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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

LODGE OF UNITED STRENGTH (No 228).

—The regular meeting of this old lodge was held on the 13th inst., at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street. The W.M., Bro. James Hill, presided, supported by Bros. R. Griggs, I.P.M.; P.M. Davies, acting Secretary; P.M. Hillhouse, and P.M. John While (*Freemason*). The S.W., Bro. Snare, was, unfortunately, by a domestic affliction, prevented from attending, but the efficiency of his brother officers saved the lodge from inconvenience, Bro. Halford occupying the S.W. chair; Bro. Pearcey the J.W.; Bro. Hickman (another very good officer), acting as S.D.; Bro. Flaws, occupying his own post of J.D.; and Bro. Patmore being I.G., a post to which he has been advanced through the retirement from office of Bro. Todd, who had the moral courage to resign a position which the calls upon his time rendered it not possible for him to discharge to his own satisfaction. Bro. Harty, W.M. of the Eclectic, the Organist of the lodge, made the old instrument do excellent service, but it must have been hard work, and required the exercise of more than ordinary skill to discharge the duty of this office on an instrument which has a broken bellows and several wheezy stops. The Masonic duties of the lodge included the passing of two brethren, Bros. Henrich and Swain, and then Bro. Pearcey worked the lectures of the degree. The lodge closed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, the visitors being Bros. Crew and Randall, of the Chiltern Lodge, No. 1470; Bros. Rawson and McNiven, of The Great City Lodge; Bro. Truth, of the Metropolitan Lodge; and Bro. W. Cook, of the Domestic Lodge. In the course of the evening "The Visitors" were cordially toasted, and they, in reply, acknowledged that the fame of the old lodge for hospitality was fully earned. The W.M., in acknowledging the toast of his health, seemed to express the regret that he had not had overmuch work in the course of the year now passing away, but Bro. Griggs, in reply to the toast of "The Past Masters," taking occasion to advert to this expressed regret, said that the lodge could afford to rest, for its numbers had been increasing by very great strides, and the Past Masters did not feel any regret, for the lodge preferred quality to quantity. P.M. While, who was also called upon to speak, said he should not illustrate the position of the operative Masons on strike by refusing to respond to the toast. After speaking of the pride with which the Past Masters watched the excellent working of the officers in lodge work, for the encouragement of the younger members he pointed to the fact that two young members held that night the two highest positions after the W.M., as a proof that the Constitutions of the Craft always held a foremost place in the governing of this lodge. He trusted that the lodge would always maintain the principle laid down in the Book of Constitutions, "merit, and not seniority, shall be the ground upon which all preferment shall be based." Speaking of the presence of country members in the lodge, there being what is termed a "Bedfordshire contingent," in members from the bank of the Ouzé, he said that the remarks made against country members joining London lodges did not apply to the active country members of the United Strength. These country members had all been well and worthily recommended, and most of the proposals were well-known to many brethren in the lodge. The country members had town business, and they combined pleasure with business by transacting their civil duties on the days when the lodge met, when they could meet in friendship with those with whom they were not daily associated. There was a pleasant change in this, and it had its advantage in that the brethren in their London lodge were untrammelled by local circumstances. The officers were then toasted and replied in their turn, and Bro. Patmore, referring to the remarks of Bro. While, said that the Bedfordshire brethren had made the name of the United Strength so popular in that county that another Order had adopted the name for a Provincial Grand Lodge, and "United Strength" kindness and brotherly regard had been spread far beyond Masonry, through the example set in this old lodge, whose unity was more than a name, and the Craft itself only one of the bonds which bound its members together.

PANMURE LODGE (No. 720).—This lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 19th inst., at the

Balham Hotel, Balham. It was well attended both by members and visitors. Amongst those present were Bros. Thomas Poore, P.M. (who, in the absence of the W.M., opened the lodge); C. P. McKay, S.W.; R. W. Sheadd, J.W.; James Stevens, P.M.; C. Pulman, P.M.; H. Payne, P.M.; W. Smith, S.D.; W. McMurray, J.D.; W. Mitchell, I.G.; M. Spiegel, D.C.; G. Lambert, W.S.; W. Steedman, P.M., Tyler; also Bros. Lilley, Richardson, Ash, Saunders, Pascall, Whittaker, Mulley, Huntley, Anthony, Gunner, Green, Burton, Kerr, Treves, &c., and visitors Bros. John Syer, 1017; S. Clarke, 1586; E. Bye and H. Stokes, 141. The lodge having been duly opened by Bro. Poore, as W.M., and minutes confirmed, Bro. Anthony was proved and subsequently passed to the degree of F.C. Mr. Adolphe Van de Water, and Mr. Chas. Glesister were balloted for, approved, and duly initiated into the Order. A notice of motion having reference to the question of "refreshment after labour" was discussed, and it having been represented by the Treasurer that the lodge was in a more flourishing condition than at any time since its establishment, it was decided to continue the practice of entertaining members and visitors in the usual manner after each meeting. The sum of ten guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and placed on the list of names, Bro. C. Pulman, P.M., as Steward, representing the lodge, and we were glad to observe that later on his list was liberally increased by the lodge members individually. The lodge having been closed the brethren adjourned to banquet, Bro. James Stevens, P.M., presiding as W.M. The usual toasts were honoured, and in giving that of the "Grand Lodge," the acting W.M. called the attention of the brethren to the late action of the Grand Orient of France, deprecating the course which had been adopted, and hoping that the Grand Lodge of England would express its opinion thereon in the most forcible manner possible. His remarks were listened to with great attention and were cordially endorsed by all present. The W.M.'s health was drank in his absence, a circumstance which was much regretted, every officer of the lodge being in his appointed place. The toast of the P.M.'s was enthusiastically received, and hearty acknowledgements were rendered by Bros. Poore and Stevens, for their readiness to discharge the all-important duties of the chair, as well as for other assistance in the working of the lodge. The Initiates made very able responses to the toast given in their honour, and the visitors expressed much gratification with the working and subsequent hospitality. A most enjoyable evening terminated at eleven o'clock, and the brethren separated.

WHITTINGTON LODGE (No. 862).—On Monday evening the Whittington Lodge held its installation meeting at Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Charles Walker. The brethren present were Bros. Jones, P.M.; Weaver, P.M., 862 and 1319, P.Z. 862, M.E.Z. 1319, H. 177, P. Prov. G. Org. Middlesex, Treasurer Benevolent Fund, Secretary; Kingston, I.P.M., Treasurer of Lodge Fund; Walker, W.M., Trustee Benevolent Fund; Moore, S.W., and W.M. elect, Trustee Benevolent Fund; Blakemore, S.D.; Farebrother, W.S.; Hobden, Godden, I.G.; Bolton, D.C.; Knell, Tate, Sedgwick, Brothers, Ward, Brown, Richardson, Devine, Collinson, Ross, Boxer, Cox, Lee, Maxwell, Evans, Coates, Thompson, Bradford, Hill, Bowden, Jones, and Hurlstone, P.M. The visitors were Bros. W. A. Tinney, P.M. 1319; H. Y. Whalley, 1670; John Canham, P.M. 199; George Anderson, J.W. 60; John Bingemann, P.M. 55, 1599; J. F. West, P.M. 753; C. E. Tinney, 1319; Wm. F. Marston, W.M. 1599, S.D. 55; Thomas H. Briggs, 1503; Howard W. F. Vaughan, 1503; Wm. Tilley, 891; W. B. Benson; H. Massey, P.M. 619, (*Freemason*); Samuel T. Kingston, 1269; Arthur C. Moore, P.M. 216; James Alfred Rigby; W. Cane, 201; W. Ansell, United Mariners; J. Lyndon Hodges, Orpheus; James Turl, Sec. 766; and John Stedman, 172. Bro. C. H. Pike was raised to the Third Degree, and the W.M. afterwards installed Bro. Alfred Moore, S.W., and W.M. elect, as Master of the lodge. The brethren appointed to office were Bros. Blakemore, S.W.; Packer, J.W.; Thos. Kingston, P.M., Treasurer; James Weaver, P.M., Secretary; James Weaver, P.M., Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge; Godden, S.D.; Tate, J.D.; Bolton, I.G.; Knell, D.C.; Charles Walker, P.M., W.S.; and J. Gilbert, Tyler. The sum of £10 was voted from the Benevolent Fund to the list of Bro. Sedgwick, who will represent the lodge at the forthcoming festival of the Benevolent Institution. Through the excellent administration of the affairs of the lodge an admirable balance sheet was exhibited, a balance of over twenty guineas remaining in the hands of the Treasurer, Bro. Thos. Kingston. The Benevolent Fund of the lodge showed a balance of £112 18s. 6d. in the hands of the Treasurer of the fund, Bro. James Weaver, P.M. After the names of joining members and initiates had been given, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern, where a choice and elegant banquet was provided by the proprietor, Bro. Alfred Best. After banquet grace was sung, and the toasts were proposed. In giving the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," the W.M. said: Among the thousands who live in this dear old England of ours I think there are very few, if any, who can claim greater love for their Queen than the Freemasons. We love her, not simply because she is a queen—that, perhaps, is an attribute of birth—but we love her because she is a good, true, and noble woman, in the highest sense of those words. It is usual to couple the name of the Queen with the Craft, and I have not infrequently heard it said that this is done to make this toast Masonic; but it seems to me, although I do not mean to break through the good old rule, that it is not altogether necessary to add the Craft to make it Masonic, because I can conceive of no more Masonic toast than that of the Queen, as all Masons are thoroughly loyal men. The toast having been honoured, the W.M. gave

"The Health of the M.W.G.M.," and said that when we remembered "the fierce light which beats upon a throne," and all adjacent to it, Masons would be thankful and gratified that they had for a Grand Master one who by such square conduct, level steps, and upright intentions commended himself to the Craft generally. After the toast of "The Pro G.M., the Dep. G.M., &c.," had been drunk, Bro. Charles Watkins, I.P.M., proposed "The W.M.," and said that for the ensuing twelve months it would be his especial privilege to propose this toast. He was sure he had only to mention this toast to ensure for it the greatest applause. He could not say anything in respect of the W.M. more than the brethren already knew. They all had been witnesses for some years past of the manner in which he had performed the duties appertaining to the various offices he had filled. The brethren had all marked his intelligence, and they fully believed that he was a brother who was true and trusty, and would be fully equal to the duties which were cast upon him. He did not know that he could pass on the W.M. a higher encomium than to say this of him. The brethren all appreciated the W.M.'s talents, for it had been an acknowledged fact in the lodge for some time past that when Bro. Moore came to the chair the lodge would have a good Master. The consummation of his ambition had been that night achieved. Bro. Moore was in the chair, and he had shown the brethren that evening that he was fully competent to fulfil his duties. The performance of them was no sinecure, but whatever they were Bro. Moore would discharge them properly. The W.M. in reply observed he need hardly say that he was peculiarly gratified with the reception of the toast. Bro. Walker had been good enough to refer to him in language which he should hardly like to admit that he deserved, but the brethren might rest assured that if he did not deserve it now he should endeavour to deserve it during his year of office. He had no doubt that during that year there might be some occasional slips, a word or two here and there misplaced; but he would ask the brethren in such cases to exercise that which was the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart, and grant him charity. He hoped that during his year of office the lodge would have some additions to their numbers, and he was glad to see that some had been proposed that evening. He need hardly point out to the brethren how desirable it was that they should keep the lodge in a happy condition in every sense of the word. It had long appeared to him, although he was comparatively a young Mason, that there was in some lodges, though not in this lodge, a tendency to obtain large numbers rather than men who were at heart Masons. The Craft was already rich in numbers, and unless men only were introduced who would be a credit to the Craft generally, he held that it would be much better that the numbers were somewhat reduced. Freemasonry to his mind had appeared somewhat like a ship; in fact Freemasonry was a grand old Craft with a splendid constitution. She had an At captain in H.R.H. the Grand Master, who had about him excellent Grand and petty officers; they had on board two most experienced pilots in the Grand Secretary and Assistant Grand Secretary; she was burdened with capital freight, three of the noblest charities in London, the Boys' and Girls' Schools and the Benevolent Institution. She was well found in every respect, and had a very large crew. The Craft was worthy of the crew who served in her; and therefore it behoved them never to ship any hands without perfect confidence that they would be a credit to her and to the rest of the hands. He again thanked the brethren for drinking his health, and he trusted that at the end of his year of office the brethren would be as gratified to see him a P.M. as they were to see Bro. Walker in that position. He (the W.M.) passed now from the difficult task of speaking about himself to the more easy task of talking about some other fellow, and in proposing "The Health of the I.P.M." he should refer to him retrospectively. The brethren had to take a W.M. to some extent for granted, but a P.M. by what he had done, and there could be no doubt that Bro. Walker had recommended himself to the brethren generally. He had performed the duties of W.M. most creditably, and while he had never forgotten the "suaviter in modo" he had always observed the "fortiter in re." He had been amiable in disposition, although firm in conduct, and the brethren in asking him to accept a P.M.'s jewel as a record of his past services were only doing him bare justice. Bro. Walker in reply, after thanking the brethren, said he stood in a very proud position that evening. Although this lodge was not his mother lodge he was a very junior Mason (quite an infant), when, by the persuasion of Bro. Little, he joined it. He had been a member of the lodge 11 or 12 years, and he took the position of D.C. in the lodge the same as Bro. Knell had to day. By degrees he rose to the chair, and he was now very proud that he had joined the Whittington Lodge. Again he was proud that he became an officer. Still more was he proud that he was elected W.M., and none the less proud was he that he was now a P.M., and had received the honour of a jewel at the hands of the brethren, which he should highly value, not so much for its intrinsic value but for the kind expressions which had fallen from the W.M.'s lips, and for the brethren's cordial reception of them. Again he was proud that on leaving the chair he had installed in his place so highly respected and so well qualified a brother. The W.M. had spoken in nautical language of the good ship the Craft. He could say that the Whittington Lodge never stood higher in the opinion of true Masons than at present, and it never had among its members so many of true Masonic stamp. Never was a W.M. better served by officers than he had been, not one of whom was called upon to perform his duty and found wanting when so called upon. For these considerations he was very proud of being a P.M. of this lodge. "The

Visitors" was the next toast, and Bro. Capt. Benson replied. Bro. Hurlstone, the oldest P.M. of the lodge, replied for "The P.M.'s," and Bros. Kingston and Weaver for the "Treasurer and Secretary." The other officers also replied to their toasts—Bros. Brown and Brothers for "The Lay Members," and Bro. Gilbert gave the Tyler's toast, which concluded the proceedings. The musical arrangements, in which Bros. J. Hodges, J. Stedman, J. Turle, Lee, and Tinney, took part under the direction of Bro. C. E. Tinney, were excellent.

**GRANITE LODGE (No. 1328).**—On Saturday, the 10th inst., the members of this lodge held a meeting at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. Fredk. West, W.M. presiding. The attendance was very full. After transacting the necessary business, an adjournment took place to the banqueting hall, where a dinner awaited their arrival. After the cloth was drawn, Bro. F. West proposed "The Health of the Queen and the Craft," which was received with usual honours. Next in succession he gave "The Health of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales," "The Earl of Carnarvon," and "The Earl of Skelmersdale," which were severally and heartily responded to. Bro. West remarked that nothing could be more conducive to good order than the proper selection of officers, and in selecting his two Royal brothers the M.W.G.M. had displayed real discretion and good taste. In proposing "The Health of the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers," he coupled with it the name of Bro. Cottebrune, who had afforded such material aid to the Granite Lodge and had contributed in no small degree to its success. Bro. Cottebrune in return, praised the working of the lodge, and promised his services on all occasions. Bro. W. M. Muggeridge, P.M., in calling upon them to drink "The Health of Bro. F. West, W.M.," alluded in flattering terms to his fitness to preside over the auspices of the Granite. Those who knew him sought to unite the ties of friendship more strongly, those who did not know him were anxious to cultivate his acquaintance. The toast was received with Masonic favour. Bro. West suitably replied; and passed the compliment on to the visitors, whose health he called upon the lodge to drink, coupling with it the name of Bro. Lewis, of the Golden Rule Lodge, who, in returning thanks, passed marked encomiums on the working of the Granite Lodge, and its hospitality and munificence as regarded Masonic Charities. The Past Master of the lodge next came into the category of toasts, and the utmost sympathy was expressed for Bro. John Oliver, P.M., who was unable to be present owing to having a fractured thigh, which he sustained in the Bath Bridge accident. Bro. Muggeridge gave a merry roundelay for himself and brothers in replying to the toast, and in the course of his remarks stated that he must recede from future attendance, owing to severe indisposition, and acting upon the advice of his physicians. While dwelling on the subject he was manifestly much overcome with emotion, but he brightened up on the lodge greeting him with vociferous cheers and audible expressions of sympathy. Bro. West later on gave "The Health of the Officers of the Granite Lodge," which Bro. J. Lewis Thomas most appropriately responded to, and referred with unlimited satisfaction as Secretary to the flourishing condition of the lodge, while the Senior Warden promised that his year of office when in the chair should not lack success if he could help it. Bro. West subsequently complimented the "Fourth Estate" on its influence, power, universal vitality, and laid it down to be the backbone of commerce, the monitor of the people, the corrector of all abuses, the subduer of tyranny, and the adviser-in-chief to persons who failed to have an opinion of their own on matters in general. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. A. C. Shelley, who replied. The far-famed and never-to-be-forgotten Tylers' toast brought the evening to a close.

**SPHINX LODGE (No. 1329).**—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday evening, 17th inst., at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New Road, and was most numerously attended by members and visitors. Bro. Perceval A. Nairne, W.M., presided, the regular officers were in their places, and the following visitors were present:—Bros. Rickett, P.M. 507; Robinson, 1381; Colman, 58; Samson, P.M. 7; H. Thompson, P.M. 117 and 1158 (*Freemason*); Goss, P.M. 76; Davis, 1641; Rogers, 15; Lailham, P.M. 1216; Staples, P.M. 879; Wingham, P.M. 25; Grave, P.M. 73; Hayden, P.M. 73; Rousillon, Amis Rennes, J. E. Collis, 1641; Wright, P.M. 22; Clarke, P.G.S.W.; Stringer, 19; and others. The lodge having been opened and the minutes read and confirmed, the lodge was opened in the Second Degree, when Bro. Henry Martin, S.W., and W.M. elect, was presented to receive from his predecessor the benefit of installation. The usual forms having been gone through the lodge was opened in the Third Degree. All the brethren below the degree of an Installed Master were then requested to retire, and a duly constituted body of 16 Masters having been formed, Bro. Henry Martin was duly installed into the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom. On the brethren below the chair being readmitted and saluted, the new W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. Perceval Alexander Nairne, I.P.M.; George S. Bickerton, S.W.; B. Lyon, J.W.; J. C. Reynolds, Treas.; W. Andrews, Sec.; B. R. Bryant, S.D.; J. R. Richards, J.D.; J. Goulston, I.G.; and J. J. Brunton and Henry Forbes, Stewards. The addresses were then respectively delivered by Bros. Nairne, Bedolfe and Volkins. The newly-installed Master immediately entered upon his active duties, for after the lodge had been advanced in proper order the W.M. in a most able and impressive manner raised Bros. Moore and Lewin to the Sublime Degree. This, the crowning work of a W.M., was done in a manner to demonstrate that he is well qualified to discharge any duties he may be called upon to perform. The W.M. then vacated the chair, and Bro. Nairne, I.P.M., initiated Mr. James Alfred Thornhill

into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. On the W.M. resuming the chair he presented a valuable jewel to Bro. Nairne, voted to him by the brethren in recognition of his services in the chair during the past year, which Bro. Nairne suitably acknowledged, expressing his gratitude for their kindness and his willingness at all times to do anything and everything he could to promote the welfare of the lodge, and the happiness of its members. The lodge after disposing of the sum of £5 towards the Royal Benevolent Fund for Aged Freemasons was closed and the brethren adjourned for refreshment to an adjoining apartment, where a very bountiful repast was provided by Mr. Bromley, of the Clapham-road, and which gave entire satisfaction. On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. said in consequence of the lateness of the hour he should give the customary toasts without speeches, which to a great extent he adhered to, and although the business in the lodge was protracted to a rather late hour, in consequence of this wise determination the whole was got over in due time, and with an amount of pleasure seldom witnessed in a lodge where the working is extended to an unusual length. It was generally admitted that this was the most successful and truly harmonious meeting that has for a long time been witnessed in Freemasonry, and augurs well for the prosperity of the Sphinx Lodge under the rule of the W. Master for the ensuing year.

