to match. The stage is ample, and altogether the effect of the internal arrangement is most pleasing to the eye. Everything is done to suit the eye of the most fastidious, and the result will prove equally satisfactory to caterers for public amusement, as to the audience, who will not have to rest their eyes on rough beams nor rugged lengths of scantling, nor the overlapping edges of the weather boarding, sights which greet the eye in most of our newly built edifices. On the contrary, here, every inch is carefully lined or papered, or painted, regardless of trouble or expense, and with an artistic display of taste which bespeaks a well-cultured mind on the part of the architect, shewing that he is likewise aware of the pleasure afforded to an intelligent mind by being surrounded with objects of beauty, and well-contrasted shades of colour. The interior of this hall is perfect of its size and kind, and we learn that the committee are thoroughly satisfied with their building, which reflects great credit upon the architect, Mr. Bartley. The first mayor of Onehunga will sit majestically within the graceful arches of the proscenium as he presides over the first public meeting held in the new building, and his worship's manly bosom will inflate with honest but pardonable pride as he gazes on the interior of the Onehunga Masonic Hall.

The consecration had for some time past been looked forward to as an event of interest by the Masons of Auckland and their friends.

On the 15th May close on a hundred brethren assembled within its walls to assist at the dedication. Amongst others Bros. G. B. Pierce, Provincial Grand Master I.C.; Leers, D.P.G.M. of the E.C.; Bro. Wade, and other officers of the Royal Arch Chapter; Bro. Burns, &c., from the Mark Masters Lodge; Bro. Walker, R.W.M. of Lodge St. Andrew, and all his officers, except the J.W., who was laid up through an accident; Bro. Warren, W.M. Lodge Waitemata; Bro. Clayton, W.M. Lodge Prince of Wales; Bro. Redfern, W.M. Lodge United Service; Bro. Robinson, I.P.M. Lodge Ara, &c.

Apologies were given for the unavoidable absence of the W.M. of Lodge Remuera, and other brethren who were unable to be present.

Bros. Rees, Haywood, Gordon, Brock, P.M.'s, were also in attendance.

At half-past four Bro. Niccol, 330, the R.W.M., took his seat and opened the lodge with the following officers: Bros.

Walker, P.M.W.D.M.; Hardington, S.M.; W. Dunwoodie, S.W. As Bro. Hendry's duties as Director of Ceremonies prevented him from filling the Junior Warden's chair, Bro. J. H. Burns, P.M., very kindly and ably filled the vacant seat. Bros. Codlin, Treas.; J. W. Waller, Sec.; C. T. Saxton, Org.; Capt. Mason, Swd. Br.; Thos. Collings, Bible Bearer; Schofield, S.D.; Austin, J.D.; Clark, I.G.; and Robinson, Tyler.

The lodge being duly passed and raised, was called off for the purpose of attending Divine service, and the brethren marshalled by the D.C. in the usual order.

The procession marched to St. Peter's Church, when, opening right and left, the officers marched through the centre, and filing in, all entered the church. The evening service was read by Bro. the Rev. Dr. Purchas; the lessons by the incumbent, Rev. Mr. Tomlinson. The sermon was preached by the Chaplain of Lodge Union, 154, Mark, E.C. Bro. the Rev. C. M. Nelson. Miss Wayland presided at the harmonium, and the choir of the church rendered the musical portions of the service very efficiently. Bro. Nelson having offered an appropriate Masonic prayer, preached an eloquent sermon from the words, “Be kindly affectionate one to another, in honour preferring one another.”—Romans, xii. chap. 5th. verse. At the conclusion of the service a collection was taken up on behalf of the Onehunga Benevolent Society, the amount collected being £5.

The procession was re-formed, and marched back to the hall. The brethren having resumed their places, the lodge was called on, and the consecration ceremonies began.

The ode “Master Supreme, accept our praise,” being sung, Bro. Walker, W.D.M., expressed the desire of the brethren to have the hall consecrated. Bro. Waller, chairman of the directors, gave up his working tools, plans, &c., and the R.W.M. declared that he was satisfied that the building was suitable for Masonic purposes, and called on the Chaplain to invoke the Divine blessing.

This done, the lodge altar was uncovered, and a procession of the various officers was formed, and, after verses of the ode, “Genius of Masonry, descend,” the hall was successively dedicated to Freemasonry, Virtue, and Universal Benevolence, with the usual oblations of corn, wine, and oil, and accompanied with grand honours, music, and singing.

After another prayer by Bro. Nelson, Bro. Niccol, in an able and explicit manner, explained the nature of the consecration ceremonies.

During the whole of the services Bro. Saxton presided at the harmonium, and the brethren being supplied with copies of the odes, were enabled to join in the singing. This, with the intoning of the responses, added very much to the effectiveness of the whole ceremony.

The representatives of Lodges Ara, I.C.; St. Andrew, S.C.; Waitemata, E.C.; United Service, I.C.; Sir Walter Scott (Thames), S.C.; Prince of Wales, E.C.; St. John's, S.C.; Rodney and Remuera E.C.; and last but not least, Bro. P.M. Wade, for the Mark Masters, having offered their hearty good wishes and congratulations to Lodge Manukau, thanks were voted to the Rev. Mr. Tomlinson for the use of St. Peter's Church, and the Rev. G. Brown, M.A., of the Presbyterian Church, for the use of his communion plate, &c. The lodge was lowered and closed with the usual ceremonies.

A concert, in which the leading local and Auckland talent assisted, and a ball wound up the opening of the Masonic Hall, Onehunga.

Reviews.

“The Canadian Craftsman.”

We have received the number for June of this valuable publication, and regret to note that Bro. Mason retires from its editorship, after his continued and creditable labours. His, alas, is the usual complaint, albeit “stereotyped” now in Masonic literature that he has not been duly supported, or Masonically appreciated. We greatly regret to lose the important services to Masonic literature of so conscientious and intelligent a confrere. We trust that all “good fortune” will attend the efforts of his successor, Bro. Berry, and that the “Craftsman” may yet succeed in gaining the hearty support of an increasing circle of readers. We are amused at the reappearance of a “petit sujet” in its pages—a little “bantling” of our own. The “History of the Unfedged Bantam” is not a little striking. One of the Staff of the *Morning Post* kindly sent it to us from, the *Correspondence Scandinave*. We printed it in French, the *Monde Maconique* reprinted it from us and it has been retranslated from the *Monde Maconique*, has appeared in journals, Masonic and profane. But such is the way of the world. We wish the *Craftsman* success.

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. (Advt.)

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Ever useful.—The afflicted by illness should look their diseases fully in the face and at once seek a remedy for them. A short search will convince the most sceptical that these noble medicaments have afforded ease, comfort, and oftentimes complete recovery, to the most tortured sufferers. The Ointment will cure all descriptions of sores, wounds, bad legs, sprains, eruptions, erysipelas, rheumatism, gout, and skin affections. The Pills never fail in correcting and strengthening the stomach, and in restoring a deranged liver to a wholesome condition, in rousing torpid kidneys to increase their secretion and in re-establishing the natural healthy activity of the bowels. Holloway's are the remedies for complaints of all classes of society.—ADVT.

JULY 28, 1877.

GRAND LODGE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

We have received the following official circular relating to the late fire at St. John's.

Office of Grand Secretary,
Saint John, 7th July, 1877.

Right Worshipful and dear Brother,—
The telegraph wires and the public newspapers have announced to the world the terrible calamity which befel the City of Saint John on the 20th day of June ultimo, by which the largest and most valuable portion of our city was reduced to ashes, and the majority of the inhabitants rendered homeless—very few of them saving even a portion of their personal or household effects.

Among the victims was a large portion of the Masonic Fraternity.

In order to aid and shelter our suffering brethren, a General Masonic Board of Relief has been organized, composed of the city members of the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge, and the presiding officers of the Masonic bodies of all grades.

Thus composed, the Board extends its helping hand to the sufferers of all degrees of Masonry, and ensures a regular and systematic mode of dispensing the funds placed at its disposal.

The officers of the Board are—M. W. Robt. T. Clink, Grand Master, Chairman; V. W. James McNichol, Jun., Grand Treasurer, Treasurer; V. W. William F. Bunting, Grand Secretary, Secretary. M.W. Bro. Clink is authorized to receive all contributions it may please our sympathizing brethren to remit.

I remain, dear Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,
Wm. F. BUNTING, Grand Secretary.

The seals of Grand Lodge were destroyed by the fire
Address of Grand Master—Robt T. Clink, St. John, N.B.
" Grand Secretary—Wm. F. Bunting, St. John.

VISIT OF THE PUPILS OF THE GIRLS SCHOOL TO WIMBLEDON.

On Friday last such of the pupils of this Institution as are remaining there during the holidays received an invitation to visit the camp of the Victoria Rifles at Wimbledon Common. On their arrival they were courteously met, and after being conducted round the entire camp, were most hospitably entertained at tea, the tables groaning beneath the weight of fruit and other edibles provided by Bro. H. Smith, Prov. G. Sec. West Yorkshire, Vice-Patron of the Institution; Capt. Tomkins, of the Victoria Rifles, and of the Victoria Lodge, 822; Quarter-Master Serjeant Block, of the same corps and lodge; Serjeant-Major Abbott, of the same corps, and Sec. of 822; Lieut. Halkett, of the Victoria Rifles, and by other members of the corps, rivalling them in their endeavours to make the pupils' visit a feature, and a pleasing reminiscence.

