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UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The December Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of English Freemasons was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master, presided. The other Grand Officers present were:

Lord Tenterden, as G.S.W.; Rev. C. J. Martyn, as G.J.W.; Lord Limerick, as D.G.M.; Lord Donoughmore; Sir Albert Woods, Samuel Tomkins, G.T.; E. J. McIntyre, Q.C., G.R.; John Hervey, G.S.; Capt. N. G. Phillips, G.D. Peter de Lande Long, G.D.; B. Head, P.G.D.; J. M. Case, P.G.D.; Dr. J. Hogg, P.G.D.; R. W. Hollon, P.G.S.B.; Emil E. Wendt, G.S. for German Correspondence; John A. Rucker, P.G.D.; J. C. Parkinson, P.G.D.; James Glaisher, P.G.D.; W. E. Gumbleton, P.G.D.; R. W. Stewart, P.G.D.; Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C.; John Symonds, P.G.D.; S. L. Tomkins, P.G.D.; Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.B.; A. J. D. Filer, P.G.S.B.; James Mason, P.G.S.B.; Thos. Fenn, P.G.D.; E. S. Snell, P.G.D.; John M. Clabon, P.G.D.; F. P. Morrell, P.G.D.; W. Nettleship, P.G.D.; John Coutts, P.G.P.; John Wright, P.G.P.; C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P.; Rev. S. R. Wigram, P.G.C.; H. G. Buss, Assistant G.S.; Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P.G.C.; F. P. Cockerell, G. S. Wks.; W. Ough, P.G.P.; James Brett, P.G.P.; Joseph Smith, P.G.P.; C. W. C. Hutton, P.G.D.; C. E. Willing, G. Org.; T. Cubitt, P.G.P.; H. J. P. Dumas, P.A.G.D.C.; R. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. Essex; Gen. Brownrigg, Prov. G.M. Surrey; Col. Burdett, Prov. G.M. Middlesex; Hon. R. W. Giddy, D.G.M. Griqualand; Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C.; H. Murray, P.D.G.M. China; S. Rawson, P.D.G.M. China; Dr. Egan, D.G.M. South Africa, Eastern Division; E. P. Albert, P.G.P.; Geo. Toller, G.S.B.; Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B.; Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, P.G.C.; Rev. R. P. Bent, P.G.C.; Rev. J. E. Cox, P.G.C.; John Whichford, P.G.A.D.C.; Fras. Robinson, A.G.D.C.; Col. Creaton, P.G.D.; J. E. Saunders, P.G.D.; F. A. Philbrick, Q.C. P.G.D.; Henry Tombs, J.G.D.; Percy Leith, P.G.D.; John M. Wike, P.G.P.; Wilhelm Ganz, P.G. Org.; E. J. Barrow, P.G.D.; S. G. Foxall, G.P.; W. T. Howe, A.G.P.; C. A. Murton, P.G.D.; W. R. Williams, P.G.D.C.; Col. Shadwell Clerke, Lieut.-Col. Somerville Burney, H. C. Levander, J. L. Thomas, Wm. Roebuck, C.E.; Rev. Wm. Tebbs, Frank Green, F. Davison, J. T. Baldwin, C. F. Hogard, Nelson Reed, E. Kimber, F. Binckes, R. W. Little, J. Terry, H. Dickets, W. H. Lee, W. Dodd, W. Hopekirk, F. Adlard, George Kenning, Close, E. J. Harty, E. Swanborough and W. A. Tinney.

After the reading and confirmation of the minutes the Earl of Carnarvon invested the Rev. H. A. Pickard as Grand Chaplain, in the place of the Rev. W. Lake Onslow, deceased.

The Rev. H. A. Pickard having been saluted in ancient form,

The Earl of Carnarvon rose and said:—Brethren, it is not usual, nor is it, in my opinion, desirable that many motions should proceed direct from this chair, but there are some questions which affect the highest principles of the Craft, and which stir Masonry throughout the whole of the country. Such, from all that I can hear, is the question with which I have now to trouble you. I, for my own part, should have been glad to have avoided the necessity of calling your attention to this painful subject. There is an old saying that it is unwise to stir up sleeping lions; but, on the other hand, there are occasions when the danger and difficulty to our postponing all reference to these vital questions are such that we can neither in wisdom nor in conscience put them aside. (Hear, hear). And when I look round and see this crowded Grand Lodge, unusually crowded at this time of the year, I feel that I should deeply misconstrue the feeling of the Craft, if I had not from this chair, and with all the authority which this chair lends to the occupant of it, if I had not brought this question under your notice. (Hear, hear). Brethren, I do not desire to dwell at any length upon this matter, or to go into any details that are unnecessary for the purpose in hand. It is probably within the knowledge of every member of Grand Lodge that recently the Grand Orient of France, the Masonic representative body there, has made an alteration in the fundamental rules and principles by which French Masonry and all Masonry is bound together. (Hear, hear.) I have here a paper which states in parallel columns the changes which have recently been made. It is unnecessary to go into details; for my purpose it is quite sufficient to read the alteration which has been made in the first article

of their constitution. Under the old system by which they have up to this time governed, their first article ran in these terms: "Masonry has for its principles the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and 'la solidarite humaine,'" which I hardly know how to translate, it is so vague a word to English apprehension; but I should say probably it means the unity and the indissolubility of the human race. I hardly know how else to put it. Now that has been altered in the following terms: "Masonry has for principle"—not belief in the existence of God, and the immortality of the soul; but "Masonry has for principle absolute freedom of conscience and la solidarite humaine." Therefore Grand Lodge will perceive that those two great fundamental principles the belief in a God and in the immortality of the soul have been struck out, and they have been replaced simply by an illimitable, unlimited freedom of conscience and by "la solidarite humaine," whatever that expression may mean. Now it may be a question, perhaps, with some minds, what the meaning of that change is. There has been much debate on this point in France, and some of those who have been parties to this change, have asserted that it means nothing whatever, except liberty of conscience. On the other hand that has not been the view that has been taken by a large portion of French Masonry. I understand that no less than seventy-six lodges in France have protested against this change (hear, hear), and thereby marked their opinion that the change was not one of names, but of principles, and, therefore, there is a painful separation of them from the Grand Lodge of their country. It is certain also, that many other Masonic bodies abroad have followed in this track. The Irish Grand Lodge has not hesitated to pass a resolution, clear and uncompromising in its language, rebuking and censuring the action which the Grand Orient has taken. (Hear, hear.) That has been the course which has been adopted, I believe, by other Masonic bodies abroad; and I fairly own myself that with every desire to take the most temperate view of the matter, I cannot, if words have any meaning in them, assign any other construction to this change, except it means this—they have blotted out as one of the necessary and essential fundamental principles of the Craft, the belief in God, and the immortality of the human soul. (Hear, hear.) To accept any other view seems to me to put the most forced construction upon language, and to give it what has been sometimes called a wholly non-natural sense. (Hear, hear.) Well, brethren, it is no light matter if it be so; it is no light matter for any body of men to make such a change as this—no light affair for them to declare that they have no belief in God, no belief in the immortality of the soul. But it is no light thing to discard in this way, the two principles which have been the two guiding leading principles of civilization, which have done more to raise and elevate man than any other two to which I can point, which in the darkest periods of the world have illuminated them, and from which every noble thought, and every generous action, have in turn sprung. (Hear.) But it becomes still more serious when a body which has for many years past carried these two principles in the fore front of their system, solemnly and deliberately, after long debate expunged and erased them from their form. We cannot blind ourselves I think to the gravity of the act, whatever our view may be. It is true it may be said that the French Grand Lodge is in one sense the only sufferer. They see themselves by this act isolated from every other Grand Lodge in civilized Europe (hear, hear): they see still more that by this act they have thrown discord and confusion into the midst of their own lodges; they see themselves a torn, lacerated, divided body. But it may be said that this concerns them alone. Brethren, if indeed this were a matter of internal discipline; if it were one of those questions of internal regulation which are the exclusive property of each national Grand Lodge it would be beside our duty, it would be impertinent in us to interfere with it (hear, hear). No matter what the grievance was, no matter what the loss was to them, we should have no right to interfere (hear, hear). But we do interfere on this broad ground—first of all, that they cannot so affect the leading principles of Masonry, the fundamental principles on which, through generations past—through centuries past, I will say—the Craft has acted—they cannot so affect them without affecting the whole of the Masonic body (hear, hear); and it is alike our right and our duty to raise our voice. But we must also remember that equally questions arise which touch us intimately. French Masons come over to this country; they ask for admittance to our lodges; and how can we admit them if the Masonry of France be not pure in its fundamental principles. (Hear, hear.) We do, ourselves, and we have, perhaps, the right to call this Grand Lodge the mother Grand Lodge of all Europe, we do ourselves—and the interests of the Craft which are committed to us a grievous wrong and injustice, if we are silent in this matter. (Hear, hear.) Brethren, I say that these questions to which I have alluded are really of the essence of Freemasonry. The history, the traditions of Masonry are based on them, are bound up in them. The symbols that we use, the charges which we deliver, the ceremonies in which we take part, if these principles are to be discarded they become meaningless, and worse than meaningless, they become almost offensive mockery (hear, hear), and I know nothing that would so justify the scurrilous taunts that have been thrown out against Freemasonry at times, and the calumnious misrepresentations which have been hurled against it, as it would be by sanctioning, even by silence, such a step as that which the Grand Orient of France has taken. (Applause.) Brethren, there is no narrowness, there is no illiberality in what I have just said. (Hear, hear.) The limits of Freemasonry are very wide; they have been designedly made wide. The Roman Catholic and the Protestant, the Churchman and the Dissenter, the

Lutheran and the Calvinist, the Hebrew, all form part of our body. (Hear, hear.) We hold that our Masons should be bound by those considerations—religion (and there can be no religion without belief in God and in the immortality of the soul) religion, morality and obedience to the civil government of the country. These are the limits; they are very wide limits; it would be unwisdom in us to contract them; but it would be much worse than unwisdom—it would be destruction to the Order, if you were to enlarge them, for there would be nothing left by which we could stand (hear, hear); and I hold it is our bounden duty on an occasion like this to see that under no specious name or pretext a mere tide of unprovoked, uncalled for, unrequired revolutionary innovation should flow over our ancient system, and should obliterate those venerable landmarks of the Order which we have always maintained, and by which I trust we shall always stand in this country. Brethren, those that revolt against such a limit, so wide, so liberal as that which I have indicated, ask not for an emancipation from any artificial restraint; but they revolt against the highest law of human nature; that which has made man, that which is leading man to still higher destinies. Brethren, I said that there were many questions that would arise out of this unfortunate action, as I conceive it, of the Grand Orient of France; and the question which I have now to put to you is this—Practically what is it our duty to do, as the guardians of English Masonry, in this matter? Now in this as in so many cases there are, as it seems to me, three courses which may be taken; either you may leave the matter alone; but I should mis-read Grand Lodge—I should ill read the feeling of the Craft in this country, through its length and breadth, if I thought they were content to leave this matter alone (hear, hear); or secondly, we might follow the example of the Irish Grand Lodge, and express at once our unqualified regret and condemnation of the step which has been taken. I think that Grand Lodge would not be unjustified, unwarranted to proceed to such a course as that; but I would venture to put it to them that however clear they may be in their facts and however satisfied they may be of the view which I have put to them, and which I believe and trust represents their feelings—however satisfied they may be on these points, still it is safer, it is wiser to proceed in such a way as allow for no possible complaint being brought against us. Let there be no action which hereafter can be termed hot or precipitate; and therefore the course which I recommend to Grand Lodge is this—that a committee be appointed (and which I may say I have endeavoured to make as far as possible representative of the Grand Lodge and the Craft) and that they should enquire into the facts of the case; that they should then search all those ancient records which it may be desirable to examine; that they should deal with the matter in that spirit which a small body can alone deal with it, patiently, calmly, temperately; if need be, even obtain explanations of anything which may now be in doubt; and that they should then in proper time report to Grand Lodge the course which they recommend. Probably they will report to Grand Lodge only the course which Grand Lodge would of its own free feeling adopt; but Grand Lodge will ever have the satisfaction of feeling that in this matter and when the interests of other foreign Freemasons were at stake they rushed to no conclusion precipitately, but that they proceeded in the most dignified, the wisest and the quietest course. And on that point I would only say this, that Grand Lodge will remember that it is not merely the question of the Grand Orient and of English Freemasonry which is involved; but it is also in the interest of those French Masons, who have protested against this step, who have by their protest placed themselves in a peculiarly awkward and painful position as regards themselves, and for whom the greatest consideration at our hands is due. Brethren, there is only one other point in connection with this. I may be asked what is to be the course in the event of French Masons applying for admittance to the English Lodges whilst this committee is considering. I think the question is a natural one, and it admits, as it seems to me, of a perfectly simple answer. Provided that the certificate that that French Mason brings with him date previous to this declaration on the part of the Grand Orient, I should say there was no reason why he should not be admitted. I should say, by all means admit him freely and instantly. But if on the other hand (and it is after all a very unlikely contingency) a French Mason appear with a certificate bearing date subsequent to that declaration, then even though there may possibly be some hardship to individuals, it would be clearly, as it seems to me, our duty to act upon the principle of suspending this question until we are in a position to pronounce a judgment upon it. Brethren, under those circumstances I shall not go further into this matter. If you agree, as I trust you will, and I trust in such a case unanimously, to the appointment of this committee, when that Committee have made their report it will be full time to attack it in all its details. I will therefore propose to you at once that a committee be appointed for the purpose of enquiring and reporting to Grand Lodge on the enquiry into the recent circumstances, and the course which they recommended should be adopted.

The Earl of Limerick:—M.W.G.M., I believe it will be most in accordance with the feeling of Grand Lodge; after the able and exhaustive speech which has been made by you, if I do not go into this question, as by doing so I should merely repeat in a more feeble way what your Lordship has so ably said. I shall content myself therefore with formally seconding the motion which has been made from the chair.

Bro. John Symonds wished to know whether a report drawn up by Trevelyn, a firm believer in the Great Architect of the Universe, was in the Grand Secretary's office. It was desirable it should be seen, as the brethren would then have an opportunity of seeing the peculiar course of reasoning which had led the French Masons to come to

this conclusion. He wished to add another word with reference to the certificates of French Masons. All the French certificates that he had seen had upon them "Au Nom du Grand Architect de l'Univers." Where certificates with that upon them were presented, there could be no difficulty as to the date at which a French Mason was admitted to the Order. Certificates given after the recent decision of the Grand Orient would of course not bear the words he had referred to.

The Earl of Carnarvon said the answer to these questions were of course extremely simple. The document mentioned by Bro. Symonds would be laid before the committee; that was one of the points which they would have to arrange about. With regard to the certificates the only safe course would be to observe the actual date in figures upon the certificate, and not anything which was part of the form. His own belief was that during the short time the committee would be sitting inquiring into this matter, it was extremely unlikely that a French Mason whose certificate was issued subsequent to the recent action of Grand Orient would present himself to an English lodge.

His Lordship then put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Earl of Carnarvon: Brethren, I wish before reading the names of the members of the committee, just for the information of the Grand Lodge, to mention that the date on which this declaration of the Grand Orient of France was passed, was the 13th September, of this year. I will now proceed to read the names of the proposed committee. They have been drawn up with all care, but it is impossible that they can approximate in number those brethren I see before me. But in those names Grand Lodge will find that they are representative of the brethren, and that they will approach this subject with that amount of fairness and impartiality and calmness of judgment on the question on which all calmness should be applied. The committee I propose will consist of eleven members—myself, Lord Skelmersdale, Lord Leigh, Lord Tenterden, Lord Donoughmore, Bros. McIntyre, Havers, Monckton, Martyn, Levander, and Gould.