**ST. DUNSTAN'S LODGE (No. 1589).**—This representative lodge held its last meeting on the 16th inst., at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street. The officers present were Bros. Wellsman, W.M.; Dalwood, S.W.; Do'son, J.W.; Tisley, Secretary; Dwarber, I.P.M.; Turner, S.D.; Woodbridge, J.D.; Mannors, I.G.; Low, D.C.; Bull, W.S.; Harrison, Tyler, pro tem. The visitors were Bros. Webb, P.M. 72, &c.; Bond, P.G.P. Surrey, P.M. 888; Dr. and Surgeon Major Skipton, P.M. 1065; Tinney, P.M. 1319; Nixon, W.M. Stability; Singleton, W.M. South Middlx.; Leah, W.M. elect 193; Walls, P.G.O. Middlx., J.W. 1381; F. H. Fowler, and J. Beveridge, 1319. The W.M., after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, raised Bro. Skelton to the degree of M.M., and initiated Mr. Clemow in a manner that left nothing to be desired. There being no other business before the lodge, it was closed, and the brethren and visitors adjourned to an excellent banquet, which was well and elegantly served in the Pillar Room, and having been done justice to, the W.M. gave the preliminary loyal and other toasts, briefly but pertinent. The I.P.M. in proposing the toast of "The W.M." took occasion to mention the services rendered to the parish by Bro. Wellsman. As the St. Dunstan was a parochial lodge it was very pleasing to him (the speaker) to see the rising generation of the parish flocking to the Masonic standard, and which brethren he ventured to predict would do good suit and service in the time to come by endeavouring to render the lodge as nearly perfect as possible. He concluded what was altogether a very interesting speech by charging them to receive the subject toast most warmly, as the W.M. was in every way, Masonically and otherwise, entitled to their best regards. In his reply the W.M. remarked that the Master of a Masonic lodge, occupying the chair at the banquet table time after time, found it very difficult to express something new. He felt that he was not an exception to that rule, and he should therefore say but little on that occasion. He then went on to state that he hoped that these brethren who were on the road to the chair, and particularly the younger members holding office, would not be offended by his charging them to bestow every attention to the work, in order that when the time arrived for them to occupy that position they would not be found wanting in ability for the due and proper discharge of its requirements. In conclusion he said that he was pleased that his humble efforts had given them satisfaction. "The Initiate" followed. In introducing this toast the W.M. said that he believed that the quality of the Masonic recruits should be the first consideration of every brother proposing them. They should be received with discretion, even though they were "well and worthily recommended," but Number 1589 he believed were content, and very well contented with the quality of the initiates that the lodge had hitherto received. It was very gratifying to welcome amongst them that evening a member of the family who had been associated with Anderson's Hotel so many years. He trusted that their newly-admitted brother would look forward to a long career in Freemasonry, and he would take that opportunity of impressing upon him that charity should be the guiding star of its members. Bro. Tisley having given "The Entered Apprentice," Bro. Clemow made a neat and modest reply. In giving "The Visitors," the W.M. alluded to the fact of there being seven Installed Masters amongst them. He felt very grateful to them for honouring the lodge with their presence that evening, and he assured them that they might rely upon always receiving a most hearty welcome whenever they visited the St. Dunstan's Lodge, which, although but a juvenile lodge, was capable he believed of affording a little Masonic knowledge. This toast having been coupled with the names of Bros. Nixon and Dr. Skipton, and those brethren replied. The latter at some length gave some interesting particulars of Masonry in the empire of British India. "The Health of the I.P.M." followed. Bro. Dwarber, in reply, said that he felt like the W.M., who in the earlier part of the evening had told them that "he had nothing new to say." However, he was compelled to indulge in the usual language of a Past Master—to wit, that he should always endeavour to be present at their meetings, and to be ever ready to assist any W.M. in the discharge of his duties. In conclusion, he said that there was something new after all for him to express that evening, namely, to wish long life and happiness to a distinguished member of the dramatic profession, who had made his debut there that evening in the character of a guest, Bro. James Beveridge, whose melodious voice and manner were so irresistible

that it was a matter of no surprise why "Liz" was so fond of him. "The Officers" was coupled with the names of the Senior and Junior Wardens, and the Secretary. The former stated that they felt complimented by the remarks passed upon their working by the W.M., and that they should always endeavour to merit his approval. The Secretary humorously remarked that the W.M. had been pleased in speaking of him to compare him with the lily that needed no painting, &c.; but he regarded that as a very doubtful compliment, because the lily neither toiled nor spun, and a Secretary to be worthy of that name must exercise both those functions. He was pleased to inform them that the Benevolent Fund was in a very flourishing condition, so that if any occasion should arise they would be in a position to assist the necessitous without unduly taxing the pockets of their brethren. During the evening Bros. Beveridge, Low, Walls, Dobson, Clemow, and others entertained the brethren.

**WEST SMITHFIELD LODGE (No. 1623).**—The regular meeting of this well-established lodge was held at the New Market Hotel, King-street, West Smithfield, on Tuesday, November 15th. Punctually at two o'clock in the afternoon Bro. Thomas William Adams, W.M., opened the lodge. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, September 20th, were read, and unanimously confirmed. The ballot taken for Mr. J. Howard was declared to be in favour of his admission. The veteran and father of the lodge, Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G.P., P.M., Treas., the I.P.M., took the chair and presided over the lodge for the remainder of the meeting. He, in his usual happy, impressive, and distinguished manner, passed Bros. William McCluer Butt (son of the host), Charles Goodwin, James Chapman, and E. C. Wagener to the Second Degree; raised Bro. Seymour Cradock and Henry Roffey, 1326, to the Second Degree; and wound up his arduous duties by initiating Mr. J. Howard into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. In consideration of the very many valuable services and other good duties rendered to this lodge as an active founder, and giving all the help to every member of the lodge which laid in his power, on the motion of Bro. Frederick Walters, P.G.D. Middx., P.M., Sec., seconded by Bro. Joshua Howes, P.M., J.W., it was unanimously resolved, "That Bro. Edward Mallett, W.M. 141, Faith Lodge, be elected an honorary member of this lodge." The Secretary, Bro. F. Walters, was desired to inform Bro. E. Mallett, W.M. 141, of this vote, as he was absent (for the first time) from this meeting. Several propositions for joining members and candidates for initiation were given in to the Secretary. On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously resolved, "that Bro. Joshua Howes, P.M., J.W., be elected as the Steward to represent this lodge at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons," business ended, the lodge was closed and adjourned, to meet on Thursday, January 17th, 1878, at half-past two p.m. The usual good banquet and dessert were served up, under the able presidency of Bro. Thomas McCluer Butt, Steward (eldest son of the landlord), who officiated for his father (who, unfortunately, was incapacitated, through an accident, from taking any active part in business), and gave satisfaction to every one. There were present Bros. G. S. Elliott, S.W.; J. Howes, P.M., J.W.; G. H. Stephens, as S.D.; G. Wintle, J.D.; W. Pennefather, P.M., M.C.; W. Malthouse, W.S.; H. J. Lardner, E. E. Crombie, W. Smyth, and others, besides those already named. The visitors were Bros. S. Page, 1326; H. Roffey, 1326; and L. Van Boelen, 1275.

**LEICESTER.**—St. John's Lodge (No. 279).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday evening, the 7th inst. Bro. Clement Edwin Stretton, W.M., presided, and was supported by Bros. J. M. McAlister, I.P.M.; Clement Stretton, P.M. (Mayor-elect of the Borough); George Toller, (Grand Sword-Bearer of England); W. B. Smith, P.M., Prov. Grand Treasurer. Councillors: S. Cleaver, S.W.; C. Gurden, Treasurer; J. Jessop, M.C.; J. Hart, and Chief Constable J. Farrdale, as J.W.; besides a numerous attendance of brethren, both members of the lodge and visitors. The raising of Bro. Langmore was the principal feature of the business of the evening, and the ceremony was admirably conducted by the Worshipful Master, assisted by his officers. Bro. McAlister was elected Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction. On the 9th inst., Bro. Clement Stretton, P.M., was unanimously elected to the distinguished position of chief magistrate of the ancient borough of Leicester, and although the roll of members of the old mother lodge contain the names of many of the Mayors, Aldermen, and others occupying a prominent position in our municipal history, yet as an earnest and zealous Mason, Bro. Stretton stands pre-eminent. Initiated in 1863, he early imbibed a fondness for the Order, and accepted the charge of guarding the portal of the lodge, resolved to advance by regular steps only, to the seat of honour in the east, which he attained by the unanimous wish of the brethren in 1870 and again in 1872. He has also passed the chairs of the other Degrees practised in Leicester, and our charities afford convincing proof that Bro. Stretton is not only distinguished by the profession, but by the practice of the true principles of Freemasonry, brotherly love, relief, and truth.

**LANCASTER.**—Lodge of Fortitude (No. 281).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday evening, the 14th inst., in the Masonic Rooms, Athenaeum. Bro. R. Taylor, the W.M., occupied the chair, supported by the several officers. There was not a large attendance of visitors. The lodge having been opened in the First Degree, Bro. John Atkinson was examined as to his proficiency as an E.A., and proving satisfactory he was entrusted and retired. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. John Wilkinson Simpson having given proficiency as a F.C., was entrusted and dismissed for preparation. The lodge was then opened in the

Third Degree, and Bro. Simpson having been re-admitted he was raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. by the Worshipful Master, who also subsequently presented the working tools. The lodge was then closed down to the Second Degree, when Bro. John Atkinson was re-admitted and passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M., the symbolism of the working tools being explained by Bro. Jowitt, the S.W. The usual proclamations were then made, and the lodge closed in peace, love, and harmony.

**SUNDERLAND.—Williamson Lodge (No. 949).**—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday evening, November 12th, 1877, in the new lodge room, in the School of St. Stephen's Church, Monkwearmouth. This lodge room has only been opened a few months, and the brethren consider it excellently adapted for lodge purposes; besides, they can now meet in a place free from the influences of an hotel. It having been announced that the Mayor of Sunderland, Samuel Storey, Esq., was to be initiated, there was a very large gathering of brethren; a great many visitors from the other lodges in the town being present. After his worship and Mr. Wm. Clark (who was also proposed), had been properly balloted for and unanimously elected, they were duly initiated into Masonry. The ceremony, including the charge, was ably gone through by the W.M., Bro. G. B. Hall. The brethren then went from labour to refreshment, and after the various loyal and Masonic toasts had been proposed, Bro. R. Shadforth, P.M., proposed "The Health of the Newly-initiated Brethren," in a speech of some length, in which he adverted to the truly Masonic spirit which had characterised the Mayor's actions, prior to his being introduced to Masonry, instancing the raising of about £1600 to clear off the debt on the Infirmary, and also close upon £2000 towards the Indian Famine Fund. The toast was received with great enthusiasm. Bros. Clark and Storey, each responded. The latter, in a very able speech, dilated upon the truly excellent spirit of Freemasonry, as manifested to him that night on his being made, and gave evidence of a considerable acquaintance with its history and principles. Bro. Angelo Forrest, Prov. G. Organist, presided at the harmonium, and songs were ably sung by Bros. Foster, Taylor, Hamerton, Nicholson, and Fryer. The remainder of the evening was spent in a very happy and harmonious manner. It is a noticeable fact, that this is, as far as is known, the first time any one has been made a Mason whilst he held the office of Mayor of the borough; this has given considerable éclat to the Williamson Lodge, for whilst the other lodges of the town would gladly have had the honour, yet, his worship preferred being made in the lodge which holds its meetings in Monkwearmouth, his native parish, and it has no doubt given a considerable impetus to Freemasonry in the town of Sunderland.

**BRUTON.—Royal Clarence Lodge (No. 976).**—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held on the 15th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Blue Ball Hotel, which was numerously attended. The officers present were Bros. E. R. Hayter, W.M.; E. Heginbotham, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C. Somerset, S.W.; Albert Huntley, J.W.; F. E. S. Jelley, P.M., P.Z. 41, P.P.G.S.D. Somerset, acting Treas.; T. Bennett, P.M. 160, P.P.J.G.W. Essex, Sec.; J. S. Boyd, S.D.; H. Harrold, J.D.; H. Runcombe, I.G.; J. P. Swaine, Tyler, and many other members of the lodge. The visitors included, amongst others, Bros. B. Atwell, P.M. 437, P.P.G.S. of Works, Somerset; J. H. Colthurst, P.M. 457, P.P.G.R. Somerset; John Feltham, S.W. 437; Alfred Edwards, Secretary 437; John Allen, J.D. 285, and the Rev. S. Williams, 69. The gentlemen initiated were Messrs. William Palmer, Walter Basil Balch, and George Taylor. The W.M. performed the ceremony in his usual impressive manner, and at its conclusion was much applauded by the brethren. Bro. B. Atwell, P.M., kindly presented the working tools. Bro. F. Bennett, P.M., delivered the charge to the newly initiated, which was most effectively rendered and called forth the universal acclamation of the brethren present. The choral part of the ceremony was well sustained by Bros. Huntley, Lockyer, Vincent, and others, Bro. T. Bennett officiating as Organist. The lodge was closed in due form at 8.45, and perfect harmony prevailed. This being the last lodge night during the reign of the present W.M. he received the hearty congratulations of the brethren and visitors on the success which had attended his year of office, and the admirable way in which he had discharged the duties of W.M. After the business of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to an excellent supper provided by host Harry. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, several capital songs, duets, &c., were well rendered, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Bro. Hayter, W.M., kindly played the accompaniments.

**JERSEY.—Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 1003).**—The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, for the sole purpose of installing the newly-elected W.M., when a large number of brethren congregated to congratulate Bro. P. Bois on the successful termination of his term of labour, and Bro. C. D. Bishop on the commencement of his career as a ruler in the Craft, under auspices so favourable, with such an example before him, and with the affairs of this young lodge in so prosperous a condition. The lodge was opened by the W.M., supported by Bros. C. D. Bishop, S.W.; John Huelin, J.W.; P. W. Benham, P.M., P.G. Treasurer; G. J. Renouf, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; Wm. Metherell, P.M., P.J.G.D.; H. M. Walden, P.M.; I. G. Pallot, P.G.S. of W., Sec.; and others. Visitors, Bros. Dr. J. Le Cronier, D.P.G.M.; A. Schmitt, P.P.S.G.W.; F. Le Feuvre, W.M. 877, P.P.G.S.B.; Ed. Martel, P.M. 958, P.P.G.D.C.; John Oatley, P.M. 590, P.P.S.G.W.; W. H. Chapman, W.M. 958, P.G.D.C.; Dr. Th. J. Aubin, W.M. 491, P.S.G.D.; P. Messervy, W.M. 590; F. P. Le Marquand, P.M. 491, P.P.G.D.; Edmund Tuck, P.M. 174;

J. Moss, P.M. 245, Assist. G.D.C.; Ph. Blampied, W.M. 245, P.P.G.D.C.; J. O. LeSueur, P.M. 701, P.G. Sec.; A. Gallichan, J.W. 590; L. Hespriadou, W.M. 244; E. Carrie, S.W. 590; and others. This being an emergency meeting, the Secretary read the minutes of previous proceedings only so far as they related to it, which were confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. Bro. P. W. Benham took the chair as Installing Master. Bro. C. D. Bishop was presented as W.M. Elect. The customary enumeration of duties was made and acknowledged, the ancient charges were read and assented to, and the obligations of W.M. elect administered. A Board of nineteen Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro: Bishop was duly placed in the chair of K.S., according to ancient custom. After the board had been closed, the several classes of Master Masons, Fellow Crafts, and Entered Apprentices were in turn admitted, and the usual proclamations were gone through, respecting which it need only be recorded that Bro. Benham conducted the ceremonies with great exactitude and impressiveness. After the address to the W.M., delivered with fervour, Bro. Bishop briefly remarked, that fully acknowledging the difficulty of the task he had undertaken, he was sensible of the honour conferred upon him. He accepted the responsibility, and trusted that with God's help he should not be found wanting in the worthy discharge of it, especially relying upon official help from the P.M.'s. The following appointments were made, Bro. Benham in each case officiating and offering appropriate observations:—Bros. J. Huelin, S.W.; J. Harris, J.W.; J. G. Pallot, P.M., Sec.; J. Baal, S.D.; E. Oldridge, J.D.; W. H. Anthony, I.G.; and G. R. Rogers, P.M., Tyler. Lastly, the W.M. invested Bro. Benham, the founder of the lodge, as Treas., with some remarks as well deserved by his past and faithful services as they were complimentary and sincere. Bro. Benham then said: Considering the zeal, the fraternal attachment, and the valuable services rendered by Bro. P. Bois to our lodge—considering that at great sacrifice of his private engagements he has devoted so much of his time to the labours and the numerous extra calls which devolve on the W.M., I propose—"That some token be presented to our I.P.M., Bro. P. Bois, by the lodge, as a visible testimony of our feelings of gratitude, of esteem, and of the fraternal affection which we entertain towards him, and that a committee be appointed and entrusted with the arrangements for carrying out this resolution." The proposition was seconded by Bro. Metherell, and passed unanimously and by acclamation. No other business offering, the lodge was closed in perfect harmony. The brethren adjourned to the banqueting-room, and about seventy sat down to an excellent dinner, and a most harmonious and enjoyable evening was spent.

**ALDERSHOT.—Aldershot Camp Lodge (No. 1331).**—The installation of Bro. V. Lucas took place on Thursday, the 8th inst., at the Assembly Rooms, High-street, Aldershot, and was well attended by the brethren of the district, where the spirit of emulation is so strongly manifested that the installation ceremony is keenly watched and criticised, and as nearly in all cases the retiring Master makes it a point to instal his successor, the criticism is keen, and the result as near as possible perfection. From the acknowledged ability of Bro. J. Smith, the retiring W.M., a Masonic treat was anticipated, and indeed partaken in by all who heard the eloquent manner in which he worked the beautiful ceremony. The lodge was opened at 3.30 precisely, when Bro. Burton was passed to the Second Degree, and then Bro. Lucas was presented for installation, and according to ancient custom placed in the chair of K.S., and duly saluted by the brethren. He then invested his officers as follows: Bros. W. Elisham, S.W.; G. Douglas, J.W. and Secretary; I. Theobald, S.D.; A. Bruce, J.D.; W. Fairbank, I.G.; J. Johnson, Steward; T. Abbotts, Tyler. The usual addresses were most impressively rendered by the Installing Officer, and the ceremony closed. A P.M. collar and jewel was then presented to Bro. Smith, and a vote of thanks was accorded to him for the manner in which he had that day fulfilled the duties of Installing Officer. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where a well served banquet awaited them. There were upwards of twenty P.M.'s present. After the usual Masonic toasts, Bro. Smith proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and in doing so he hoped that he might have a prosperous year of office. He (the W.M.) went into the chair that day with the confidence and good-wishes of every member of the lodge. (Cheers.) The W.M. in returning thanks said he should always work for the benefit of the lodge, and would carefully listen to every suggestion that might be made for the welfare of it, and for the comfort and prosperity of every brother of it. (Applause.) The W.M. gave the toast of "The Visitors," saying that upon this occasion it was a great pleasure to see so many brethren of influence and eminence in the Craft present; some of them had come long distances to do him and the lodge honour. Bro. Cirtchoffers responded, and stated in an excellent speech that nothing could exceed the working of the junior officers of this lodge, and he supposed from the fact that they were military men, and the first duty they were taught to obey, which in his opinion was carried out to the letter, and he would be much pleased to attend the lodge or lodge of instruction, should either be at work when he was visiting Aldershot. Bro. Eve in an eloquent speech explained how satisfactorily the duties of the Camp Lodge, from his knowledge, were carried out, and that they had men amongst them of great ability; he also explained the great good that Benevolent Institutions are to the Craft, and impressed on the brethren the importance of keeping their dues paid up, that should an evil day turn up the door was open to those who had assisted to keep others in.

**CHIPPING SODBURY.—Tyndall Lodge (No. 1363).**—The seventh annual installation festival of this lodge was held at the lodge room, in the Town Hall, on

the 10th inst. The brethren were summoned to meet at two o'clock, and shortly after that hour Bro. Algernon Sudlow, the W.M., took his place in the chair. The officers were in their places, and there was a numerous attendance of members and distinguished brethren as visitors, the following being present: Bros. S. Davies, P.M. 1363, G.S.W. Mon.; G. Rennie Powell, P.M., P.P.G.P.; C. A. Bush, Sec., P.G.D.C.; F. J. Vizard, P.M. 1363; J. P. Curtis, S.W.; W. Tucker, P.M. 2103, P.P.G.P. Bristol; J. Iles, Org.; G. Godwin, I.G.; C. Iles, Tyler; R. J. Brice, T. Brooke, Moses Eyles, W. R. Latter, T. Tinsley, W. Munro, P.M. 336, P.P.G.D.C. Bristol; F. J. Blake, Sec. 855, P.M. 410; J. C. Collicie, P.M. 1271, P.P.G.O.; H. G. Layton, P.G.C. Gloucester L. Millman, 855, P.P.G.P.; F. Millman, 855; F. Gregory, 855; A. G. Williams, 610, S.D.; E. Weare, 68; C. Godwin, 68; Tnos. Davies, 270; W. H. Cartwright, 1003; W. Northcott, 164; W. M. Lowick, 1388. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved in due form. Bro. J. Payne Curtis, S.W., the W.M. elect, was then presented for the benefit of installation by Bros. A. Sudlow and S. Davies. The ceremony of installing Bro. Curtis was then most ably and impressively performed by Bro. W. Munro, P.M. 326, P.P.G.D.C., and much satisfaction was expressed by all present at the manner in which Bro. Munro performed the duties. The W.M. then invested the following officers for the ensuing year: A. Sudlow, I.P.M.; E. Crossman, S.W.; W. Tucker, J.W.; C. A. Bush, Sec.; J. Trenfield, Treas.; F. J. Vizard, D.C.; T. Brooke, S.D.; T. Tinsley, J.D.; Moses Eyles, I.G.; W. H. H. Hartley and G. Taylor, Stewards; J. Iles, Org.; and C. Iles, Tyler. The closing charges to the Wardens and brethren were then very effectively given by Bro. Munro. The business being concluded, the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the Portcullis Hotel, to a very enjoyable banquet, most ably served by Bro. Godwin. The cloth having been removed, the W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts.