The competition for the "Loyd Lindsay prize" was a source of inexpressible delight; the children, under the charge of Miss Shepherd and Miss Triggs, of the Institution, Miss Castle, an ex-girl and visitor, accompanied by Bros. Edward Cox, P.M. 657, Prov. G.S.W. Norths. and Hunts., and Mrs. Cox, viewing the contest from the grand stand, erected as a vantage ground for the accommodation of the magnates of the camp and their friends when viewing the athletic sports appointed to take place on the last day of the meeting. After making a tour of the camp and camping ground, and inspecting the prizes won by the various competitors, the pupils took leave of their generous entertainers with a hearty expression of thanks, and grateful recognition of the kindness exhibited towards them.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The General Committee of the Subscribers to this Institution met on Thursday afternoon in the Board Room, Freemasons' Hall. Bro. J. A. Rucker presided.

There were also present Bros. Col. Creaton, A. H. Tattershall, Joshua Nunn, Benjamin Head, H. Browne, H. Massey (Freemason), John Boyd, W. F. C. Moutrie, J. W. Faulkner, Peter de L. Long, Thomas Massa, W. Paas, R. W. Little (Secretary), and R. W. Hedges.

After the reading and confirmation of the minutes, Bro. Hedges read a letter from Grand Secretary, stating that, looking to the increase of the Craft, the Premises Committee could not find further space for the office accommodation of the three Masonic Institutions.

The Chairman said it was quite impossible that the work of the Secretaries of the Charitable Institutions could be carried on in the confined space afforded by the present offices. Three rooms at least were required for each Institution; one room for the Secretary; another for the clerks, and another as a waiting room.

Bros. Nunn and Tattershall were then appointed to confer with the brethren already nominated by the committees of the other Institutions, and to co-operate with them on the subject.

Col. Creaton then brought forward the subject of the testimonial proposed to be presented to Mrs. Monckton, in recognition of her services to this Institution. He said that at the Boy's School Quarterly Committee it would be resolved that some recognition of Mrs. Monckton's services should be made, and he (Col. Creaton) undertook to bring the matter before the General Committee of the Girls' School. He did not require to be asked to do so, because he had intended to do it of his own free will. He would therefore move "That in the opinion of this Committee it is desirable that a testimonial in recognition of the services of Mrs. J. B. Monckton should be presented from this Institution."

Bro. Joshua Nunn having seconded the motion it was carried unanimously.

Col. Creaton then moved, that it be referred to a sub-committee of three brethren, with power to communicate with any sub-committee that may be appointed by the Boys' School, to consider as to the nature of such testimonial and to report thereon through the General Committee to a Quarterly Court.

Bro. Head said he had seen Mrs. Monckton and had ascertained that a portrait of her would be most acceptable to the family.

Bros. Rucker and Nunn were appointed as a Committee on the subject, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

NEW MASONIC HALL IN NORWICH.

On Tuesday an influential meeting of the Freemasons of Norfolk and Norwich was held at the office of Bro. H. J. Barwell, the Prov. Grand Secretary, under the presidency of the Grand Master, Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Suffield. He was supported by several other Pro Grand Officers, Colonel Duff, M.P., Sir Francis Boileau, Colonel LeStrange, Colonel Bignold, Major Penrice, Bros. Ray, G.M. Perseverance, J. H. Browne, Kennett, J. W. Lacey, Orams, Big Ben, and many others of position and influence, as well in the Masonic as in the outside world. It was duly resolved that the Masons form themselves into a Limited Liability Company with a large subscribed capital (to be forthwith paid up) in shares £1 each, so that the poorest brother can be a shareholder. The following brethren were appointed a committee to undertake the articles of association and carry out the undertaking at once, namely, Lord Suffield, K.C.B., Col. Duff, M.P., Colonel C. E. Bignold, Colonel LeStrange, Major Penrice, O. D. Ray, and J. H. Browne (architect), with Bro. H. G. Barwell, of course, as secretary. As the hall is to be built according to the designs of Mr. J. H. Browne (who has so justly obtained a high reputation for his designs as architect to the School Board) we can congratulate Norwich on soon being the possessor of a noble hall, which will be a boon to all Freemasons' hopes, and a great gain to the city for concerts, parties, and balls—especially as the company has resolved to purchase the property known as "Kett's-yard" in St. Giles's-street, as the site for the new institution. There is a rumour, however, of another site—in the Haymarket.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following notices of motions have been received for the next Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons:—

1. By Comp. John Mason, H., No. 73:—

In order to harmonise the regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter with the laws of Grand Lodge, and to accord with a recent decision of the Grand Registrar in reference to the powers of Grand Superintendents of Districts or Provinces.—That paragraph 37, page 12 of the R.A. Regulations, commencing at the words "they are also empowered" be expunged, and the following regulation substituted.

"The Grand Superintendents may summon any chapter or companion within their district to attend them within the limits of such district, and to produce the charter, books, papers and accounts of the chapter, or the certificate of the companion."

"If the summons be not complied with, nor a sufficient reason given for non-compliance, a peremptory summons shall be issued; and in case of contumacy, the chapter or companion may be suspended, and the proceeding notified to the Supreme Grand Chapter. The decision of the Grand Superintendents shall be final unless an appeal shall be made therefrom to the Supreme Grand Chapter, but no appeal shall be entertained unless transmitted to the Grand Scribe E. within three calendar months from the date of the decision appealed against."

"The Grand Superintendents are also empowered to visit the several subordinate chapters in the province or district, to see that the laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter are observed."

2.—By E. Companion Lieut.-Col. John Creaton, P. Sword Bearer, President of the General Committee—

"That the sum of one hundred guineas be granted from the funds of the Grand Chapter towards the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John, New Brunswick."

General Grant was received on Wednesday morning by the President of the Swiss Confederation.

The Hon. Mrs. Wilbraham and Hon. Miss Wilbraham have left town to join Lady Skelmersdale and Hon. Rose Wilbraham at Kissingen.

A dramatic fete on a grand scale will be given at Lillie Bridge Grounds on Friday and Saturday, including a polo match by the officers of the Coldstream Guards, in aid of the funds of the Royal Dramatic College.

The insignia and jewels for the Provincial Grand Lodge North Island of New Zealand (Scottish Constitution) are now on view at the Masonic Show-rooms, Little Britain.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire met on Friday in the National School Rooms, Wood-street, Barnet. A report of the proceedings will appear in our next.

A full report of the proceedings at the Consecration of the Rothesay Lodge, No. 1687, will be given in our next.

By command of the R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. W. W. R. Beach, M.P., a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will be held at Winchester, on Tuesday week, the 7th proximo.

Masonic and General Tidings.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—
At the final meeting of the Board of Stewards which was held on Tuesday the 17th inst, the result of the kind efforts of 225 Stewards for the festival of the Boys' School was declared to be £13,535 12s. 6d., and not £13,325 12s. 6d., as given in our last.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to give a subscription of £50 towards the expenses of the Social Science Congress to be held in Aberdeen in September next.—Globe.

According to the latest information received from Homburg at the Admiralty, Bro. Ward Hunt is making favourable progress.

Mayfair is glad to be assured that the Thames Steam Ferry, of which we have not lately heard much, has been steadily approaching completion. It is so far advanced that it will, I hear, be opened for traffic in a few weeks. It is proposed that for a week the ferry shall be thrown open gratuitously to the public, who will thus have an opportunity of testing its convenience. The sooner it is opened the happier will be the fate of those who have to cross London Bridge at those hours of the day when 'busses, cabs, and carts most do congregate.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND.—
The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland and the Duchess of Marlborough, accompanied by Lord and Lady Randolph Churchill and suite, left Dublin on Monday morning on a semi-official tour round Ireland.

A petition for the winding up of the Daily Express Newspaper Company (Limited), will be heard this day (Saturday).

The Post office authorities have given notice that on and after the 1st October next, letters addressed to any of the branch offices with "initials or fictitious names," will not be taken in, but forwarded forthwith to the returned letter department.

ABERCORN LODGE. (No. 1549).—The second season of this prosperous summer lodge was completed on Wednesday week, at which meeting a large gathering of brethren were present, and witnessed the installation of the highly popular Brother, Osman Vincent, as W.M. for the ensuing year. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next.

The Installation meeting of the St. John and St. Pauls Lodge, No. 615, took place on Friday. A special report will appear in our next.

The Prince of Wales has, it is stated, accepted an invitation to visit the Marquis of Bute at Mount Stuart House, Rothesay. It is said his Royal Highness has given a definite promise to the Marquis, but no date is yet fixed for the visit, which will probably be about May or June next.

The consecration of the Rev. Canon Hill, Bishop Designate of Sodor and Man, will take place on the 24th of August at York Minster.

On Wednesday evening Bro. the Rt. Hon. the Marquis of Hartington R.W.P.G.M. Devonshire, was entertained at a banquet given by the Fishmonger's Company, of which he was made a member.