Bro. the Rev. J. Edmund Cox thought the committee was admirably constituted as a whole; but there were officers of Grand Lodge that might have been selected; he referred to the Grand Chaplains. No one could be more interested in the question than they; and he thought one or two of those brethren might be added to the committee. He would propose that the two Grand Chaplains be added.

Bro. C. W. Hutton, P.G.D., seconded the amendment.

Bro. the Rev. John Robbins, D.D., P.M. 1635, thought it the height of unfairness that any Grand Chaplain should be on the committee. As a clergyman of the Church of England he objected.

Another Rev. Bro., P.G.C. of Lord Carnarvon's province, begged to second the remark of Bro. Robbins. It would be a most unfortunate thing that clerical brethren should be on the committee to consider this question.

Bro. the Rev. C. W. Arnold, G.C., quite agreed with what had just been said. This was not a matter for a Grand Chaplain to interfere with in the slightest degree, because he considered it was one of the great principles upon which Freemasonry rested. Freemasonry was founded upon the Volume of the Sacred Law; and no brother could be initiated unless he was initiated upon that volume. He thought it far better that the Grand Chaplains should be exonerated from any such duty as serving on the committee. (Applause.)

Bro. the Rev. R. J. Lampour:—I must say that the Grand Chaplains at all events would be quite as competent to judge of the matter as any other brethren of the Order. I feel that if they were appointed they would be able to give as good an opinion as any brother. I don't see why Grand Chaplains should be applauded for giving way on this occasion, or, because a brother suggests a Chaplain should be appointed on the committee the voice of Grand Lodge should be against him on that account. I think equality should be observed in this as in all other cases; and Grand Chaplains are equally competent to judge on this question as on others.

The Earl of Carnarvon: I think the general sense of Grand Lodge has been very fairly expressed. It is quite clear on the one hand that they value and greatly appreciate our Grand Chaplains. On the other hand we think it would be unfortunate to place them on this committee in such numbers as would imply a preponderating weight on a vote put to them, and, therefore, as far as I consider, the Grand Lodge sanctions this committee, which I believe fairly represents the feeling of Grand Lodge. I say in fairness, because I never like the idea of any misapprehension on any question that may arise. I ought to make Grand Lodge understand—which I am not quite sure they do at this moment—that Bro. Martyn, whom it is proposed to put on this committee, is a Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and a very distinguished Mason (hear, hear). Still he is a Past Grand Chaplain, and I do not think Grand Lodge would for a moment hold that they ought to disqualify him (hear, hear). The question, therefore, I have now to put to you is this "That these names constitute the committee."

The motion was carried mem. con.

Grand Secretary read the following letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick:—

Very Worshipful Sir and Brother,—

At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, held at the City of St. John, on the 27th Sept. inst., it was unanimously resolved that the fraternal sympathy and condolence of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Free and Honorable Fraternity of Accepted Masons of New Brunswick be transmitted to Grand Lodge of England consequent on the death of the Earl of Shrewsbury, Prov. G.M. Staffordshire, and an eminent brother of the fraternity, under whose fostering care the

noble charities of the Craft had increased, and whose memory is revered by his brethren in all quarters of the globe. By order of the Grand Lodge,

WM. F. BUNTING, G.S.

This letter was ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. A. B. Cook rose to nominate the M.W.G.M. for the ensuing year. He said:—M.W. Pro Grand Master. I rise for the purpose of proposing the nomination of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for Grand Master for the ensuing year. This is a nomination which I feel sure will be acceptable to every member of the Craft, and which will require very few words from me to ensure it a cordial reception. It may be a matter of some regret to all of us that the numerous calls upon his time which our Royal Grand Master has, prevents his coming among us more frequently than he does; but I am sure you feel that although he is not present with us, still the well-being of the Craft is at all times in his thoughts. I think this year we have had very good proofs of this, for whenever there is something of more than ordinary importance the Most Worshipful Grand Master has in his own name put a notice of motion on the paper on the subject. I really do not think that I need detain you any longer on the subject. I simply express the wish and the unanimous feeling of every member of the Order, who desire to show His Royal Highness how much his services are at all times regarded by the Craft. I beg, therefore, to nominate His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of Freemasons for the ensuing year. (Applause.)

The Earl of Carnarvon then appointed Bro. J. M. Clabon, P.G.D., President of the Board of Benevolence, and announced that Bro. Joshua Nunn, P.G.S.B., had been duly elected Senior Vice-President, and Bro. James Brett, P.G.P., Junior Vice-President.

The election of twelve P.M.'s. to serve on the Lodge of Benevolence was then proceeded with, and scrutineers were appointed.

The following brethren were elected:

Bros. C. Atkins, P.M. 27; H. Bartlett, P.M. 147; C. P. Cobham, P.M. 957; J. Constable, P.M. 185; H. Dicketts, P.M. 25; H. Garrod, P.M. 749; C. F. Hogard, P.M. 205; H. C. Levander, P.M. 142; W. Mann, P.M. 186; O. Roberts, P.M. 188; G. Smith, P.M. 21.

The grants recommended by the Lodge of Benevolence, as given in the *Freemason* last week were afterwards confirmed, and the report of the Board of General Purposes was adopted.

After the appeals had been decided

Bro. the Rev. Robert J. Simpson, P.G. Chaplain, moved:—

1. That the 300 petitions now presented to Grand Lodge on what is commonly called "The German question" be received.

2. That whereas it appears from the Book of Constitutions of the Grand National Lodge of the Prussian States (called The Three Globes, held at Berlin) that those only who profess the Christian faith are eligible to become members of the Craft in any Lodge within its jurisdiction, this Grand Lodge, in the interests of Masonry, would respectfully suggest to the Grand Lodge aforesaid a reconsideration of the following section of the Book of Constitutions:—

Page 50, Section 165, Clause 1.

In the jurisdiction of the Great National Mother Lodge (of The Three Globes) only those may be proposed for acceptance into Freemasonry who acknowledge Christian belief (Christlichen Glauben) without distinction of sect.

Page 51, Section 167.

It is necessary for the candidate to state, &c.

Clause 3.—His religion (Creed).

Clause 9.—Whether he has tried hitherto to fulfil his duties as a Christian citizen, and whether he will continue to do so.

Page 57, Clause 197.

Every brother who wishes to join a lodge of our Constitution must be of Christian faith, and able to give his honourable discharge from his former Lodge by a written discharge therefrom, &c., &c., &c.,

with a view to widening the basis on which German Masonry now stands, and bringing it into more complete and fraternal harmony with Freemasonry throughout the world.

3. That in order to give effect to the foregoing resolutions the M.W. Grand Master be respectfully requested to communicate them to the Grand Lodge of Germany in any manner His Royal Highness may deem most expedient.

Bro. the Rev. Robert Simpson, P.G. Chaplain, said that he should be saved a good deal of trouble, and be saving a good deal of patience of Grand Lodge, by at once stating that many of the arguments which had been advanced so forcibly and eloquently upon a kindred question by the Pro. Grand Master, applied to the question which he had now the honour to lay before the brethren. This was an age of extremes, and truth, as the great Greek philosopher said of the virtues, generally lay in the mean between those extremes. It was a significant and very remarkable fact that on the very same night should be discussed in Grand Lodge, two departures from the ancient landmarks of Freemasonry in exactly opposite directions, the one taking from that Masonry which we believed to exist within it, and the other attempting to contract its principles by excluding a large body of men. In 1841 Bro. Behrend, who was initiated in the Lodge of Joppa, went to Germany and presented himself at a German lodge. He was refused admission on the ground that he was not a Christian. Subsequently Bro. Faudel, well known as a Past Grand Officer of the Grand Lodge of England, and another brother, who was present to-night (Bro. Hutton) taking a very great interest in this question, went to Germany and knocked at the door in order to gain admittance. They were met by the question "are you a Christian," and

they declined to answer. Lord Zetland when the matter was brought before him said that if the German lodges refused to recognise an English certificate presented by whomsoever it might be, provided he was a good and worthy man, he (the Grand Master), should feel called on to withdraw his representative from the Grand Lodge of Berlin, and however pleased he might be to see the Chevalier who was here as a visitor to Grand Lodge, under such circumstances he could not receive him in his representative capacity. In consequence of that action was taken in Germany, and in the year 1872, a letter was read by Grand Lodge of England upon the subject from the Royal York Lodge of Friendship, and of the three Grand Lodges of Germany, to the effect that revision of the Book of Constitutions of those lodges having taken place nine years before, a new revision was made in the present year, and the question of the initiation of Jews was again deliberated. The Secretary of those lodges said he was happy to announce that the Royal York Lodge was now receiving Jews. The letter concluded in very fraternal terms. Now they could not believe that Masons of the other two Grand Lodges of Germany would be so utterly different in principle and temperament as not to consider a subject which was favourably considered by the other lodges. He would therefore say that in consequence of representations made to him within the last ten or twelve months that he ventured to anticipate those remarks which might be made, by saying that he did not propose to interfere with, or dictate to the Grand Lodges of Germany, but that it was desirable to hold out the right hand of fellowship in Germany to those to whom we had held it. We had a right to believe that Masonry was not like the nations, unhappily divided, but that it boasted to be one brotherhood throughout the world. If we were to take the analogy of a single family to which Freemasonry should belong—could it be an interference if a brother suggested in the kindest and most courteous manner that such and such a thing was likely to create a family feud? He could not for a moment conceive how it could be supposed if Masons were true Masons that such an intervention could be construed into an interference. In addition to that he might say we had one of the great Grand Lodges of Germany setting this example, and he doubted not that many Masons connected with the Grand Lodge, as well as with other Grand Lodges, would hail this measure as a means by which their hands would be strengthened, and instead of looking upon it as an interference would regard it as giving power to their great cause. In Germany there was a large number of persons of the Jewish faith—good respectable citizens, held in high esteem by their friends, and also in England they were held in high esteem, and many of them held some of the most elevated positions in the land. If that was the case it was not only an indignity to Jewish subjects to be excluded from lodges, but it was a matter of great regret to those who were of the same race and religion in this land to feel that they were excluded from the privilege abroad which as men and as Masons these brethren possessed here. He could not but feel as if the old definition of sympathy was correct—that if one member suffered all the members suffered with it; and if one member rejoiced all the members rejoiced, it ought to apply to brethren of Freemasonry throughout the world. He would put a case—a brother went to Germany to reside, and wished to become a joining member of a German lodge. He was told that he could not be a joining member, but might be a subscribing member, or a visitor without the power to vote. In that case he was only tolerated, not taken by the hand as a brother standing upon regular ground. If he (Bro. Simpson) was in such a position he should not trouble lodges of Germany much with his presence. It was perfectly true that the Grand Lodge of England certificate might be now received in Germany, but it was equally true that it did not admit even those Masons who held it to equal privileges of the Masons of Germany; and in the two jurisdictions to which he had alluded men were not permitted to be initiated who did not hold the Christian faith. They had heard much that evening of what Freemasonry was or ought to be, and if he had learned anything of Freemasonry in time past he had always believed that looking on the one side and the other that the five great landmarks were alone to be held in belief in the great God and the Architect of the Universe; belief in the immortality of the Soul; and on the other morality and the practice of charity; and he believed as a beam of light between both worlds and the mighty power of prayer. Anything short of this, and anything beyond this was not genuine Freemasonry, and therefore he thought all had a right to appeal to the Grand Orient of France to take measures in reference to what they had done; and he thought we were equally learned, though in a different direction, to act in a much milder and kinder way in regard to the step which excluded thousands of worthy and good men from the Order. If there was one section of men connected with Freemasonry more than another with whom he ventured to say we should have strong sympathy it was the men of that ancient race who had engraved their history upon the annals of time, whose old writings were an ornament to literature, whose great names sprang from mighty kings; whose traditions and associations were such that before them those of modern days "paled them in effectual fires;" above all, these men, whose writings, whose associations, whose words were continually associated, and indissolubly entwined with the traditions, symbols, ritual and literature of Freemasonry, that these men should not be excluded from any privilege of Freemasonry in any part of the world.

Bro. C. W. Hutton in seconding the motion said, that in 1846 Bro. Faudel and he when this question was mooted, and the present Emperor of Germany was Master of the German Grand Lodges, put the matter to the test by going

to Germany and presented themselves with their certificates to the lodge. They were asked individually if they were Christians, and individually they declined to answer, considering the question anti-Masonic. He had hoped that from that time the barrier was broken down, but it had come up again the last three or four years. It was a stigma to the Craft in Germany, a stigma to the nation which had shut up the banner of Ultramontaniam which was attempted to be unfurled before them, a stigma to an intelligent race whose doctrines were founded upon the Bible. Let the brethren see what Freemasonry was. He thought Grand Lodge should exercise its utmost power to shew the brethren of Germany that they were wrong in refusing admission to Jews. He hoped that a representation made to them would lead to a revision of their Constitution in 1881.

Lord Tenterden opposed the motion. In 1740 the Lodge of the Three Globes was established as a Christian lodge. It was not a lodge for the whole of Germany; it was a particular system of Freemasonry based upon Christian principles. Questions whether the constitutions could be altered were raised in 1766, 1783, 1808, 1844, and 1849; but the feeling always seemed to have been that the Masons of that lodge were meeting under a Christian system of Masonry, and they wished to adhere to and maintain that particular form of ritual. In 1868 it was again considered, and the conclusion came to was that they had always been a Christian body, and they would be departing from their ancient landmarks if they altered it. He moved an amendment to Bro. Simpson's motion.

Bro. Erasmus Wilson seconded the amendment.

The Rev. R. P. Bent, P.G.C., said that Swedish Freemasonry was on the same footing as German Freemasonry, and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was made a Freemason under the Swedish Constitutions.

Bro. James Mason objected to enforcing on German Grand Lodges what English Freemasons thought they should do.

Bro. Israel Abrahams, P.M. 188, spoke in favour of the motion.

The Earl of Limerick supported the amendment and said that the lodge of the Three Globes were adhering to their ancient constitutions. He thought Grand Lodge of England would hesitate to take the step proposed, and would leave it to be worked out by the great example which Grand Lodge of England set. All who presented English certificates to German Lodges were admitted as visitors, although they could not be joining members.

Bro. S. V. Abraham said he had taken great interest in this question. The Jewish brethren did not bring this matter before Grand Lodge as a grievance to Jews alone. They denied that it was a question of Jew and Gentile; they wished it considered only as a question of a Masonic, and purely Masonic character. Thinking it advisable that the German Constitutions should be revised they came at once to the fountain-head to suggest the alteration; they came to a body whose head was the head of the country. By placing the matter in such hands they considered they were doing right. Truly and Masonically had they brought the question forward, and not from any party feeling.

Bro. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, opposed the motion.