**TWICKENHAM.—Francis Burdett Lodge (No. 1503).**—The installation meeting of this provincial lodge was held at the Albany Hotel on the 14th inst., when there were present amongst others Bros. Saunders, P.G.S. Midx. W.M.; S. H. Knaggs, S.W., W.M. elect; Court, J.W. W. Wigginton, P.P.G.S. of Works, Midx., I.P.M. and Secretary; D'Orsey, Chaplain; Taylor, S.D.; Vaughan, J.D.; Ashley, I.G.; Palmer, Steward, Court, jun., Assist. Organist; F. Honeywell, P.M.; Dobie. The visitors were Bros. W. Hammond, P.P.G.D. Midx.; Clark, P.M. 255, &c.; Farwig, J.W. 180; W. Morgan, jun., 1385. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the I.P.M. by the permission of the W.M. initiated Mr. T. G. Newton into the Order. Bro. Knaggs having been presented to receive the benefit of installation, that ceremony was carried out by the I.P.M., who appointed Bros. Honeywell, as S.W.; Hammond, as J.W.; and Clark, I.G., to assist him with the "work." We have had to mention in these columns on several occasions the impressive manner in which Bro. Wigginton conducts the various ceremonies of the Craft, and on this particular evening he was even more happy in his rendering of the ritual than usual. The W.M. invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Court, S.W.; Taylor, J.W.; Tomlinson, Treasurer, (by Deputy); Wigginton, Secretary; Rev. — D'Orsey, Chaplain; Vaughan, S.D.; Ashley, J.D.; Palmer, I.G.; Walls, P.G.O. Midx., D.C.; Briggs, Steward; Ricknoll, W.S.; Sugg, Organist, (by deputy); Court, jun., Assist. Organist; Harrison, Tyler. Previously to the lodge being closed, a vote of thanks was unanimously voted to the I.P.M. for the able way in which he had conducted the ceremony of installation. The banquet was well served, and having been done full justice to the W.M. gave the customary loyal and Craft toasts. "The Health of the Provincial Grand Master" was coupled with the names of Bros. Hammond and Wigginton. The former brother at some length touched upon the great abilities and other qualities of Bro. Colonel Burdett, and of the Masonic skill of the D.P.G.M., whose present state of ill health was to be greatly deplored. Bro. Wigginton in his reply took occasion to speak of his experience of the Grand Lodges of other provinces notably Worcestershire, of which province he had been a Grand Officer for nearly 21 years. "The Health of the W.M." was proposed in very warm terms by the I.P.M., and having been duly honoured was acknowledged by Bro. Knaggs, who in the course of his reply said that he felt it a great honour to occupy the position of Master in so excellent a lodge as No. 1503. He felt at times that it was almost beyond his conception that he should in the brief period of three years have arrived at the goal of every zealous Mason's ambition, but he owed his proud elevation to very exceptional circumstances, firstly, as the "first-born" of the lodge, and, secondly, because he had been in office from the very night of his initiation. In conclusion, he said he would endeavour to merit the high honour that had been conferred upon him by the brethren. "The Health of the Installing Officer" was given by the W.M. in very cordial and complimentary terms, and having been briefly responded to by Bro. Wigginton, the toast of "The Past Masters" followed. In introducing this toast the W.M. dilated upon the interest evinced by the I.P.M., Bro. Saunders, in the three great Masonic Charities, and whose genial and other qualities were so well and deservedly known to them all. The I.P.M. having responded, "The Health of the Initiate" followed, and Bro. Newton made a neat and modest reply. "The Health of the Visitors" came next in order, and having been coupled with the name of Bro. Clark, gave that brother the opportunity of making an exhaustive reply, in which he spoke highly of the Francis Burdett Lodge, and of the capabilities of its "working" staff. "The Officers" followed, and was respectfully acknowledged by the S.W., Chaplain, and Secretary. "The Masonic Press" having been duly proposed, Bro. Walls acknowledged the com-

pliment. The J.P.M., by the permission of the W.M., then gave one of the most important toasts of the evening, namely, "The Masonic Charities," in which he expressed a hope that he should live to see many of the brethren of the Francis Burdett Lodge holding the position of governors in those most vital and invaluable institutions. The Tyler having been called upon to discharge his duty, the brethren shortly afterwards separated until the second Wednesday in December next.

**MORECAMBE.**—Morecambe Lodge (No. 1561).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Friday evening, the 2nd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Edward-street. The W.M. (Bro. W. Duff) occupied the chair, but owing to the very inclement weather, the attendance was but small. The lodge was opened in the First Degree, and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Bro. E. Johnson (Preston) and Bro. J. J. Crokell, (281), as joining members, and which proving unanimous, they were duly admitted members. After the transaction of some routine business the usual proclamations were made, and the lodge closed with the formalities of the Craft.

**HAMPTON.**—Hemming Lodge (No. 1512).—On the 15th inst., this lodge held its second meeting of the season at the Lion Hotel, when there were present amongst others Bros. J. Hammond, P.M.; Jordan, W.M.; Fox, W.M. Lebanon, S.W.; Jessett, J.W.; Hopwood, P.G.S.B. of Midx., Treasurer; W. Hammond, P.P.G.D. Midx., Secretary; J. Hurst, I.P.M.; T. W. Ockenden, Secretary 1656, S.D.; T. C. Walls, P.G.O. Midx., J.D.; Kent, I.G.; Hiscox, W.S.; Moody, A.W.S.; S. H. Knaggs, W.M. 1503; Gilbert, P.G.T. of Midx., Tyler. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. passed Bro. Jones and raised Bro. Tozer, both ceremonies being performed most impressively. Bro. John Hurst, I.P.M., having been appointed Steward to represent the lodge at the next festival in aid of the funds of the R.M.B.I. for Girls, and several minor matters having been satisfactorily disposed of the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to a collation. The customary loyal and Craft toasts having been duly honoured, the W.M. proposed "The Health of the D.P.G.M. of Midx., and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers, Past and Present." This toast was coupled with the name of Bro. Hopwood, who in his reply did full justice to the theme. "The W.M." followed, and having been most warmly received, Bro. John Hammond briefly replied. In introducing "The Health of the Officers," the W.M. said that he should include in that toast all the brethren holding office in the lodge, from the Treasurer and Secretary downwards. He then briefly but kindly touched upon the capabilities and relative merits of the staff, and coupled the name of the S.W., Bro. Fox, with the toast, who duly acknowledged the compliment paid to his brother officers and himself, and in concluding his remarks said that the W.M. and the lodge were to be congratulated on the attendance of the officers that evening, who with one exception were all present. "The Masonic Charities" followed, and having been coupled with the name of Bro. Hurst, I.P.M., that brother made a forcible appeal on the benevolence of the brethren on behalf of those excellent institutions, and particularly hoped that they would endeavour to assist him to the best of their ability at the forthcoming festival of the Girls' School. The proceedings were enlivened by Bros. Hurst, Walls, Moody, Jessett and others.

#### INSTRUCTION.

**EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE** (No. 1642).—This lodge met on Friday, the 29th inst., at the Mitre Hotel, Gouldborne-road, Notting Hill. Present: Bros. Wood, W.M.; Penn, S.W.; Smout, sen., J.W.; Smout jun., Sec.; Spiegel, S.D.; Lichtwitz, J.D.; Parkhouse, I.G.; Savage, Preceptor; Michel, P.M.; Murlis, P.M.; Kelly, Woodmason, Hopton, and many others. The W.M., after opening the lodge, vacated the chair for Bro. Michel, P.M., for the purpose of working the installation ceremony, which he carried out to the greatest satisfaction of all the brethren, after which the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Hopton being the candidate. Bro. Spiegel moved, "That this lodge of instruction will head a subscription list with £1, augmented by a subscription from the brethren, to put on the list of Bro. Stevens, P.M., the Steward for the next festival of the Girls' School," in the mother lodge. Bro. Penn moved as an amendment to head the list with £5 5s. Bro. Spiegel withdrew his motion, but the confirmation was adjourned for a fortnight. Bro. Spiegel was elected to occupy the chair next Friday.

#### Royal Arch.

**PANMURE CHAPTER** (No. 720).—A regular meeting of this chapter was held at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, S.E., on Monday, the 12th inst. Chapter was opened by E. Comps. G. H. N. Bridges, M.E.Z.; George Waterall, H.; Mark S. Lurham, J.; James Stevens, P.Z. and Scribe E.; H. C. Levanter, P.Z., Treas.; and H. Harvey, P.Z. There were also present Comps. R. N. Field, P.S.; A. C. Burrell, 1st. A.S.; Samuel Poynter, 2nd. A.S.; Thomas Meggy, Steward; John Gilbert, Janitor; also Comps. G. T. Thorne, Alfred Youngman, and others; and visitors: E. Comps. P. Dakers, P.Z. 583; and Comps. W. Foster, T. Edmondstone, and H. Jarman, all of the Maedonald Lodge, No. 1216. The chapter having been duly opened and companions admitted, Bros. Edward Mitchell, of the Panmure Lodge, No. 730, and Thomas Preston, Sec. of the Royal Leopold Lodge, No. 1669, were balloted for, approved of, and exalted to the Supreme Degree. Refreshment followed labour, after which the usual Masonic

toasts were duly honoured. The exaltees expressed great satisfaction with their introduction into Royal Arch Masonry, and the visitors through E. Comp. Dakers bestowed high encomiums on the working they witnessed. A brief but agreeable evening was spent in social harmony, and the companions separated in peace and good fellowship.

**PONTYPOOL.**—Kennard Chapter (No. 1258).—A meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Pontypool, on Monday, 12th November, when the following companions were installed as Principals for the ensuing year: Comp. W. Bunning, as M.E.Z.; W. Dovey, as H.; H. Haskins, as Z. The ceremony was most ably performed by Ex. Comp. Capt. S. Geo. Homfray, P.G.S.B. of Grand Chapter, and P.G.H. Mon., assisted by Ex. Comps. W. Pickford and S. Oliver, P.Z's. of 471, and Ex. Comp. H. Griffiths, P.Z. A vote of thanks was unanimously given to Ex. Comp. Capt. S. G. Homfray for the ready manner in which he always comes forward to perform any ceremony when required, and the chapter was closed in harmony, and the companions adjourned to a supper at the Clarence Hotel. A very liberal collection was made by Comp. S. G. Homfray towards the Stewardship of the P.G.M., Col. Lyne, for next Boys' School Anniversary.

#### Ancient and Accepted Rite.

**BRIGHTON.**—Eureka Rose Croix Chapter (No. 44).—The Eureka Chapter celebrated the fifth anniversary of its foundation on Saturday, the 10th inst., when it was honoured by the presence of a large number of distinguished visitors from London and Cheshire, amongst whom were the following members of the "Supreme Council," 33°. Captain N. G. Phillips, 33°, Lieut. Grand Com. Sen. G.D. and G.N. of England; Lieut. Col. Shadwell Clerke, 33°, G. Sec. Gen., P.S.G. Warden Devon, &c.; Hugh D. Sandeman, 33°, G. Sec. F.C., P.D.G. Master and G. Supt. Bengal; Lieut. Col. A. W. Adair, 33°, P. Prov. G. Master Somerset. The undermentioned members of the 33°, 32°, 31°, and 30° were also present:—S. Rawson, 33°, Deputy Ins. Gen. S.E. District, P.D.G. Master, and G. Supt. China; R.W. H. Giddy, 33°, D. Ins. Gen. S. Africa, D.G. Master S. Africa; Major George Barlow, 33°, D. Ins. Gen. S. District; Lieut.-Gen. J. S. Brownrigg, C.B., 33°, Prov. G. Master and G. Supt. Surrey; W. Hyde Pullen, 33°, P.G.S.B. of England; Lieut. Col. Francis Burdett, 32°, Prov. G. Master and G. Supt. of Middlesex; Charles Horsley, 32°; Lieut. Col. H. S. Burney, 32°; Dr. Trollope, 31°, P.S.G.W. Sussex; Rev. Ambrose Hill, 31°; Charles Hammerton, 31°; Hon. Capt. Paget Bourke, 30°; Thomas Lane, 30°; Robert Stewart, 30°; Dr. M. B. Tanner, 30°; and the following members of the 18°: Capt. J. C. H. Stratford, Lord Arthur Hill, Rev. E. Walker, H. Sanderson, J. Robertson, Kennedy Skipton, E. Pidcock, Capt. Huth, Capt. McWhinnie, A. Everingham, Greaves, W. R. Wood, D. Smith, E. De Paris, Vickers, F. Holford, G. Le Pays, W. Pallin, and others. The M.W. Sov. of the chapter, Bro. Charles J. Smith, presided, and after the distinguished visitors of the Supreme Council and other members of the 33° had been received in due form, the two candidates, Bros. Le Pays and Pallin, were admitted to the degree of S.P.R.C., 18°, the ceremonies being worked with great accuracy and effect by Bro. Charles Smith, who was complimented thereon by the Supreme Council. After the chapter was closed, the brethren were entertained at a choice banquet at Markwell's Royal Hotel, when the usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured. This chapter, the most complete and beautiful in England, may fairly be congratulated on the entire success of the evening, and on the distinguished position which it has attained in the last five years, despite the strenuous but fruitless opposition manifested in certain quarters in its early days. An Order that rejoices in possessing H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. as its Patron, almost every distinguished Grand Officer of England, and nearly all the Provincial Grand Masters, as members, can well afford to disregard narrow-minded cavillings and misrepresentations to which it is occasionally subjected.

#### Mark Masonry.

**SOUTH MOLTON.**—Fortescue Lodge (No. 9).—The usual annual meeting of this lodge for the purpose of installing the W.M. for the year ensuing, was held at the Masonic Hall, on Monday last. The following brethren were present:—Lieut.-Col. J. Tanner Davy, P.G.M.; John Wood, W.M.; J. T. Shapland, I.P.M., P.P.G., J.W.; J. Brewer, S.W., P.P.G., J.O.; W. Cole, J.W.; J. Galliford, M.O., P.G., S.O.; J. E. Galliford, W. H. Brewer, C. S. Willshire, J. List, T. Hancock, A. Petowsky, W. Briteon, J. Gaydon, R. Kingdon and others. The ceremony of installation was very correctly performed by Bro. Davy. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as the officers of the lodge for the year ensuing:—J. Wood, I.P.M.; W. Cole, S.W.; W. H. Brewer, J.W.; J. Galliford, M.O.; J. T. Widgery, S.O.; W. Britton, J.O.; Rev. F. King, M.A., P.G.C., Chaplain; J. Galliford, Treas.; J. E. Galliford, Sec.; A. Petowsky, Reg. of Marks; W. C. Oliver, S.D.; J. List, J.D.; J. Gaydon, I.G.; and R. Kingdon, Tyler. The brethren afterwards dined together at Bro. Cole's, Unicorn Hotel, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

**NEW SOUTH WALES.**—The brethren who have experienced so much difficulty in procuring the *Freemason* in this distant colony, will be pleased to learn that owing to arrangements made with Messrs. T. J. Jones and Son, "The Four Masonic Publications" may now be obtained at their offices, No. 330, George-street, Sydney, on the arrival of the mail.

#### THE GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

(Continued from page 496.)

As to the consequences which our discussion may have in the profane world, I do not at all fear them as far as relates to the civil power.

What have we to fear? In studying this question do we enter into a domain which belongs to it and do we infringe its rights? By no means! We wish on the contrary to fix a limit, on this point, and to remain like itself above all creeds and all religions. Then, my brothers, and to sum up, none of the considerations which have been presented have appeared to us to be of a nature to require the postponement advised. We have been so much the more favourable, my brothers, to the immediate discussion of the question, because, as one of its members judiciously reminded the Committee, there is in the Constitution an article which made it our imperative duty. This article, is the complementary article of Title V., thus expressed:

#### TITLE V.—COMPLEMENTARY ARTICLE.

"Every demand of modification in the Constitution, taken into consideration by the General Assembly of the Gr. Or. of Fr. shall be discussed in the Assembly of the following year, the lodges having been previously consulted."

For all these reasons, my BB., your Committee, by a majority of eight votes, has adopted the immediate discussion of Proposition No. IX.

This first point of view being studied, my BB., your Committee has devoted itself to a profound examination of the proposition itself. You do not expect, doubtless, that I should expound to you now all the reasons which have been presented in support of its adoption. That would be giving this already too prolix report (but which the little time that has been given me to devote to it has not allowed me to make shorter) too great length.

Besides, my BB., these reasons, you know them, you have been able to gather them in the eloquent discourses which were delivered in 1865, 1867, and more recently still, last year.

In your respective lodges—and your deliberations sent to the Gr. Or. evidence it—you have been able to present them yourselves, or to hear them expressed, so that, at the present moment, these motives are, I am sure, present to the minds of all of you.

Permit me then to confine myself to recapitulating them to you rapidly.

We ask for the suppression of the second paragraph of Art. 1st of our Constitution, because it appears to us to be in complete contradiction with the following paragraph of the same article.

We ask for this suppression because this formula, it appears to us, must cause very often embarrassment to many Masters, and to many lodges, which under certain circumstances are forced, either to elude the law, or else to violate it.

Now, should not Masonry always set the example of observance of and respect for the law?

We ask for the suppression of this formula, because, embarrassing as it is for the Masters and the lodges, it is none the less so for many profanes, who, animated by a sincere desire to form a part of our great and beautiful institution, which has been depicted to them, with good reason, as a broad and progressive institution, see themselves suddenly arrested by this dogmatic barrier which their conscience does not allow them to overstep.

We ask for the suppression of this formula, because it appears to us entirely useless and foreign to the purpose aimed at by Masonry.

When a society of learned men assembles to study a scientific question, does it feel itself obliged to place at the basis of its statutes any theological formula whatever? Is not "No" the answer? They study science independently of every dogmatic or religious idea.

Should it not be the same in Masonry? Is not its field vast enough, its domain of sufficient extent, for it not to be necessary that it should place its foot on ground which is not its own?

No, let us leave to the theologians the care of discussing dogmas. Let us leave to the churches that have authority the care of drawing up their syllabus. But let Masonry remain what it ought to be; that is to say, an institution open to all progress, to all moral and elevated ideas, to all broad, liberal inspirations; let it never descend into the fiery arena of theological discussions, which have never—believe the word of him who speaks to you—brought about anything but troubles and persecutions. Let her beware of wishing to be a Church, a council, a synod. For all Churches, all councils, all synods have been violent persecutors; and that from always having chosen to take for basis dogma,—which, from its nature, is essentially inquisitorial and intolerant. Let Masonry then soar majestically above all these questions of Church or of sect; let her tower from her whole eminence over all their discussions; let her remain the vast shelter always open to all generous and valiant minds, to all conscientious and disinterested seekers after truth, to all victims, in fine, of despotism and intolerance.

Such is, my BB., the conclusion at which your Committee have arrived, and if, when it concerned the question of opportuneness, we have been 8 against 1, I am delighted to tell you that, for all the reasons which I have just called to your mind, we have been unanimous in adopting the following resolution which we have the favor to propose to you:

1st. The Assembly, considering that Freemasonry is not a religion; that, consequently, it is not called upon to affirm in its Constitution doctrines or dogmas:

Adopts the Proposition No. IX.

2d. The Assembly decides that the 2d paragraph of Art. 1 of the Constitution shall have the following tenor:

"Freemasonry holds as a principle: Absolute liberty of conscience and human solidarity."

3d. The Assembly suppresses, as constituting a useless repetition with the 2d paragraph modified, Paragraph 3, thus expressed:

"Freemasonry regards liberty of conscience as a right belonging to every man, and excludes no person on account of his beliefs."

4th. The Assembly decides finally that Art. 1 of the Constitution shall hereafter have the following tenor:

"Freemasonry, an essentially philanthropical, philosophical, and progressive institution, has for its object the search after truth, the study of universal ethics, of the sciences and of arts, and the exercise of beneficence.

"It holds as a principle absolute liberty of conscience and human solidarity. It has for device: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

If these propositions are adopted by the Assembly, your Committee decides to propose to the Council of the Order to give the question to be studied relative to the revision of the rituals at present in use.

This report, it must be acknowledged, is admirably drawn up, and therefore it was often applauded by a large majority of the assembly.

A great number of BB. in the Assembly demand that they should immediately proceed to the vote.

The President, Bro. de Saint Jean, opposes this course; he is desirous of submitting an observation.

Silence is restored with difficulty. Bro. de Saint Jean has the floor.

He would consider himself wanting in all his duties as a Mason, and not sufficiently to appreciate his responsibility as Presiding Officer of the Grand Orient, if he did not make known the agitation which filled him. Yes, he foresees mischief for our Institution in the immediate vote on the adoption of Proposition No. IX., and he cannot, he must not hide his opinion. It is this: The Assembly must weigh this reflection, and adopt the wisest expedient in the interest of the Institution.

The clamour for the question is renewed with great vigour. Bro. Dalsace wishes to speak; he obtains silence only with difficulty.

For four days, said he, I have served an actual campaign in favour of postponement, but the report which we have just heard, and which has won us by its moderation, by its wisdom, by its forcible and irrefutable consideration in favour of an immediate vote, by its very Masonic and conciliatory resolutions, all make it my duty, my BB. to inform you, that I am no longer for postponement; that I am for an immediate vote. And I am pleased to hope that all this Assembly will come round to this opinion. It is necessary, in order that the results of our vote should be efficacious, that it should not meet with any opposing factions.

Bro. Aubert-Bouché does not share the opinion of Bro. Dalsace; he deduces with rapidity the great considerations of security which are inducements to ask the postponement to another session. Often interrupted, he withstands energetically the interrupters who wish to impose silence on him. In Masonry, we must know how to listen to each other. Besides, my BB., I am the representative here of 100 Masons, which is quite a number, and I only give expression to what is expected by these Masons of the wisdom and foresight of the Assembly.

Bro. Ferdeuil thinks that we must put an end to this question, which, for too long a time, has been a source of agitation and trouble in Masonry. He embraces the proposition of the Committee on the vote, whose adoption will bring about pacification in our ranks, and will disengage us from a text of law which gives satisfaction to no one.