THE FIRE BRIGADE.—Captain Shaw presided at a meeting held this week at the chief station of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, when a gold watch and chain and a purse of 100 sovereigns were presented to Superintendent Bridges on his retirement from the brigade, after nearly forty years service.

Bro. Binckes announced at the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex on Wednesday, that up to the present time £36,000 had been received during the current year by the three Masonic Institutions.

Our distinguished Bro. Lieut.-Col. John Creaton, President of the General Committee of Grand Chapter, has given notice of the following motion which he intends to bring forward on Wednesday next. That a sum of 100 guineas be granted from the funds of Grand Chapter towards the relief of the sufferers by the fire at St. John, New Brunswick.

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

NOTICE.

THE HOLIDAYS.—Brethren leaving town for the holidays can have the *Freemason* forwarded to new addresses on communicating with the Publisher.

Non-Subscribers can have copies forwarded for two or more weeks on receipt of postage stamps at the rate of 2½d per copy.

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.

HENDRY, J. R.—The Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Scotland are undergoing revision. A copy will be sent you when published.

MURRAY, G., (Cape of Good Hope).—The books were despatched at the same time as the invoice.

D.G., (Panama).—Has an M.M. who wishes to take the Royal Arch to pass (or take) more than that Degree?—[He must have been 12 months a Master Master.]

The following stand over:—Masonic Hall at Bournemouth; Shakespeare and Freemasonry (G. Somers Bellamy) in our next.

Reports of lodges Peace, 327; Belgrave, 749; Skiddaw, 1002; Lebanon, 1326; Abercorn, 1549; Southfield, 1623; Liverpool Red Cross Conclave.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

ANDERSON.—On the 20th inst., at St. James's-square, Bath, the wife of F. W. Anderson, of a daughter.

DUNDAS.—On the 21st inst., at Edinburgh, the wife of G. S. Dundas, Esq., of a daughter.

MITCHELL.—On the 20th inst., at Broomfield Villa, Enfield, the wife of H. Mitchell, of a son.

DEATHS.

KENYON.—On the 20th inst., aged 60, Sarah, relict of the late T. Kenyon, of Dogley Villa, Huddersfield.

LYNE.—On the 22nd inst., at Broadstairs, Louisa Genevieve, wife of Francis Lyne, and mother of Father Ignatius, after a long and painful illness borne with Christian patience, deeply beloved by her bereaved husband, large family, and many friends.

WOLLASTON.—On the 22nd inst., at Glen Hill, Walmer, Caroline, widow of the Rev. F. H. Wollaston, in her 73rd year.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1877.

OUR GREAT METROPOLITAN CHARITIES.

By a somewhat remarkable coincidence the last *Freemason* contains reports of all our three great Institutions, and we are glad to be able to congratulate the brethren on their unexampled prosperity. Never at any time in their history were their position so healthy—their prospects so good, their need so evident, and their usefulness so marked as to-day. If any doubts had ever existed in the minds of some of us as to their necessity or their blessing to our Order, the events of the last few years must have dispelled them for ever, and we think that all will admit that Freemasonry has in them the truest exposition of its tenets, and the most practical commentary on its professions. Time was, when some Freemasons looked rather coldly on these, our great institutions, but prepossessions and prejudices yield mostly here to the onward course of events, to practical realities and prevailing needs; and the undeniable usefulness, value, and necessity of our great charities have long been heartily acknowledged and fraternally realized by us all alike. The only objection which ever has been made, and which requires some consideration, is this, that they tend to make Freemasonry in England "a great benefit society," and that they even offer a premium to a condition of "Masonic pauperism." But, on careful consideration, we do not find that such assumptions can be brought to a logical conclusion. It is true that, at present, the actual benefits of Freemasonry in England are very great, and are becoming greater day by day, but, so far, there is no evidence that we have forgotten the great and essential difference as between Freemasonry and any other benefit order. Neither can it be said, we think, fairly that the charitable efforts of Freemasonry tend to create a condition of "Masonic pauperism," because, if such an argument be sound, all eleemosynary institutions must be placed in the same category. We hold, on the contrary, that reasonable and well conducted charitable institutions are the best antidotes against pauperism, inasmuch as they serve to diminish the always pauperizing tendency of extended parochial relief. But leaving these questions for the time, let us devote ourselves to a short view of the actual position and work of our three great Metropolitan Charities. The first fact connected with them, which strikes us necessarily, and which is one calculated not only to offer a subject of proud congratulation, to us as Freemasons, but materially to impress the world outside Freemasonry, is, namely, that in 1877 we shall have collected close on £36,000 for our three charities. As regards the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, it is in a state of wonderful financial prosperity, and much practical utility. Never, at any time, were its benefits so marked or so widely extended, and we express the aspirations of all our brethren when we say that we hope its future may be even still more brilliant, alike in its abounding value and blessedness to many poor brethren and sisters of ours. We are somewhat sorry, we confess, as we said before, that the governing body did not see its way, amid its unexampled prosperity, to make 1877 an exceptional year, and place all the candidates on its books. Such an act of large-hearted liberality on the part of the Institution would undoubtedly have greatly pleased the subscribers and the Order, and the Committee would have been "recouped," we feel sure, for its fraternal munificence by the returns of 1878. Too much praise cannot be accorded for the admirable manner in which its affairs are carried on, to the proper authorities, and above all to Bro. Terry. As regards the Girls' School, it has before it, in future, as in present and past, a very great career of usefulness and success. It perhaps is an institution "suigeneris," without an equal in the country, either in respect of the education it imparts and the tone it gives to its pupils, and we always feel what a debt of gratitude we owe to those who so carefully and economically manage its prosperous revenues. Thanks

to the wise plans of our worthy Bro. Colonel Creaton, the Girls' School is now receiving considerable enlargement, and ere long 200 orphan daughters of Freemasons will receive there an admirable and befitting education. We trust that all of good will attend the school in its onward progress, and that our excellent Bro. R. W. Little will regain that activity of health and strength, which will enable him to continue to work for Freemasonry, and for the school, with that zeal and kindness which have rendered him so useful and so respected a member of the Craft. The Boys' School is equally going on manfully "to the fore." It can boast in 1877 of having the largest income ever raised for a Masonic Institution. £13,500, and there can be little doubt that it is now doing a good work. The Boys' School has been somewhat unlucky in previous scholastic arrangements, but under Dr. Morris, it seems to be acquiring a character for steady "all round" work, which we venture to hope will long cling to it. We feel strongly that the festival of 1877 is the best reply to hasty allegations and unwise contentions, and we cordially wish all success to the labours of the governing body and the active efforts of Bro. Binckes. To suppose that the school can continue at its present number is, we apprehend, out of the question, whether that fact be for good or evil. If owing to its happy return for 1877 the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys is enabled by a slight addition to fill up the School to 200 we fear we cannot hold out any hope that such enlargement will last for long, and we are convinced that we must calmly make up our minds to the increase of the School to 300, and the eventual erection of a preparatory school for 100 or 200 boys, as near Wood Green as can be. If our brethren will bear in mind, that our Craft is rapidly increasing, and that many lodges are admitting members, in our opinion far too promiscuously, so to say, each year, as it passes over our heads, will produce new orphans, and new claimants on the Boys' School. We have now before us sixty-three applicants, and nine vacancies in October, what will be the state of the case in April 1878? What, moreover, humanly speaking, must be the proportion, as between received and disappointed candidates then? It is always better to look difficulties fairly in the face, and we feel that we are exercising a wise discretion in thus stating fully, our clear if humble opinion to the subscribers of the School and our munificent order at large.

THE NEW MASONIC HALL AT SHEFFIELD.

A report elsewhere, which will be read with much interest, and for which we thank an ever friendly correspondent, testifies effectively to the zeal and energy of our good brethren in Sheffield. We think that they deserve great "Kudos" for their most successful undertaking, which is not only a credit to the town and to Yorkshire, and to Masonic Archaeology, but will, we trust, be a great boon as well as an honour to Freemasonry in general.

THE SURREY MASONIC HALL.

We call attention to an able letter in another column which deals effectively with this very serious, and, to say the truth, distressing question. We do not now go into the well-known or latent facts of the case, which will be duly considered, no doubt, at the meeting on the 30th, but we think it right to express our earnest hope that an attempt will be made by the Order to come to the rescue of the Directors. It would seem to be a great reproach to Metropolitan Freemasonry if such a bonâ fide venture should fail for want of Masonic support, and if so important a property, so needful an adjunct to our Masonic lodge life in London should be allowed to pass into non-Masonic hands. We have been declaiming for years about the importance and value of Masonic buildings, of Masonic centres, of existence, work and usefulness, and is the only result of all we have thus loudly proclaimed, but the giving of the cold shoulder to the efforts of the zealous, and the sacrifices of the enthusiastic? We do not believe this, and, therefore, in

the interests of metropolitan Freemasonry, and of Freemasonry generally, we trust that a goodly attendance on the 30th will manifest the zeal of the Craft, and enable the directors to carry on the Surrey Masonic Hall, not only as a valuable Masonic adjunct to this great metropolis, but as a successful business undertaking.

FREEMASONRY IN DISPERSION.