Bro. Simpson having replied,

The Earl of Carnarvon said he should not think it necessary to say anything at all, except this, that as this was a question on which the principles of Freemasonry had been much invoked it would be perhaps unsatisfactory to Grand Lodge if he put it to the vote without the expression, however slight, of his own opinion. He need hardly tell the brethren that so far as his own opinion went, he regretted the course which the German Grand Lodge of the Three Globes had taken. Looking at the point as he was bound to do, as an English Freemason, he should have been glad if they could have accepted the view of the principles by which they had been guided, if indeed this was a case as some of the speakers had put it, absolutely within the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge of England, he should not for a moment hesitate to endorse everything Bro. Simpson had said, but of course it was his (the Earl of Carnarvon's) duty to put it to the brethren in the most deliberate manner he could; and the conclusion to which he was carried after listening to this discussion was, that this Grand Lodge should be careful and cautious, very cautious in accepting such a motion as this. He did not care to go through all the arguments which had been used on either side, but the brethren must remember that there was extreme force in what Bro. McIntyre, the Grand Registrar, had said, that we could not take up our position on the same ground that we had occupied with regard to the Grand Orient of France. That body made a distinct and startling innovation. The Grand Lodge of the Three Globes, whether they be right or whether they be wrong, were simply adhering to the course of precedent they had followed for more than a century. In the same way we thought we must bear in mind that in coming to a vote on this question we really were not very familiar with the details of it. Much that the Grand Senior Warden (Lord Tenterden), had told them was new, he ventured to say, to almost everybody present, and that of itself should inform them that they were treading on rather delicate ground, and that if under the impulse of a right feeling, in which he (Lord Carnarvon) entirely went along with the brethren, (and he wished to do full justice to the extremely fair, liberal, temperate, and Masonic manner and language in which the question had been discussed by all those of the Jewish brethren who had taken part in it), still he must say they were treading on very delicate ground, and if they were inadvertently to make a mistake, Grand Lodge would find itself in a very difficult position. It was always possible hereafter, after full explanation and enquiry to proceed to a decision based upon sounder conclusions, but if upon imperfect knowledge and without full cognizance of the details they proceeded

on a hasty conclusion, they placed themselves in a position which they might bitterly regret and which might lead to very great inconvenience. (Hear, hear.) He wished for his own part that the mover of the motion should withdraw it. They would all have stood in a better position on the one hand, and the Jewish race would not have been at all prejudiced, they would rather have gained by the moderation which they had exhibited, and Grand Lodge would have been saved the risk of committing a serious blunder. He would fairly and frankly own to Grand Lodge that he doubted whether they were not exceeding their authority in making this recommendation to the German Grand Lodge of the Three Globes; and if this were so, if they really were travelling out of their own authority, if they were interfering in that which could upon argument be sustained as a matter of fair internal regulation on the part of that German Grand Lodge, then they might place themselves in a position which would be a matter, to say the least, of very great regret. Grand Lodge lastly must bear in mind: if they agreed to this resolution and requested H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Grand Master, to convey a resolution to the German Grand Lodge, and the Emperor of Germany as the head of that Grand Lodge, which could not be sustained in argument, which on argument might turn out to be a matter of internal regulation, this Grand Lodge placed its illustrious Grand Master in a position, he might say in a predicament, that they certainly could never intend, which it would be most painful to him to occupy, and from which he (Lord Carnarvon) frankly owned he did not see how the Prince of Wales could extricate himself satisfactorily. He put it to Grand Lodge to pause well. They had waited for 140 years; they might surely afford to wait for three months longer. (Hear, hear.) There could be no error in that, but there might be a great error in hurrying to a decision that evening. He was sure he was giving Grand Lodge sound and seasonable counsel to which no man could take exception, and which was for the comfort and satisfaction of all. If Bro. Simpson, would not withdraw the whole of his motion he would suggest that he should only retain the first part of it "That the 300 petitions now presented to Grand Lodge on what is commonly called 'The German question' be received."

Bro. Simpson assented to this course, and the remaining portions of the motion having been withdrawn No. 1 was put to the brethren and carried unanimously.

Grand Lodge was then closed in due form.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

NEPTUNE LODGE (No. 22).—The regular November meeting of this famous old lodge was held at the Guildhall Tavern, on Thursday week, the presiding officer being Bro. E. F. Storr, W.M. The business which was transacted was passing Bro. Cutting to the Second Degree, and initiating into Masonry Mr. A. F. Austen and Mr. E. R. Curtice. At the completion of this work the brethren unanimously elected Bro. Phythian, S.W., as the W.M. of the lodge; re-elected Bro. Isaac Wilcox, P.M., as Treasurer; elected the Audit Committee; on the motion of the Worshipful Master voted £10 to the "Henry Muggeridge Testimonial Fund;" voted also a P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Storr, W.M.; and made a donation of five pounds to a distressed brother, and five pounds to his wife and family. Bro. Phythian undertook the office of Steward for the next festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Girls; and the W.M. gave notice of motion for next meeting that ten guineas should be voted to each of the three Masonic Institutions. After the transaction of some other business the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet. Among the brethren present were Past Masters White, Harcourt, Batty, Nead, Gray, Eames, and Wilcox, and visitors Albert Storr, 1658; Thos. Kitching, 435; J. Reinhardt, 23; H. Massey, 619 (*Freemason*); Sir J. Bennett, 1; A. S. Swaine, 73, (as guests of the Worshipful Master); and Alex. Crawford, 738. After banquet, and the honouring of the formal toasts, Bro. Isaac Wilcox, P.M., Treasurer, proposed "The W.M.," and in doing so said it was not the first time he had had the same honour. It was with much pleasure he did it, because he knew, as the brethren knew, that Bro. Storr had exerted himself to the utmost during his year of office to satisfy the brethren. As far as he, as an old P.M., could judge, speaking from many years' experience, the W.M. had conducted himself in a manner which redounded very much to his honour, and to the credit of the Neptune Lodge, which he trusted would maintain its good name and standing. It was acknowledged to be one of the best working lodges in the Craft, and there was nothing more gratifying to the P.M.'s than to find the younger brethren aspire to the position of W.M., and endeavour to qualify themselves for the office. Many years since he passed the chair, and it was very pleasing to find that when there was work to do in the lodge the W.M. whom the brethren had selected was always able to do it, and he always did it in a creditable manner. He repeated that the W.M. had exerted himself to the utmost on behalf of the lodge; he was a very energetic Mason, as all good Masons were; and the brethren had seen that evening, by the way in which he had done the working of the ceremonies, and brought forward his different motions, with what true Masonic feeling he was actuated. The W.M. must be congratulated on the happy termination of his year of office, and the brethren wished him health and long life to enjoy his membership of this

lodge. (Hear, hear.) Bro. E. F. Storr, in reply, said there were times in a man's life when to be silent was to be eloquent, and with himself he felt that that time was now, for he could not respond to this toast in a way which he felt Bro. Wilcox's remarks deserved. He could not help feeling that that evening his sun had set, and he hoped the rising sun would eclipse him. During his year of office, although it had been a most prosperous one, he had had feelings of regret because he had had to support several cases from the lodge at the Lodge of Benevolence. This had been most distressing, and but for this his year would have been one of unmingled pleasure. No one had had better officers, without which what could a W.M. do? He had tried to please the brethren and he was pleased to find that he had been successful in his attempt. If they were satisfied that was sufficient recompense to him for what he had done. He hoped Bro. Phythian's year would be brighter, more prosperous, and luminous than ever his own had been. Bro. Austen responded to the toast of "The Initiates," and said he had long looked forward with anxiety to the time when he should join the Order, and he was now very grateful to the brother who had introduced him into it. Nothing should now be wanting on his part to make him a good Mason, and in speaking thus for himself he knew he was speaking the sentiments of his co-initiate, Bro. Curtice. The W.M. proposed "The P.M.'s," of whom he said the Neptune Lodge could proudly boast. Long might they be spared to remain an ornament to the lodge! Bro. Wilcox, P.M., replied, and said that the P.M.'s were very proud of belonging to that body, and grateful for the compliments the brethren so often paid them. They had endeavoured in their day and generation to do properly that which devolved upon them, and they only hoped and trusted that all those who followed them would tread in their footsteps. Having the interest and welfare of the lodge at heart he and his colleagues did their best in that direction, and nothing gave them greater pleasure than to see a brother in the chair who aimed at giving satisfaction to the brethren in the discharge of his duties as Bro. Storr had done. Unless a brother performed his duties well, they knew that a lodge deteriorated, and he felt confident that the brother who occupied the position of W.M. felt the same as did the P.M.'s. Bro. Sir John Bennett replied to the toast of "The Visitors." It was indeed a pleasant thing in the midst of heavy daily and weekly work to come into a lodge of Freemasons, because they all had great respect for that great and very ancient institution. They knew its antiquity; they knew its doings; but they did not know all its great doings in past centuries. Let him however, refer to some of the things which their predecessors in the Craft had done. If the history of the Craft could be written for the last 2000 years, they would have the history of the world through the dark ages, and see what the lodges did. The outward and visible signs of what they did remained in the grand ecclesiastical buildings, whose architectural splendour astonished the world. But beyond that, Masons constituted a line of great societies of men, who from century to century, from age to age, were in their circles the most powerful agents that kept alive all that was great and good in the career of our industry; the literary spirit, the artistic spirit. They were the body guard that taught liberty. Masons were proud to be descendants of such a body of men, who kept alive all that had dignified, beautified, elevated, invigorated human society, and made civilisation what it now was. If they had done this in the past, Masons of the present day were the men to do it now; to pass on this torch of human enlightenment, prosperity and civilization for the future. He was always proud when he came among Masons. He had been but a poor Mason himself, because his occupations were numerous. Though extra-Masonic, they were nevertheless in the true spirit of Masonry wherever he went. He was proud to visit this lodge, by the invitation of the Worshipful Master, and to have the opportunity of saying that he and the other visitors held among themselves the bright spirit of our forefathers in this respect, that whatever they did well we were prepared to do better, with our greater power of knowledge and enlightenment, and of all those manifold appliances of daily life which multiplied the power of man, which made him feel he was the centre of circles that should not only invigorate and elevate, but send prosperity through the whole of the civilised community. The common spirit which was shown to be among Masons by the friendly interchange of courtesies at these meetings would aid in this great work, and when they went forth from the lodge they would feel themselves the next day better men for the pleasure they had enjoyed that evening. (Cheers.) The W.M. next proposed "The W.M. elect." He said that when he took the gavel from his predecessor he was determined to do his duty to the Neptune Lodge, and he was pleased to find he had held it to the satisfaction of the brethren. In giving it up to another brother he had great pleasure and enjoyment in knowing that it would go into the hands of a brother who would equally endeavour to discharge his duties properly. Bro. Phythian, who would take the gavel next year, was initiated the year after him (the W.M.), and they had been like twin brothers ever since, and if he had nothing else to be thankful to Masonry for beyond his intercourse with the dear kind friends of the Neptune Lodge, the knowledge that he had made the friendship of Bro. Phythian, one of his bosom companions, was sufficient to make him pleased that he had become a Mason. Bro. Phythian responded. He little thought, he said, six years ago, when he was initiated that he should ever be elected W.M. It had always been his great ambition to be Master, and the brethren knew he had always but once been punctual in his attendance. He had always been pleased to attend to his duties in the working of the lodge. He could not make any promise as to the way in which he should perform the duties of W.M.; but he was working for it, and

attending lodges of Instruction to qualify himself. Bro. Gray had been coaching him and so had Bro. Muggerridge, and both pronounced that he was right in the two First Degrees though somewhat shaky in the Third. However, he had a couple of months before him to perfect himself, and he hoped in that time to be ripe for his post. Bro. Eames, P.M., Sec., responded to the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary." The compliment was rather to the Treasurer than to himself, but as Bro. Wilcox had spoken once or twice that evening, he (Bro. Eames) was asked to reply now. Bro. Wilcox was such a Freemason as few other lodges had. He (Bro. Eames) had been Secretary only a short time, but he had endeavoured, and he hoped he had succeeded in his endeavours, to perform his duties satisfactorily to the W.M. and the other members of the lodge. Bro. Ashwell and Bro. Foxwell responded for "The Officers," and the brethren shortly afterwards separated. There was some very pleasant music and singing during the evening.

TEMPLE LODGE (No. 101).—This lodge met on Tuesday last, the 4th inst. There was a very large assemblage of the brethren, and many visitors, amongst whom, was Bro. Signor Campobello, who, after dinner, sang several songs in his usual style (accompanied by Bro. Romano), which gave great pleasure to the brethren assembled. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been proposed and carried unanimously, the W.M., Bro. Taylor, proposed "The Health of the Visitors," coupled with that of Bro. Campobello. The toast having been drunk with the usual honours, Bro. Campobello rose, and in proposing "The Health and Prosperity of the W.M., Brethren, and the Temple Lodge," said he had offered his gratuitous services and those of his wife, Madame Campobello, and the artistes of his company, to give a concert in February next for the benefit of the Masonic School at Wood Green at Freemasons' Tavern. The W.M. suggested that a Lodge of Emergency should be called for the purpose of appointing a committee to carry out the necessary arrangements. Further information in connection with the concert can be obtained of Bro. G. V. De Luca, 5, Guildhall-chambers, Basinghall-street.

FAITH LODGE (No. 141).—The members of this old lodge met at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Tuesday, the 27th ult. Amongst those present were Bros. E. Mallett, W.M.; C. Dairy, S.W.; Rumball, J.W.; Carter, P.M., Treasurer; W. Stuart, P.M., Sec.; Morris, J.D.; Heaphy, I.G.; T. C. Walls, P.G.O. Midx., W.S.; Clark, D.C.; Ashton, Assist. Sec.; Themans, acting I.P.M.; E. Hopwood, P.M., P.G.S.B. of Midx.; Longstaff, Tyler. The minutes of the installation meeting in October last having been read and confirmed, the W.M. raised Bros. Broadhurst, Aarons, and Cox to the degree of M.M., the ceremony being exceedingly well performed. The W.M. is to be congratulated upon having acquitted himself so well in that his maiden essay. There being no other business before the lodge it was formally closed, and the brethren immediately separated. The next regular meeting of the lodge will be held on the last Tuesday in January next.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT LODGE.—(No. 1524).—The brethren of this highly prosperous lodge assembled in full force on Thursday week at the Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, Bro. John Bairstone Shackleton, the W.M., most ably performed the work, which was unusually heavy. At four o'clock Bros. Hollingsworth, C. J. Olley, A. R. Olley, Fisher, and Norman, were raised, the ceremony being most impressively rendered, and each candidate for Mastership was taken separately. Bros. Denton, Bensley, Bell, Bigg, and Blow, were then respectively passed, and a ballot for Bro. William Ford, proved unanimous in his favour that gentleman was duly initiated. The audit committee was then appointed, and Bro. Bernard Meyer, the J.W. of the lodge, elected W.M. for the ensuing year. The labours of the evening over, the brethren adjourned for refreshment, and spent three hours most pleasantly.