Again, the cries: "The closing! the closing! to the vote! to the vote!" come from all parts of the Temple. Unquestionably the majority is won over to the Proposition No. IX.

Bro. Jabouille demands the floor. He is compelled to struggle quite a long time to succeed in making himself heard. Finally, he can proceed, although interrupted; he then sets forth with much talent and appositeness the best of reasons for the Assembly to grant the postponement. He says with good reason that even while reading with the greatest care the report so well entitled to consideration of Bro. Desmons, it is evident from it that the question which is agitated is not a question of principle, but of formula . . . and again . . . He shows that the Assembly is giving way to an impulse of sentiment and nothing more, and in this case the greatest victory would be that gained over itself. He skilfully makes it evident that the declaration which has been in the Constitution since 1849 has in no wise trammelled Masonry, at any period, at any moment; what inconvenience then in deferring it? There is no inconvenience in that; on the contrary, every advantage. The orator would have had still many more considerations to plead, but the Assembly is impatient, and on the Presiding Officer himself insisting, Bro. Jabouille curtails and breaks off his discourse.

Bro. Jouvault: The solution of the question exists. The declaration of the lodges rises imperiously before us. We have an imperative mandate; we have only to assent to the declaration of our lodges. To postpone would be pusillanimity. It is time to make an end of it.

Bro. Du Hamel explaining the Constitution, and stopping specially at Article 5, demonstrates the unconstitutionality and the danger of the imperative mandate.

This brother cannot get to the end of his argumentation, any more than the preceding ones.

Besides, he is told that he is outside of the question. This is not the opinion of Bro. de Saint-Jean, who, himself, thinks, on the contrary, that Bro. Du Hamel reasoned justly.

Bro. Dalsace returns to the charge, but such is the disposition of the Assembly that it does not listen, that it will not listen even to those who reflect its thought. At last Bro. Dalsace uses such energy and persistency, that finally he is able to emphasise in a louder tone the

considerations which he developed in his first address. Acceding at the last moment to Proposition No. IX., he could see a very great advantage in the Assembly's being unanimous in its vote.

A brother whose name I regret not knowing, proceeded to explain what had already been said, that, concerning article 8, the Assembly could not escape from the necessity of a definitive solution of the question of Proposition No. IX. As the orator still kept on, although he was interrupted at every instant, the call for the closing became so urgent and general, that the Presiding Officer was obliged to put it to the vote: it was adopted almost unanimously.

The President demands the conclusions of the Orator, Bro. Vienot, on the postponement.

The conclusions are against postponement. These conclusions are adopted by a large majority.

The President gives notice that he will put to the vote in succession the resolutions of the report of Bro. Desmons.

Bro. Minot and some other BB. demand a vote by call of the roll. His insistence on this demand produces some tumult; finally the law prevails, and the vote is taken by rising or remaining seated.

No. 1.—No. 2.—No. 3.

1st. The Assembly, considering that Freemasonry is not a religion; that, consequently, it is not called upon to assert in its Constitution doctrines or dogmas,

Adopts Proposition No. IX.

2d. The Assembly decides that the 2d section of Article 1st of the Constitution shall have the following tenor:

"It holds as principles, absolute freedom of conscience and human solidarity."

3d. The Assembly suppresses, as constituting a useless repetition of the 2d section as modified, section 3, thus expressed:

"It considers liberty of conscience as a right belonging to every man and excludes no one for his creed."

The section ". . . and excludes no one for his creed . . ." was introduced into No. 3 by request of Bro. de Saint Jean. This amendment, at first rejected by the Committee, but defended by Bro. Cauzard, of the Lodge la Renaissance and other BB., was accepted by it; which facilitated its adoption.

Being accustomed to remain an exact and impartial narrator, we have no difficulty in acknowledging that the minority against the adoption of the vote was feeble, and we acknowledge that we are of that minority and we persist in it; we remain convinced that the vote of the Gr. Or. is a mistake, and a very great mistake. We shall never understand an Institution having morality for its object, for its teaching, which commences by cutting off what is its law and sanction.

The revision of the Statutes and Rituals was decided upon so as to place them in accordance with the preceding vote.

Session of Friday, 14th September.

Some explanations are exchanged on the subject of the number of the Majority and of the Minority, in the case of Proposition No. IX, adoption of the resolutions of the Committee on this Proposition.

The official report will state the fact that the adoption had a large majority.

No one disputes the fact. Certainly the very great majority voted the adoption of Proposition No. IX.

Bro. Marchal, of Nancy, wishes to ask a question on this subject. "It remains, then, well established that the Masonry of the Grand Orient is disengaged from all religious principles?"

This is not disputed.

Our readers have before them the labours of the Session of the Masonic year 5877. It was feared that it would not take place. Let us acknowledge that these sessions have been dignified, and that the resolutions adopted have been so after serious study and thorough discussion. One vote has distressed us, this is the vote No. IX; we believe it to be prejudicial to true Masonic interests, and we have been and glory in being in that minority which voted against this adoption. But our regret should not render us unjust; if anything can afford any alleviation, any palliation of our grief on this point, it is the sentiment of moderation, the spirit of conciliation which are to be discerned in the report of Bro. Desmons. We have applauded this report, without having been willing to adopt its conclusions, for it sanctioned a suppression in our Masonic law, which is, for me, with my full conviction, a derogation from one of the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, such as it has been established from all time, such as it appears in the known Universe, because the report of Bro. Desmons is that of a loyal Mason, of a Mason who knows how to speak with a wholly fraternal heart.

We must likewise thank Brother de Saint-Jean for having proposed to add to the 3d resolution of the Committee on Proposition No. IX, the paragraph: "Freemasonry considers liberty of conscience as a right belonging to every man, and it excludes no one on account of his creed." It is a real weighing and fortunate attenuation of the textual wording of the resolutions as they came from the deliberations of the Committee on Proposition No. IX. Let us thank Bro. Cauzard, who, by his intervention in the debate, contributed powerfully to the adoption of the amendment of Bro. de Saint-Jean.

In an early number, we shall examine the report of Bro. Desmons; we will point out the historical errors in point of fact which are to be found therein. We must not do that through respect for the opinion which we have defended and which is still ours.

HUBERT.

The Members of the Grand Orient of France are entitled to the full benefit of their declaration, that the suppression of the declaration of belief in God and in the immortality of the Soul cannot without injustice be taken as a profession

of Materialism or Atheism. It is, no doubt, not so for most of them. It is so, no doubt for some.

And on the other hand, they must all bear the full burthen of the declarations that it is a proclamation of entire liberty of conscience; that one of the reasons for the suppression has been, to relieve Masters of Lodges from embarrassment, and from the necessity which "in certain circumstances," constrained them either to elude or violate the law; and another, to relieve profanes applying for initiation, who might find the clause suppressed a barrier which their conscience would not permit them to surmount.

For the meaning of all this is, that it shall be no obstacle in France to the admission of a profane into Masonry, that he is a pronounced and avowed Atheist, who cannot declare that he puts his trust in God, because he believes that there is no God; and the clause suppressed must no longer embarrass Masters and Lodges desirous to initiate Atheists, nor Atheists who desire initiation.

It has always been a landmark of the genuine English and American Freemasonry, that no Atheist, equally with no woman, can be admitted a Mason. That Order, in any country, into which avowed Atheists can be admitted, and the Members whereof need not believe that there is a God or that the Soul of man lives after his body, cannot be Freemasonry for us.

Notwithstanding the disclaimer by the G. Orient of France, of Atheistical profession, it is not deniable that the suppression of the declaration of faith in question is a concession to Atheism. It announces to the Masonic world, that in France it is, so far as the power of the Grand Orient extends, no longer necessary that a Mason should believe that there is a God, or that man is more than an animal.

Nothing can be conceived of, more ridiculous than reading the lessons of our Rituals of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite would be, to an Atheist. The belief in a Supreme Intelligence, Creator and Preserver of the Universe, a Beneficent God, to whom it is no folly to pray for aid and comfort, a Father, who loves us as his children, is the basis upon which all our ritualism, in all our degrees, rests. Take it away, and they become less than nought, the very babbling of incoherent and disjointed folly.

We put our trust in God; and not in a "Supreme Force," or "Greater-Principle;" and cannot hold that to be Freemasonry which does not do the same.

The Grand Orient of France claims to have in its bosom a Supreme Council of the 33d Degree. There is also a legitimate Supreme Council of France, distinct from the Grand Orient, of which Mons Adolphe Crémieux, (whose predecessor was M. Viennet, and his the Duc Decazes,) is Grand Commander, and Mons. G. Guiffrey is Secretary General. We have not for several years had any relations of amity or correspondence with the Grand Orient of France, in consequence of its recognition of the so-called Supreme Council of Louisiana. We have suspended such communication with the Supreme Council of France, for what we deemed just causes of complaint; but the BB. of its obedience are nevertheless entitled to be welcomed as visitors in bodies under our jurisdiction. The recognition by the Grand Orient of the illegitimate body in Louisiana, excludes all who are of its obedience from our bodies, and forbids our BB. to visit bodies of any degree, any where, that are of obedience of the Grand Orient of France. It is not so as to those that are of the obedience of the Supreme Council of France. It has not allied itself with a spurious body within our jurisdiction.

As each has symbolic lodges under it, and bodies of the higher degrees, in France and elsewhere, you will be careful to bear in mind the difference between them, since the Grand Orient has now made it impossible for us to recognise it as a Masonic Power, or the bodies of its obedience as Masonic bodies. We cannot recognise an atheist as a Mason, permit him to visit as such, or sit in a Masonic Body with him; and but for the existence in France of a lawful Power of the Scottish Freemasonry, the Supreme Council of France, which has not yet declared the belief in a God and in the immortality of the soul unnecessary for one seeking initiation, the Masonic Powers of the world might justly proclaim France to be unoccupied Masonic territory, and grant charters for Masonic bodies to work therein, composed of Masons obligated not to receive into the brotherhood any "old man in his dotage, or young man in his nonage, an atheist or irreligious libertine, a jesuit, a madman, or a fool."

The Supreme Council of France, has, it is true, taken a step in the same direction with the Grand Orient of France. It has, as a concession to Atheism, substituted the phrases, "Force Supérieure" and "Principe Créateur," for the name of God, in a declaration of principles concurred in by other Powers; but it has retained the phrase, "known by the name of Great Architect of the Universe;" and has not avowed that its Lodges are at liberty to initiate avowed Atheists, nor found it necessary, as yet, to change its Rituals, in order that nothing in them may offend the tender consciences of those whom what they call "reason" compels to believe that there is no God. If it should imitate the Grand Orient, there will be no Freemasonry in France.

You will therefore henceforth admit as visitors of your bodies none who are of the obedience of the Grand Orient of France; nor sit with any such in the blue lodges; nor will you, in any country, visit symbolic lodges or other bodies of its obedience, until further order of the Supreme Council.

And may our Father which is in Heaven have you always in His holy keeping!

ALBERT PIKE, Sov. G. Com.

Mr. Frederick Stokes has been appointed Admiralty Proctor in succession to his father, Mr. Henry Graham Stokes, deceased.

## BRO. THE REV. H. A. PICKARD, GRAND CHAPLAIN.

On entering the University in 1851, Bro. Pickard at once signified his wish to become a member of the Craft, so that in November of the same year he was initiated, the Rev. R. St. John Tyrwhitt being then Worshipful Master. After serving as Deacon and Warden, he was elected as W. Master for the year 1856, and re-elected for 1857.

During these two years of office, Bro. Pickard initiated among other distinguished brethren, the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale, Bro. Talbot, late Provincial Grand Master for the Eastern Division of South Wales; Bro. Victor Williamson, Junior Grand Warden in 1865; and the Marquis of Hamilton. During the second year of Mastership, the Pro Grand Master, Lord Carnarvon, became a joining member of the lodge.

It is well worthy of notice that Bro. Pickard made such rapid progress in Masonry that before he had been a Mason two years the Provincial Grand Master conferred upon him the Office of Provincial Grand Steward, and after passing through another minor office he was appointed Prov. Grand Senior Warden in 1857, during which year Lord Zetland's memorable visit to the Province of Oxford took place.

For nearly ten years Bro. Pickard was compelled by his duties as H.M. Inspector of Schools to be absent from Oxford, but shortly after his return he had the honour of being Chaplain to the lodge when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was Worshipful Master in 1873. That Bro. Pickard's popularity amongst the members of his lodge was great is evident from the fact that he received the extraordinary honour of being elected for the third time Worshipful Master, and during his year of office was appointed to represent the province as Steward at the Installation of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master in the Albert Hall.

On quitting office Bro. Pickard installed as his successor H.R.H. Prince Leopold, and took a prominent part the next day in the installation of H.R.H. as Provincial Grand Master.

In addition to gaining distinction in lodge Bro. Pickard also became First Principal of the Alfred Chapter in 1859, and of the Apollo University Chapter in 1875, and has also served as Steward for all the Masonic Charities. He is also joint editor of the Bye-laws of the Apollo University Lodge.

We heartily congratulate our rev. brother on his appointment.

## ROYAL MASONIC BOYS' SCHOOL.

## MASONIC F.C., v. HIGH CROSS COLLEGE.

On Wednesday last, in drizzling rain, which continued during the whole of the game, these clubs met for the first time this season on the ground of the latter, at Tottenham, The High Cross, having won the toss, gave the Masonic the choice of goals, preferring to kick off. Price started the ball at 3.25. After a few scrimmages, in which the Masonic gained ground, one of the High Cross men ran with the ball behind the Masonic goal line, and secured a try, which resulted in a goal. Some more scrimmages and several good runs on both sides having taken place, Mr. Gardner, by a splendid run, succeeded in getting a try, which, however, he failed to convert into a goal. Shortly afterwards the ball was scrimmaged behind the High Cross goal-line by the Masonic forwards, and touched down by Ellis. Before "half-time" two other tries and three touch-downs were obtained by the Masonic team, and one try by the College, but the ball was in no case kicked over the cross-bar, it being scarcely possible to kick owing to the wretched state of the ground. During the second half-time, four more tries and a touch-down were obtained by the Masonians, Scurr succeeding in kicking one goal. For the visitors Messrs. Gardner, Godsmark, Parker, Ellis, and Sparkes, and for the College Messrs. Price, Poggy, Barker, and E. Dacent distinguished themselves. Time being called at 4.35, the Masonic were the victors by one goal, seven tries, and four touch-downs, to a goal and a try.

MASONIC.—Hart (back); Gardner and Scurr (half-backs); Parker and Ellis (quarter-backs); Godsmark (capt); W. Sparkes, Davies, Howard, Eastland, H. and E. Wood, C. Sage, Dancy, and Hanson (Forwards).

HIGH CROSS.—Mr. Poggy (back); Price (capt) and Friar (half-backs); Messrs. E. and M. Dacent (half-backs); Messrs. Barker, Lombard, H. and E. Woodman, MacIntosh, Bankham, Planze, Thomas, Crier, and Fisher (forwards).

The Duchess of Marlborough, accompanied by Lady Blandford, visited the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, last week. Her ladyship was conducted round the wards by Dr. Atthill, the Master, and Dr. Smyly, assistant-physician to the institution, and expressed herself much gratified and interested in the patients.

THE COSMOPOLITAN MASONIC CALENDAR, DIARY, AND POCKET BOOK FOR 1878.—We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of this Calendar, which cannot fail to prove of great service to brethren for purposes of reference. First comes a list of Grand Lodge, England, with its subordinate lodges, then Grand Chapter, with its subordinate chapters, and then the Grand Mark Lodge, and the Orders of Masonic Knighthood, &c., and the Supreme Council of the A. and A. Rite. Similar particulars are furnished for Ireland and Scotland. Lastly, we have a mass of information respecting foreign Grand Lodges and Orients together with the Charge at Initiation and the E.A.P. song. This will, of course, suffice to show its value. At the same time, the compilation of a work of this kind is necessarily a severe task, and it would be singular indeed if there were not some errors of omission and commission.—Touchstone. —Advt.

## Masonic and General Tidings.

A warrant has been granted to the Hammer-smith Lodge of Mark Masters to hold a lodge at the Windsor Castle Hotel, King-street, West Hammersmith. Bros. John Mason, P.G.S.D., Middlesex, W.M. designate; J. W. Baldwin, S.W. designate; T. C. Walls, J.W. designate; F. Walters, Sec. pro tem.

BRO. SIR W. W. WYNN, BART, M.P.—At a recent meeting of the Provincial Grand Officers and W.M.'s of North Wales and Shropshire to consider what form the commemoration of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn's reign over the province for a quarter of a century should take, it was resolved "That he should be presented with an illuminated address congratulating him on the event, and that a life presentation to the Boy's School should be purchased, to be called "The Sir Watkin Presentation."

The meetings of the Mount Edgcumbe Lodge of Instruction, 1446, will for the future be held on Tuesday evenings at eight o'clock.

The telegraph announces the death in Abyssinia of Bro. the Marchese Antinori, chief of the Italian Expedition of Discovery in Shiva. The Marchese, who latterly chiefly resided at Rome, was a distinguished naturalist, and in this capacity had made journeys in the Nile valley. He was Hon. Sec. of the Italian Geographical Society, and promoted the formation of the expedition which has been attended with such difficulties, and in which he has lost his life. He was a devoted Mason, and for some time held the honorary post of G. Sec. of the Grand Orient of Italy.

The statue which is to be erected by public subscription in the Pavilion Grounds, Brighton, in memory of the late Bro. Sir Cordy Burrows, is now completed. The ceremony of unveiling has been fixed for the month of February next.

At a committee meeting of the Henry Muggidge Testimonial Fund, it was proposed and carried, that the subscription list should close on Thursday, the 31st of January, 1878.

The Fifteen Sections will be worked in the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, on Wednesday next, the 28th inst., at the Railway Tavern, Railway-place, Fenchurch-street, Bro. Webb will pre-ide. Lodge will be opened at 6.45.

After Mr. Baron Pollock, had concluded his summing-up in the case of the four detectives and Edward Froggatt, solicitor, on Tuesday, the jury, at twenty-five minutes past three o'clock, retired to consider their verdict, and returned into court at seventeen minutes past four, when they pronounced the prisoners Meiklejohn, Druscovich, Palmer, and Froggatt guilty, and acquitted Inspector Clarke; Druscovich and Palmer they strongly recommended to mercy. The convicted prisoners pleaded for the infliction of as light a punishment as the Court could pronounce, and they were each sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour. Clarke, against whom there is another charge, which it is uncertain whether the Crown will prosecute, was liberated on his own recognisances.

We are very pleased to announce that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has appointed the Rev. H. A. Pickard, Grand Chaplain to the Grand Lodge of England, in the room of the late Bro. the Rev. Lake Onslow.

BIRTHDAY OF THE CROWN PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA AT WINDSOR.—At Windsor, on Wednesday, the 37th birthday of the Princess Royal (Crown Princess of Prussia) was celebrated with considerable rejoicing, the bells of the Chapel Royal, of St. George's, and St. John's Church pealing merrily at intervals throughout the day. Salutes of 21 guns were also fired from the artillery in the Long Walk, and from Fort Belvedere and the Royal Adelaide frigate, Virginia Water. Princess Frederick William of Prussia was born on the 21st November, 1840.

THE QUEEN'S RETURN TO WINDSOR.—Her Majesty the Queen and Princess Beatrice are expected to return to Windsor on Friday next.

There was considerable rejoicing at and near Sheffield on Wednesday, the occasion of the Duke of Norfolk's marriage, the Duke being the owner of most of the land in the district. The parish church and Catholic chapel bells were rung all day; flags were displayed; all the labourers of the Duke's tenants in Yorkshire and Derbyshire had money gifts of ten shillings for married and five shillings for single men, and there was a dinner in the Cutlers' Hall for all the local employes. A series of banquets for the townspeople will be given next month, when the Duke visits Sheffield.

LIVERPOOL.—In answer to the numerous letters that the publisher has received from brethren in Liverpool, we beg to state that the *Freemason* is to be obtained in Liverpool on Friday afternoon at 5 o'clock, at the office, 2, Monument-place; at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street; and at the Landing Stage.

MARK MASONRY.—Bro. Matthews, the W.M. of the Lodge of Independence, Chester, has been appointed Master of the newly-formed Mark Lodge in that city.

In consequence of the Scottish Corporation Hall being burnt down, the Society of Medical Officers of Health held its meeting on Friday last in the Cannon-street Hotel.

A committee has been formed of gentlemen residing in Sydenham and its vicinity for the purpose of recognising in some substantial form the services rendered by Bro. the Rev. W. Taylor Jones, in obtaining a public recreation ground. An appeal has been issued for subscriptions in aid of this object. It is proposed that the testimonial shall be in the form of a drinking fountain.

As an instance of the unfortunate errors that will creep into print, we would refer our readers to the description of our Grand Secretary in Tuesday's *Times*. In the case of Swann v Vines our distinguished brother, who was subpoenaed as a witness by the plaintiff, is described as John Henry, and is reported to have said that he was "Paid" instead of "Grand" Secretary.

The Prince of Wales, who is on a visit to Lord Londesborough, at Londesborough House, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, paid a visit on Wednesday to Selby, on his way to Lord Londesborough's estate at Thorpe, where his Royal Highness had some capital shooting. The inhabitants of Selby had gone to some expense and trouble to give the Prince a good reception, but the weather was so unfavourable that the programme had to be given up.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.—The first of a series of Saturday evening Handel concerts by the Alexandra Palace choir of 1000 voices takes place this day (Saturday), when the programme will consist of selections from *Judas Maccabeus*. The solo vocalists are Miss Annie Sinclair, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lackner. Mr. Smythson is the conductor. Mr. Frederick Archer, who is the organist, will play the concerto in F major, No. 1 of set 2.