At the time we write our metropolitan lodges are in a state of somnolence and separation. The lodge room is deserted, and even the good old Tyler is gone off by a cheap excursion train. Our brethren are scattering, and are even scattered in all directions, getting away from the dog days and the hot and crowded streets of London to country homes and sea breezes. Bro. Higginson, who is the best of mortals and Masons, has, of course, a very charming wife, and an interesting collection of "olive branches round about his table." Mrs. Higginson—sister Mary Jane, as some young members of the lodge call the agreeable life companion of their worthy P.M.,—has, of course, in cabinet council, as Secretary of State for the Home Department, expressed her opinion to Bro. Higginson that the "children want change of air." "For herself," she adds, "she is happy anywhere with him. But Edward Thomas has come back thin from school, Emily has not quite recovered from her weakness in the whooping cough, Robert is looking pale, and Fanny is a little feverish, while the twins are somewhat fractious, and baby is teething, and so she thinks that a change is needful for the family Higginson." Bro. Higginson, amiable fellow as he is, always obeys his wife, for, as he says in the "Megatherium Lodge," amid a quiet conversation and a consoling cigar, "she is, sir, a first-rate woman, and a capital wife, for she talks for two, and does everything for everybody, and she is so economical and so very particular; and then her intellect is very remarkable, and she is so genuine and affectionate," &c., &c. Now we do not blame Bro. Higginson for being proud of his wife, and even talking about her, when just now the morality of young married men, and that we should say it, of old married men, is much "beneath par," but we mention a familiar occurrence of domestic history to account for the rural peregrination of so many of our most distinguished brethren. For the Higginsons are only types of many Masonic husbands and many Masonic wives; and well it is, we think, that it should be so. We, who stay in London, and keep to work, can sincerely wish them all happiness in their "outing." For it is a good thing, in our opinion, this domestic life of Englishmen and Englishwomen which takes them away with their children to enjoy the green fields of the country or the glad ozone of the sea shore. No doubt we can see the same sight across the Channel at Trouville, and Deauville, and countless other well-known spots, but it appears to us as if English domestic life was a closer and more intimate life, most good for all, than in any other country. When then to-day our lodges are closed, and our good brethren are dispersed, wandering here and there, or settled down cosily somewhere for the time on attractive sands, or on breezy hills, with their "Lares and Penates," and what Jones of "ours," irreverent dog, terms their impedimenta, "nurses, children, bandboxes, and perambulators ad libitum," we trust that they are enjoying their "exodus" from the little village, and that when next we meet our brethren in our well-known lodge, we may find them "all to the fore," fresh and genial and hearty as ever.

If life, as it leaves us weary and often lamenting at the bottom of the "everlasting hills," seems to pass from us, with few glad memories, and fewer enduring associations, let us trust and believe, that the true-hearted sympathies of personal attachment and honest-hearted friendship, of genial companionship, and of family affection, are destined yet, when they leave the changing and failing attributes of mortality, to become themselves intensified, fragrant and deathless in the "beatific mansions" of another and a better scene.

Prince Albert Victor continues to progress favourably.

MASONIC UNCHARITABLENESS.

We are often struck—perhaps our readers are too—with the great uncharitableness displayed by us Freemasons, in our words as regards others, in the pages of the *Freemason*. In a recent correspondence one of the writers actually prides himself on the fact that neither he nor Bro. Binckes will forget that they are brethren and Freemasons, or are likely to degenerate into the too common uncharitableness of Freemasons. Surely this is not as it should be, and is a great reflection on our words and acts, our professions and our practice. It would almost seem as if the uncharitableness of humanity were so ingrained in us all alike, that the moment either our "amour propre" or our interests are excited, we open the floodgates of passion and personality. Let us all try and amend our ways in this respect, and let us no longer remain open to the "profane" charge that our precepts and practice are in utter contradiction. And it is not only in public that such remarks seasonably apply, for in private, in domestic life, how uncharitable and censorious we are, utterly inconsiderate of the good name and untarnished reputation of some whom we call our "brethren in Masonry." But if we once get on this topic we shall never stop, so we hasten to return from our little digression. After all, of how little value is controversy, "per se," except in eliciting the truth, and even at the best how worthless, as Lord Macaulay has sung, is the "Victor's prize." We think that the following "morceau" of true philosophy about hating people is so true that we transfer it bodily to our pages, and conclude our "Sermonette" with it to day.—"Hate not. It is not worth while. Your life is not long enough to make it pay to cherish ill will or hard thoughts towards any one. What if that man has cheated you, or that woman played you false? What if this friend has forsaken you in your time of need, or that one having won your utmost confidence, your warmest love, has concluded that she prefers to consider and treat you as a stranger? Let it all pass. What difference will it make to you in after years, when you go hence to the 'undiscovered country?' All who treat you wrong now will be more sorry for it than than you, even in your deepest disappointment and grief, can be. A few more smiles, a few more tears, some pleasure, much pain, a little longer hurrying and worrying in the world, some hasty greetings and abrupt farewells, and life will be over and the injurer and the injured will be laid away and ere long forgotten. Is it worth while to hate each other?" Let us learn, all of us, then, to be confiding and charitable, lenient and forgiving, hating slander, and putting our foot on detraction.

OPENING OF THE NEW MASONIC HALL AT SHEFFIELD.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst., the new Masonic Hall, erected in Surrey-street, Sheffield, was formally opened. The leading Provincial members of the Masonic fraternity were present, the chair being occupied by the R. W. Bro. Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., D.L., Prov. G. Master of West Yorkshire.

The new hall fronts to Eyre-street and Surrey-street (standing on the site of the old hall) it is built entirely of dressed stone, partly of that of the old building. It is in the classical style of architecture, of a neat and substantial character, the decorations being quiet, yet including the conventional "square and compasses," &c.; the tout ensemble, though suggestive of durability, is pleasing. The new building contains a lodge-room and a banqueting room, and there is a spacious cellar. The banqueting room, which is on the ground floor, is 51 feet long by 26 feet wide by 15 feet high, it is lighted by double windows of plate glass, the inner ones being ornamented with Masonic emblems embossed thereon. A serving window gives direct communication with the kitchens, which are extensive and fitted up with all modern requirements. The furniture of the banqueting room can be readily lowered into the cellar, which extends the full size of the building.

The lodge room, which is over the banqueting room, is 51 feet long by 26 feet wide by 24 feet

high, having an arched roof springing from a cornice running round the room, ornamented with moulded ribs and panels, and carved bosses. The walls are relieved with columns, which have foliated capitals springing from ornamented car-bels, from which the ribs in the roof form one continuous line. The whole of the fittings are of polished pine, slightly stained and varnished, which produce a very pleasing effect. The east end is occupied by a dais of three steps, along the north and south sides runs a raised platform, so that a double row of chairs can be placed, enabling the brethren occupying the back seats to see and hear with comfort. At the west end is an organ, built expressly by the firm of Messrs. Brindley and Foster, of Sheffield, the following is the specification:—

GREAT ORGAN, compass CC to G 3. 1. Open diapason, metal, 8 feet, 56 pipes; 2. Lieblich Gedact, wood and metal, 8 feet, 56 pipes; 3. Dulciana, zinc metal grooved into No. 2 in bass, 8 feet; 4. Flauto Traverso, wood and metal, 4 feet, 56 pipes.

SWELL ORGAN. 5. Violin diapason, zinc metal, H bass to CC, 8 feet, 56 pipes; 6. Salecet metal 4 feet, 56 pipes; 7. Oboe, metal, 8 feet, 56 pipes.

PEDAL CCC to E, Couplers. 8. Bourdon wood, 16 feet, 29 pipes, two composition pedals; 9. Swell to Great; 10. Swell to Pedal; 11. Great to Pedal.

The appearance of the lodge room when illuminated is brilliant, and when the promised decorations have been completed there is little doubt about its being one of the most beautiful Masonic temples in the provinces. We are glad to hear that the main part of the work of an ornate nature has been reserved for the interior. Both rooms are lighted by very chaste gaseliers, and are warmed by hot water on the most improved principles; the ventilation is on Tobin's system. In addition to these two large rooms there are, on the ground floor, a club room, commodious kitchens, lavatory, &c.; on the first floor, one small lodge room and a convenient cloak room; a wide passage with a broad flight of stairs leads to the lodge room; on the second floor are several rooms, affording accommodation for a resident Tyler. The acoustic properties of all the rooms, we are happy to say, are perfect. The entrance to the hall is made through the adjoining premises, which we have already described; the arrangements are such that, at any future time, these can be pulled down and more spacious premises erected in the same style as the new hall; when this is done there will be not only spacious offices, &c., necessary for the lodges, but plenty of accommodation for a club. The whole of the properties are freehold, and are owned by the Sheffield Masonic Hall Company, Limited, the shares of which are held solely by the lodges or brethren—virtually, therefore, they are their own tenants—a move in the right direction (though it is only fair to say that it is many years since a Sheffield lodge met in a public-house), and we trust the day is not far distant when every brother will realise the fallacy of the poet's lines, where he goes on to say that he "May sigh to think he still has found

His warmest welcome at an inn."