CARNARVON LODGE (No. 1572).—This lodge, which is now only two years old, held its installation meeting on Saturday last at the Albion, Aldersgate-street. Bro. Walter Solomon Whitaker presided, and was supported by Bros. J. Cowan, S.W.; T. S. Hillier, J.W.; J. Claricoats' Treas.; R. C. Hooton, I.P.M. Acting Sec.; Nelson Reed, S.D.; G. W. Briggs, J.D.; G. W. Brock, I.G.; T. Brown, P.M. 765, D.C.; F. Morgan, W.S.; Burman, Cotton, Jaccard, Pearce, A. Taylor, W. Munro, Russell, P. Bullock, A. E. Packer, F. Spurgen, J. Spurgen, J. Garratt, S. Garratt, Wm. Poole, H. Poole, Gosnell, Dr. Longrigg, Margetts, Edwards, Lovibond, Greening, Leman, Chaffey, and Willcocks. The W.M. passed Bros. J. Spurgen, and H. Poole, and raised Bros. S. Garratt, D. Longrigg, F. Spurgen, and E. A. Packer. He afterwards installed Bro. James Cowan, S.W., and W.M. elect, as Worshipful Master, who thereupon invested Bro. Whitaker as I.P.M., the duties of which office were transferred to Bro. Hooton, P.M., Bro. Whitaker being also invested as Secretary. The other brethren invested were Bros. Thos. S. Hillier, J.D. 1580, S.W.; Nelson Reed, W.M. 1671, J.W. 1601, S.D. 765, J.W.; John Claricoats, Treasurer; George Briggs, S.D.; George A. Brock, J.D.; Frederick Morgan, I.G.; J. E. Burman, D.C.; Richard Cotton, W.S.; and W. Steedman, P.M. 754, Tyler. All these appointments gave the greatest satisfaction to every member of the lodge, a proof of which was conveyed in the hearty applause with which they were greeted on being conducted to their situations in the lodge. The investments over, Bro. Whitaker delivered the charges with the same fluency as had characterised his delivering of the other portions of the ceremony, and of the other work of the lodge. On resuming his seat he was followed by general cheering, and the remaining work of the lodge having been completed, lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to one of Bro. W. G. Jennings' elegant banquets. The visitor present were:—Bros. P. McNabb, S.C. Scotland, P.M. 110

E. Terry, W.M. 1319; R. E. H. Goffin, 1359; J. Hill, Org 732; C. Taylor, I.G. 1426; J. Bergmann, J.D. 1671; J. H. Leggot, S.D. 145; C. Swain, 80; H. A. Lovett, S.W. 134; G. Saul, J.W. 1201; C. Dodson, 834; J. R. Stacey P.M. 180; W. H. Lee, P.M. 975 and 1524; J. Chaney, 183; J. McCutchen, S.C. 28; C. F. Seymour, 163; J. Slater, 22; J. Henderson, 186; H. Massey, (Freemason) P.M. 619; W. H. Rowe, 1426; R. Greening, 1426; A. Leigh 657; C. T. Smith, 1426; Viner Bedolfe, P.M. 1329. When the banquet was concluded, grace having been said, the W.M. proceeded with the toasts, and in giving that of "The Queen and the Craft," said that three of her Majesty's sons occupying the three principal chairs of Grand Lodge at one time was an honour that no mother had ever had in the history of Masonry. The W.M. in giving "The Health of the M.W.G.M.," after referring to the ability with which the Prince of Wales discharged the duties of Grand Master, said H.R.H. had proved himself a thorough Mason, and both in Masonry and as the Prince of Wales had proved himself a thorough Englishman. A distinguished Scotchman who was also a Mason had written many years before the Prince of Wales was born,

"The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
A man's a man for a' that,"

And the Prince of Wales had shown that this sentiment was applicable to him. The W.M. having proposed "The Pro Grand Master, the D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," Bro. H. G. Buss, Assistant Grand Secretary, replied, and said he deeply regretted that there was no other Grand Officer present senior to himself in rank to return thanks for the toast. He, however, perfectly agreed with the observations of the W.M. that the Prince of Wales could not have made a better selection of his Pro and Deputy Grand Masters, than when he appointed Lord Carnarvon and Lord Skelmersdale, because, as was patent to all, they displayed great ability in the discharge of their duties. They were always to be approached, and when any Masonic difficulty arose, they were ready to listen to any application that might be made to them. Notwithstanding the important duties which devolved upon the Pro G.M. in his position as a statesman, he found time to devote a portion of his attention to Masonry. The Deputy G.M. also found time to perform his Masonic duties. Coming to the officials of Grand Lodge, Bro. Hervey, he was sorry to say, was unable to be present, and had been unable to be at the office that day, through having caught a very bad cold; but he had telegraphed to him (Bro. Buss) to convey the expressions of his regret to Bro. Whitaker, who had personally invited him to this installation, that he was unable to come. He (Bro. Buss) must thank the W.M. and brethren very much for the manner in which he had been received, and it was not the smaller part of the honour conferred upon him that he had been asked to wear the collar of S.W. during the installation. It was no small honour to take such an office, in such a lodge, which he trusted would go on and prosper. No brother round the table could complain of the prosperity of the lodge or of the success of the lodge management. It was patent to all the Masonic world that there could not have been two better Masters than the two who had passed the chair. Their conduct of the lodge business had been excellent, and he was sure that the brother who had been placed in the chair that evening as third W.M. would not be wanting in displaying those abilities which had been displayed by the other W.M.'s of the Carnarvon Lodge. Bro. Hooton, P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M." It was not very often, he said, that it was the privilege of a P.M. to hold the gavel two years in succession as I.P.M., and under the circumstances he thought it necessary to make some little explanation to the visitors why it so fell to his lot. The esteemed P.M., Bro. Whitaker, had been invested with the collar of Secretary, and the consequence was that it fell to him (Bro. Hooton) for the forthcoming year to resume the position of I.P.M. of the lodge. In that position his first duty was to propose what was in his opinion the most important toast of the evening, that of "The W.M." If, as Bro. Buss had said, the lodge had had two good P.M.'s, he was quite sure they would have another in the person of Bro. Cowan. All those who had known the W.M., (and all around the table had known him for some years) knew him as a most enthusiastic, painstaking, energetic young Mason; and he felt sure that in taking the responsibilities of W.M. upon himself, as he had that night, he would endeavour to the utmost of his abilities, please God to give him health and strength for his year of office, to carry out the duties of the chair with satisfaction to all the brethren and with credit to himself. The W.M. in reply said he thanked Bro. Hooton very sincerely for the terms in which he had spoken of him, and the brethren for the very cordial way in which they had endorsed them. He felt that he scarcely deserved the very kind words with which Past Master Hooton proposed his health; but still as a young Mason and a persevering one he could not deny that soon after his initiation he became sensible of the great responsibility attaching to the position of W.M. of a lodge. He felt at the same time a strong ambition one day to occupy the chair, and he saw that the way to get there was to qualify himself for the position. He therefore attended lodges of instruction in order to obtain Masonic knowledge; and that if ever the brethren offered him the chair he should feel justified in accepting it. He had to a certain extent obtained Masonic knowledge, and the brethren had given him the opportunity of using it. The opportunity they had given him and the honour they had conferred upon him he accepted with all its responsibilities. He could only say now, as they had no experience of what he could do or might have to do, he would endeavour to give them satisfaction. He received the lodge in a thoroughly good state financially, and it should be his duty to maintain it. The ability and energy with which his predecessors had occupied the chair had raised the lodge to a state of efficiency which

had gained for it the character of being second to none in the Craft. It would be his earnest endeavour to leave the chair with that name unsullied. It was an honour to any Mason to be installed as W.M. of any lodge; but much more was it an honour to be installed Master of such a lodge as the Carnarvon Lodge, and to be installed by such a Master as Bro. Whitaker. He said "Bro. Whitaker" but he meant to say "Bro. Solomon." (Laughter.) There could not be a doubt that he was a Solomon, and that he was a good representative of his great namesake, the Grand Master. He (the W.M.) felt that the honour he had spoken of was a great one, and he would endeavour to discharge his duties to the best of his ability. He again thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him. The W.M. said the next toast was a very important one, and one that he approached with a great amount of diffidence, knowing as he did his own inability to do it the justice it deserved. The toast was that of "The Installing Master, their late W.M." He happened to know more of the Masonic career of the respected Bro. Whitaker than perhaps any Mason living. He recollected four years ago, the day after he was initiated (for even at that early age of his Masonic career he was greatly craving for Masonic knowledge, for he was in possession of very little Masonic information at that time) he went to Bro. Whitaker and asked him for his assistance. Bro. Whitaker introduced him to the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, where he soon attracted the attention of the great instructor of that lodge, whom he was now glad to see present. Bro. Whitaker from that time till now had never ceased to be a constant attendant at the lodge, and being endowed by nature with a good memory and great elocutionary power, he had made himself a bright and shining light in the Craft. To the brethren of the Carnarvon Lodge he need not say how Bro. Whitaker had discharged the duties of his office. He might be allowed to say that in Bro. Whitaker's Mastership the lodge had had thirteen initiations, thirteen passings, and thirteen raisings, and when he informed the brethren that the whole of the candidates had been obligated separately it would occur to them that the ceremonies had been repeated very often in the same night. The whole of the work had been by the W.M. from one end of the year to the other; and he said it without fear of contradiction that it had been done in a faultless manner. He had gone through the ceremonies, initiation, passing, and raising without adding to or detracting from a word of the beautiful ritual. In the solemn serious and effective manner in which he had discharged his duties he could not fail to make a lasting impression on the minds of the candidates for the several degrees. There were eminent P.M.'s present who knew more about Masters of lodges than he did, and he felt they would say this was perfection which few Masters could attain to. During his year of office the late W.M. had not been without difficulties to contend with, for soon after his installation it pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to remove the late lamented Bro. Scott, the Secretary. They had in Bro. Scott an officer of great experience and one of that sort of men that no lodge could well afford to lose, much less a lodge then in its second year of existence. But great as the loss was to the lodge in general and to the W.M. in particular, the W.M. proved himself equal to the occasion, and took the duties in his own hands. The brethren knew how he had conducted them, and if he (the W.M.) were allowed to pass his opinion he would say that Bro. Whitaker had conducted them with pleasure to all the brethren and with credit to himself. He had occupied his position night after night, and the ability with which he had discharged his duties to the lodge, limited as it was, he had filled it, and now he had left him (the W.M.) nothing to do. But to crown the successful year of office with a successful termination, after his eminent services he had installed his successor. He had had the honour and pleasure of seeing and hearing the ceremony of installation performed on many occasions; but he might say, as far as he himself was concerned and was able to judge, he had never seen the ceremony performed better. There were several distinguished P.M.'s present who could count the times they had seen it performed by the score, and if they had seen anything that evening in the installation to find fault with he would ask them to remember that this was the first time that Bro. Whitaker had installed a W.M. He (Bro. Cowan) now came to a more important part of his duties, and it was a duty which he might be allowed to say he was proud to be in a position to perform. A month ago that night the members of the Carnarvon Lodge determined to present Bro. Whitaker with a P.M.'s jewel. In placing that jewel now upon Bro. Whitaker's breast, he felt sure that he expressed the earnest wish of every one present when he said that they hoped he might be long spared to his wife and family, and that the heart that now beat under that jewel might long continue to exercise its functions. Bro. Whitaker might look upon that jewel to remind him of the many friends he had made and the happy days he had spent in the Carnarvon Lodge, and it would also remind him of the eminently successful year of office which he had had. Bro. Whitaker, I.P.M., in acknowledging the toast said that when the elegant programme was delivered to him that evening, he saw on it that it was his duty to make a speech, and he thought to himself that after having inflicted on the brethren four hours of working upstairs, the shorter he made his speech the better. So it had been his intention simply to thank the W.M. and sit down. But he thought he should be wanting in his duty to the Carnarvon Lodge if he did not express his thanks to the lodge more at length. When he was installed Master of this lodge he fully appreciated the difficulty of his position, and he endeavoured as far as in him lay to overcome that difficulty. The brethren of this lodge had been pleased to confer upon him a lasting and valuable tribute of their appreciation in giving him a P.M.'s jewel, which he esteemed

a great honour. He should not thank them at any length, because he knew, though he could not find words to express his feelings, that every brother of the Carnarvon Lodge was aware he had done and would do all he could to further its interests and promote its efficiency. The W.M., in proposing the toast of "The P.M.'s," said that without the toast "The P.M.'s," the lodge would have no history, and as the history of the Carnarvon Lodge, although a short one, was certainly a very creditable one. It would necessarily occur to the brethren that the P.M.'s were few, numbering only two. Bro. Whitaker had qualified himself to rank among P.M.'s, and the style of his performance of the duties of his office was fresh in the minds of the brethren. Bro. Hooton's career in Masonry had been a long and also a creditable one. He had just informed him (the W.M.) that twelve years ago that night he was received into Freemasonry, and shortly after that he was put into office. From that day up till now he had not been a single year out of office. In his mother lodge he had served all the offices up to that of Master, and during his year in that capacity he had raised his lodge to a position it had ever occupied since. His energy and ability in the Carnarvon Lodge were also fresh in the minds of the brethren. At the consecration of the lodge there was a distinguished body of visitors, and they all agreed that he performed his duties most ably. Each of the P.M.'s could always be approached for advice, and could always be relied upon for giving the best advice; and the best instruction could also be obtained from them. Bro. Hooton had undertaken the duties of I.P.M., because Bro. Whitaker had been appointed Secretary, and it had been thought better that Bro. Whitaker should not have to discharge double duties. Bro. Hooton responded. It was true he had been a Mason twelve years, and it was equally true that he had endeavoured to discharge his Masonic duties to the best of his ability, and to carry out the principles instilled into his mind on the particular occasion of his initiation. It was a very eventful moment for him. He then made up his mind that, subject to the approval of the brethren he would obtain the greatest amount of reward the brethren of his lodge could give him, viz., placing him in the W.M. Chair. He at last obtained that position, and having been in office for many years he began to be tired of office. When the present lodge came into existence the first twenty members of it were members of his mother lodge, and four-fifths of these he had been instrumental in introducing into his mother lodge. He looked upon their selecting him as the first W.M. as a great honour. It was a distinguished privilege to belong to such a lodge as the Carnarvon Lodge; much more was it an honour to be its first W.M., and to have received it at the hands of the Grand Secretary of England. When he accepted the office he did so with the determination to perform the duties of that high office to the satisfaction of every member of the lodge, and he trusted now that he had succeeded. Twelve months ago the brethren were pleased to present him with a P.M. jewel, and to place him among the P.M.'s. He was glad to find that now he was not alone, and he hoped that before long there would be a good string of P.M.'s. Although this was not the occasion for a long speech, he might say that the great principle the Carnarvon Lodge had always laid down was punctuality; it had carried out that principle, and would endeavour to do so, together with the principles of cordiality and Masonic goodwill towards each other. They had only one view—to render the Masonic work as complete as possible, and from the very eminent opinions they had had from time to time, they flattered themselves that they succeeded. It was these principles which had obtained for the Carnarvon Lodge an illustrious name in the long roll of Masonic Lodges; and he was sure that the Carnarvon members would be found to produce other W.M.'s who would endeavour to do as their predecessors had done, and if they did, the Carnarvon Lodge would in years to come, when the present P.M.'s were gathered to their fathers, maintain the same unsullied lustre as the W.M.'s of the two last years. The W.M. next proposed "The Visitors," amongst whom he particularly mentioned P.M. Stacey, No. 180, who amongst his other duties yet found time to be the Instructor of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction. In that capacity he (the W.M.) did not believe Bro. Stacey had his equal. There were many W.M.'s who owed their position entirely to the knowledge they had been enabled to obtain from Bro. Stacey's teaching; and he (the W.M.) himself was not ashamed to own that his position was owing to the care and attention bestowed on him by that brother. He was not the only one who could say that, for he could point to Bro. Whitaker to illustrate the manner in which Bro. Stacey performed his duties as Preceptor to the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction. There were many brethren present who had benefited by his instruction. Bro. Stacey in reply, said he was not going to shower honours upon the W.M., but to tell the brethren a few truths about him. Four or five years ago, a raw Scotch lad presented himself to a lodge of instruction in Fleet-street, over which he (Bro. Stacey), had the honour of presiding. That raw Scotch lad was the present W.M. of the Carnarvon Lodge. How much Masonry had done for that W.M. he would not stop to enquire; but he thought the brethren would furnish an answer better than he (Bro. Stacey) could. Bro. Cowan was one of the most intelligent scholars he ever knew, one of the most persevering, and one of the most gentlemanly, shewing that gentlemanly bearing that evening, by what he had said of the visitors. This was not the first time he (Bro. Stacey) had had the pleasure of attending the Carnarvon Lodge, and he sincerely hoped it would not be the last. Bro. Hooton had spoken of one or two things as the attributes of this lodge, but he certainly forgot one—the very great kindness with which it received the visitors, and the attention which it paid to them. En passant, he was not going to make a long speech, but he might say he looked round the