The Duke of Norfolk was married on Wednesday to Lady Flora Hastings, at the Oratory, Brompton, the presence of a distinguished assemblage, Dr. Danell, Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, officiating. The service was choral. Amongst those present were the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, the Dowager Duchess of Norfolk, the Marquis of Bute, and Lord Beaconsfield. The newly-married pair left town early in the afternoon for Arundel Castle, the Duke's seat in Sussex.

In our report of the "Centenary Celebration at York," the name of Bro. R. W. Hollon was erroneously printed "Holden."

RHYL.—We are glad to say that the newly-formed lodge at Rhyl (the Caradoc) is progressing satisfactorily. The membership is steadily increasing, and the lodge promises to become one of the best in the province.

The Post Office announces that a mail for all parts of Australia and New Zealand will be made up in London on the evening of Friday, the 7th prox., for despatch by the steamer Lusitania, from Plymouth. A mail for the Australian and New Zealand colonies will be made up for despatch by the steamship Whampoa on Saturday evening, the 24th inst. Letters should be specially directed per Whampoa, ss., via Plymouth.

The Hon. Gerald Normanby Fitzgibbon authoritatively contradicts, on his own behalf and on the part of his wife, Lady Louisa Fitzgibbon, the rumour relative to Lord Fitzgibbon having reached this country, or that there has been anything whatever heard of him by Lady Louisa Fitzgibbon (his sister), or any member of the family, since the publication of the official return of casualties at the battle of Balaklava.

We regret to learn of the death in Dublin, in his 37th year, of the Hon. Theobald Fitz-Walter Butler, second son of Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Dunboyne, R.W. J.G.W. Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Miss Knollys is still progressing steadily towards complete convalescence, though not perhaps so rapidly as could be wished. The improvement has been delayed by no untoward symptom, but there has been shown a great want of recuperative power, doubtless the result of the very severe and prolonged illness through which Miss Knollys has passed. According to present arrangements, Miss Knollys, still attended by Mr. Oscar Clayton, will leave Abergeldie Castle this morning, accompanying Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to London.—*Medical Examiner*.

The Annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset will be held at the Shire Hall, Taunton under the banner of the Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity, No. 261, on Monday next, the 26th inst.

THE FREEMASON'S TAVERN.—This well-known Masonic tavern, in Great Queen-street, having recently been taken by Bro. Alfred Best, bids fair under his spirited proprietorship to become one of the most popular establishments in London. For upwards of three months, under the supervision of Mr. John Pugh, Surveyor, Old Jewry, the interior has been undergoing a thorough renovation; a removal of all that was useless, with a lavish expenditure in decoration and adornment deserving of the highest praise, and warmest acknowledgments to Bro. Best for the taste and selection displayed, not only in the new appointments, but in the retention of old associations, mirrors, cabinets, sideboards, tables, etc., that harmonised and were in keeping with the rooms. These have been re-gilt and re-polished, and are very excellent specimens of work. The carpets, brussels and pile—supplied by Messrs. Shoobred—are in harmony with the decorations and furniture. Dinginess has disappeared, and old frequenters will be amazed. Imitation marbles, English and foreign, have been freely introduced with good effect, and the entrance hall, grand staircase, etc., are well deserving of notice. The "Crown Room" is a marvel of decoration, and tasteful elegance, and the Grand Banqueting Hall is one of the handsomest and most perfect of its kind. Here the skill and efforts of the artist have had full play, and with the most satisfactory result; the panelling of the walls having designs emblematic of the seasons, Music, Peace, Plenty, &c., relieved with exquisite tinting. The complete decorations are superb in every sense. Of the many well known attributes of the Freemasons' Tavern and its central position there is no need to mention. That it will in no way deteriorate in the hands of Bro. Alfred Best we are fully assured, and we wish every success attendant.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

The monthly meeting of the Lodge of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall, Bros. J. M. Clabon, P.G.D., President, in the chair, Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.B., Senior Vice-President; James Brett, P.G.P., Junior Vice-President. Amongst the other brethren present were Bros. Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C.; A. J. D. Filer, P.G.S.B.; Henry Murray, P.D.G.M. China; J. M. P. Montagu, D.P.G.M. Dorset; C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P.; T. Cubitt, P.G.P.; E. P. Albert, P.G.P.; W. T. Howe, G.P.; S. G. Foxall, A.G.P.; J. Mason, P.G.S.B.; Col. Somerville Burvey, Alderman Randall, P.G.T. Oxford; C. E. Willing, G. Organist; John Walker, W.M. 27; W. Henry Farnfield, W.M. 1716; W. Browne Kidder, W.M. 12; A. Rixon, W.M. 34; Joseph Smith, P.G.P.; Griffith Smith, P.G.S.; Herbet Dicketts, P.G.S.; W. Stephens, W. H. Myer, F. Koch, W. Mann, C. P. Cobham, J. Stevens, P.M. 1426; H. Massey, (Freemason); H. Garrod, H. T. Thompson, W. Smith, C.E.; T. Bull, C. F. Hogard, J. Constable, Edward Terry, W.M. 1319; S. R. Speight, W.M. 147; Geo. R. Corner, I.P.M. 1139; T. J. Cusworth, W.M. 813; G. King, jun., P.M. 1260; T. Randall, P.M. 340; H. C. Soper, W.M. 704; Capt. R. P. Leeson, W.M. 1615; J. Defriez, W.M. 45; S. V. Abraham, P.M. 1117; R. F. Gould, R. J. More, W. T. Greenwood, Nelson Reed, Charles Atkins, P.M. 27; F. Browne, Walter Hopekirk, James W. Lambert, H. Keeble, H. J. Lewis, W. Ough, P.G.P.; Capt. N. G. Philips, G.D.; J. H. Hammond, W.M. 1216; H. Bartlett, W. H. Peryman, T. H. Meredith, R. S. Campbell, B. H. Swallow, H. Collier, J. Sandilands Ward, W.M. 172; Geo. Wilson, Rev. C. W. Arnold, G.C.; Henry J. Lewis' P.M. 907; Joseph Nunn, P.M. 72; G. W. Taylor, W.M. 917; Edwin Barr, A. Silberberg, Thos. Moring, J. A. Farnfield, W. Masterman, W. Macrow, W. Moul, W. F. Nettleship, P.G.D.; Chas. F. Poupard, James Long, Chas. R. Vinc, Alfred Green, James Garner, John Hervey, G.S.; H. G. Buss, Asst. G.S.; A. A. Pendlebury, and C. B. Payne, G.T.

Grants to the amount of £265 made at last Lodge of Benevolence were first confirmed, and the brethren then proceeded to the consideration of the new cases, of which there were no less than thirty-two on the list. One case was dismissed, and three were deferred. The remainder were relieved with £653, consisting of two £100 (£200); one £50 (£50); one £40 (£40); three £30 (£90); seven £20 (£140); two £15 (£30); nine £10 (£90); two £5 (£10); and one £3 (£3).

The lodge was then closed, after sitting nearly four hours.

GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.

The action of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Ireland, refusing any longer to recognise the Grand Orient of France as a Masonic body, from the latter having altered its fundamental constitution of belief in a personal Deity and the immortality of the soul, has won approval from a source where approval was most expected. The Dublin *Freemason's Journal* applauds the action with all the energy at their command, which is not by any means small. This paper, for many years, was owned by a Protestant, Sir John Gray, but under him it was conducted on Roman Catholic principles. Mr. Dwyer Gray, the present proprietor, was, until lately, a nominal Protestant, but he has gone over to Paul Cullen, and his journal has become, if possible, more Roman than before. The well-known antagonism to Freemasonry evinced by the Roman Church is amply shown in a leader published in the Dublin print this week. After applauding the action of the Irish lodge, the writer of the article goes on to say, that to the outside world it would seem that it did not require a gigantic effort to sweep away the very vague and shadowy professions in which a Freemason is asked to assert his belief in the Divine Existence. While admitting that the formularies of Freemasonry talk of a Great Being, a Supreme Architect, the formularies themselves are declared to be grotesque, semi-idiotic, barbarous, and frequently blasphemous and revolting; the name of God is dragged into the midst of inhuman oaths and invocations, but it is not the God of the Christian religion, but such a God as Voltaire, Rousseau, Strauss, and Renan have fancied, to be set up and destroyed by them as their whims or their atheism might suggest—robbed according to their impious creed of His very existence. This is something like a sweeping condemnation of the Freemason's God, which we should like to see answered by one of the leaders of that society. In Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, perhaps, more than in any other part of England, Freemasonry flourishes, and it is therefore all the more desirable to know whether the Hibernian is right in his description of the Craft's belief, or if he be not uttering a gross calumny on an organisation which the outside public has always understood to be conducted on principles having Christian love as their very essence. The step taken by the Irish fraternity is urged by the Dublin journalist as one which must have further results. The Italian brotherhood must also be dismissed from all fellowship, for if the Orient of France is gross and disgusting in its infidelity, it is far surpassed by the atheistic principles and practices of the lodges of the Italian kingdom. The lodges of Frankfurt and Berlin, we are further told, seek with the abominations of a Godless rationalism. If this be the case—and the Irish scribe says so, and must surely know—then the Grand Lodge of Ireland may be regarded as a mighty saviour of the purity and orthodoxy of the mystic brotherhood. The English lodges are warned that unless they break off with the French Orient the Irish Freemasons must logically sever their connection with them, and, in fact, with all Masonic associations that will not disown the French Orient. What the English Freemasons will do we are not aware, but we have sufficient confidence in those who are at the head of affairs in the English fraternity to believe that when the time comes for a

deliverance on such an important subject, it will be such as all good and genuine Masons will accept. The secret of the attack against the Craft in the Irish paper is not far to seek; the organisation is a secret society, and the Church has condemned all secret societies. There must be nothing secret from the Church, say Pio Nono, and as I do not know your proper constitution, I shall do my best, by abuse and misrepresentation, to annihilate you. This old man says that Freemasonry has always cherished an alliance with revolution and irreligion all over the world; that it has been made such a thing that Catholics cannot touch it; that its influence is suspected and feared in our law courts, and its operations unjustly extended to the domains of politics, literature, and commerce; and that its charity is most selfish, and its benevolence quite bounded. All this, and more the enemies of the Craft are continually urging, and especially in countries where the priests have any power. Freemasonry, as we take it, is not an organisation confined to any particular sect of Christians, and it can well afford to meet openly and fearlessly all the charges brought against it by those whose opposition spring from chagrin and priestly hate.—*Hull Packet*.

Public Amusements.

HER MAJESTY'S.—When Mr. Mapleson announced his intention of giving an autumnal season the wisecracks predicted a dismal failure: they urged that the list of artistes engaged comprised no great stars to draw, that the hour when the opera commences would not suit the fashionables, and maintained generally that London at this time of the year was full only of "blasé" and dyspeptic individuals like themselves. Mr. Mapleson however thought otherwise, he calculated that though not one of the artistes at his command could be said to have earned a world-wide reputation, still there was not one who was not excellent in his or her particular line, and who was not more or less a favourite with a large section of the opera-going public; that though the hour for alighting at the doors of the theatre might not be fashionable, the hour for leaving and getting home would sure to be popular; and he maintained generally that there existed in London, even in the usually black and suicidal month of November, beings who had souls, and were "moved with the concord of sweet sounds." Mr. Mapleson was right and the wisecracks were wrong; up to the present the season has been a great success and there is every promise of a brilliant finish.

ADELPHI.—"After Dark" having had another long run at this house, has made way for "Formosa;" in other words, we may say that after dark cometh light. We hold "Formosa" to be, without exception, Dion Boucicault's best work, and this is saying a great deal, for this dramatist has scored more successes in the sensational department of dramatic literature than any playwright living. Touching the morality or immorality of this piece, it appears to us that the aim and end are good, and to object to its production, as has been done, because the fallen sisterhood are introduced, is to betray a strait-laced squeamishness of mind that declares the semi-fool, or which is worse perhaps, the hypocrite.

OLYMPIC.—On Monday last, Bro. Neville reproduced Mr. Tom Taylor's adaptation of Mrs. Braddon's popular novel "Henry Dunbar," the popular manager himself taking of course his old part of the hero-villain. The drama itself is too well-known to call forth fresh criticism, and if we cannot honestly congratulate the author upon a play teeming with inconsistencies and clap-trap situations, we can highly commend the excellent all-round acting that does more than justice to the piece. First and foremost for praise comes Bro. Neville as "Dunbar," a conception as masterly as it is powerful, and when the curtain descended our wonder that such a play should have re-seen the light was dispelled, for his acting alone should fill the house during the short run that is intended. Miss Bella Pateman naturally takes the part of "Margaret Wentworth," formerly played with such success by Miss Kate Terry. Well as she played it, however, we prefer her in the "Moonstone," but in that she was perfection; and having paid her this, the highest compliment we can, we feel sure she will not be offended if we suggest a little modification, in the scene where to shield her father she burlesques a maid-of-all-work, would be an improvement. Mr. G. W. Anson has never made a greater hit than "The Mayor," a good, but by no means original character. Mr. Forbes Robertson as the young lover struggled manfully to tone down the raw sentiment that pervades his part, and of the others Miss Ellen Meyrick and Mr. Pateman did all that was required of them worthily. We will not mention Mr. W. J. Hill as the waiter a part that should have been entrusted into the hands of an ambitious super if one could have been found to undertake it, but will congratulate him on his impersonation of "Cousin Joe," in the farce of "A Rough Diamond," that preceded the drama, and in which Miss Gerard also scored a decided success as "Margery."

GLOBE.—The matinee performance at this house every Saturday continue to draw crowded houses. Last Saturday "She Stoops to Conquer" was played with considerable success. Space forbids a detailed criticism, but we must commend Mr. Righton for his impersonation of "Tony," Mr. Macklin as "Hastings," and Miss Sanger and Miss Blanche Stammers as the two heroines. Mrs. Chippendale and Mr. Faren are above praise; some of the others are not—far from it.

ALHAMBRA.—Mr. Charles Morton, the new manager of this popular house, inaugurated his appointment by a revival of the ever popular "Fille de Madame Angot." Nothing new can be said of Leococq's masterpiece, but we can say that full justice was never done it until now. It requires no prophet to predict a long run for "La Fille de Madame Angot," and when the race is over a full treasury for "The Alhambra."

NOTES ON ART, &c.

THE UNITY OF ART.—I understand that, following Mr. Leighton's example, Mr. Watts is at work on a piece of sculpture for exhibition at the Academy next season.—*World*

WHAT MUST ITS CONTENTS BE!—Here is the title of a book taken from the catalogue of the fair at Leipsic:—"Göring, über die Porabrommetasulphenylpropionsäure und die Metasulphenylpropionsäure."—*Truth*.

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY.—On Wednesday last week at a meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy, held in Edinburgh, Sir Daniel Macnee, President, in the chair, Mr. W. D. Mackety, Edinburgh, Mr. D. W. Stevenson, Edinburgh, and Mr. J. Docherty, Glasgow, were elected Associates.

The copyright of Mendelssohn's works expired, writes a German correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, on the 4th inst., the thirtieth anniversary of his death.

A Russian Musical Academy is to be established on the model of the French Conservatoire in order to develop native talent. Students will be trained for the opera, concert-room, and the stage, and will also be instructed in literature and physiology.

BENEFIT SOCIETIES.—A case of considerable importance as affecting benefit societies was heard recently by the magistrates at Billericay. The guardians of the Billericay Union applied for an order making the sick allowances due from the Essex Provident Society to J. King payable to them, on the ground that King is and has been since the 8th of March, 1875, an inmate of the pauper lunatic asylum at Brentwood, and chargeable to the common fund of the Union. The Society has hitherto paid the sick allowance, amounting at first to 9s. 2d., and more lately to 4s. 7d. per week, to the lunatic's wife and family, holding that their rules required them to do so. It was also contended that, the member being practically an inmate of a union house, no allowance at all was properly due. The magistrates, however, ordered the Society to pay 2s. per week to the guardians.

It has leaked out (we hope that it is not true) that the coloured Grand Lodge of Masons, in session in this city, dispersed in bad humour. A high functionary of the Order, who carried the funds, absented himself shortly before adjournment, and the members were left without their per diem and mileage. Many of them had to borrow money to pay their railroad fare home.—*Indianapolis News*

The Hall of the Scottish Corporation, in Crane Court, Fleet Street, which was built by Wren in 1665, was on Wednesday week totally destroyed by fire. Amongst the treasures were some very valuable paintings, none of which could be saved.

The Model of Cleopatra's Needle in Parliament Square has been increased in height by the alteration of the pedestal, which has been made slightly tapering, according to Egyptian custom, and the addition of a stylobate between the pedestal and the steps. The total elevation of the obelisk is now nearly 91 feet—the supports measuring 22½ feet, and the shaft from base to apex 68 feet 5½ inches—10 feet higher than previously.

PRINCESS MARY'S VILLAGE HOME FOR LITTLE GIRLS.—H.R.H. The Prince of Wales has consented to preside at a dinner to be held in March next, in aid of the funds of this institution, situated at Addlestone, Surrey. Upwards of 150 little girls are now in these homes, for whose maintenance funds are urgently needed.

SELBORNE CHURCH.—The parish church of Selborne, the little quiet village in Hampshire made famous by having been the scene of the life-long observations of the Rev. Gilbert White, the naturalist and antiquary, has fallen into a state of very serious decay. It has now undergone partial restoration, great care being taken to preserve all old features, however insignificant. It was opened on Thursday afternoon, when a very appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Riding, of Winchester College. A collection was made in aid of the funds, which are still insufficient for the reparation of the south aisle, the porch, and the tower. The north transept has been almost entirely rebuilt, the roof of the nave renewed, and the whole of the high-backed pews replaced with open benches on new floors. Some old coffins and many interesting tiles have been found and placed on a raised foot-pace at the east end of the south aisle. The work of restoration was commenced by the late vicar, the Rev. F. J. Parsons, with a local committee, partly by way of memorial to Gilbert White. The work has been continued by the new vicar, the Rev. E. R. Bernard, under the direction of Mr. William White, F.S.A., grand-nephew of the great naturalist.

THE MOONS OF MARS.—A correspondent writes to express surprise, that was shared by most of the hearers of Mr. Proctor's last lecture, at St. George's Hall, Regent-street. It was announced in large posters, and in the handbills, that the recent great discovery in August last, of the Moons of Mars would form a part of Mr. Proctor's lecture, and great was the disappointment when the lecture was concluded without a word being said about these veritable new moons, set forth in Mr. Proctor's syllabus as the Martian system. Some of the audience (which was really large), expressed their doubts as to the truth of the discovery, but the Secretary to the Lecture Society, when subsequently referred to, assured the doubters of the correctness of the report, and that they were named the Bedford and Hall Moons; Bedford, because Bro. Dr. Bedford pointed them out twenty-three years before they were discovered, and Hall, because Professor Hall of the Washington Observatory found them.

A series of Saturday morning performances of an attractive order, are announced to take place at the Criterion Theatre.

## TO OUR READERS.

The FREEMASON is a Weekly Newspaper, price 2d. It is published every Friday morning, and contains the most important, interesting, and useful information relating to Freemasonry in every degree. Subscription, including postage:

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Communications on literary subjects and books for review are to be forwarded to the Editor. Anonymous correspondence will be wholly disregarded, and the return of rejected MSS. cannot be guaranteed.

Further information will be supplied on application to the Publisher, 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Answers to Correspondents.

The name of Bro. W. J. Hughan was accidentally omitted from the note in last week's Freemason on "Knights Templars in Ireland."

AN EXPLANATION.—We are requested to state that Bro. Rowbottom, the author of "The Mystery of the Bible Dates solved by the Great Pyramid," had not been admitted to the Masonic Order when that work was published.

## BOOKS, &amp;c., RECEIVED.

"Night and Day;" "Medical Examiner;" "El Cineel;" "Rules for Making English Verse," by Tom Hood, John Hogg, Paternoster-row; "Mottoes and Aphorisms from Shakespeare," John Hogg, Paternoster-row; "Keystone;" "Bauhütte;" "New York Dispatch;" "Once a Week Christmas Annual;" "Hebrew Leader."

Reviews next week.  
Knights Templars in Ireland in our next; proof will be sent.

## Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

## BIRTHS.

LUCAS.—On the 16th inst., at 1, Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, the wife of A. G. Lucas, Esq., of a daughter.

SAUNDERS.—On the 18th inst., at Lec, the wife of Surgeon W. E. Saunders, A.M.D., of a son.

TREVOR.—On the 20th inst., at Nusseerabad, the wife of Major G. Trevor, Bombay Staff Corps, of a son.

## DEATHS.

AUSTIN.—On the 18th inst., at Cliftonville, Brighton, Thomas Austin, aged 64.

LAWRENCE.—On the 15th inst., at her residence, Balsall-heath, Birmingham, Miss Sarah Lawrence, aged 83.

RAE.—On the 12th inst., David Rae, S.W. St. John of Wapping Lodge.

SMITH.—On the 16th inst., at Colchester, in his 81st year, William Bolton Smith, Esq.

## The Freemason,

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1877.