Tempora mutantur; to day every lodge may, and should, meet under its own roof, or, at least, in a room set apart for the purpose, yet in no way connected with a public-house. Practice ever being preferred to precept we feel bound to point to Sheffield as an example we would urge upon others to follow. To the true Craftsman there is nothing, in our way of thinking, so undignified as the association of a lodge with a public-house—if our Constitutions were more studied the very significant article No. 4, page 62, would cause many a brother to think, and—*verbum sat sapienti*.

At a quarter-past one o'clock the ceremony of formally opening the hall was commenced.

Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., said: Brethren, in addressing this brilliant assembly of the members of the Craft in West Yorkshire the first part of my agreeable duty to-day is to acknowledge in the most cordial manner your hearty reception of your Provincial Grand Master. I am again reminded of the welcome this Provincial Lodge met with in October, A.L., 5875, from the Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239. To that admir-

able and select lodge I expressed my obligations and those of this Provincial Grand Lodge for the use of a building accorded to that gathering of Freemasons, but which was not a Masonic edifice. I ventured to remark that I trusted that the lodges in Sheffield might at no distant time be able to hold their meetings, as well as their invitations to Provincial Grand Lodge, in commodious premises of their own, dedicated solely to Freemasonry, and befitting the status and increasing influence of the Craft in this busy town of mechanical industry. Allow me, as the next part of my duty, to thank the Britannia Lodge, No. 139, the second oldest in the province under whose banner we labour to-day, for their invitation to inaugurate the completion of an important work, and for the excellent preparations the brethren here have made for the reception of this Provincial Grand Lodge. Our meeting to-day is the completion of the hope expressed in the Wentworth Lodge in 1875, the construction of a Masonic Hall well worthy of the Craft in Sheffield, and we congratulate the united lodges on their energy, their wealth, and their skill, which, in two years, have produced this magnificent temple, fraught as I believe such a work must be in advantages and benefits identified with the future of this district. It would border on ingratitude and negation if I did not embrace this opportunity of personally offering my tribute of praise that the aspirations of 1875 have become practical realities in 1877. The auspicious occasion which has brought us together in these new walls would be incomplete without some brief mention of the circumstances which have led to their reconstruction, and the history of Freemasonry in Sheffield, the statistics for which have been kindly supplied me by my worthy Deputy, and other members of the Craft in Sheffield. Sheffield has a Masonic history of which the members of the three lodges may feel proud. The history is not of yesterday. It extends over a series of past years; and this history is associated with Masonic events and transactions, both of imperial significance. The brethren of Hallamshire have for many generations, by the magnitude of important mechanical industries, earned enduring honour by building up England's greatness. Your mighty appliances for heavy works have elicited the admiration of foreign critics, and your machinery and adaptable architecture have equally gratified the visitor, whatever may have been his tastes, feelings, or proclivities. The Masonic bodies in Sheffield consist, I may say for the information of the Craft in general, of three Craft lodges, Nos. 139, 296, and 1239, numbering about 300 brethren, including 25 Past Masters. There are besides two Royal Arch Chapters and a Rose Croix Chapter, a Mark Mason's Lodge, a Preceptory of Knights Templar, a Conclave of Knights of Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, and a Sanctuary of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist, together with a Priory of Knights of Malta. There are two remarkable coincidences of similarity in connection with the meeting places of the two oldest lodges in West Yorkshire, one which in July, 1738, met at the Crown and Rose, Halifax; and "The Britannia," under whose banner we meet to-day, which on 19th April, 1765, was first unfurled at the Rose and Crown, Sheffield; and it was called "The Rose and Crown," but changed its name to "Britannia" on 8th April, 1795. With the exception of the first two years the minutes of this lodge are perfect. In 1861 it established itself in a hall devoted exclusively to Freemasonry, and upon the old foundations the present magnificent edifice has been rebuilt for the Masonic Hall of the united lodges. The Royal Brunswick Lodge was constituted in due form 28th July, 1793. The ceremony of dedication concluded with a liberal subscription to the Poor Girls' Charity School. On the 4th October, 1798, the Britannia Lodge and the other brethren from all the lodges dedicated and opened in solemn form, in the presence of Lords Fitzwilliam and Galway and a distinguished company, the General Infirmary here, a lasting monument of benevolent usefulness. In identification with this noble institution I must mention the name of Bro. Dr. Bartolomé. In the minute book of Britannia Lodge 17th Feb., 1775, is the consi-

deration of a proposal for the establishment of a lodge at Rotherham. On the 10th March the Rotherham petitioners were informed that, "as they have irregularly dared to make a Mason without formal powers, they are unworthy the countenance of Britannia Lodge." I am proud to inform the province that in 1808 a lodge was opened, and in 1860 or 1861 Bro. Bentley Shaw re-consecrated at Rotherham the Phoenix Lodge, No. 904, which is now not the least prosperous or the least loyal amongst the 63 lodges of this province, and I hope on some future occasion for an opportunity to pay my personal respects to its excellent W.M., Bro. Fawcett, and the brethren. In 1797 Mr. Scott proposed to build a lodge room suitable for the Britannia Lodge. In June, 1799, Bro. Chadwick preached a sermon before the brethren in St. Peter's Church for this purpose, and it was resolved that every brother absent except being sick should incur a pecuniary penalty. In 1798 the brethren marked their loyalty and patriotism in support of the Government of the day against a foreign country by a subscription which amounted to a considerable sum. In 1838 the united lodges assembled at the Spread Eagle, and in 1839 Dr. Bartolomé was installed Worshipful Master; and it must be gratifying to the Sheffield brethren to see this old and esteemed Past Master present in Provincial Grand Lodge on this auspicious occasion. In 1841 a handsome testimonial was presented to Bro. Bartolomé who was again re-elected Worshipful Master. In this year of Britannia 33 members were present. In the last month of this year the consecration of the lodge took place at the Music Hall. Thus after moving about as it were from pillar to post, the members of the Craft in Sheffield at last found a permanent habitation; and until 1861 the most perfect harmony prevailed amongst the brethren. In this year the Freemasons purchased the Old Savings Bank premises in Surrey-street, the site of the present Masonic Hall, and adapted it to the present purposes of the Craft in Sheffield, raising the money in shares of £5 each. This property was vested in trustees for the benefit of the Craft, and a trust deed was drawn up setting out clearly the object for which the purchase was made, and that the building should ultimately become the property of the Britannia Lodge. These shares were not all taken up until 1867. From this time, in accordance with the trust deed, Britannia began to purchase, and to gradually absorb the shares of the various brethren. The three lodges in Sheffield, after experiencing much inconvenience for many years from the inadequate accommodation afforded by the existing buildings, formed the idea of a limited company and erecting the present hall, which it is hoped will meet the requirements of the Craft in Sheffield for several generations. After much grave consideration it was finally resolved to pull down the old building (the property purchased from Sherwin standing for a time) and to build on the old ground a New Masonic Hall. Bros. Scargill and Clark were intrusted with the plans, and the work was commenced in 1876. I must express my satisfaction to all parties concerned on the success of the work and its adaptability for the purposes of Freemasonry, and that this hall is a memorial of your skill and ability in Sheffield, and this Masonic Hall Company, Limited, was registered on the 24th November, 1874. It is divided into 2000 shares of £5 each, having a nominal capital of £10,000. Of these shares only 1000 have been issued for allotment and, with the exception of a very few, have been generously taken up. As each of the lodges whose warrants ornament its walls have shown at some period of their history the value of the principles of Freemasonry in the exercise of charity and benevolence, so, I understand, it is the intention of the Craft, to mark with significance their completion of this stately and superb edifice to co-operate in the work of restoration of the ancient parish church of St. Peter, now called Trinity. I must be allowed to mention the munificent contribution of £10,000 by a lady who has proved herself on several occasions a faithful friend to the Freemasons of Sheffield, and neither must I forget that other lady who supplements this work of restoration by a gift of £3000. I believe the Craft here will restore

their portion of this fabric as well as the Freemasons of Durham their part of the cathedral of St. Cuthbert. My Deputy hoped to have the honour of initiating the late vicar of this church into Freemasonry, recently translated to the Bishopric of Sodor and Man; a noble imitator of the virtues of a previous vicar, the Reverend Jas. Wilkinson, who for half a century, by his unaffected piety, inflexible integrity, and unwearied zeal in the public service, obtained and deserved the endearing appellation of the father of the town of Sheffield. Time would fail me were I to enumerate the handsome contributions in detail, extending over a series of years, to the London charities, or how such brethren as Britain, Arnison, and Tindall are supported by the brethren of the three lodges in this noble cause of charity, suffice it to say this year alone the contributions of the three lodges amount to nearly three hundred guineas. I must, however, record one act of magnanimity on the part of the Sheffield lodges. At the Charity Committee meeting in March, Mary Ellen White, a daughter of one of the noblest of Sheffield Masons, was a candidate for the Girls' School. Because it was the last chance of Ada Hartley Healey, 264, you generously gave way to allow this girl to be the nominee of our Charity Committee. It afforded me the highest satisfaction to learn that at the election on the 14th April, through the exertions of the Charity Committee, both these West Yorkshire girls were elected. The members of the various lodges I believe vie with each other in their efforts to do good. The remarks of my Deputy to the Wentworth Lodge are still singularly applicable to this occasion. The spirit of Freemasonry here is the spirit of sublimity, of a depth, grandeur, and lovable beauty equal to all the mind of Plato ever conceived. And I doubt not the inauguration of this new hall will consolidate into perpetuity this harmony amongst the brethren he then so poetically expressed in 1875. In conclusion I congratulate the Craft on the re-building of this noble hall, and in the language of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, at York, in 1841, "I exhort you, brethren, never collectively or individually to suffer a breach of the constitutions of the Craft. And when assembled in lodge to leave all religious prejudices and political feelings outside the portal of the sacred temple, to strictly uphold the honour and dignity of the Craft by ever vindicating the laws and regulations, which being made in hours of cool reflection, after long and serious deliberation, provide a remedy for the correction of every abuse, and to defend at all times its rights and privileges by a close adherence to the established usages and customs of the Order." Thus may the principles of Freemasonry be supported as heretofore by old Masons and young Masons, and the Craft prosper in this hall, where order, peace, and harmony shall reign until every stone now built one upon another, through time, crumble into dust.