lodge with very much pleasure indeed; for not only had the W.M. been under his (Bro. Stacey's) unfortunate ministrations, but the brother who had so ably and well worked the ceremony of installation had also been one of his unfortunate pupils. (A voice: "Fortunate.") He sincerely hoped that these brethren and the other brethren of the lodge would long be an honour to Freemasonry, work shoulder to shoulder, and assist in carrying on the Lodge of Instruction, and that they would excel in what they had done already. The S.W., Bro. Hellier; the J.W., Bro. Reed; Bro. Brock, and several other officers of the lodge, the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction had also had under its care, and the Carnarvon Lodge was happy indeed in the very large amount of talent, the great application and the ready intimation with which its members gained the knowledge which was so essential to progress in Masonry. He knew of no better example than the W.M. that evening, who from the crude had become the polished Master. Bro. Terry, whose knowledge of everything in Masonry was very great, agreed with him in saying that he had never seen a Master who had come on in Masonry as Bro. Cowan had. He would be happy indeed to find the Carnarvon Lodge, with the unanimity amongst its members, its progressiveness, and its hospitality, certainly second to no other lodge. Bro. W. H. Lee said he had been associated with Bro. Cowan ever since he first entered among English Freemasons, and he agreed with Bro. Stacey that a more intelligent, active, or diligent Mason it would be difficult to find. He congratulated the lodge on the success it had achieved, and he hoped the success that had attended it in the past would attend it in the future. Dr. Bedolfe and Bro. Goffin also replied for the visitors. The W.M. in proposing "The Charities" said we were taught in Masonry that charity was the brightest ornament that could adorn the Masonic profession, and the surest proof and best test of our religion. Bro. Goffin in his reply for the visitors had alluded to some among the outside world having charged Masonry with being nothing more than a gourmandising society. He repudiated the idea, and in answer to the charge, he had often said that £40,000 being subscribed by Freemasons last year to the charities, was a proof that they were not a gourmandising body. He was not going to say much about the charities, further than that they were an honour to the Order. The three noble institutions which Freemasons supported were an honour to the body. The Carnarvon was a young lodge, and could not take upon themselves to say they had done much for the charities; but in the two years of their existence the balance of the Benevolent Fund was £85. In addition to that they had made a handsome donation to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, of which Bro. Terry was the Secretary. As a lodge it was their ambition to qualify themselves as Life Governors of all the charities, and in due time he had no doubt they would in that respect attain to the summit of their ambition. He would say nothing further about the charities, but leave to Bro. Terry whose eloquence was well-known, to work upon the hearts and purses of the brethren.

Bro. Terry, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, responded, but owing to pressure in our columns is deferred till next week.

The toast of "The Officers" was then given and responded to, and the brethren separated.

Some excellent music was given during the evening by the brethren. Bro. Bergmann, J.D., 167, presided at the piano.

BEDFORD.—Stuart Lodge (No. 540).—ANNUAL BANQUET AND INSTALLATION OF BRO. RHYS WILLIAMS, M.D., P.A.G.D.C. — Wednesday, November 28th, the thirtieth anniversary of this lodge, as well known for the excellency of its working as the boundless hospitality at refreshment, witnessed a larger and more brilliant gathering than any similar occasion in the memory of even the oldest member of the lodge. Punctually at 4 o'clock p.m. the lodge began working, when there were present Bro. Col. Stuart, P.G.S.W., &c., W.M.; Capt. Green, J.P., I.P.M.; Wilkinson Finlinton, P.M., S.W.; Capt. Colburn J.W.; Rev. C. Brereton, B.C.L. and Rural Dean, Chap.; Coombs, M.R.C.S., &c., S.D.; Allan, J.D.; Thody, I.G.; Prior, M.D., P.M., Sec.; Alderman Sergeant, P.M., Treas.; Alderman Bull, J.P., P.M., Steward; and Reynolds, Tyler; Past Masters J. Trapp, Capt. F. C. Polhill-Turner, M.P. for Bedford, Deputy Lieutenant for Beds., &c.; Cuthbert, Fisher, Cookson, Nash, Billson; and Bro. Warren, Whittaker, Stafford, Young, Jarvis, Pick, Thompson, Roberts, Kilpin, Lund, Wicks, Carter, and visiting Bro. Rev. and W. Studholme Brownrigg, P.G. Chap.; W. Henry Dumas, P.G.D.; W. Dyer, P.G.—; W. Haydon, P.G. Steward; Rev. and W. W. Tebbs P.P.G. Chap. Somerset; J. Cumberland, 475 (Mayor of Luton); Burnett, W.M.; Wade-Gery, S.W.; Dr. Swan, J.D.; Hooper, P.M.; and Reynolds, P.M. 803, St. Andrew's, Biggleswade; Wilmer, Taylor, and Cooper, 1410, St. Peter and St. Paul, Newport Pagnell; F. D. Bull, Watling Street, Stoney Stratford; Dunkely and Reed, 874, Holmesdale, Tunbridge Wells, Great regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of Bro. Sir A. Woods, Garter King at Arms, G.D.C., and Bro. Bent, P.G.C., who were expected to be present. After the minutes had been read and confirmed and the report of the Audit Committee received and passed, a vote of £10 was unanimously carried to the mother of a brother who was suffering from mental affliction. The W.M. elect was presented by Bro. Dr. Prior, and duly installed in the chair of K.S. The W.M., Bro. Rhys Williams, M.D., P.A.D.C., then invested his officers: Bro. Colonel Stuart, I.P.M.; Rev. C. Brereton, Chap.; Capt. Colburn, S.W.; Coombs, J.W.; Alderman Bull, Steward; Allen, S.D.; Thody, J.D.; Carter, I.G.; Dr. Prior, Sec.; Alderman Sergeant, Treas.; and Reynolds, Tyler. The brethren then adjourned to a capital banquet, after which the usual loyal and other toasts were happily put by Bro. Rhys Williams and well

received, being responded to as follows: "Pro and Deputy Grand Masters, and Grand Officers, Past and Present," by Bro. Colonel Stuart and Dumas; "The Visitors," by Bro. Haydon, Hooper, and Tebbs; "P.M.'s of the Lodge" by Bro. Trapp. After the Tyler's toast a truly enjoyable evening was spent, enlivened with songs by many brethren, amongst whom it would be invidious to mention Bro. Sergeant, Prior, Wilmer, Stafford, Jarvis, Tebbs, Roberts, and Cookson. Amongst the overwhelming praises of the guests we must repeat one brother's very true observation on the efforts of the Steward, Bro. Bull, that "his self-denying efforts were most indefatigable—indeed, the very life and soul of the party's enjoyment." Thus pleasantly passed another anniversary of this favourite lodge, and thus "happily parted" the hospitable brethren and their favoured guests; "and happily may they meet again."

MANCHESTER.—Strangeways Lodge (No. 1219).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 28th ult., at the Empire Hotel, Strangeways, Manchester, when a large number of the brethren assembled at five o'clock. The lodge being opened in due form and passed to the Second Degree, Bro. Damberghi was advanced to the degree of Fellow Craft, the W.M., Bro. S. H. Needham, performing the ceremony in a masterly manner. The brethren then adjourned to tea, and after full justice had been done to the excellent spread provided by Bro. Banks, returned to their labour, when Bro. Evans and Southworth were also passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, P.M. Rogers rendering the W.M. valuable assistance in his duties. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, when Bro. Moore was duly raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, Bro. W. T. Schofield giving the charge in a most important manner. After sundry matters of business had been disposed of the brethren adjourned to the social board, the W.M. occupying the chair, supported by Bro. Schofield, I.P.M.; Rogers P.M.; J. Andrews, P.M.; Bro. Leech, S.W., and Dawson, J.W., occupying their usual places. A large number of visiting brethren were present, amongst whom were Bro. Dunks, Wrigley, and Marsh, of the Duke of Athol Lodge, 210; and Bro. Bostock, W.M.; Brown, Secretary; Green, and Byway, of Avon Lodge, 1623. The usual toasts incidental to the occasion were proposed and responded to, Bro. Sykes most efficiently carrying out his duties as D.C. The proceedings were much enlivened by the excellent singing of Bro. Ruddock and Smith, and Brown, who recited "Little Jim, the collier's son," in true pathos. The brethren separated at an early hour, after having spent a most enjoyable evening.

UPTON.—Upton Lodge (No. 1226).—This popular lodge held an emergency meeting at the "Spotted Dog," Upton, the usual place of meeting. Bro. George Brown, the W.M. presided, and there was a good attendance of the members, and also visitors, amongst whom were Bro. Larkin, Quincey, Giles, Messrs. William Mason Paxton, John Stroud, and Otto Julius Silver were respectively initiated, a ballot having been previously taken for each, and found to be unanimous. The brethren adjourned for refreshment and had a sumptuous tea, dispersing at about nine o'clock.

EXETER.—Semper Fidelis Lodge (No. 1254).—The brethren of the above lodge assembled on Tuesday the 3rd inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Gandy-street, Exeter, for their ninth yearly festival, and to instal their Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The choice had fallen on Bro. W. Brodie (proprietor of the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*), who, at the previous regular lodge had been unanimously elected for the honourable position of Master of this flourishing lodge. An unusually large number of the Craft attended the interesting ceremony, in testimony of their esteem and respect for their worthy brother, the W.M. elect of lodge 1254, amongst them being the following, viz.: The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Devon, Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, Past Grand Chaplain England, &c., &c.; W. Elphinstone Stone, P.P.G., J.G.W.; S. Jones, P.P.S.G.D., P.M. 112, 1135, Easton, P.P.G., J.W., P.M. 39; Isaac Latimer, P.P.G., J.W., P.M. 189; W. F. Quercke, P.P.G.O.; P.M. 39; W. T. Maynard, P.P.G.T.; H. B. Stark, P.P.G.O.; Henry Strawson, P.P.G., J.W. Somerset, P.M. 814; H. W. Hooper, P.P.G.R., P.M. 1254; J. H. Warren, P.M. 1254; F. Horspool, P.M. 1254; W. B. Shears, P.M. 372; T. Dunsford, W.M. 372; J. W. Boon, W.M. 189; T. Willing, W.M. 1284; J. Woodman, W.M. 444; C. R. Collins, W.M. 15; J. Stocker, S.W. and W.M.-elect 39; B. Barber, I.P.M. 1254; G. Huxham, W.M. 1254; and many others. The lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes of the former lodge having been read and confirmed, Bro. B. Barber, I.P.M., presented Bro. Brodie, as the W.M. Elect, to the Installing Master, Bro. Geo. Huxham, for Installation in due and ancient form; and he having, in the presence of the assembled brethren, answered the usual questions, and signified his assent to the laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, a Board of Past Masters was formed, and the ceremony of installation was effectively and impressively gone through. The newly-installed brother, after having been saluted by the brethren, and duly proclaimed as Worshipful Master of Semper Fidelis Lodge for the year 1878, feelingly expressed his appreciation of the high honour conferred upon him by the members of his lodge, and the great compliment paid to him by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, and the numerous gathering of other Provincial Officers and brethren from the various lodges in and around Exeter, many of whom he knew had attended at considerable inconvenience and expense. He could only thank them most heartily, and hoped that their kindness would induce him to still further increase his zeal in Freemasonry, to the benefit of the Craft, and the satisfaction of himself. The following brethren were then appointed officers of the lodge, and duly invested by the Master with the

collars and jewels belonging to their various offices, viz., Bro. G. Huxham, I.P.M.; W. Pidsley, S.W.; E. T. Fulford, J.W.; C. Kendrick, C.; H. W. Hooper, Treas.; W. A. Gregory, Secretary; H. Elmore, S.D.; J. Sampson, J.D.; J. Horswell, I.G.; W. H. Hawker, Organist; T. B. Land, D.C.; W. Heavens, A.D.C.; H. Clarke, B.B.; J. Gibson, S.S.; W. H. Woodbridge, J.S.; P. L. Blanchard, Tyler; and J. Blanchard, Assist. Tyler. The Worshipful Master then rose, and, addressing the brethren, said he had a most pleasing task to perform, viz., to present to his predecessor in the chair, Bro. G. Huxham, a valuable solid gold P.M.'s jewel, voted to him by the lodge, and which had been most generously supplemented by an illuminated scroll, beautifully executed by Bro. H. J. Yelland, P.M. 1284. The scroll, which was mounted in a handsome Masonic frame, specially made by Messrs Rowden, Queen-street, set forth the satisfactory manner in which Bro. Huxham had performed the duties of his office, during his occupancy of the chair for the past twelve months, and also bore the names of nearly forty of the members who had individually subscribed towards the extra cost of the scroll. Bro. Huxham was much moved by this proof of fraternal regard and appreciation of his work, and suitably thanked the brethren. The beautiful jewel was fastened to his official collar amid much applause. The next pleasant feature was the presentation to the lodge, by Bro. John Harswell, of a very handsome silk banner, having worked thereon, in coloured silks, raised on a blue ground, the arms of the ancient and loyal city, its motto "Semper Fidelis" being worked on the ribbon under the arms. On the reverse side was also worked, in white silk on a blue ground, the square and compasses, surmounted by the name of the lodge, with its number underneath. Bro. Horswell said he had the greatest possible pleasure in presenting the banner to the lodge, from the fact that he had invariably met with the greatest courtesy and brotherly feeling from the members of the Semper Fidelis Lodge, and finding, on the occasion of the dedication of the new Hall and premises in which they were then assembled, that, being a young lodge, it possessed no banner, he thought he could not better testify to the pleasure he felt in being connected therewith than by presenting the banner, which he now did, for the use of the members in future processions, and on all festive and other occasions when the lodge might meet. Bro. Brodie, as W.M., accepted the handsome gift on behalf of the brethren, and warmly eulogised Bro. Horswell's generosity and kindly feeling towards this, his adopted lodge. The banner was supplied through Bro. W. A. Gregory, High-street, Exeter. It is an excellent specimen of silk handcraft, and much patience and ability must have been exercised in so faithfully depicting the city arms, and following the exact colours and shading. It is handsomely mounted, and will be a striking object in any future Masonic procession. "Hearty good wishes" were either personally offered, or expressed by letters, to the W.M., from brethren belonging to nearly thirty other lodges in Devon and other provinces. The lodge having been duly closed, the brethren adjourned to Bro. Birkett's Royal Clarence Hotel, in the Cathedral Yard, where a *recherché* banquet was served in the splendidly-appointed and spacious assembly room, which has recently undergone almost complete transformation in re-arrangement, embellishing, and furnishing. The Worshipful Master, Bro. William Brodie, presided, being supported on his right by the Provincial Grand Master of Devon, several past and present officers of the P.G. Lodge, and between twenty and thirty Past Masters and Worthy Masters. There was a strong gathering of other officers and members of the Craft, numbering in all, close upon a hundred. Bro. W. R. Woodman, P.G.S.B., England; P.M., &c., &c., kindly sent some beautiful plants and flowers, for decorating the banquet-tables, and Bro. E. Johnson, P.G. Std. England, also sent some choice flowers for the same purpose. The brethren were highly pleased with the catering of Bro. Birkett, and unanimously agreed that nothing better could have been provided, or more excellently served. The tables having been cleared, the toast-list, with vocal and instrumental delineations, was gone through, and the more formal part of the proceedings having received due attention, song, music, and good-fellowship reigned supreme. It will be long ere the many agreeable episodes that contributed to the full enjoyment of the ninth anniversary of Semper Fidelis Lodge will pass from the memory of a large number of brethren who took part therein. As a fact illustrative of the genuine and exemplary charity of the brethren, we may add that at the dinner-table Bro. Samuel Jones mentioned the case of the daughter of a brother, recently passed away who was in want of immediate relief. The W.M. Bro. Brodie also pleaded the orphan's cause. The plate was handed round, and a goodly sum was collected there and then for her.