## THE CENTENARY OF THE YORK LODGE.

We have to thank a kind correspondent, who sent us a special report of a recent Centenary Anniversary, for reminding us so strongly of the historic character which belongs to that well-known lodge, of which he is not an undistinguished member. The York Lodge, No. 236, constitutes a very remarkable landmark, for many reasons, well-known to most archaeological students, like our esteemed Bro. W. J. Hughan, the happy preserver of York traditions, for instance, in the annals and progress of English Freemasonry. Originally called the Union Lodge, it took in 1870 the name of the York Lodge, and it is remarkable, Masonically, for two facts; first, that it has always been, even during the existence of the York Grand Lodge, warranted from the Southern Grand Lodge, and secondly, that it preserves amid its archives, the actual memorials of the York Grand Lodge. Little by little the veil is lifting which interest or exclusiveness had thrown over the true history of York Freemasonry. It is quite clear now that the York Grand Lodge never was in the position, numerically or financially of its more fortunate Southern confrere. At the time when the Revival took place, Freemasonry at York was practically dormant. No Grand Lodge, as we term it, was in existence, and the Grand Assembly, if it existed, certainly has left few if any traces of its active past. We are not prepared to say that no Grand Lodge or Grand Assembly had existed in the early part of the last century or the beginning of this. We are rather inclined to believe that a body under some such name did meet from time to time, perhaps annually. There is a minute book, apparently of 1705, missing, which would throw great light on the entire position of the governing body of York Masons, under whatever name it called itself, whether grand assembly or general lodge. It will be remembered that in 1725 Charles Bathurst is first named G.M., and Bros. Pawson and Francis Drake, the historian, the two Wardens. Up to this time the chief presiding officer, seems to have been called President. We do not think that too much stress is to be laid on the somewhat meagre records and careless statements of such earlier minutes, and for other reasons we are quite willing to accept Preston's assertion that a "General Lodge" or grand body of York Masons existed, and met more or less regularly, from the beginning of the last century. But, as we know, between 1725 and 1761, York Masonry was again dormant, and Drake's revival, which took place March 17, 1761, was brought about by "six of the surviving members of the fraternity." Then it was that the "Grand Lodge" was "opened and held at the house of Mr. Henry Howard, in Lendall-street, in the said city," York. At this meeting, there were twelve visiting brethren. Notwithstanding the existence of the Grand Lodge of York, (whose reality we do not question), in 1777, a warrant was granted by the "Modern Grand Lodge," as it was called, "of London," to certain York brethren to hold a lodge utterly independent of the Grand Lodge of York. This, in itself, is a striking fact, and shows us the decadent position of the York Grand Lodge. That the brethren in the south were fully justified in reviving in 1717 the old Grand Assembly, we have always held, and acted most Masonically and legally in so doing, just as we have always repudiated the mistaken theory that the Grand Lodge of 1717 was at any time separated from the York Grand Lodge, which under such a name did not then exist! It is a curious fact that the York Grand Lodge never has been formally dissolved. It has lapsed through want of interest, attendance, and the superior position and ascendancy of the Southern Grand Lodge of 1717. Thus, we often see how historical facts reduce into nothingness the cherished myths and fond persuasions of generations, and how ignorant is that view of Masonic history which in any way

connects Dermott's schism with the old York Grand Lodge. The history of the Lodge of York has been like all other lodges if one of many fluctuations yet on the whole of great success and high prestige. No lodge boasts a more thoroughly Masonic past, no lodge that we know of can give a better account of its Stewardship. It reflects the greatest credit on a worthy and zealous body of Masons, that they have so carefully preserved, and so truly prized their ancient records, and their liberality and courtesy in allowing studious brethren to consider or pore over them, are beyond all praise. The lodge has just celebrated its centenary, under most distinguished auspices, and the gathering was most fitly presided over by Bro. Cowling, who is well-known to all Yorkshire Masons, and is identified with the success and prosperity of the lodge which he has served so well. Bro. Todd, its able historian, with Bro. Cowling ought not to be forgotten, whose zeal for Masonry is well-known, and whose important labours in his lodge and for his lodge are duly appreciated by his brethren. We beg, then, to wish, in heartfelt sincerity, all prosperity to the York Lodge. May it long retain its high name amongst the Craft, and may it always remain distinguished, not only for its Masonic working and social pleasantness, but for its careful preservation and enlightened regard for those historical documents which best illustrate the true history of Freemasonry, which are the best answer to cavils and complaints, the scepticism of the ignorant, and to the antagonism of the intolerant.

## FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED.

Oh, truest of earthly axioms! How often in the course of our longish life have we found thy wise prevision needful and advisable, amid the chicaneries of the world, amid the petty treacheries of humanity. Yes, we might write many pages, and yet hardly develope our theory to our own satisfaction, though we proved it to our own content, at any rate, that very often indeed, amid the combats and controversies of existence, such words represent a salutary and seasonable warning to enable us successfully to confront the wiles of the artful or the combinations of the unscrupulous. In fact, so long as this human probation of ours remains, a struggle and a mystery for us all, that so long as we find too often that friendship is faithless, professions hollow, and affection simulated, that doubts and difficulties beset the pathway of our feet, the current of our lives, such must ever be the case here, we can proclaim no safer truth, we can make use of no more sagacious apothegm. But there is always a fear lest we should allow our admiration of proverbial wisdom to land us in "Fogdom," to precipitate us into "bathos" of the most painful reality. As a man once said "when you talk sense, talk sense, but if you will talk rubbish, talk rubbish," and we too often experience that those who will write, or will be witty, severe, or any thing else you like, often forget this sage and becoming rule. We think nothing is so painful as to have to wade through much of our present writing, which mistakes personality for facetiousness and substitutes "cheek" for common sense. This is very often apparent, especially in those private rancours which mark much of our present competitive literature, and which, introducing the jaundiced views of individual interest, or gain, or trade, or jealousy, into an arena which ought to know nothing of such things, degrades literature into a mere ebullition of unguarded recklessness, or restless maliciousness. We always deeply deplore the fact, when it confronts us sternly, and when we meet it in our daily experience which, though it points its own moral, and adorns its own tale, is always distressing to the Mason who thinks, to the brother who has realized the happy meaning of true Masonic profession. Nothing so debases Masonic literature, nothing so degrades the Masonic mind as that bitterness of vituperative energy, or as that sarcasm of affected information which seeks to depreciate or assail, which serves but to show how poor, how mean, how unworthy is the suggestion of criticism, the labour of illiberality! The world is wide enough for

us all, thank God! Trade is free, Masonry is liberal and tolerant; and we have outlived, let us trust, the age of hurtful monopoly, of noxious utterance, and of unsatisfactory assumption. The great motto for us all now, and most Masonic in its teaching and its scope, is "live and let live," and let us keep aloof from all that may seem to antagonize the full right of individual enterprise, or the just reward of gladdening success. Freemasonry, approves all that is open, and above-board, and straight-running, all that is fair-dealing and business-like. Freemasonry denounces and rebukes all intimidation, favoritism, and tendencies to jobbery and red tape of any kind, the specious complaints of interested individuals or the hopeless platitudes of those who are distanced in the race, or have been unsuccessful in the active competition for existence. Forewarned—forearmed is still a wise and necessary proverb for us all, and being forewarned, we are always forearmed, against the covert insinuation or the open diatribe, against the anonymous letter of the concealed slanderer, against the cackling of geese on the common, against the noisy uprear of the disappointed or the desperate. Perhaps some of our readers may enter, more fully than we care to do, into the full force of these humble remarks, and we will only add, that in the battle of life we are always forewarned and forearmed, and meet, whether it be the open or the hidden attack, the circular, the handbill or the pamphlet, with one little, if meaning English word, namely, CONTEMPT.

**WHAT IS PLATONIC FRIENDSHIP?**

This is a question which has often been asked, but seldom satisfactorily answered. A recent trial in the Common Pleas seems to offer us a response to a somewhat difficult enquiry, and to point out to us that there is some meaning in it after all. A "discriminating jury of our fellow-countrymen" has recently awarded a widow (what Mr. Weller seniors' feelings would have been we do not like to realise), £1000 damages for a breach of promise. In this special case the recalcitrant hero had pleaded "platonic friendship; nothing more 'pon honour." Still, such was his fate, and let us moralize thereupon. Like the jury, we are inclined to think that "platonic friendship" means a good deal more than is generally supposed to be the case, and that in fact, it is not mere "bottled moonshine," or "sublimated sentiment" as some too hastily lay down, but is in truth, if abstract, concrete, if theoretical often very practical. Some experienced judges of human life and manners, seem to doubt whether you can really safely lay down any limit as to where platonic friendship begins or ends, and in fact, they assert, that there is no such thing really in the world. Whether platonic friendship be ideal or real, whether it be shadow or substance, whether it be natural or non-natural, whether it be a delusion or a fact, we do not feel competent to express our opinion to-day, but we will confidently assert that it often assumes the shape of a specious proposition or a self-deceiving persuasion, if not of a personal and practical reality. In this recent case, while the gentleman was resting securely, as he thought, on his beautiful ideal of platonic friendship, the lady, as often happens, saw a good deal more than he saw, and laid much more stress than he did on apparently platonic words, and, as he assumed completely platonic acts. The jury thought the lady was right in her conclusions, and the gentleman wrong in his view of the case, and have demonstrated we think to all, not only how many are the illusions of life, but how great are the dangers of mere platonic friendship. A graceful French lady writer of some merit has said:—

Quel est ce sentiment, cet charme de s'entendre  
Qui montrant le bonheur le détruit sans retour,  
Qui depasse en ardeur l'amitié le plus tendre  
Et qui n'est pas l'amour.

What is that "sentiment—that charm of understanding  
Which pointing to happiness destroys it without return,  
Which surpasses in ardour the most profound friendship,  
And yet is not love?"

We find it very difficult to answer this subtle query, and as the jury in the recent case found it equally so, they gave a good round verdict of

£1000 damages for the outraged affections of the fair realist. We feel it therefore to be our duty, as Masonic moralists, to warn all Masonic widowers and bachelors amongst us, lest they too unconsciously are led away by the fancied safety of "platonic friendship" into words which are dubious, attentions which are full of meaning, and acts which are dangerous, all the while thinking themselves perfectly safe. Or else some fine morning they will wake up to the pleasant consciousness that they have made a great mistake, for that platonic friendship which was apparently the amusement of idleness or the novelty of dissipation has become for them the reality, if not the burden of their life. Too often like silly moths round a candle, they have fluttered around the festive scene, and amid the song laden hours of that amiable weakness of us "Lords of the Creation," until they have either to face a jury or confront a wife, to measure out full payment, from the pocket of a payee, or to hug the chains of the stern and unvarying seriousness of conjugal existence, instead of the lighter and more amusing role of some would-be professor of "platonic friendship."

**THE NEW GRAND CHAPLAIN.**

We have the greatest satisfaction in announcing that H.R.H. the M.W. Grand Master has been pleased to appoint Bro. the Rev. H. A. Pickard, P.M. Apollo University Lodge, P. Prov. S.G. Warden, Oxfordshire, as Grand Chaplain in the place of our late lamented Bro. the Rev. Lake Onslow, for the remainder of the Masonic year. A short account of our brother's Masonic career will be found elsewhere.

**UNE AMENDE HONORABLE.**

We have to apologize to our esteemed and able confrère, Bro. C. P. McCalla, of Philadelphia, well known as one of the most rising of American Masons, for crediting to the *Eclectic* an admirable article entitled "Fraternity" which appeared in our pages last week, and will have delighted many readers. We ought to have said *Keystone*, instead of *Eclectic*, but, as Bro. McCalla well knows, such mistakes will occur even with Masonic Editors. We are glad to call attention for the information of our Craft at large, for the great merit of that most ably edited Masonic paper, the *Keystone* of Philadelphia. All lodge libraries and reading Masons should at once order a copy of it, as it is well worth perusal.

**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.]

**UNIFORMITY IN RITUAL.**

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

My lines are very often cast in Scotland, and, as a zealous English Mason, I frequently make a point of visiting lodges working over the borders. A fortnight ago I visited a lodge the charter of which dates from the year 1816, when I was greatly surprised to find that all three of the Craft degrees were worked almost exactly as we do under the English Constitution; that is to say, with regard to ritual. Last week I visited another lodge, in the adjoining county, dating the same year as that referred to, and was very much astonished to note the ritual of the three Craft degrees as being entirely different. The same evening I casually mentioned this diversity to a prominent brother, holding high office in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, asking him why the working was not uniform, and his reply was to the effect that each lodge had its own regulations, and it was useless attempting to interfere with them. I am, however, hopeful that our good and eminent Bro. D. Murray Lyon, the Grand Secretary of Scotland, will add this to the many useful reforms he contemplates initiating in connection with Scottish Craft Masonry. If a uniformity of ritual was observed between the two countries brethren of each Grand Lodge would then be more thoroughly at home as visitors, and besides, could in either country make themselves generally useful when invited to take an officer's position. The entente cordiale between the two Grand Lodges would also be more genuine.

Fraternally yours,

AN ENGLISH PAST MASTER.

**LODGES AT TAVERNS.**

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I am glad that through the *Freemason* I have been able to draw the attention of some of the brethren to the stigma that is now attached to Freemasonry, "the holding of lodges at taverns." Now, it should be im-

possible for any lodge working in the United Kingdom to be holding its meetings at hotels, taverns, or public-houses. Masonry has done great and noble things in the past; it cannot be that there is not left sufficient vitality in the brotherhood but that a General Building Fund could be established for the purpose of erecting small Bethels in the provinces, so that the ritual of Masonry might be far removed from the jargon of the tap-room, and the fascinations and trickery of the host.

As a means towards the desired end (Masonic lodges in Masonic buildings), let Grand Lodge in future refuse to grant, (under a new clause of the Constitution to be framed), any warrant for the holding of a Masonic Lodge in any hotel, tavern, or public-house. At the present time, there are in many towns Masonic Halls and Clubs. Sincere Masons wish to see them spread over the length and breadth of the kingdom, and this will soon be accomplished if the great body of Masons will show to the world that they are Masons in truth and deed.

If it were made illegal to hold any lodge or chapter in any hotel, tavern, or public-house, Masons would then be driven to find a proper place for the holding of their lodges and chapters. This they would soon do, and find that the change which they had been obliged to make was all for the better in every respect, both the Mason and Masonry gaining much—a new era, free and untrammelled from the influence of the "Pub" and the host, and at the same time rising much in the estimation of the world by the change.

I am, yours fraternally,

SIGMA.

**OPERATIVE MASONS.**

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Strolling through the town of Melrose, in Scotland, some days ago, I turned in to inspect the far-famed abbey of Melrose, one of the largest and most magnificent Gothic structures in the kingdom. It is no news to your readers to say that the abbey was founded in 1136 by King David, that entombed within its stately walls are King Alexander II., the Black Douglas, and the heart of King Robert Bruce, and further, that the noble pile forms a prominent scene in Bro. Sir Walter Scott's "Monastery," "The Abbot," and "The Lay of the Last Minstrel." Having inspected for the first time *Melrose Abbey*, what is there wonderful in discovering that a Masonic lodge exists likewise in the little Border town, and that there is also a Masonic Hall? Referring to my "Cosmopolitan Calendar," however, I found no record of St. John's Lodge, Melrose. This seemed strange at first view, but I was subsequently informed the lodge in question holds itself aloof from the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, never owed the Grand Body any allegiance, and there was little or any probability of their ever asking for a charter. Further, I was informed that St. John's Lodge, Melrose, is almost purely an operative body of Masons; that it is a well-to-do organisation in a pecuniary sense; and that the members claim their lodge to be contemporary with the building of Melrose Abbey. On the authority of an official of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, it is interesting to know that St. John's Lodge, Melrose, although not connected with the Grand Lodge, is everything that it should be in the working and objects of Masonry; and there are, I am assured, hopes in another quarter, that one day or another a Grand Lodge charter will be applied for.

Yours fraternally,

KENNEQUHAIR.

**LOOSE ADMISSION OF CANDIDATES.**

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

A member of the Eccleston Lodge has taken up the cudgels in behalf of that lodge, apropos of my remarks in your issue of the 3rd inst., on the subject of the admission of a candidate who had been black-balled by my lodge. Bro. Beckham is the proposer of the candidate in question in the Eccleston Lodge, but he is evidently aware of the weakness of his case, and he makes no attempt whatever to explain why the courtesy of applying to my lodge for information was omitted, nor to show that the acceptance by one lodge of a candidate who has been rejected by another is not contrary to proper Masonic feeling. He says that I should have made inquiries "outside my own select circle." Well Sir, I reply to that by saying that as regards Masonry I have no select circle, and the muster roll of my lodge is a practical refutation of such a hint, for among the names will be found those of peers of the realm side by side with the sailing masters of their yachts. I now go a little further than I have hitherto done, and I say that if Bro. Beckham knew of the previous rejection of the candidate he had no right whatever to propose him in any other lodge without a proper explanation. He probably thinks that anything is good enough for the country. It is a melancholy fact, but I am obliged to say that I do not think so, and with that remark I close the correspondence.

Yours fraternally,

A PAST MASTER.

**A QUERY.**

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Would you kindly in your next issue give me an answer to the following questions:—

In Bye-law No. 19 of our lodge is the following paragraph:—"It is also compulsory on every member present entitled thereto, to record his vote."

Paragraph 2 of Bye-law, No. 13, reads:—

"No brother under the rank of a Master Mason shall be permitted to address the lodge, unless particularly requested to do so, or on special leave granted by the Master." It is proposed to add to this these words: "Neither vote on any subject."

No. 1 Question.—Is there anything in the Constitutions, or usages of the Craft to prevent the lodge from adding these words to the Bye-law.

No. 2 Question.—Can a lodge make a Bye-law whereby all the voting can be done in the Third Degree.

By giving a reply to the above questions, you will greatly oblige a

M.M. 711.

[In our humble opinion, both Bye-laws, the actual and proposed one, are illegal. 1.—There is no law possible by which a brother can be compelled to vote. 2.—The restrictions to Master Masons is entirely illegal, as the election of W.M. for instance, takes place in the First Degree, and Entered Apprentices, and Fellow Crafts have as much right to vote as Master Masons. 3.—We feel sure that on appeal to the Board of General Purposes, the law would be found to be as we have stated it.]

#### CONSECRATION OF THE ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, No. 1723.

For some time past a desire has been expressed for the establishment of a new lodge at Bolton, and a petition was recently forwarded to the authorities of Grand Lodge, duly recommended by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master of East Lancashire (Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie), praying H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master, to grant a warrant for a new lodge, to be named after the patron saint of England, and nominating Bro. George Parker Brockbank, P. Prov. S.G. Deacon, as the first W.M.; Bro. Thomas Entwisle, P. Prov. G.S. of W., as Senior Warden; and Bro. J. W. Taylor, P. Prov. G. Org., as Junior Warden. The M.W. Grand Master was graciously pleased to grant the prayer of the petition, and accordingly, a warrant bearing His Royal Highness's signature has been issued, numbered 1723.

It may be here remarked that Bolton previously possessed four Masonic lodges, namely, the Anchor and Hope, No. 37, warranted in 1731; the Antiquity, No. 144, warranted in 1776; the St. John's, No. 221, warranted in 1797; and the St. John, No. 348, warranted in 1815. From this it will be seen that the youngest of these lodges is sixty-two years of age, and as Bolton is now a town of 100,000 inhabitants, it was naturally felt that there was quite room for the establishment of a new lodge without injuriously affecting any of the existing lodges.

The consecration of the new lodge was appointed by the R.W. Prov. Grand Master to take place on Thursday, November 15th, and the brethren of the Anchor and Hope Lodge, No. 37, having kindly granted permission, the ceremony was performed in their beautiful lodge room, at the Church Institute, which, in addition to the ordinary banners adorning its walls, was further decorated by a splendid silk banner belonging to the new lodge, also the banner of the St. John's Lodge, No. 221, and a number of the private banners of the promoters of the new lodge.

A large muster of the brethren testified to the interest taken in the proceedings, amongst those present being Bros. Col. de Gendre N. Starkie, R.W. Prov. G. Master; George Mellor, W. Dep. Prov. Grand Master; E. Ashworth, Prov. S.G. Warden; Albert Dickens, Prov. J.G. Warden; J. L. Hine, P. Prov. S.G. Warden; R. H. Hutchinson, P. Prov. S.G. Warden; Rev. S. Y. B. Bradshaw, Prov. G. Chaplain; Rev. E. H. Aldridge, Prov. G. Chaplain; James Hall, Prov. G. Treasurer; John Tunnah, Prov. G. Secretary; John Smith, Prov. S.G. Deacon; Franklin Thomas, Prov. J.G. Deacon; G. P. Brockbank, P. Prov. S.G. Deacon; Edmund Hartley, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Thos. Entwisle, P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works; J. H. Sillitoe, Prov. G. Dir. of Ceremonies; Robt. Whitaker, P. Prov. G. Dir. of Ceremonies; J. W. Taylor, P. Prov. G. Organist; H. Greenwood, Prov. G. Pursuivant; Thos. Mitchell, Prov. G. Tyler; C. Fitzgerald Matier, P.G.W. of Greece; R. K. Freeman, W.M. 37; James Newton, P.M. 37; James Walker, P.M. 37; Rev. J. H. Gibbon, Chap. 37; Richd. Hough, W.M. 146; Robt. Horridge, J.W. 146; Thos. Morris, P.M. 221; Geo. Ferguson, P.M. 221; Wm. Hewitt, P.M. 221; W. H. J. Jones, P.M. 221; J. M. Rutter, P.M. 221; Chas. Stanley, W.M. 221; Jas. Richardson, S.W. 221; J. H. Greenhalgh, J.W. 221; Thos. Higson, P.M. 348; Thos. Chambers, P.M. 348; Jas. Horrocks, P.M. 348; John Harwood, P.M. 348; Saml. Barrett, P.M. 348; and others.

The ceremony of consecration was effectively performed by the R.W. Prov. G. Master, the Chaplain's part being impressively rendered by Bro. the Rev. S. Y. B. Bradshaw, Prov. G. Chaplain. The brethren selected to bear the elements of consecration were Bros. Jas. Hall, Prov. G. Treas.; C. F. Matier, P.G.W. Greece; and the Rev. E. H. Aldridge, Prov. G. Chaplain. An efficient glee party, consisting of Bros. Lister, Bailey, Kershaw, and Prestwich, contributed the musical portion of the ceremony, accompanied on the organ by Bro. Peter Staton.