Bro. T. W. Tew, J.P., the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, also addressed the assembly, pointing out the duties of the general lodges in reference to the general working of their business, and amongst other matters dwelling upon the objects of Freemasonry, as tending to the social and moral elevation of its members, but without either interfering with business or politics. He deprecated any undue influence by Masonic brethren in any matters not pertaining strictly to the interests of the Craft, so as in any way to prejudice their opportunities of doing good in legitimate and proper channels. He congratulated the Sheffield brethren on the position they had attained, and on the possession of a suitable building in which the business of the Craft could be carried on with comfort to themselves and in a manner befitting the honourable society to which they belonged.

After the usual business of Provincial Grand Lodge had been transacted the brethren adjourned to the Cutlers' Hall, where a banquet was held, under the presidency of Sir Henry Edwards. Amongst those who took part in the proceedings were the Rev. Dr. Cox, of London; Rev. A. A. Bagshawe, Rev. Bro. Greenbury, Rev. E. B. Chalmers, Alderman Gill (Mayor of Wakefield), Dr. Bartolomé, H. Harrison, J.P.,

W. Jervis, W.M. 139; J. Ridal, W.M. 296; S. B. Ellis, W.M. 1239; B. Saville, W.M. 904; W. Jeurwine, W.M. 681; W. T. Beanland, W.M. 1462; most of the P.M.'s of the Sheffield lodges, and many other distinguished brethren.

Original Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for, or even as approving of the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.—Ed.]

THE SURREY MASONIC HALL.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

On the walls of the metropolis, and in the advertising columns of our newspapers, may at this moment be read the following announcement, viz: "To be sold by Auction, by order of the Mortgagees, the well-built and very important public building known as the 'Surrey Masonic Hall.'"

Can this be read by any of the numerous members of our Craft in the South Metropolitan district without a twinge of conscience for non-assistance to a body of men who have done their best in the interests of Freemasonry, and have worked heartily and thoroughly against adverse circumstances to carry out an undertaking which it is admitted on all sides was not only a need, but of the greatest importance in promoting the "morale" of the Order by disassociating the practice of its ritual from the influence of tavern accommodation? I cannot now stay to compute the number of brethren within the district, but feel assured that it is sufficiently large to warrant the assertion that a contribution averaging amongst them the value of our smallest golden coin would have sufficed to prevent so deplorable a circumstance as the offer to public competition of the handsome building the promoters have erected.

In the report of the ceremony of laying the foundation or, as it was termed, the memorial stone, in May, 1874, I find the statement that for so long a period as ten years previously strenuous endeavours had been made to secure such a building. The first association formed for that purpose under the style of "The Masonic Hall Company" was registered under the Joint Stock Companies Acts, 1856-7 by twenty four brethren, the capital being stated at £3000, in shares of £1 each, and I well remember that its early expectations were bright, although at that time the number of South Metropolitan Freemasons bore no adequate proportion to the present number and the anticipations of the later Company. The enthusiasm it evoked however soon died out, and subsequent attempts proved also fruitless. Not daunted, although probably disheartened, several of the "twenty-four" still kept the project afloat, and waited the better opportunity, which came at last, and in 1872 the two remaining of the original promoters obtained the adhesion of other brethren and with their assistance the present Company was formed. The Capital was fixed at £3000 only, in 600 shares of £5 each, and it was, I think, not unreasonably assumed that from amongst the many members of the Order surrounding the locality chosen for the Hall so small a share list would be speedily filled. The Directors laboured assiduously to interest both lodges and individual brethren, and their project met with universal approval and promises of support in all directions; but the failure of former attempts had great influence in causing that support to be withheld until assurance in the shape of "bricks and mortar" was given. Then there would be no hesitation! Then shares should be taken and cheerful assistance given! So, by the munificent aid afforded by two or three of the directors, the site was selected, a portion of the building was erected, and the memorial stone laid by the Prov. Grand Master on the 29th May, 1874, with great éclat, and still further approval and promises. And then began a time of trial for the directors, having committed themselves to the building of the hall they must needs go on, and the usual result of monetary complications ensued. Differences of opinion arose among the directors as to this, that, and the other plan of carrying out the project to completion in the face of difficulties occasioned by the non-fulfilment of the promises, so apparently earnestly made. Again the liberality of individual members of the board, the architect, and the builder himself, prevented the "Surrey Masonic Hall" remaining a carcass to this day, and at last the "substantially built public building of handsome elevation" was completed.

But where were all the promised shareholders; where the assurances of support? It was never intended or announced that the company should be a purely commercial speculation, or pay its shareholders more than a merely nominal dividend. It was built more than principally for the uses of Freemasonry, and the income from such use was to have covered cost and annual expenditure. It will be a standing disgrace to the fraternity if the hall ever becomes anything but a Masonic Hall. "It is there!" is the consolatory reflection of many who have lost time and money in the endeavour to raise it, and now it should be for others to keep it devoted to its original purpose. It has been a hard task for those who have connected themselves with this and former attempts, and they have seen their associations gradually dissolved by death, removal, and other circumstances, until now the directory of the Company does not contain the name of any one of the originators of the building. And it is in my personal knowledge that those who now form the "Company" have been equally unselfish in respect of both time and money as were their predecessors. Surely the "Craft," or that portion most nearly interested in the maintenance of such useful premises, should now take their part in the work and save the building for its original

purposes. How that can be done at this critical moment I must confess myself unable to suggest; but, nevertheless, something should be attempted, if possible, to prevent so great a scandal to our Order as would be evidenced by an inability to keep what it has cost so much to obtain. In another week, aye, even after a few days, it may be too late to do anything. In a great dilemma even little hopes give much encouragement, and a suggestion which at another time might appear ridiculous may be now worth some consideration. I venture to make one, and although perhaps no good may come of it, who knows what it might lead to? This will be read I hope by many on Saturday, the 28th inst. The auction is fixed for Tuesday the 31st. On Monday, the 30th, at six in the evening, let all those who think some sort of consultation might not be altogether unproductive, meet at the Hall itself, and see the outcome. It is a very impromptu summons, but Freemasons will be there to meet Freemasons, and them only. It is but right that the general body should know how very unselfishly individuals have acted in the general interest, and although I have no present connection with them, I can "a tale unfold" so creditable to the directors of the Company that in common fairness it should be heard. And if they can be supported and the building saved to the purpose for which it was dedicated there are many Craftsmen who will rejoice equally with

Yours very truly and fraternally,

P.M., P.Z.

Clapham, July 23rd, 1877.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I am a Freemason of the old school, of that period when Masonry was a bond of friendship, when brothers acted by rule, and our lodges were focuses for the exchange of fraternal love.

To what are we to attribute the decadence of this bond of union? I say that Masonry is not what it was. Do you require proof? Then go to the Surrey Masonic Hall, that beautiful structure of which all South London, whether Masons or otherwise, ought to feel proud.

It is now plastered over with large bills announcing that the mortgagee has foreclosed, and the Hall is to be sold by auction.

Is not this sufficient to make a Mason blush? What are the shareholders about that they thus allow their property to be sacrificed, their honour tarnished, and an esteemed brother ruined for having placed too much confidence in the brethren.

Let a meeting at once be called of the shareholders, and the conduct of the Directors and their Secretary be severely censured; let a new board be formed, to which not one of the present managers should be elected, and with a new secretary the builders' claim could soon be paid with honour, and the Hall continue to be a success.

Yours fraternally,

AN EX-DIRECTOR.

MASONIC LOTTERIES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have read with great interest the correspondence in the Freemason relative to "Masonic Charities."

Whilst approving the laudable effort of Bro. Constable, I must admit that I think the system recently adopted by our lodge, if more generally known and practised, would tend more to increase the sympathy of the Craft, and encourage the brethren in systematic benevolence, than the strictly "Masonic Lottery," to which exception is being taken, besides perhaps, satisfying the "conscience clause" of those who object—seeing that all subscribers are expected, eventually, to pay for what they receive.

I enclose a copy of our rules and regulations, for publication herewith—if you deem them of sufficient importance—which you will observe, provide for brethren becoming Life Governors or Life Subscribers to any, or all of the Masonic Charities, either at once, or by small contributions, according as circumstances or inclination may permit.