RISCA.—Homfray Lodge (No. 1562).—This deservedly flourishing young lodge held its annual installation meeting at the Masonic Hall, Risca, on Thursday, the 15th inst, when lodge was opened by Bro. Jonathan Piggford, W.M., with the usual formalities. The D.P.G.M., Bro. Captain S. G. Homfray, P.A.G.D.C., and D.P.G.M.M., then entered the lodge to act as installing Master in the unavoidable absence of Bro. L. A. Homfray P.G.M.M., Mon., and inducted the W.M., elect, Bro. James, S.W., into the chair of K.S. in his well-known masterly style. The W.M. then proceeded with the investiture of his officers for the ensuing year. Bros. J. Piggford as I.P.M.; Taylor S.W.; Williams, J.W.; Lewis, Secretary; Greene, Treasurer; Moses, S.D.; James, J.D.; J. G. Taylor, Steward; Fletcher, Tyler. The lodge was then closed in antient form, when the brethren adjourned to refreshment at Bro. Host Bolton's, of the Albert Hotel, where a banquet awaited them, very nicely put on, consisting of some of the substantialities, as well as the niceties which those of the outside world who know not Masonry, are so apt to give

the Craft the credit of an overweening liking for. After ample justice had been done to the repast, the W. M. proceeded with the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were well received, as is the usual custom amongst Masons. But the particular feature of the day was the presentation to the retiring W.M., Brother R. J. Chambers, P.M. and P.P.G.S.W., by the brethren of the Homfray Lodge, with his portrait in oils, executed by Bro. Villiers. As a work of art it is extremely happy, being a most faithful reproduction on canvas of our esteemed brother, it will be valued by him as a token of the high regard in which he is held in the lodge, of which he is founder. The presentation was made by Bro. Captain S.G. Homfray, and suitably acknowledged. During the evening the sum of £6 11s. was subscribed for the Masonic Charities. The Tyler's toast brought to a close a very successful and enjoyable Masonic gathering. There were present at the banquet:—W. James, W.M.; S. G. Homfray, P.A.D.G.C., and D.P.G.M., Mon.; J. Piggford, I.P.M.; R. J. Chambers, P.M., P.G.I.W.; W. S. Tait, (Isca), I.G. 18; Wm. Welsford, (A. Edward, Prince of Wales), Steward; James Wilson, (1429) Steward; John Elias, (1562); John Smith, (1562), Henry Fletcher, Tyler (1562), A.P.G.T.; A. William, J.W. (1562); E. B. Jukes (1562); E. Charles (1562); Jas. Silveithorne (1562); E. P. Phillips (1562); Thomas Moses (1502); Senior Deacon; James T. Green, (1562), Treasurer; E. A. Taylor, S.W. (1562); W. G. Clark (1562); W. O. Reilly (1562); Edwin Jarne (1562), Junior Deacon; Seth Lewis (1562); J. R. Taylor (1562), Steward; E. Edwards, (1562), Inner Guard; E. Lewis (1562), Secretary; Dan. R. Chambers (1562); George Trew (1592); H. A. Huzzey (633); John Boulton (1562); R. H. Richards (1562); Perrin (Organist, Albert Edward); Spencer, W.M. (St. George's, Tredegar); P.A. Villiers (471).

LIVERPOOL.—Dramatic Lodge (No. 1609).—The usual monthly meeting of this excellent lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, on Tuesday, the 27th ult. The was an usually large attendance of members and visitors, and the general opinion was that this meeting was amongst the most enjoyable which has yet been held in connection with a lodge which has enjoyed almost unexampled prosperity. The K.S. chair was occupied by Bro. W. J. Chapman, W.M., and there were also present Bros. Joseph Bell, I.P.M.; B. B. Marson, P.M., D.C.; L. Courtenay, S.W.; J. B. McKenzie, J.W.; A. Woolrich, Treas.; J. Atkinson, Sec.; W. Sandbrook, S.D.; R. Burgess, Organist; J. Pyer, S.S.; W. Savage, J.S., (acting I.G., in consequence of Bro. Frank Emery's absence from illness), and W. H. Ball, Tyler. Amongst the members present were Bros. Shrapnell, Weston, H. Cowdell, J. F. Carter, J. R. Brown, W. Penny, W. Reay, H. Leslie, R. Durden, I. de Frece, Treas., 1502; D. Saunders, F. Wilkinson, W. Hildyard, J. Hill, J. Ballard, Buck, Walter, Duncanson, Stafford, Collinson, and others. The visitors included Bros. Dr. Costire, S.D. 216; Dr. Sheldon, P.M. 1094; Fred Albert, J. Elmore, T. Salter, Sec. 241; W. G. Bales, J. S. Macbeth, C. Campion, and others. Messrs. Mat Robson and Eyres were duly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, and Bros. Weston, Durden, and Wilkinson were raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., the W.M. doing the work in a masterly manner. The way in which the S.W. (Bro. Courtenay) gave the ancient charges also elicited universal commendation and admiration. On the motion of Bro. J. Bell, I.P.M., seconded by Bro. Isaac de Frece, it was resolved to form a Fund of Benevolence in connection with the lodge, and on the motion of the J.W., a committee was appointed to frame the rules and report to next meeting. It was likewise unanimously resolved, on the motion of the W.M., seconded by the S.W., to minute and send a letter of condolence to Bro. B. B. Marson, P.M., expressing the strong sympathy felt for him by the brethren in connection with the loss sustained through the death of his wife. It was further agreed, on the motion of Bro. Chapman, W.M., seconded by Bro. Courtenay, S.W., to vote the sum of ten guineas from the funds of the lodge towards facilitating the election of a son of the late Bro. G. Belmore to the Royal Masonic Boys' School, London. The brethren subsequently dined under the presidency of the W.M., and during the evening capital songs and recitations were given by Bros. J. Busfield, 216; Fred. Albert, R. Durden, J. Elmore, D. Saunders, L. Courtenay, J. Hill, &c. The pianoforte accompaniments were admirably played by Bro. Richard Burgess, Organist.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE.

The third annual meeting of this lodge was held at Alford on Thursday, 29th November, under the banner of the St. Wilfrid Lodge, No. 209. The proceedings of the day commenced at 11.15 a.m., by the consecration of the St. Wilfrid Lodge, which new lodge has been constituted by the installation of its W.M., Bro. B. A. Galland, M.A., rector of South Thoresby, on the 24th September, and which young lodge now consists of eighteen members, under the presidency of one of the best working Masons in the kingdom.

The ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. F. Binckes, Grand Secretary, in his usual perfect style. The nice little town of Alford not being easy of approach, there was only a limited number of brethren present; but a special train being arranged for the convenience of brethren from Gainsbro', Lincoln, and Grimsby, and some visiting brethren from Hull, there was a goodly muster at the assembling of Prov. Grand Lodge at 12.45 p.m., which took place in the Corn Exchange, which was most tastefully decorated for the occasion, the most remarkable feature being the Mark Tracing Board, drawn on the floor of the lodge, 24 feet by 15 feet, which was most startling to the brethren on entering.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was presided over by the

Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Mark Master Mason, Bro. John Sutcliffe, of Stalingbro' House, near Grimsby, and a large number of distinguished Master Masons were present. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next.

Masonic and General Tidings.

We are most happy to state that Bro. Kenning's Masonic Cyclopædia will be ready for the subscribers some time during the month of January, 1878. Bro. Kenning has determined in consequence to keep the list open for subscribing brethren and lodges until January, 2nd, 1878, on which day it will be closed, as the list of subscribers will be published in the Cyclopædia. The price to subscribers up to January 2nd, 1878, will be 7s. 6d.; after that date, for all, 10s. 6d. Bro. Kenning has determined to bind the book in a neat and emblematic cover, with the portraits stamped in the centre in gold, of the three Grand Masters of England, Ireland, and Scotland.

At a meeting in Liverpool, on Thursday week, in aid of the funds for the augmentation of the stipends of poor curates, a donation of £50 was acknowledged from Bro. Lord de Tabley, R.W.P.G.M. for Cheshire.

His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, M.W.G.M. of Ireland, dedicated and reopened the Masonic Hall in Dublin, on Wednesday afternoon. The assembly was a brilliant one, 450 brethren being present. A full report appears elsewhere.

The Prince of Wales will visit Cambridge on Monday, January 21, and stay until next day. His Royal Highness will, during his visit, unveil the statue of the late Prince Consort at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Bro. R. Martin, P.M. 1182, has been appointed the Hon. Secretary of the annual Masonic Ball, to be held in January, at the Town Hall, Liverpool, in aid of the funds of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution.

At the presentation of the Testimonial to Bro. Abbott, which is to take place on Tuesday, the 18th inst., it is proposed that the subscribers to the fund dine together at the Cannon-street Hotel. Tickets for the dinner may be obtained of the Hon. Sec., at his office, 30, Queen-street, Cheapside.

A meeting of the Premier Red Cross Conclave was held on Monday last, at Freemasons' Tavern. A report of the proceeding wills appear in our next.

Mr. B. Arcedecken Duncan, M.D., Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, &c., has been appointed one of the Physicians to the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Paralysis, Soho Square.

We regret to announce the death of Bro. F. L. Fox, of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The worthy brother died on Saturday last, in his 54th year.

Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, has been nominated for the office of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

THE COSMOPOLITAN MASONIC POCKET BOOK.—This work, which contains an abundance of information on all subjects relating to Masonry, has just been issued for the coming year. It will be found, as hitherto, a useful guide to all who seek for such information, while to active members of the Craft it is indispensable. Price, post free, 2s. 2d.—*Morning Post*.

An official circular from the Grand Lodge of Brazil records the death of Bro. Udo Schleusner, Sov-Grand Inspector General 33°, a member of the Grand Orient, and of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite. He was a devoted and enthusiastic Freemason, and was beloved and respected by his brethren.

The following stand over: Reports of Chapters 158, 228, 303, 874; Mark Lodge 109; Masonic Club, Finsbury Park and Earl of Carnarvon Lodges of Instruction.

The distinguished office of Grand Prior of Cheshire, K.T. Degree, vacant by the death of Bro. George Cornwall Legh, has been conferred on Bro. the Rev. C. W. Spencer Stanhope, M.A., 31°, who was installed into that office on Wednesday week, the 28th ult., by Col. Shadwell Clarke, Acting Great Prior of England.

The Christmas number of the *Masonic Magazine*, which will be ready on the 15th inst., will contain a portrait, suitable for framing, of Capt. N. G. Philips, Senior Grand Deacon, &c.

AN APPEAL.

The Proprietor of the FREEMASON has much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the following subscriptions sent in response to "An Appeal" on behalf of Mrs. Batley, which appeared in our last. The collection was made by Bro. Alfred Withers, Hon. Sec. Royal Arthur Lodge of Instruction.

	£	s.	d.
211 Mr. Alfred Withers	0	10	6
Mrs. Alfred Withers.....	0	10	6
Mr. Spurlin	0	5	0
1593 H. S. Lee	0	5	0
1563 G. J. Jones	0	5	0
1585 J. W. Robinson	0	2	6
1425 W. H. Chalfort	0	2	6
1158 W. Sharman.....	0	2	6

£2 3 6

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

The annual celebration of the Festival of St Andrew, the patron saint of Scottish Freemasonry, was celebrated on the 30th ult. in the Freemasons' Hall, 68 George Street, Edinburgh. The ceremonies commenced by the installation of the office-bearers of Grand Lodge for the ensuing year, who took the oath de fidei, of whom the following is a list:—

Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart, Barr, M.W. Grand Master; Bro. Henry Inglis of Torsonce, W. Depute Grand Master; Colonel A.C. Campbell of Blythswood, W. Substitute Grand Master; Bro. F. A. Barrow, W. Senior Grand Warden; The Right Hon. Lord Inverurie, W. Junior Grand Warden; Bro. D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary; Bro. David Kinnear, Grand Cashier; Bros. the Rev. W.H. Gray, D.D., and A. Thomson Grant, Grand Chaplains; Bro. R. F. Shaw-Stewart, Grand Senior Deacon; Sir George Douglas Clerk, Bart., of Penicuik, Grand Junior Deacon; Bro. William Hay, Grand Architect; Bro. Alexander Hay, Grand Jeweller; Bro. Thomas Halket, Grand Bible-Bearer; Bro. John Coghill, Grand Director of Ceremonies; Bro. James Ballantine, Grand Bard; Bro. G. F. Russell Colt of Gartsherrie, Grand Sword Bearer; Bro. C. W. Maxwell Muller, Grand Director of Music; Bro. Robert Davidson, Grand Organist; Bro. Captain Hills, Grand Marshal; Bro. William M. Bryce, Grand Tyler; Bro. James Baikie, Tyler.

Thereafter Grand Lodge was adjourned to the Grand Hall, where a banquet, purveyed by Brother A. M. Theim, was partaken of by upwards of 200 brethren. The chair was occupied by Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, M.W.G.M., supported on the right by Brother H. Inglis, Depute Grand Master; Brother Dr. Gray, Grand Chaplain; Brother Wm. Hay, Grand Architect; Brother Alex. Hay, Grand Jeweller; Brother Wm. Hay, Past Grand Deacon; Brother Halket, Grand Bible-Bearer; Brother Coghill, Grand Director of Ceremonies; and on the left by Brother Col. Campbell, Substitute Grand Master; Brother E. Shaw Stewart, Junior Grand Deacon; Brother Kinnear, Grand Cashier; Brother Muller Grand Director of Music; Brother Wm. Mann, Past Grand Warden; Brother D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary; and Brother Captain Hills, Grand Marshal. Brother F. A. Barrow, Senior Grand Warden; and Brother F. S. Melville, President of Board of Grand Stewards, acted as croupiers.

After dinner, the following loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were proposed from the chair:—"The Holy Lodge of St John," "The Queen," "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Patron of the Scottish Craft," "The Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;" "The Navy, Army, and Reserve Forces"—the last mentioned toast was acknowledged by Brother Commander Forbes, R.N., and Brother Colonel Campbell of Blythswood; "The Craft and Freemasonry over the World," and "The Grand Master."