The lodge having been constituted and dedicated, Bro. G. P. Brockbank, P.M., P. Prov. S.G. Deacon, was installed into the chair of K.S. by Bro. J. Sillitoe, Prov. G. Director of Ceremonies, who also invested the officers, viz.:—Bros. Thos. Entwisle, P.M., P. Prov. G. Supt. of Works, S.W.; J. W. Taylor, P.M. P. Prov. G. Organist, J.W.; George Ferguson, P.M., Treasurer; J. M. Rutter, P.M., Secretary; Thos. Morris, P.M., S.D.; W. H. J. Jones, P.M., J.D.; Charles Stanley, W.M. 221, I.G.; J. W. Roiley, Tyler.

The lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to the Conservative Club, where the banquet was served, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily responded to.

The whole of the proceedings, both in the lodge and at the banquet, passed off in the most satisfactory manner, and reflected the highest credit on those concerned in the arrangements.

#### DEDICATION OF A MASONIC HALL AT GALASHIELS, N.B.

On Friday, the 16th inst., at Galashiels, a notable addition was made to the many Masonic halls which are springing up all over Scotland. The object of these structures is a most laudable one, that of separating the meetings of the Craft from the deleterious influences of taverns, and we wish our Scotch brethren God speed in their praiseworthy endeavours. St. John's Lodge, No. 262, was founded in 1816, and is a flourishing body, having also a Royal Arch Chapter, in full working order, in connection therewith, Flowers of the Forest, No. 128. The building under notice comprises a large hall, suitable for public meetings, as also lodge purposes, ante-rooms, a cottage for the custodian, three or four other cottages, and a handsome shop, the cost of which is about £3000, furnished by the brethren of Galashiels in the shape of a joint stock company. The corner stone of the structure was laid with Masonic honours in May last, by Bro. Henry Inglis, of Torsonce, R.W. Depute Grand Master of Scotland, and Provincial Grand Master of Peebles and Selkirkshire. Bro. Inglis on Friday last delegated the important duty of dedication to Bro. Dr. Middleton, Provincial Senior Grand Warden of Peebles and Selkirk, and the proceedings opened at four o'clock in the afternoon, when upwards of seventy members and visitors were present. Besides the acting Provincial Grand Master there were present Bros. D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary of Scotland; W. M. Bryce, Grand Tyler; J. Donaldson, Lodge 24, Peebles Kilwinning, as P.G.S.W.; R. Scott, Lodge 32, St. John's, Selkirk, as P.G.J.W.; R. Sanderson, Lodge 216, St. John's, Stow, P.G. Sec.; J. F. Walker, Lodge 216, P.G. Treas.; Rev. J. Murray, Lodge 24, P.G. Chap.; R. Scott, Lodge 262, St. John's, Galashiels; R. Melrose, Lodge 262, P.G. Tyler. There were deputations present from Lodges No. 2, Canongate Kilwinning, Edinburgh; No. 8, Journeyman, Edinburgh; No. 24, Peebles Kilwinning; No. 32, St. John's, Selkirk; No. 111, St. John's, Hawick; No. 216, St. John's, Stow; No. 261, Tweed, Kelso; and No. 392, Caledonian, Edinburgh. Bro. Adam Thompson, R.W.M. of No. 262, St. John's, Galashiels, was also supported by a strong muster of Galashiels brethren.

The R.W. acting Provincial Grand Master having opened the Provincial Grand Lodge in the Three Craft Degrees, the ceremony of dedication was proceeded with, and throughout was performed in the most impressive manner by the Provincial officers mentioned. Bro. Bryce, the Grand Tyler, acted as Director of Ceremonies, and the incidental prayers were delivered by Bro. Rev. J. Murray, P.G. Chaplain, whilst the music was under the direction of Bro. Robert Hogg. After the closing anthem had been sung, Bro. Adam Thomson conveyed the warm thanks of the brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 262, to the R.W.P.G. Master in the chair for his kindness in performing the ceremony of dedication, and he invited the members of the P.G. Lodge to be their guests for the evening. Bro. Dr. Middleton expressed the pleasure it had afforded him and the members of the P.G. Lodge to be present on so auspicious an occasion, and he had the greatest pleasure in accepting the invitation.

Bro. Adam Thomson, R.W.M. of St. John's Lodge, No. 262, presided at the banquet, which was provided in the new hall.

The Chairman having given "The Holy Lodge of St. John," which was drunk in silence, "The Health of Her Majesty," followed by that of "The Prince of Wales, our Royal Patron," and "The Princess of Wales, with the other Members of the Royal Family," were drunk with all the honours. After "The Army, Navy, and the Volunteers," which was responded to by Bro. Boyce, R.W.M. Lodge 392, Caledonian, the Chairman, in the most fraternal terms, proposed "The Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and their respective Grand Masters," coupling the Grand Lodge of England with the name of Bro. T. Lamonby, P.M. 1002 (*Freemason*). Cockermonth, P.G. Reg. Cumberland and Westmoreland, who replied. The Chairman next proposed "The R.W. P.G. Master of Selkirk and Peebles, Bro. Henry Inglis, of Torsonce," which was drunk with "three times three." Bro. Dr. Middleton, in responding for Bro. Inglis, apologised for the unavoidable absence of the R.W.P.G. Master, through a combination of circumstances. He (Dr. Middleton) knew it would have given him the greatest pleasure to be present, and thereby inaugurate and complete the work he begun in May last. He trusted that the interesting ceremony of that day would act as an incentive to every other lodge in the province. (Cheers.) The Chairman gave "The Visiting Lodges," which was replied to by Bros. Drechsel, R.W.M., Canongate Kilwinning, 2; Davidson, R.W.M., Journeyman Lodge, 8; Donaldson, Lodge 24; R. Scott, Lodge 32; Wilson, Lodge 111, Hawick; Walker, Lodge 216, Stow; W. F. Vernon, R.W.M., Lodge 261, Kelso, (who said that the Kelso brethren were setting themselves about building a hall, whilst he added a few deprecatory remarks and hints aimed against the stumbling block of holding their meetings in public-houses); and Bro. Bryce, R.W.M. Caledonian Lodge, 392.

The Chairman then rose to propose "The Health of Bro. D. Murray Lyon, the Grand Secretary of Scotland." (Cheers.) He said no man in Scotland had done more for Masonry, knew more about it, or understood its failings better than Bro. Lyon. (Hear, hear.) They must not think he (the Chairman) was flattering their worthy brother because he was one of his opponents on the occasion of his election as Grand Secretary. (Laughter.) But from what he had seen of Bro. Lyon's great energy and abilities, he felt himself in duty bound to give him all the support he could. (Cheers.) He had found Bro. Lyon to be a thorough business man, and such a man was what they wanted in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

(Hear, hear.) He was now confident they would go on prospering, and the result would be that in a few years they would have a few thousands to devote to Masonic charity, which in Scotland had been too long neglected. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, he considered Bro. Lyon the right man in the right place; and he sincerely trusted that every lodge would assist him to the utmost of their ality in the great object he had in view. (Cheers.)

Bro. Lyon, on rising to respond, was received with loud cheers. He said he had great pleasure in being present on so interesting an occasion. He was fully aware of the deep responsibilities attached to the high office he held in the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and he trusted that they would accept the assurance from him that if he failed it was not for want of energy and willingness. If he obtained the assistance of every lodge in Scotland, there could be no possible doubt of Masonry becoming what it should be; and already he saw evidences of a considerable improvement in their prospects, so much so, that the day was not far distant when they could boast of a considerable amount of money to devote to the widows and orphans of their Order, as also to the relief of their aged and infirm brethren. (Cheers.)

Bro. Dr. Middleton next gave "St. John's Lodge, No. 262, Galashiels," and in doing so referred to the interesting fact that in 1816 the lodge received its charter from Bro. Inglis, who was Deputy Grand Master of Scotland, whilst sixty years later Bro. Inglis's son laid the foundation of the handsome building in which they were then assembled. (Cheers.) That was something to be proud of. He remarked that to Bro. Adam Thomson, the R.W.M. of 262, was due the fact of the lodge being placed in the happy possession of a settled home. He hoped the brethren of the lodge would long continue to meet on the level and act on the square in that building; and he wished continued prosperity to St. John's Lodge.

The Chairman, in reply, reviewed the circumstances under which the new hall came into existence, and was hopeful that in ten or a dozen years they would be free of their liabilities, and then they would have something to spare for their poor brethren. (Cheers.)

The remainder of the toasts were "The Health of Bro. W. Turnbull, one of the founders of St. John's Lodge in 1816;" "The Ladies," and "Freemasonry all over the World." The Chairman having given "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again," the company joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

In the intervals several songs were contributed by the brethren present, and the proceedings, which throughout were highly successful, and excellently arranged, were brought to a conclusion with a ball.

#### REMINISCENCES OF ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 58, KELSO, N.B.

So frequently have the columns of the *Freemason* been devoted to antiquarian research in connection with our dear old Craft, that your correspondent (an English Mason) may be pardoned for presuming to inflict on your many readers what he conceives to be subject matter of the most interesting character. During my professional peripatations through the "land of brown heath and shaggy wood," I always make a point of attending lodge, chapter, or conclave, whichever may happen to be working, in a town where I take up my quarters for the evening. Well, then, on Wednesday, the 7th of November just past, after dinner, and when I had cast away all thoughts of work, after a hard day, I pulled out my indispensable "Cosmopolitan Calendar," and, on turning to Kelso, where, bye-the-bye, I was quartered, I found that Tweed Lodge, No. 261, held their monthly meeting that very evening. Calling on an acquaintance and brother, he kindly offered to introduce me to his lodge, but previously, I should mention, conducted me to the R.W.M., Bro. W. F. Vernon, a frater whom, I am happy to say, I was speedily at home with. Before proceeding to the Cross Keys Hotel, where Tweed Lodge holds its meetings, Bro. Vernon in the kindest manner gave me some valuable particulars in connection with Freemasonry in Scotland, as it existed a hundred and seventy years ago, that I was not slow to avail myself of, for I must confess to being a sort of Jonathan Oldbuck in matters Masonic. It seems that Tweed Lodge, No. 261, is not the only lodge in Kelso, holding a charter. Many years ago there existed a St. John's Lodge, numbering 58 on the registry of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and which also flourished in that border town somewhere about half a century before the formation of a Grand Lodge in Scotland. St. John's Lodge was founded in the year 1701, but I must first explain the how interesting particulars I am about to relate came to the knowledge of the Kelso brethren of the present day. Some few years ago, it became known to the brethren of Tweed Lodge, the charter of which latter, I should say, dates from 1816, that the clothing, jewels, charter, &c., of the old St. John's Lodge were in the possession of the widow of a former R.W.M., and who held the property in lien for a debt. The old lady, who had had the chest and its contents forty years, very willingly parted with the interesting relics for a five pound note, and the whole are now in the careful possession of my new friend, Bro. Vernon, who, on the evening mentioned, was kind and courteous enough to allow me an inspection of them. The minute book I went hurriedly through, and can only give the first entry, which is dated Kelso, December, 27, 1701. Here is the first minute, recording the formation of the lodge, and the election of its officers:—

"The whilk day the companie of Masons of the honourable Lodg of Kelso, under the protection of Saint John, having met there and considered all former sedcents, and that the Master and Wardin and Treasurer, with the ofisers, were only to continou to this day, (Dec. 27, 1701).

## MASONIC SERMON.

Preached by Rev. H. Bethell Jones, M.A., Vicar of Brooklands, Manchester, Prov. Grand Chaplain of West Lancashire, at Withington Parish Church, Saturday, Oct. 27th, on behalf of the Indian Famine Fund.

Mark vi, 34: "And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion towards them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd."

Freemasonry is not a religion; the only religion for us is faith in God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. But if Masonry be not a religion, it is at any rate a grand system of moral teaching, founded on the first principles of religion; so that no Mason can be a sincere follower of the great truths which he constantly hears taught in our Masonic ceremonies without being a religious man. It is, therefore, strictly in accordance with the tenets of our ancient Order that we should meet to-day in God's holy house for the furtherance of that great principle of charity, which should be, and I trust is the distinguishing characteristic of every Freemason's heart. It is on behalf of our suffering fellow-subjects in India that I have now the privilege of addressing you; and I call upon you to follow the example of Him who was both God and man—of Him who was the world's great teacher of love, as we see Him in the text, moved with compassion at the sight of the multitudes who had followed Him, fainting from their long fast, and whom He fed from His bounteous store. The people of Galilee had been gathering into the towns, such as Capernaum, preparatory to going up to the approaching Feast of the Passover at Jerusalem. The crowds that had waited on Jesus to hear His words and see His miracles were thus much increased. His disciples had just returned from their first missionary journey. Therefore, to escape the throng, to give some needed rest to His disciples, and probably too, to give Himself an opportunity of instructing them in the kingdom of Heaven. He suddenly withdrew from Capernaum by boat, and passed over to the north-east shore of the Sea of Tiberias to a "desert place." But the people would not let Him thus escape them; they watched the direction of His boat, and when they had made sure where He would land they followed Him on foot out of all the cities and villages roundabout. In their hurry and excitement the majority had brought no food. Towards evening, signs of exhaustion were apparent among many in the crowd, who had come from far. The disciples, probably wishing to be rid of responsibility, begged Jesus to send them away. But not so: Jesus never drove suppliants away empty; but moved with compassion when he saw the multitudes as sheep without a shepherd, He made them, there in the wilderness, recipients of His bounty. He did not ask if they were all Jews; or if they had all come with right motives; or if they were all His friends. He did not say that He would feed only the aged and the weak, and the rest must return home. No; He commanded that all without exception should sit down on the ground in order; and then, after calling down God's blessing on the small provision of the five loaves and two fishes, He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to the multitude, as much as they would. It is in the same Divine spirit of ungrudging charity that I ask you to approach the subject of the relief of those famishing multitudes in India, not perhaps of your race, religion, or colour, but still children of the one Great Father—whose sad case I plead to-day. In 1757, a hundred and twenty years ago, the great Clive won the battle of Plassey, and laid the foundation of our Indian empire. By a continued course of conquest and annexation we have gone on, adding territory to territory, till we now rule over some 180,000,000 people. But never have we had such an opportunity of covering ourselves with glory as now, in taking the people of India as our children under our protection, and, in their defence, fighting against this terrible enemy, Famine. For more than twelve months has this dread foe been advancing in our territory—constantly have we looked for that rain, which would have been our best ally, and we looked in vain. God seemed for a time to have mysteriously turned away His mercy from us, for the sky was as brass, and the earth as iron. As week followed week, the battle grew even fiercer—cholera, dysentery, fever, brought up their serried battalions, and counted their slain by ever-increasing thousands; many were only saved from starving to be withered by the hot blast of pestilence. In one district alone, in one month, the death rate rose from 1774 to 11,800, i.e., in plain English, 10,000 people died from famine and pestilence. The government of India put forth almost superhuman efforts to stay the ravages; the officials worked with the most untiring energy and perseverance; relief camps were established in central positions throughout the country; the service of the railway was improved, till at length it was able to transport 4000 tons of grain per diem; local committees were formed in towns and villages and supplied with funds from the central committee in Madras; large public works were commenced and the able-bodied drafted to them—still the famine kept steadily advancing, the number of people receiving relief kept steadily rising, the price of food-grains was five and six times their nominal value. In the midst of this dire distress an appeal comes to the people of England for aid; and the people, who had been waiting in suspense, at once generously responded, and by this time more than half a million must have been sent to India. Now this was the condition of things when the north-east monsoon broke on India with its priceless showers. One year of famine was closing, and we appeared to be entering on a second; three quarters of a million sterling being spent per month; food-grains five times the usual price; between three and four millions of people dependent on the government; at least one million and a half of people dead in the Madras Presidency alone. The first campaign had been fought, and it had

been disastrous in the loss of life and property, but there was a second campaign in prospect, to face which would require the whole Imperial resources, used without stint. If rain had been withheld in October, the spring of next year would have seen the Hindoos dying not by thousands but by millions. From this awful calamity, God, by His goodness in sending the needful rain, has saved us; and now what we have to do is to fight courageously on till the end of the year, and then the grandest warfare a government ever waged will be closed, if not with victory, yet with a triumph to be measured by the salvation of four millions of people, who, but for the British government and the British people, must have perished miserably. At the present moment (October) there are between 80,000 and 90,000 centres of population, i.e. towns and villages, to be guarded from death. By the last return in Mysore and Madras, there were 592,805 persons on the public works, and 1,410,716 persons receiving gratuitous relief. If to these we add those in the Bombay Presidency and the Native States, we have a total of 772,805 on public works, and 1,910,716 receiving gratuitous relief, making up a grand total of 2,683,521 persons dependent upon the government. Let us now compare this state of things with the Cotton Famine in Lancashire, with the details of which most of you whom I am now addressing are acquainted. The Cotton Famine lasted from March, 1862, to the end of June, 1863. We may say with tolerable certainty the crisis of the Cotton Famine was in December, 1862. Now at that time the total number of persons relieved from parochial rates and by the relief committees amounted to 496,816, or say in round numbers half a million. The total amount of money voluntarily subscribed was £1,974,203, or say in round numbers two millions. If we say there are now three millions dependent on the government of India, we see that the number of persons relieved in the Cotton Famine was as one-sixth of the number in India, while the amount of money contributed for the Cotton Famine is four times the amount contributed for this famine in India. In other words, six times the number of people have to be relieved with one fourth the amount of money. Now if we give one shilling per head per week to the three millions in India, to keep them alive, it will cost us £150,000 per week; or reckoning children at sixpence per week it will cost say £100,000. Thus you see in how short a time half a million of money will be swallowed up. Still, it is to be remembered that every one who gives a single shilling will help to keep a fellow creature alive for a week; if he gives ten shillings, for ten weeks; if he gives a pound, for twenty weeks. Let this simple fact, put in this homely fashion, urge us to-day to give as much as we can afford. God, however, in His goodness and mercy has again smiled on India: the rain has descended, the intensity of the distress is abating. What is the result of this happy change? People at home are jumping to the conclusion that all danger is past and suffering too—that there is no further need of help. In a sort of prevision of this feeling there came a timely telegram from Simla of Oct. 14th—"Well to warn the people of England that, though there is every prospect of the Madras Famine terminating, yet an infinite amount of misery will still have to be endured, and the need of alleviation will be for a time as pressing as ever." The distress is no doubt daily lessening, but by the last accounts we read that in Bangalore some thirty dead are picked up in the streets daily—in Mysore thousands are dying from want of clothing to protect them from the cold of the nights. Doubtless the rain brought hope to minds worn out by the persistence of the pressure: there were very many to whom even hope came too late. The crisis of the battle is past, the victory is assured, but the wounded and the disabled must be cared for—those who have been struck down in the heat of the fight, and are now helpless and forlorn. A great famine like a great war leaves distress in its track, and it will be months yet before the feeble, the sick, and the dying, will cease to need our help. By next February, if all goes well, the people will be out of danger; but in the meantime very much has to be done. Even in February, with the most favourable conditions, the circumstances of the people in the stricken districts will be this—all the cattle will be gone, implements of husbandry sold for food, houses bare of furniture, the silver ornaments of the women (which compose the family property) sold or melted down—all disposable property vanished, and no reserve force to fall back upon. All but bare life will have been devoured by the consuming fire of famine! Surely it is not yet time to stay our hands, or imagine our work is done. We cannot suppose that a great and prolonged famine can blast a whole country, and then pass away without leaving a trace of its fell march. It has stripped whole territories bare, and left a vast number of cultivators without any present means of support, worn out by hunger and sickness, and unable to till the ground, which is now ready to bring forth. The caste prejudices of the Hindoos have added greatly to the difficulties of the government. In very many cases they have held out as long as anything has been left, and then when all is gone and they are on the point of starvation, they crowd into the large towns, or the relief camps, and die by thousands in the roads. In some famine districts the fields are strewn with the dead as after a great battle, who have died, not in desperate charge, or in hot blood roused by the glare of battle—not standing shoulder to shoulder have they died; but worn out by exhaustion and hunger, weary with hope deferred they have sunk down in loneliness to gasp forth their life, unknown, unwept. Thank God we may begin to look forward to the time when aid will be no longer needed, and when, the famine and all its accompanying horrors shall be a story of the past. What that story shall be, will much depend on what we do in the interval. It will be a sad record anyhow; but it is not yet fully written, and it will rest with

After a matur deliberation, put it to the vot, who continou the first ofsers, or elect now, and it was carrid to coninu. And it was resolved that this and all following sederents shall be registrat in a book to be be kept by the Treserur, and only subscribed by the Master and next ofsior, or assistants, in case of the Master's absens. It was also resolved that all Enterd Prentises shall pay eight pounds Scots, with their gloves, to be paid to the Treserur for the use of the society, and all the gentlemen who are the honorary members of the companie, oblidg themselves to pay a crown yearlo, to wit, on Saint John's Day, for the us of treed and all treedsmen, and to pay a shillin in yearly, on Saint John's Day, on the first Tuesdai of Junis apoynted for a yearly meeting, as well as Saint John's Day, to be held at Kelso, for the entering and recording either treedsmen or others that the companie shall think fit to record; as also it was concluded, that for every absent on either of the forward days, that each person absent, whether honorary or otherways, shall pay a crown apiece, unless he find such a reasonable excus as the meeting shall be satisfyd with, which is to be contained in the sederent of the day. The companie also resolved that when an entered prentis is registrat as Master or fellow of the Craft, that he must pay fiv shillins, with new gloves, to the society."