I am pleased that the movement is so far successful with us, as to allow of first ballot being taken at our next Lodge meeting on the 31st inst.

Yours fraternally,

"448."

Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Benevolent

Fund in connection with Saint James's Lodge, No. 448.

1. The object of this fund shall be primarily—to increase the number of life-subscribers and life-governors of the Masonic Charities, and the moneys shall at all times be kept separate and distinct from the regular lodge funds, and be solely and strictly confined to purposes of Masonic benevolence, either of a local character, or in connection with the general charities of the Order.

2. The fund shall consist of subscriptions of one shilling and upwards per month, payable in advance, annually, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly, at the option of each brother contributing.

3. The management of the fund shall be in the hands of a committee of six subscribing brethren, to be elected annually, by the contributing members, at the same regular lodge meeting as the Worshipful Master of the ensuing year. The first committee shall be appointed forthwith, on those rules being approved by the brethren in open lodge. The committee shall present an annual report to the members, shewing the state of the fund, and number of life-subscribers or life-governorships obtained, and such annual report shall be sent to the brethren, along with the regular balance sheet of the lodge.

4. When and so often as the sum in the Treasurer's hands shall amount to five pounds five shillings, over and above working expenses, a ballot shall be taken for a life-subscribership at the ensuing meeting, of which

due notice shall be given in the regular lodge summons. The successful subscriber shall have the privilege of selecting the particular Charity to which the donation is to be made, and the Treasurer of the fund, or the lodge member of the Provincial Charity Committee, shall forthwith forward the same, in such brother's name, to the Secretary or Treasurer of the Charity selected.

5. Whenever and so often as any brother shall have paid to the fund the sum of five pounds five shillings without drawing successfully, he shall be entitled to a nomination as life-subscriber or life-governor, as the case may be, when the fund reaches the requisite amount; and if several brethren shall become entitled to a nomination at one and the same time, the priority of their respective claims shall be decided by ballot.

6. Any brother ceasing to contribute to the fund, shall thenceforth have no control over the money he has already subscribed, but the same shall be at the disposal of the committee.

7. If any brother should become entitled by ballot to a life-subscribership, or life-governorship, and cease to subscribe to the fund previous to his having paid in contributions the requisite amount of five pounds five shillings, or ten pounds ten shillings, as the case may be, he shall be solicited to pay up the balance at once; and in the event of the money not being obtainable from him, the matter shall be dealt with by the committee, as the nature of the case may require.

8. Should any matter or question arise for which these rules do not provide, the same shall be decided by a majority of the contributors present at any regular lodge meeting.

9. The members are empowered to frame any new rule which they may deem needful for the well-being of the fund; but no new rule shall become effective, nor an old rule abrogated, until such proposed new rule, or such abrogation of any existing rule, shall have been submitted to the consideration and decision of the subscribers at two several lodge meetings, and at every such meeting the matter proposed shall have been severally determined upon and sanctioned by the majority of the contributors present thereat.

The foregoing rules were approved and adopted by the brethren in open lodge, this 29th day of May, 1877.

C. T. RHODES, W.M., Treasurer, pro. tem., who will be glad to receive the names and contributions of all brethren who may feel disposed to confirm and redeem the promises made by them at their initiation.

CHARITY ORGANISATION REFORM.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I do not seek to re-open this question in its entirety, but simply to call attention to one point connected with it. I think Bro. Simpson has expressed a hope, in accordance with the Editor and other correspondents, that more attention shall be paid by the committees of the Institution to the original cases. As I was one of the few present on Thursday last, I can bear testimony to the anxiety and carefulness exhibited by all in dealing with the petitions for admission. If the same scrutiny be exercised by the General Committee, I, for one, cannot see the need or possibility of any reform in that respect. I do not agree with the result of the Quarterly Court deliberations, in one case especially, but I yet feel bound to express my admiration of their evident desire to do justice to all concerned. One fact, I think, became patent to all, that more power must be given to the Quarterly Court to deal with all the cases of petition for admission, as an ultimate court of appeal, as the apparent want of any such power has resulted in placing on the Institutions list a case, (I say it in all kindness to the poor orphan boy), which ought never to have got on the list, and may lead to many and grave abuses, if it be not at once dealt with, and rectified. Even on Thursday, when two cases were withdrawn, they were withdrawn apparently by resolution of the General Committee, though announced to the Quarterly Court, and in future, I for one, think that the Quarterly Court should have power to reject or affirm any recommendation of the General Committee. I should not have troubled you with this, but as I always like to give "justice where justice is due," I think it right to defend the General Committee and the Quarterly Court of the Boys' School from the popular allegation and the hasty assertion that they do not consider the cases carefully. The truth is, as one correspondent has well said, the greatest abuses are committed, not by the committees or officials, but by those good brethren, who in defiance of the laws of the school carry cases on to the list which ought, neither legally or morally, to be there at all.

I am, yours fraternally,

A LIFE GOVERNOR OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

GIRLS' SCHOOL ELECTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Sometimes you kindly allow a brother to draw attention in your columns to an exceptionally deserving case; such a favour I ask at your hands, in order that I may point out that of Mona Beatrice Hennet.

Her father was well-to-do, but through no fault of his own sank into poverty; this and illness, (repeated rupture of bloodvessels on the lungs) have prevented his supporting his six children; the mother (from a fearful affliction) has been able to do nothing; and I therefore ask the subscribers who may remain unpledged to render a real service to this distressed family.

The case is strongly recommended by the following brethren:—Bros. R. C. Else, D.P.G.M. Somerset, Redgate, Bridgwater, L.G.; E. Turner Payne, P.G.D. England, P.G. Treas. Somerset, Bath, V.P.; Dr. Samuel Bryant, P.G.S.W. Somerset, Brislington; J. L. Stothert, P.P.G.S.W.

Somerset, Newton St. Loe, near Bristol, V.P.; F. H. Woodforde, M.D., P.P.G.S.W. Somerset, Taunton; T. P. Ashley, P.P.J.G.W. Somerset, Bath; F. R. Prideaux, P. G. Sec. Somerset, Bridgwater; T. E. S. Jelley, P.P.G.S.D. Somerset, Bruton, L.G.; Mrs. Jelley, Bruton, V.P.; John Budge, P.P.J.G.D. Somerset, Crewkerne; R. Herniman, P.P.S.G.W. Somerset, Taunton, L.G.; Capt. A. T. Perkins, P.P.G.J.W. Somerset, Wells; B. Atwell, P.P.G.S. Wks. Somerset, Wincanton; E. Appleby, P.P.G.P. Somerset, Bath; W. G. Bloxham, P.P.G.S.B. Glastonbury; C. L. F. Edwards, P.G.J.D. Somerset, Wrington, V.P.; Paris Saunders, P.P.G.A.D.C. Somerset, Shepton Mallett; J. C. Hunt, P.M. 135, Bridgwater; H. W. Batten, W.M. 291, Bridgwater; John Baily, W.M. 973, Frome; Robert Baker, P.M. 1197, Ilminster; E. B. B. George, Lodge 1222, Weston-Super-Mare; also by the Charity Organisation Committee of Somerset, which organisation has selected this case as its next effort on which to concentrate the whole voicing power of the Province of Somerset; and by Bros. Col. Charles Lyne, Prov. G.M., Vice-Pres., Newport, Mon.; Benjamin Head, P.G.S.D., 12, Earl's Terrace, Kensington, W.; Henry J. Gardiner, P.M., and P.G.S. No. 4; R. Smith, P.M. 291, P.G.S.W. Somerset; J. Beavan Phillips, P. Prov. G.W. Bank, Llanelly, Carmarthen; the Rev. William Tebbs, M.A., P.M. 285; J. 285 (R.A.); P.S. 540 (R.A.) P.P.G.C. Somerset, &c., Ashwick Lodge Caterham Valley, Surrey; Broome Pinniger, M.R.C.S., Ryde, Isle of Wight.

By the above list you will see that the case is recommended by many other brethren than
Yours faithfully and fraternally,

WILLIAM TEBBS.
P.P.G.C. Somerset.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I am sincerely gratified by being enabled to announce that at the final meeting of the Board of Stewards on the 17th inst. that the result of the kind efforts of 225 Stewards for the festival of the Boys' School was declared to be £13,535 12s. 6d., with two lists not received.

Faithfully and fraternally yours,

FREDK. BINCKES, Secretary.

[By an unaccountable error, this letter did not appear in our last week's impression.—ED.]

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I see by your paper that there are 63 candidates announced to fill nine vacancies in this school. It is said some of them ought never to be in the list.

As a subscriber, I intend to vote for those I consider most worthy; more especially those dear orphans that have lost both parents, leaving no means for their support. I have no doubt that others will follow my example. By this means those that are deserving will be elected, and those not deserving will be rejected.

Yours fraternally,

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE SCHOOL.

MASONIC CANVASSING.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I should like to have the opinion of some of your correspondents on the following points.

A, a Freemason, is a candidate for a public appointment. Shortly before the election Z., a P.M., issues a circular, signed him as such, to the Freemasons of his town, requesting their votes in favour of A. The circular is marked private and confidential.