In proposing the toast of "The Grand Master," Brother Inglis stated that the services which Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, by his firmness, courtesy, and patience, had been enabled to render to Grand Lodge and the Craft had been of the greatest importance. It was very gratifying to every member of the Craft that Sir Michael had again been placed on the throne to enable him to see the results of his management and exertion. Without fear of contradiction he (Brother Inglis) would say that among the illustrious roll of Grand Masters who had preceded the chairman no one had been superior to the Mason who now occupied the throne. (Great applause.)

The Grand Master, in replying, first briefly glanced at some portions of the past history of the Grand Lodge, and then proceeded to congratulate the brethren and the Craft on the promising and prosperous state of affairs now existing. (Applause.) They had now an able and efficient and a very hard-working Grand Secretary, (Applause.) The Grand Cashier also was well able to discharge the duties of his office, and did his duties in such a way as to merit and to have obtained the approval of those who were well qualified to judge of his work. (Applause.) The Grand Master, in concluding his remarks, thanked the brethren cordially and heartily for the kind manner in which they had received him, and for the honour they had done him in re-electing him for another year to occupy the throne of Grand Lodge. He had received the very greatest kindness, consideration, and support from all the officers of the Grand Lodge, and from the Craft at large.

Thereafter several other Masonic toasts were given and received with enthusiasm. The health of Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart was proposed by Brother Inglis of Torsonce, and courteously acknowledged by the Chairman. The toast of the Substitute Grand Master (Colonel Campbell of Blythswood) was received with great applause. The daughter lodges were acknowledged in the following order:—

LODGE.	HEADED BY
1. Mary's Chapel...	F. Shaw Stewart.
2. Canongate Kilwinning...	Plumber.
5. Leith and Canongate, Canon-gate and Leith...	
8. Journeyman ...	J. Davidson.
10. Kilwinning, Dalkeith ...	James King.
12. Greenock Kilwinning ...	Mac Gonn.
36. St. David's...	Edwards.
44. St. Luke ...	F. J. Moncrieff.
48. St. Andrew...	Dr. Carmichael.
60. St. John ...	Hall Grigor.
102. St. Mark's ...	James Thomson.
145. St. Stephen...	R. Wardler.
160. Roman Eagle ...	W. Mossman.
223. Trafalgar...	W. Barry.
262. St. John ...	A. Thomson.
291. Celtic Edinburgh and Leith ...	J. D. Grant.
349. St. Clair ...	G. Dobie.
360. Commercial ...	John Munro.
392. Caledonian...	R. Bryce.
465. Rifle ...	A. Aylthorpe.

LODGE	HEADED BY
429. St. Kentigern ...	Cameron.
578. St. Andrew ...	W. M. Pearson.
580. St. Leonard, Loanhead...	James Murray.
592. Albert Edward ...	Robert Nisbet.
597. North British Railway ...	John Greig.

Thereafter Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, and the Grand Master ushered in the anteroom with usual Masonic honours.

The music, consisting of a band and glee party and solo singers, much enlivened the proceedings, and was under the able direction of Brother J. M. Davidson, of Leith.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The General Committee of this Institution was held on Saturday last, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Henry W. Hunt, in the chair. There were also present Bros. Hy. Browne, V.P.; Benj. Head, V.P.; S. Rosenthal, V.P.; Wm; Roebuck, V.P.; R. W. Stewart, V.P.; William Paas, V.P.; John Boyd, C. G. Rushworth, A. Durrant, Jesse Turner, D. M. Dewar, G. W. Dosell, Hyde Pullen, J. J. Berry, I. J. Griffiths, Wm. F. C. Moutrie, Geo. J. Row, H. Massey, (Freemason); and F. Binckes, Secretary.

The minutes of the General Committee of 3rd Nov. were read and confirmed, those of the House Committee of 23rd Nov. were read for information, and the minutes of the Joint Committee on office accommodation, 10th Nov., were read for information.

Petitions on behalf of five candidates were submitted and accepted.

The sum of £20 was granted conditionally to Wm. Ramsey Parker, an ex-pupil who had passed the examination held by the Civil Service Commissioners, as an engineer student in the Royal Navy.

John Borrison Featherstone was accepted as the nominee of the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., under the powers of the presentation "Marquess of Ripon."

The Committee then adjourned.

MASONIC HALL IN EXETER.

The following is sent to us for publication:—

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The labours of the Masonic Hall Committee in providing a building suitable for the purposes of Freemasonry and adapting it for the comfort and convenience of the brethren in the various degrees having been brought to a conclusion, I beg to hand you a report of their proceedings, and to urge the necessity of the co-operation of every member of the Exeter lodges, to enable them to clear off the liability which still rests on the undertaking. The purchase of the freehold of the very extensive premises which have been secured was effected for £875, but to render it available for the purposes of the Craft and the other degrees very extensive alterations were necessary, and from the nature of the building they have proved somewhat larger than was anticipated. They are now complete, embracing a very handsome entrance hall, robing room, lavatory, good house for Assistant Secretary or Tyler, refreshment room, committee room, large Masonic Hall for Craft and R.A. Degrees, with every convenience, whilst the upper portion is adapted for the purposes of the other Masonic Degrees and large store, and rooms for a Masonic club and library when formed. This has necessitated an additional outlay of about £1700 to complete and furnish the premises, which has been done in a manner that has given general satisfaction to the brethren.

In order to meet these liabilities, the committee have raised £1000 on mortgage of the property at 4½ per cent.	
St. George's Lodge has contributed ...	£400
St. John's " " ...	320
Semper Fidelis, " " ...	120
And the St. George's Chapter ...	60
	£900

From the Craft an amount of £205 has been obtained in private subscriptions from various members, and £35, the proceeds of the Masonic concert, leaving a balance of £400 still unpaid. On behalf of the committee I venture earnestly to solicit donations from those who have not already had an opportunity of aiding in this work, and additional subscriptions will be thankfully received by me, or it can be placed to the credit of the Masonic Hall Trustees, at the City Bank, Exeter. The particulars of the consecration, &c., having been fully reported at the time, render it unnecessary for any comments.

Annexed I beg to hand you a list of subscriptions to the present time, and trusting to receive your kind assistance. I am, dear Sir and Brother.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

SAMUEL JONES,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

CAB RATES IN LIVERPOOL.—Since Monday last a number of cabs have been plying in Liverpool at the rate of 6d a mile, which is a reduction of one-half upon the ordinary fare. "Hard times" are said to be the reason for the change.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—The finest remedies in the world for bad legs, old wounds, sores, and ulcers. If used according to directions given with them there is no wound, bad leg, or ulcerous sore, however obstinate or long standing, but will yield to their healing and curative properties. Numbers of persons who have been patients in several of the large hospitals and under the care of eminent surgeons, without deriving the slightest benefit, have been thoroughly cured by Holloway's Ointment and Pills. For glandular swellings, tumours, scurvy, and diseases of the skin there is no medicine that can be used with so good an effect. In fact, in the worst forms of disease, dependent upon the condition of the blood, these medicines, if used conjointly, are irresistible.—ADVT.

NOTES ON ART, &c.

A fine bed of Oysters, extending from twelve to twenty square miles, has been discovered off the west coast of Jersey.

AFRICAN LANGUAGES.—The Institute of France has awarded a gold medal, "The Volney Prize," to the Rev. Schon, of Chatham, for his valuable works in the Hansa language. Mr. Schon has reduced this language, the Greek of Western Africa, to form, and published a grammar and copious dictionary. This is the second time that this medal (the Volney) has been awarded to a missionary of the Church Missionary Society. It was bestowed on the Rev. S. Koelle, for his Polyglot of 100 African languages.

TROY.—Dr. Schliemann has brought the whole of his Hissarlik collection to London, and is at present engaged in arranging it for exhibition in the South Kensington Museum.—Academy.

From Berlin is announced the death of Professor Lucas, director of the Academy of Architecture.

Professor Ebers, the German novelist, who has furnished such curious studies of ancient Egyptian life in his "Egyptian Princess" and "Uarda," has completed a new novel, "Homo Sum," laid in the time of Constantine.

Bach's cantata, "My Spirit was in heaviness," will be sung, with orchestral accompaniment, at St. Anne's Church, Soho, under the direction of Mr. Barnby, every Friday evening during Advent, commencing December 7th.

Herr Wagner's Dramatic School at Bayreuth, wherein students are to trained especially for the representation of his operas, opens on January 1st.

The ground round St. Paul's Cathedral is shortly to be laid out as a public garden. The palings will be lowered and trees planted, and pathways made.

Temple Bar's days are now numbered, the tenders for its removal are invited, the applications to be sent in by the 12th inst.

It is stated that the jewels stolen from the Countess of Aberdeen at Halstead Place, Sevenoaks, were even more valuable than was at first announced (£5,000), but no precise estimate of her ladyship's loss has been published. The property which the thieves overlooked is said to be worth twice as much as was stated last week.

In India last year 48,000 cattle were destroyed by wild animals and venomous snakes; and 22,357 wild animals and 270,185 poisonous snakes were killed; 12,0715 rupees had been expended in rewards. In the current year 19,273 persons and 54,830 cattle have been killed, and 1,24,574 rupees expended in rewards. In the central provinces the deaths from this cause increased from 610 in 1875 to 1,098 in 1876.

The Postmaster-General announces that the present half-penny newspaper wrappers will shortly be replaced by others of a better quality, which may be procured singly or in any number, at the following rates:—one for 3d., two for 1½d., three for 1¾d., four for 2½d., five for 3d., six for 3½d., and so on. They may also be obtained uncut in quarter reams, containing 120 sheets of fourteen wrappers each, on special application, at the rate of £3 18s. per quarter ream.

A PLANTAGENET TOMB.—"Langley Regis" writes:—"that the remains recently discovered in King's Langley Church are believed to be those of Edmund de Langley and not his twin daughters, as stated, but his wife Isabel, and their daughter Constance. The subject is undergoing thorough investigation, and much interesting matter in reference to it may be expected to appear before long. The discovery is of a singularly interesting nature, especially when we bear in mind that Edmund de Langley—the fifth son of Edward III. and founder of the House of York, as John Gaunt, the fourth son, was of the House of Lancaster—was a direct lineal ancestor of Her Majesty the Queen."

The new wing of Mount Stuart House, the residence of the Marquis of Bute, situated five miles from Rothesay, was on fire on Monday. The fire broke out at about 11 a.m. in a servant's bedroom on the upper story, and spread with great rapidity. The apparatus for extinguishing flames was very defective. The Marquis and Marchioness were from home, but are expected daily. The extent of the damage done is not mentioned. The seat, which had just been newly decorated at great cost, was built in 1718 by James, second Earl of Bute.

SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMONDS.—News from the South African diamond fields states that during October a magnificent gem of 52½ carats weight—a pure white frosted stone without spot or flaw—was found by Messrs. Sole, Conolly, and Manning in their gully in Dutoitspan. It is stated that 3000l. has been refused for it. Another diamond of more than 100 carats has been found in the Kimberley Mine, but its quality was not equal to its weight.—The Colonies and India.

VICTORIA PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTE.—The opening meeting of the thirteenth session of this society was held recently, Mr. C. Brooke, M.D., F.R.S., in the chair. Many new members were elected, including the President of Wisconsin University, and Professor Heer, of Zurich, the recipient of the Royal Society's gold medal for 1877. The list of authors of papers for the session includes the names of ten professors of English and foreign Universities, &c. The number of the society's members has increased in spite of those adverse influences which have this year affected almost every society and institution, and now approach 800. The paper of the evening was read by Mr. J. E. Howard, F.R.S., and referred to the advances which modern science has made in regard to nature, and to the value of "a slow, but sure path of induction."

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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GEORGE KENNING, CHIEF OFFICE, LONDON, the latter crossed London and Joint Stock Bank.

Advertisements and other business communications should be addressed to the Publisher.

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.

SENIOR DEACON.—Many thanks; in our next; a proof and letter will be sent.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

"Floral Designs for the Table," by John Perkins; Wyman, and Sons, Great Queen-street. "Medical Examiner;" "Risorgimento;" "New York Dispatch;" "Scottish Freemason;" "La Chaine d'Union;" "Card Tricks," Warne and Co.; "Early French Lessons," "First French Lessons," by Bro. Henri Buc, Hachette and Co., 18, King William-street; "Old Jonathan" (City Press).

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

BROWNE.—On the 3rd inst., at Hillside, Shortlands, the wife of G. F. Browne, of a son.

CROSSLBY.—On the 3rd inst., at 23, St. Bartholomew-road, Tufnell-park, the wife of C. H. Crossley, of a daughter.

ELLSMERE.—On the 2nd inst., at Bridgewater House, St. James's, the Countess of Ellesmere, of a daughter.

WHEELER.—On the 30th inst., at 20, Watergate-row, Chester, the wife of Walter Edward Wheeler, of a son.

DEATHS.

ADLARD.—On the 1st inst., at West House, Rangoon, Kate, the dearly-beloved wife of Percy H. Adlard, aged 28 years, sincerely lamented by all who knew her.

HATCH.—On the 2nd inst., at Birchanger, Essex, after preaching at afternoon service, the Rev. Walter M. Hatch, M.A., Fellow of New College, Oxford, and rector of Birchanger, aged 34.

PARRY.—On the 29th ult., at her residence, 32, Portman-square, aged 88, Susanna, eldest and last surviving daughter of the late Nicholas Segar Perry, Esq., of Little Hadham, Herts.

SAWYER.—On the 29th inst., at Hammoon Rectory, Dorset, the residence of his son, Herbert Sawyer, younger son of the late John Sawyer, Esq., of Heywood Lodge, Maidenhead, Berks, aged 74.

WYNNE.—On the 2nd inst., at Brighton, of diphtheria, Jessie Isabel, the beloved eldest daughter of the Rev. John Wynne, rector of Warnford, Hants, aged 12 years. R.I.P.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1877.

THE MEETING OF GRAND LODGE.