These minutes were signed on the 2nd of June, 1702, by "Sir John Pringle, R.W.M.," by which it would appear that the lodge only assembled once a year, that is to say on the Festival of Saint John the Baptist. Passing over to St. John's Day, 1705, there are a lot of fines entered for absence, the first of whom is Sir John Pringle, aforesaid, who, with the Laird of Grubbit, the Laird of Clifton, Cherry Trees (probably another "Laird"), Stodrig, and a Cornet Drummond, are fined two pounds ten shillings each; whilst James Burnie, Andrew Borthwick, and John Esart are mulcted in the sum of twelve shillings each; and "Lovetennant" Bennett thirty shillings. An addendum to this entry was as follows:—"These persons are all deficient of their stent, and fined for absence, conforme with the statutes of the lodg." What is the meaning of "stent," I could not make out; but perhaps that able and erudite Masonic scholar, Bro. D. Murray Lyon, the Grand Secretary of Scotland, may enlighten us. May the word not signify the dues? If so, the total amount opposite each brother's name will include arrears of dues and fines. Proceeding on there is a resolution enjoining brethren to return straight to their several homes, after lodge business, so as not to "bring Masonry into disrepute." In 1752 St. John's Lodge subscribed the handsome sum of £50 towards building the old Tweed Bridge, at Kelso, which structure was carried away by a flood forty-five years later. At the same time the lodge subscribed £5 to the Melrose Bridge. This goes far to show that the members were an opulent class of Craftsmen. Not the least interesting part of this minute book are the signatures of the brethren belonging to the lodge, as also visitors. One of the first in the book is a Walter Scott, (1701), in all probability an ancestor of his illustrious namesake, the "Wizard of the North," who likewise was a Mason. A Duke of Roxburghe's autograph is dated August 11th, 1804, but the peculiarity of the signature nearly all through the book, extending over a century, is the appendage to each name, corresponding in many instances with the trade, calling, or profession of the brother. Thus an artist has a pallet tacked to his name; an architect a house; and so on. In the earlier years of the lodge, however, are appended angular characters something approximating to the marks of the Mark Master Masons of the present day. Amongst the visitors on October 25th, 1785, was the great Italian aeronaut, in whose honour a peculiarly-shaped bonnet, worn by ladies of fashion at that time, was named, and to which Bro. Robert Burns alluded in one of his well-known poems, thus:—

"I wadna been surpris'd to spy  
You on an auld wife's flamen toy;  
Or aiblins some bit duddie boy,  
On's wylecoat;  
But Miss's fine Lunardi, fye!  
How daur ye do't?"

This was Vincent Lunardi, whose bold signature and address (Lucca, Italy) is embellished with a pen and ink sketch of a balloon. Leaving the old minute book and its curiosities, I had a glimpse at the charter of St. John's Lodge, which is dated so late as 1754, and signed by Ch. Hamilton Gordon, Grand Master; John Williamson, Deputy Grand Master; and Geo. Frazer, Substitute Grand Master. Then again, there is a parchment document, dated 1805, a sort of obligation, to which all strange visiting brethren had to subscribe their signatures by way of test. This large sheet of parchment is covered with signatures, a great many being the autographs of French officers, on their parole, during the Peninsular war. The old lodge Bible is in splendid preservation, as in fact are all the tools, jewels, and clothing, thus fortunately rescued from the limbo of obscurity through the enterprise of the brethren of Tweed Lodge.

I should add that the brethren of Tweed Lodge have petitioned the Grand Lodge of Scotland for permission to adopt the charter of No. 58, of which to-day, I believe, there are only two, or at most three, members living at Kelso.

I may conclude by adding that the pleasure of inspecting these relics was not a little enhanced by a visit to the Tweed Lodge the same evening, where the Third Degree was conferred on one candidate, another being absent, whilst three were proposed for initiation. The brethren of Tweed Lodge are eminent and practical exponents of the greatest of Masonic virtues, inasmuch as they recently organised a concert in aid of the "Indian Famine Relief Fund," which, after defraying expenses, realised the handsome surplus of £65.

RAMBLER.

the English people to settle its final details, whether it shall tell of heedlessness and heartlessness on the part of that great Christian nation which has conquered India, or whether, as I believe it will be, it shall form one of the most glorious pages in the long and eventful history of this ancient monarchy. At any rate, we know how the case stands and the nature of the call made upon us. If we are to meet it as we ought, and not leave a good work half done, then the tide of charity must flow on some time longer. Would you know something of what is actually taking place? Come with me then to one of the many relief camps, say the one at Bellary. It contains 3600 stricken wretches, all either suffering from ailments brought on by hunger or too weak to labour. The camp is divided into two parts—in one are the hospitals, in the other are large compartments in which the people are classified. If we enter the first compartment we shall find 600 orphan boys, in another hundreds of orphan girls, in a third coolies, in a fourth women and children. In that shed over there are the worst starvation cases, many men, more children, some few sitting, most lying prostrate on the earth, the only sign of life a slow gasping for breath, mere skeletons covered with wrinkled discoloured skin. Let us watch the distribution of relief. In front of us are two Englishmen giving out the doles of food or money to a crowd of famishing natives; to our right are two strong coolies carrying off a sort of square box suspended from a pole on their shoulders. In this box lie a heap of bones; but look a little closer, and you will perceive that what seemed a heap of bones will resolve itself into the living skeleton of a child sitting upright in the cold embrace of its dead mother. A little beyond is the emaciated form of a young woman leaning against the wheel of a wagon, evidently in the last stage of exhaustion. At the back of the crowd is a woman holding aloft, in outstretched arms, her starving infant as she pleads for food. Here again is a woman with dishevelled hair, clasping to her bosom a wee little child that is crying bitterly for food. In the background we can see coolies dragging carts to the camp laden with miserable wretches, who have probably been found on the road-side, worn out in trying to reach the relief camp. Everywhere are men, old and young, bearing stolidly and patiently the fire that is consuming their vitals, till their turn comes to be fed, or to die. Come out of this camp to that tree over yonder; at some time it has been struck with lightning, which has left a great rift in its massive trunk. What, think you, mean those carrion crows waiting there so ominously? In the rift of the trunk is an object sitting upright, staring with vacant glassy eyes, its lips swollen and parched, its body a mass of staring bones, a low hollow moan in place of a voice. Close by this living skeleton is the little babe, once so merry and so bright, the joy of that poor mother's heart, now lying stark and dead, with its little hands and arms bent convulsively back. We understand now why the carrion birds are waiting. This is not a solitary case, it is only a type of thousands. Up to July it is calculated that three-quarters of a million of people had been done to death in the Madras Presidency alone. What will be the terrible death roll by December 31st? What would have been the fate of these miserable people if there had been no British government to help them God alone knows. But Christian England has had compassion on the multitudes. The example of that Divine and Beneficent Being, who came to seek and save that which was lost, as we see Him, moved with compassion for the multitudes in Galilee, who were as sheep without a shepherd, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, binding up the broken-hearted—that example has been working with its gracious power on the hearts of the English people, whose great pity has been moved to its depths by the sight of that patient, gentle people perishing for want, and perishing without a murmur. As Freemasons we have no need to hide our heads for shame in this matter—we have not been backward in this noble cause—we have not asked that the money subscribed by the Grand Lodge of England, the Provincial Grand Lodges, or by local lodges should be given only to Freemasons—for we have many brethren in that distant land—we have only asked that the money we give should be dispersed with an ungrudging hand, and that the password to the reception of our charity should be the proved need of the suppliant. Give to-day with a bountiful and ungrudging spirit: as God gives, who makes His sun to shine upon the evil and the good. Give as Christ gave to the fainting multitude on the shore of the Sea of Galilee; not asking if they be Jew or Gentile, bond or free. And, as the mighty Mississippi rolls its majestic waters into the bosom of the thirsty ocean, asking nothing in return, but with its undiminished store ever replenished by the rains of heaven, so give to-day, expecting nothing in return, and God will shower down upon you the richest blessings of His heavenly store now and for ever.

**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.

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## GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

We have been favoured with a copy of a letter addressed by the Supreme Council 33° for England, Wales, and the Dependencies of the British Crown, to the Grand Orient of France, and of a resolution by the said Supreme Council, forbidding Masonic communication between members of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, under their allegiance, and those under obedience of the Grand Orient, in consequence of the latter body having ruled it to be unnecessary to require of candidates for admission into Freemasonry a declaration of their belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

It should be understood that all French Freemasons do not come under this ban; the Masonic Craft in France is governed, not as in England by one Grand Lodge, but by two separate bodies, each one having under its obedience lodges of the blue, or symbolic degrees. One of these bodies is the "Grand Orient," which by its late unhappy decree has violated all Masonic law and tradition, by "tolerating an Atheistic principle;" the other is a "Supreme Council," which demands of its members a declaration of their belief in God, as is required in our own lodges, and further insists that every summons and official document emanating from its lodges shall be superscribed with the holy name which every true Freemason is taught to reverence.

The Supreme Council of France is a member of the confederation which held its congress at Lausanne in 1875, and in friendly relations with the Supreme Council of England, as well as with all other legitimate Supreme Councils.

The letter and resolution under notice are as follows:—  
To Illustrious Brother Thevenot, Grand Secretary General of the Grand Orient of France.

Dear Sir and Illustrious Brother,

On the 17th October last, under the instructions of the Supreme Council 33° for England, Wales, and the Dependencies of the British Crown, I had the honour to address you on the subject of a rumour which had reached the Supreme Council, that the Grand Orient of France no longer required from candidates for admission into the Masonic Order a declaration of their belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, known in Masonic language as "The Great Architect of the Universe."

I have not been favoured with a reply to that letter, but this Supreme Council have, since it was written, read the report of the General Assembly of the Grand Orient of France held on the 13th September last, confirming the rumour which they had heard with so much regret.

You are aware, that in this country a belief in the existence of God is regarded to be absolutely essential as a qualification for admission into Freemasonry, and consequently that no one can be recognised as a Freemason unless he holds that belief.

The Supreme Council trusts that it may not be too late for the Grand Orient of France to re-consider its decision, and to revoke what must inevitably lead to its rejection by all true Masonic bodies.

Feeling however that they cannot conscientiously regard as Freemasons any persons under the obedience of a body which tolerates an Atheistic principle, this Supreme Council have deemed it necessary to instruct their Secretary General to warn by circular-letter the several chapters under their control that no Masonic communion be permitted with any persons under the allegiance of the Grand Orient of France unless the objectionable decree be annulled.

I am to add that it is with the feelings of the very deepest regret that the Supreme Council have felt it incumbent upon them to take this extreme step in vindication of what they consider to be the highest interests of Freemasonry.

I am, dear Sir and Ill. Brother, yours fraternally,  
(Signed) HUGH D. SANDEMAN, 33°,  
Grand Secretary for Foreign Correspondence.  
33, Golden-square, London, W., 7th November, 1877.

## RESOLUTION.

Passed by the Supreme Council 33° for England, Wales and the Dependencies of the British Crown, on Wednesday, the 7th November, 1877:—

Whereas the Grand Orient of France confers Masonic Degrees from the Fourth to the Eighteenth Degree and upwards;

And whereas at their meeting held on the 13th day of September, 1877, they have declared it to be unnecessary to require of candidates for admission into Freemasonry a declaration of their belief in the existence of God, the Great Architect of the Universe;

And whereas this Supreme Council holds such a declaration to be a necessary condition of admission into Freemasonry; and further that no person can be legitimately regarded as a Freemason unless he doth declare his belief in Almighty God.

It is resolved that this Supreme Council 33° does from henceforth cease to hold any alliance or Masonic intercourse with the Grand Orient of France, and does hereby instruct and direct its subordinate bodies to hold no communion in the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, from the 4° to the 33° inclusive, with the members of the various bodies established by, or owing allegiance to, the said Grand Orient.

And it is ordered that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Grand Orient of France, as also to all Supreme Councils 33° with which this Supreme Council is in fraternal alliance, for their general information; and further, that notification of the same be forthwith transmitted to all the subordinate bodies holding under, and bearing allegiance to, this Supreme Council 33°, in order that the decision herein recorded may come into full force and execution without delay.

Certified to be a true copy. SHADWELL H. CLERKE, 33°,  
Gd. Secretary-General, Supreme Council of England, Wales, and the Dependencies of the British Crown.

## METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending Friday, November 30, 1877.

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

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24.

Lodge 1563, City of Westminster, Regent M.H.  
" 1686, Paxton, Crystal Palace.  
" 1706, Orpheus, Dick's Coffee Ho., Fleet-st.

## LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Lily, Greyhound, Richmond.  
Manchester, 77, London-st., Fitzroy-sq.  
Star, Marquis of Granby, New Cross-rd.  
Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, S.W.  
Percy, 113, Southgate-road, N.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

Lodge 4, Royal Somerset Ho. and Inverness, F.M.H.  
" 26, Castle of Harmony, Willis's R., St. James's.  
" 28, Old King's Arms, F.M.H.  
" 79, Pythagorean, Ship Hot., Greenwich.  
" 183, Unity, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.  
" 905, De Grey and Ripon, F.M.H.  
" 1608, Kilburn, Queen's Arms Hot., Kilburn Gate.  
" 1615, Bayard, 33, Golden-sq., W.  
" 1632, Stuart, S.M.H.

Chap. 188, Joppa, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.

Mark Lodge 5, Mallet and Chisel, Bridge House Hot.

## LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tav., Kingsland.  
Strong Man, Old Rodney's Head, Old-st., E.  
Sincerity, Railway Tav., Fenchurch-st. Station.  
Camden, Stanhope Arms, Up. James-st., Camden Town.  
Tredegar, Royal Hot., Mile-end-road.  
St. James's Union, Union Tav., Air-st.  
Wellington, White Swan, Deptford.  
Perfect Ashlar, Victoria Tav., Lower-rd., Rotherhithe.  
Upper Norwood, White Hart Hot., Church-rd.  
Marquis of Ripon, Pembury Tav., Amherst-rd., Hackney.  
Loughborough, Warrior Hot., Brixton.  
West Smithfield, New Market Hot., West Smithfield.  
Leopold, Woolpack Tavern, Bermondsey-st.  
London Masonic Club, at 101, Queen Victoria-st. E.C.,  
2nd and 4th Monday every month, at 6 o'clock.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

Lodge 14, Tuscan, F.M.H.  
" 92, Moira, the Criterion, Piccadilly.  
" 141, Faith, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.  
" 145, Prudent Brethren, F.M.H.  
" 186, Industry, Westminster Chmbrs., Vic.-st. S.W.  
" 205, Israel, Cannon-st. Hot.  
" 259, Prince of Wales's, Willis's Rms., St. James's.  
" 1158, Southern Star, Montpelier Tav., Walworth.  
" 1196, Urban, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate.  
" 1348, Ebury, 12, Ponsonby-st., Millbank.  
" 1441, Ivy, Surrey M.H.

Chap. 21, Cyrus, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.

" 180, St. James's Union, F.M.H.

" 890, Hornsey, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.

Rose Croix Chap. Palestine, 33, Golden-sq.

## LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Metropolitan, 269, Pentonville-rd.  
Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.  
Domestic, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.  
Faith, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-st.  
Prince Fredk. Wm., Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.  
Dalhousie, King Edward, Triangle, Hackney.  
Prosperity, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.  
Florence Nightingale, F.M.H., William-st., Woolwich.  
Constitutional, Bedford Hot., Southampton Blds.  
Israel, Rising Sun Tav., Globe Road.  
Royal Arthur, Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea.  
Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone.  
Excelsior, Commercial Dock Tav., Rotherhithe.  
St. John of Wapping, Gun Hot., High-st., Wapping.  
Islington, 23, Gresham-st.  
Metropolitan Chapter, Jamaica Coffee Ho., Cornhill.  
Mount Edgcombe, 19, Jermyn-st., St. James's.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

General Com. Grand Lodge.

Lodge 2, Antiquity, F.M.H.  
" 212, Euphrates, M.H., Masons' Avenue.  
" 507, United Pilgrims, Surrey M.H.  
" 754, High Cross, Seven Sisters' Tav., Tottenham.  
" 778, Bard of Avon, Greyhound Hot., Hampton Ct.  
" 898, Temperance in the East, 6, Newby-place, E.  
" 1017, Montefiore, Regent M.H.  
" 1056, Victoria, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.

## LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Confidence, Railway Tav., Railway-place, Fenchurch-st.  
Mt. Lebanon, Windsor Castle Tav., Southwark-bdg.-rd.  
Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich.  
New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tav., Hoxton.  
La Tolerance, Horse and Groom, Winsley-st., Oxford-st.  
Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham.  
Stanhope, Thicket Hot., Anerley.  
Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd.  
Southwark, Southwark Park Tav., Southwark Park.  
Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav., Dalston, E.  
United Strength, Grafton Arms, Kentish-town.  
Whittington, Black Bull Tav., Holborn.  
Lewis, King's Arms Hot., Wood Green.  
Royal Jubilee, 81, Long Acre.  
Langthorne, Swan Hot., Stratford.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

Gen. Com. Girls' School.

Muggeridge Testimonial Com., M.R. 175, Aldersgt.-st.

Lodge 22, Neptune, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.

" 1524, Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tav.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

Union Waterloo, Chatham Arms, Thomas-st., Woolwich.  
 Egyptian, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.  
 Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., W.  
 Fitzbury, Jolly Anglers' Tav., Bath-st., City-road.  
 Temperance in the East, Catherine-st., Poplar.  
 Ebury, 12, Ponsonby-st., Milbank.  
 Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.  
 The Great City, M.H., Masons' Avenue.  
 High Cross, Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.  
 Salisbury, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.  
 Southern Star, Crown Hot., Blackfriars-rd.  
 Great Northern, Berwick Arms, Berners-st., Oxford-st.  
 Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.  
 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30.

K.T. Encam. 26, Faith and Fidelity, Cannon-st., Hot.  
 LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.  
 Stability, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.  
 Robert Burns, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.  
 Belgrave, Constitution, Bedford-st., Covent Garden.  
 Unions Emulation (for M.M.'s), F.M.H.  
 Temperance, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford.  
 Clapton, White Hart, Clapton.  
 Metropolitan, Portugal Hot., Fleet-st.  
 St. Marylebone, British Stores Tav., St. John's Wood.  
 Westbourne, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood.  
 United Pilgrims, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.  
 St. James's, New Tanners' Arms, Grange-rd., Bermondsey.  
 Duke of Edinburgh, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar.  
 Doric, Earl Grey Tav., Mile-end-road.  
 Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales's-road, N.W.  
 St. Luke's, White Hart, King's-rd., Chelsea.  
 Chigwell, Prince's Hall, Buckhurst-hill.  
 Burdett Coutts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.  
 Royal Standard, The Castle, Holloway-rd.  
 Ranelagh, Bell and Anchor, Hammersmith-rd.  
 St. George's, Globe Tav., Greenwich.  
 William Preston, Feathers Tav., Up, George-st., Edgware-rd.  
 Hervey, 99, Fleet-street, at 8.  
 Earl of Carnarvon, Mitre Ho., Goulborne-rd., Notting-hill.  
 Pythagorean Chapter, Portland Ho., London-st., Greenwich.  
 Sir Hugh Mydleton, 25, King Edward-st., Liverpool-rd., N.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

For the Week ending Saturday, December 1, 1877.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26.

Lodge 148, Lights, M.R., Warrington.  
 Chap. 241, Friendship, M.H., Liverpool.  
 Derby L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

Lodge 1609, Dramatic, M.H., Liverpool (Installation).  
 " 1675, Ancient Briton, M.H., Liverpool.  
 Chap. 721, Grosvenor, M.R., Chester.  
 " 1094, Temple, M.H., Liverpool.  
 Merchants L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.  
 Prince Arthur L. of I., M.R., N. Hill-street, Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

Lodge 32, St. George's, Adelphi Hot., Liverpool.  
 " 220, Harmony, Wellington Hot., Garston.  
 " 724, Derby, M.H., Liverpool.  
 " 730, Ellesmere, Royal Oak, Chorley.  
 " 1061, Triumph, M.H., Lytham.  
 " 1423, W. Lancashire, Commercial Hot., Ormskirk.  
 Chap. 605, De Tabley, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.  
 " 1052, Callender, Pub. H., Rusholme.  
 Neptune L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

Lodge 1313, Fermor, M.H., Southport.

For Masonic Meetings throughout Scotland see *Scottish Freemason*, which can be obtained at the Office of this Journal, 198, Fleet-street, London.

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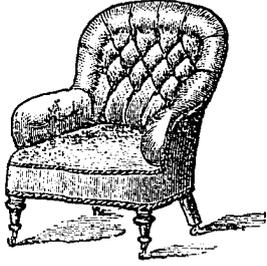
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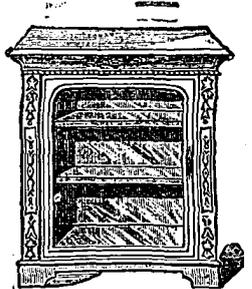
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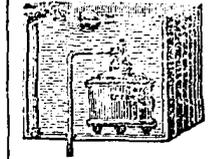
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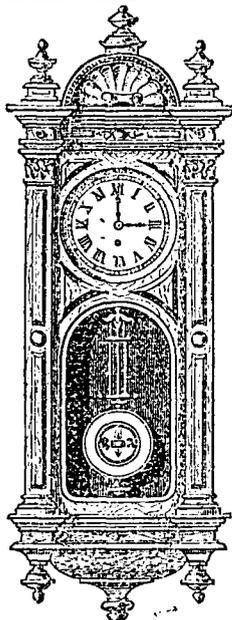
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