Is or is not the issuing of such a circular contrary to the principles of the Craft?

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

Scio.

[Most entirely so.—ED.]

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

May I ask you kindly to insert the enclosed letter, which appeared in the *Windsor and Eton Express* of July 7, and allow me (in justice to myself) to state that my attention has only just been drawn to the fact that a somewhat similar report occurred in your paper of June 30, otherwise I should have contradicted it sooner.

To the Editor of the *Windsor and Eton Express*.

Sir,—I see in your issue of to-day that in the report of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Berks and Bucks at Wycombe, on Monday last, I am credited with having contributed 100 guineas to each of the Masonic Institutions. I shall feel obliged by your correcting this in next week's paper, as it was not me, but Bro. John Palmer, who was referred to.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

W. S. CANTRELL, JUN.

Thames-street, Windsor, June 30, 1877.

THE SHAKESPERIAN CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

As I see that you are having another "shine" about Shakespeare, I think it well to send you the following extract from an American contemporary, which, I think, is very "apropos."

"A Shakesperian student affirms that
Double, double,
Toil and trouble,

has no reference to matrimony. Persons about to embark will feel easier."

I am, yours fraternally,

Spot.

ROLL OF LODGES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

As I am now trying to get together certain statistics of Freemasonry throughout the Globe, I should be obliged if the Prov. Grand Secretaries of England Ireland and the colonies would kindly publish in your columns the number of the brethren on the rolls of their respective Provinces. I should be obliged also if the Grand Secretaries of Foreign Grand Orient lodges on the Continent, and throughout the world, if they would in the same manner supply me with the correct number of Masons on the Rolls of their respective Grand Lodge, Orients &c.

Yours fraternally,

GEO. R. HARRIOTT.

Prov. G. M. Wigton and Kirkcudbright.

THIRD CLASS BY ALL TRAINS.

(PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO MR. ALLPORT.)

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Freemasons, as a rule, are always amongst the foremost in recognising true merit and philanthropic motives; knowing this to be the case, I trust you will allow a brother to bring the following proposition before the Craft.

I venture to assert that the public generally are more indebted to the general manager of the Midland Railway Company than to any man living for introducing this system, although he had arrayed against him the powerful opposition of most of the great railway companies.

Out of gratitude for conferring this great boon on all our poorer brethren—who can now travel express for third class fares, taking with them their wives and families to the sea-side, I think some kind of acknowledgment should be devised, whereby the directors of the Midland Company may know that this great good, bestowed on us all, commercial men and excursionists alike, mainly through the perseverance of their general manager, is fully appreciated both by Masons and the general public.

I trust the subject is worthy the attention of the Editor of the *Freemason*, and that brethren will support the proposition.

Yours fraternally,

ATHOLL.

[We entirely agree.—ED.]

"IF A BODY."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Remembering the good old song, I wish to ask my brethren, through the medium of your excellent paper, which is read aloud in our family circle, whether the following questions, which appear in an Israelitish contemporary, do not require an appropriate answer in the columns of the *Freemason*.

If a body see a body 'propriate his hat, should a body kick a body just for doing that?

If a body catch a body stealing his "old rye," should a body kick a body till a body cry?

If a body spy a body creeping round his lot, shouldn't a body give it to a body 'ot?

If a body catch a body carrying off his wood, should a body whale a body if a body could?

I am, yours fraternally,

EUPHEMIA DOOLITTLE.

PORTRAIT

OF THE

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

OF

**N. & E. YORKSHIRE,
J. P. BELL, Esq., M.D., J.P.**

"THE CRITERION," August 15th, will contain a Photograph Portrait and Auto-biographical notice of **Dr. BELL, the D.P.G.M. for N. & E. Yorks.**

Published by request of many Hull Brethren.

Publishing Office: HULL.

Price Threepence. Post free on receipt of Four stamps.

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.

BRO. ADLARD'S JEWEL ATTACHER,
7s. 6d.

If with Pockets, 6d. each Pocket extra.
225, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

5000 BOXES IN FINE CONDITION (for Cash).
BEST HAVANA CIGARS at IMPORT PRICES.—Fine old Foreign Principles 15s. per lb. superior to most cigars at two guineas—sample five for 1s. (14 stamps). FOREIGN TRAVUCOS (rough but good), 12s. per lb. (100), sample seven for 1s.—BENSON, Importer, 80, St. Paul's Churchyard, London. Depot open from Eleven to Five.

MUDON,

**GOLDSMITH, JEWELLER, DIAMOND
MERCHANT WATCHMAKER, &C.**

MASONIC JEWELLERY.

88, GLOUCESTER ROAD, SOUTH KENSINGTON
(Three Doors from District Railway).

CHARING CROSS. STATION

TOILET CLUB.



(Continental Booking Office Entrance.)

A Great Convenience and Saving of Time to the Brethren, desirous of dressing promptly, previous to going to Lodge, Ball, Dinner, &c. Private Dressing Rooms, charge 6d., with every attendance and appliance for the Toilet. Evening dress taken care of for the day or season in perfumed boxes (locked) no charge. Baths, Hosiery, Perfumery, Hairdressing, Dress Suits, Boots, Opera Hats, Masonic Clothing, Jewels, Swords, &c. Fuller particulars per post (3d. stamp). N.B.—Ladies' Department attached.

RICHARD KEMP,

DEALER IN SPARS, POLES, PUTLOGS,
BOARDS, DEALS, BATTENS, & TIMBER,

3, ELGAR STREET (Late York Street),
Near Commercial Dock Pier,
ROTHERHITHE, S.E.

"TRUTH MUST PREVAIL."—Common Sense.
Lamps, Baths, Cutlery, Brushes, Fenders and Fire Irons, Electro-plate and Nickel-Silver Goods.

R. D. PARR,

General House Furnishing Ironmonger,

42, BLACKMAN STREET, BOROUGH,
OFFERS nothing extraordinary, but REALLY
Good Articles at fair and reasonable prices. He does not keep an "Immense Stock," but sufficiently large for any person to select from. He does not sell "cheaper than every other house in the Trade," but quite as cheap as any.
A visit will, at all times, be very much appreciated.

SHEBEENISM.

Doings of a notorious Glasgow Shebeener, how he made his drinks with numerous drink receipts, 6d.; post free, 7 stamps. H. and J. BROWN, 350, Mathieson-street, Glasgow.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY

(Limited), 7, Bank Buildings, Lothbury, E.C.
General Accidents. Personal Injuries.
Railway Accidents. Deaths by Accident.
C. HARDING, Manager.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.—First-class Dentistry only, embracing all the most recent improvements at a very trifling cost beyond that paid for inferior, which often proves utterly useless. A great reduction made to servants attending after two. Nitrous oxide gas administered daily. Consultations free.

Mr. PARTRIDGE, Surgical and Mechanical Dentist,
4, Sussex-terrace, near South Kensington Station.



FREEMAN'S CHLORODYNE, the

Original and Only true.—Hundreds of medical practitioners testify to its marvellous efficacy in the cure of Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, Neuralgia, Fevers, Cholera, Dysentery, Spasms, and all Nerve Pains. Lord Chancellor Selborne, Lord Justice James, and Lord Justice Mellish, decided in favour of FREEMAN'S ORIGINAL CHLORODYNE, and against Brown and Davenport, compelling them to pay all costs in the suits. See *Times* of July 24, 1873. Bottles 1s. 1 1/2d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 11s., and 20s. Sold by all chemists.

The following testimonials are taken from many others.
From Jno. Yarnier, M.D., K.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., L.M., Physician to Farringdon Dispensary, London.

"It gives me great pleasure to bear testimony in favour of Free man's Chlorodyne. I have prescribed it extensively, and in cases of Asthma, Chronic Bronchitis, the last stage of Phthisis, and the Winter Cough of the aged, I have never found any substitute or chemical combination its equal; moreover, in all cases where a Sedative is required, it is a certain, safe and agreeable remedy."
From T. D. Swallow, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng., L.S.A., Surgeon to the Royal South London Dispensary, and Medical Officer to the London City Mission.

"I have great pleasure in stating that I am constantly prescribing Freeman's Chlorodyne in Consumption and Asthma, and as a Sedative in Cancer, and in cases of Diarrhoea and Dysentery, I am daily witnessing its striking effects."

None genuine with ut the words, "Freeman's Original Chlorodyne," engraved on the Government Stamp.
Numerous testimonials from the most eminent medical men accompany each bottle.

REEVES, SON, AND CO.,

STEAM PRINTERS,

ENGRAVERS, LITHOGRAPHERS, STATIONERS, AND ACCOUNT BOOK MANUFACTURERS,

PLAYHOUSE YARD, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON.

Designs and Sketches for Show Cards, and every description of Ornamental Printing submitted.

TO MASONIC BROTHERN.

£10 REWARD.

FRANK PORTER'S CELEBRATED POR- POISE SKIN BOOTS.—The above reward will be given to anyone wearing out a pair of these boots in six months, every day wear. The softest, easiest, and most durable boot ever worn. Prices 17s. 6d. to 25s., to measure or otherwise. Note the address, 40, LUDGATE HILL. An old boot sent from any part of the kingdom will ensure a fit.