Our prophecy of last week has been perfectly made good. Grand Lodge has dealt with the question of the Grand Orient and Hebrew Petitions in a thoroughly wise and practical manner. The Pro Grand Master, in a speech of great power, introduced the recent unwise proceedings to the notice of the English Grand Lodge in words which commanded the hearty assent and warm plaudits of a crowded Grand Lodge. But as that "burning question" has been referred to a committee to report on, we forbear to discuss it now at any greater length, further than to say that the opinion of our English brethren on the subject is as unanimous as it is happily unequivocal! We think that on the whole, Grand Lodge has taken the proper course in the matter. Bro. Simpson, whose speech was marked by much eloquence, introduced his resolutions, which gave rise to a lengthened discussion. At the conclusion, in deference to the urgent desire of Lord Carnarvon, he wisely withdrew the two resolutions, which had led to much debate, and which we fancy had he not done so, would have been negatived by a large adverse majority. Indeed, after the able, and forcible, and convincing speech of the Grand Registrar, and the sound and statesman-like warning of Lord Carnarvon, there could be but one result and opinion in Grand Lodge. As we ventured to hint last week, a grave objection lay at the root of Bro. Simpson's motion, namely, the interference with another independent Grand Lodge, and this point, indeed, became the "pivot" on which the whole long and able debate turned. Whether we have regard to the speeches of Bros. Simpson and Hutton, Bro. Lord Tenterden, and the various Hebrew brethren who spoke, too much praise cannot be accorded to the tone and temper of the orators. As a reply to an able address, Bro. McIntyre's certainly appeared to us to be one of the most forcible and crushing we have heard for some time past, and seemed instant to obtain the adhesion of the majority of Grand Lodge. As regards the abstract question in dispute there was practically no difference of opinion. The exclusion of the Hebrews was unequivocally condemned, and their admission considered to be a question of time? Indeed, we feel perfectly convinced, that such un-Masonic restrictions must ere long be removed. But a grave question cropped up. Had we in the English Grand Lodge a right to pass a resolution affecting the internal discipline of an independent Grand Lodge? In the case of the Grand Orient, its proceedings involved momentous consequences, and were a revolutionary innovation, but in the case of the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes, it was acting on the same rules it had clung to for 130 years. How then, could Grand Lodge be justified in addressing it on its internal regulations? Would it not, in so doing, be acting "ultra vires?" After Bro. McIntyre's speech there could only be one reply to such questions, and further, we had clearly no right in our Grand Lodge to find fault with the rules of any independent Grand Lodge, however much we might object to them, unless, indeed, by some regrettable innovation they departed from the recognized land-marks of Freemasonry. But the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes had always acted on these laws, and how could we call such exclusion an innovation? Remembering that up to 1813, we in England had used Christian prayers, more or less, bearing in mind that Christian prayers are still used in Ireland and Scotland, and that it was only in 1813 that we in England wisely laid down our more Cosmopolitan laws; it would have placed Grand Lodge, in our opinion, in a very unsafe position, if it had gone out of its way to censure another Grand Lodge. It seemed, too, that these very German Grand Lodges received our certificates, admitted our Hebrew brethren as visitors, but refused them as joining members. Could we compel other

Grand Lodges to accept our brethren on the ballot? Certainly not! that was a proposition which all the eloquence of Bro. Simpson could not make good. So on the whole we are very much satisfied with the discussion and the decision. We trust that in due time the just rights of our Hebrew brethren will be acknowledged everywhere, and that the German Grand Lodges will one and all expunge these unwise and intolerant regulations from their constitutions. We may add that the appeals which were heard were very interesting, and after the lucid explanation of the Grand Registrar, the decisions come to by Grand Lodge were in accordance both with Masonic law and Masonic justice. All the brethren felt how admirably and how ably Lord Carnarvon presided over this most important meeting of Grand Lodge, and how much the brethren owed alike to his impartial ruling and his eloquent addresses.

SPECIAL LODGES.

Another special lodge, the "Kaiser-i-Hind lodge," has been added to our roll, and its proceedings seem to call for a few words of comment and appreciation. We have already stated that in principle we are favourable to this system, as a protest against the prevailing tendency of indiscriminate admission. No one can fitly describe at this moment, the extraordinary idea which seems to have affected the minds of many, that they have a right to select a particular lodge, and to enter therein, whether the brethren like it or not. It is not too much to say that at the moment we write, as it appears to us, the existence of Freemasonry is jeopardized, its prestige greatly impaired by the haste of indiscriminate admission, by the desire of lodges evidently to increase their funds, and extend their lodge roll. We feel quite sure of this, that many are entering Freemasonry just now from a wrong motive, yes, even from sordid views,—for what Freemasonry can give, for what they can get some day, if need be, out of so rich and influential an Order. Now all this is a great evil, and portends a great weakening of Masonic influence and value. It is diametrically in opposition to the whole teaching of Freemasonry on the subject, and antagonizes all those safeguards which our Order has so carefully thrown around admission to our mysteries, and reception of our "aporetta." We think, then, that this formation of special lodges is justifiable and even advisable in the highest degree. We have long been sensible of this weak point in our Masonic system, and as a very distinguished brother well put it, the other evening, no one has a right to introduce or recommend any one into a lodge whom he could not safely introduce into his own family circle, and whom he was ashamed to acknowledge at all times and under all circumstances. We have long foreseen that the time must come, for every interest, personal, social, charitable, and Masonic, when we must tighten up our "stakes" brush up our hedges, and set our faces firmly against this indiscriminate admission into Freemasonry! The Kaiser-i-Hind Lodge is meant mainly for military men who have served in India, and those connected with India, and for Officers of the Army. We wish it all success. If we may judge of its future by its first appearance, we should say that it had a most useful Masonic career in its own hands, under the presidency of Bro. Captain Burton, and such officers as Major Blake and others. We cannot doubt that it will speedily "go to the front," and we can only trust that all its after meetings will be as pleasant as that which attended its first appearance in the Masonic world. We congratulate Bro. Dr. Ramsay on the successful result of so many laborious efforts, and so much careful forethought. We call attention to a detailed report of its proceedings elsewhere.

KENNING'S MASONIC CYCLOPÆDIA.

Dear Bro. Kenning,—

I am happy to inform you, that by the time these lines reach the eyes of your many readers, the whole of the copy for the Cyclopædia will be, in a few days, in the hands of the printers,

and that the delivery of the Cyclopædia to the subscribers is now only a question of printing arrangements.

Owing to the help of a very kind and valued friend, who has taken the concluding letters of the alphabet, all my own lengthened contributions being completed, are now being set up, and from the quantity of proof I almost daily receive, I see no reason, why the Cyclopædia should not be delivered, (D.V.), during the month of January, 1878.

If any of your subscribers complain of the length of time employed, I can only say, I wish fervently, that they had had the work to do, as, though I thought I had measured out my work, I was quite overwhelmed when I set to compile, by the amount of unforeseen references, which required time and toil. And the reason is this. I began my work before the appearance of Mackey's great work. His system of ample treatment required, that in any subsequent Cyclopædia the same research should be employed. The consequence was that much of my work had to be done "de novo," and that I had, when I had prepared some articles, to re-open the question, and re-consider my own conclusions. But at last, I am pleased to think, that my work is ended, and that very soon, in the handsome cover you have so liberally provided, "Kenning's Masonic Cyclopædia" will be in the hands of your many and I will add patient subscribers.

They say "Finis coronat opus," and I trust that when they receive the Cyclopædia, our friends will not grudge the time spent over it, as if in the case of any similar book ever published in this world, theirs will be "value received."

I am, dear Bro. Kenning, yours most fraternally,
THE EDITOR.

P.S.—Would it not be well to give lodges and brethren until January to subscribe to the Cyclopædia? It will make no practical difference to you, but may make much to them. Let the subscription list remain open to January 2, 1878, and then close finally, so that we may publish the list of subscribers.
THE EDITOR.

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.]

"BELIEF IN GOD."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The Grand Lodge of England is to the Masonic world what British territory is to the nation; liberty of conscience being the prerogative of the English Freemason; liberty of person being the privilege of the English subject.

But even as admittance into the palladium of British rights demands subjection to the laws of the land, so does reception into the fellowship of true Freemasonry crave acknowledgment of our creed—and our creed is this:—

"Belief in the Supreme Architect of the Universe—the Most High God."

This is the first landmark of Freemasonry; the "central point to be found in every true and rightly-constructed lodge, from which no true Master will stray."

Around that central point is described a circle—the circle of the Universe—the axiomatic symbol of eternity.

On the uttermost North and uttermost South, the periphery of that circle is bounded by two parallel right-lines, of which that on the North is typical, according to the old charges, of St. John the Baptist, while that on the South foreshadows on St. John the Evangelist, in other words "the first parallel being Nature, and the second parallel Religion, Knowledge and Faith," the two eternal pillars of all truth; the right lines that never meet, and therefore never contravene, but ever coinciding, whether we comprehend their concordance or not, arising in the infinity of eternal truth and undeviatingly directed to the revelation of that wisdom is everlasting life.

These are the first landmarks of Freemasonry, without which there can be no justly constituted lodge; and the Grand Lodge that endeavours to evade or ignore these landmarks will only succeed in taking its ground outside the pale of true Freemasonry.

There is no swearing away, or ranting away, or hushing away this fact, that the very first landmark of Freemasonry is belief in the Supreme Architect of the Universe, the Most High God.

You may belong to a secret society, holding its meetings under all the forms of Masonry; you may know your ritual by heart, and be able to interpret the hidden meaning of all the grips, and words, and signs; but, if you acknowledge not the first landmark of our Craft, you are no Freemason, and the secret society, whose meetings you denominate as a lodge, is a mockery and a rotten shell, that

contains no seed, and never can bring forth aught but ashes.

Yours fraternally,

ROBERT LAING.

GRAND LODGES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Last Saturday you gave an interesting account of Freemasonry in Australia. At the banquet after the installation of the W.M. of the Yarra Yarra Lodge, No. 714, it is reported that Bro. Dixon returned thanks on behalf of the English Constitution, Bro. T Ford for the Scotch, and Bro. A. Hait for the Irish. All of us—English, Scotch or Irish, at home or abroad—acknowledge but one Queen and one Prince of Wales, why not one Grand Master?

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

THE SECRETARY OF No. 38.

PAST GRAND PURSUIVANT.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The recent letters in your valuable periodical show that a doubt exists as to whether or not the office of Provincial Grand Pursuivant carries Past Rank. I, therefore, beg to subjoin for publication copy of a letter received by me from the Grand Secretary in reply to my enquiry. The Grand Registrar's opinion of course settles the point beyond question.

Yours fraternally,

THEO LANE, J.W. 120,
P.P.G.P., Herefordshire.

[COPY.]

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
27th Nov., 1877.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In answer to the enquiry made in your note of the 20th inst., I beg to say that I have consulted the Grand Registrar on the point, and he is of opinion that a Provincial Grand Pursuivant, under Article 2, page 51, Book of Constitutions, is entitled to wear his P.P.G.L. clothing.

Yours fraternally,

JOHN HERVEY.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In the province of North Wales and Shropshire we have had a set of new Bye-laws, many of which in the opinion of the brethren want revising, for which purpose on October 30th, 1877, I wrote to the Prov. Grand Secretary, asking him to place on the agenda for the next Prov. Grand Lodge, notice of motion to consider revision of Bye-laws Nos. 43, 47, 66, 70, and 71.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

No. 43 says: "It being essential to the interests of the Craft, that all matters of business to be brought under the consideration of the P.G. Lodge should be known previously to the P.G. Officers and Masters of Lodges; that through them all the representatives of lodges may be apprized of such business, and by having sufficient time for mature deliberation, be prepared to decide thereon. Every motion intended to be made shall be in writing and annexed thereto shall be the name and Masonic rank of the mover and the name and number of his lodge, and such motion shall be transmitted to the Provincial Grand Secretary not less than twenty-one days preceding a meeting of such Provincial Grand Lodge."

On November 27th, a Provincial Grand Lodge summons is issued for December 14th inst, at Shrewsbury, but on this summons no notice is taken of my letter of October 30th, which is more than twenty-one days preceding the date of Provincial Grand Lodge summons, and it runs thus:—

42, Broad-street, Welch Pool, Oct. 30, 1877.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I must request you to place as under on the next Prov. Grand Lodge summons and oblige yours,
D. P. OWEN, P.M. 998.

To the Prov. Grand Secretary, North Wales and Shropshire.

To consider revision of Prov. Grand Bye-laws Nos. 43, 47, 66, 70, and 71.

Now can any brother give me any idea of what is done in other provinces? Again, have I neglected (in the letter of the law), not putting the words "Welch Pool Lodge" instead of plain "Welch Pool"? Also is the "Board of General Purposes" the proper place for redress? If it is, by leaving out the word "Lodge," it is a pitiable way of getting rid of any "notices," which I know are objected to by certain Prov. Grand Officers, and the "P.M. 998" ought to be taken as sufficiently defining my Masonic rank. I am P.Z. of 998, but that has nothing to do with Craft rank. Apologising, &c.,

Yours fraternally,

D. P. OWEN, P.M. and P.Z. 998.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I should be glad to be informed if a brother owing two years' subscription to a lodge can have them remitted and become an honorary member in one evening, without being placed on the circular, or whether any new law is established in Grand Lodge?

I am, dear sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

C. L.

[There is no limit to the power of a lodge in such vo tes as you describe, except they contravene the lodge bye-laws, the Prov. bye-laws, or the Book of Constitutions. It is, however, a most unusual and, we think, very un-Masonic proceeding. If the lodge bye-laws provide notice of motion, it is, of course, an illegal act, and would be

quashed on proper appeal to the Board of General Purposes. There is no new law of Grand Lodge on the subject.—Ed.]

QUERIES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

May I request the favour of a reply to the following queries through the medium of the *Freemason*?

1. Would a subscribing member of a lodge undertaking the office of Tyler for certain remuneration become a "serving brother"?

2. Would a subscribing member, undertaking such office for payment, be compelled to resign his membership, and to cease paying his subscription?

A P.M.

[We answer no to each query, though it is a somewhat difficult and delicate question.—Ed.]

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Supposing a reverend brother, a M.M. but not a P.M., is invested as Chaplain of a lodge, is he legally entitled to a seat on the dais amongst the P.M.'s? A reply to this, given in the *Freemason*, will oblige a number of brethren.

Yours fraternally,

LEX.

[Not necessarily among the P.M.'s, but on the dais, on the right hand of the W.M. Mos est lex.—Ed.]

MASONIC SONG.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Can you, or any of your readers inform me where to obtain a Masonic Song, called "John Hart, he was a Mason good;" composed and sung by Beuler?

The information would much oblige,

Yours truly,

C.M.J.

[We are unfortunately, unable to reply ourselves, but perhaps among our numerous readers, a copy may be found with the address of the publisher.—Ed.]

DEDICATION AND RE-OPENING OF THE MASONIC HALL, DUBLIN.

On Wednesday evening last, his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, K.G., K.P., Grand Master of Ireland, presided at the dedication and re-opening of the Masonic Hall, Dublin. The ceremony was conducted in the presence of a large and distinguished assemblage of the brethren, who were clothed in full insignia of the Blue Order. Amongst those present were:

Grand Officers—His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, &c., Grand Master; R. W. Shekleton, Q.C., D.G.M.; Robert Warren, D.L., Grand Treasurer; Rev. J. J. MacSorley, Grand Chaplain; Alderman Manning, J.G.D.; G. Stephens, G.S.W.; T. E. St. George, G. Dir. of C.; G. Moyers, LL.D., Grand Steward; H. Hodges, G.S.B.; C. Grandison, Grand Organist; H. Minchin, M.D., G.I.G.; Samuel B. Oldham, D.G.S.; A. St. George, Assistant Secretary.

Past Grand Officers.—Hon Judge Townsend, Rev. Dr. Wesby, C. Cameron, M.D.; George Hepburn, R. L. Griffin, LL.D.; F. Quin, John Dunne, Mus Doc; D. Thorp, Stuart A. Lane, W. Allen.

Representatives from Foreign Grand Lodges.—Maxwell Close, M.P., P. C. Simply, M.D., Major Davoren, James V. Mackey, L. H. Deering, E. H. Kinahan, D.L.; Capt. Huband, J.P.; C. C. Macnamara, J. H. Goddard, G. H. Major W. Wilkinson.

Provincial Grand Officers.—Sir Charles Lanyon, George H. Smith, W. Parker, Andrew Browne, William T. Potts, George T. Tyler, W. Fetherstonhaugh, William Babington, Arthur St. George, William B. Armstrong, Colonel Cosby, B. Tiernan, M.D.; Colonel Colclough, Captain Mostyn.

Board of General Purposes.—Thomas Valentine, Hugh Leonard, Richard Harvey, James W. Fair, Major L. Thompson, James H. Macauley, John Hill, J. R. Sutcliffe, John Gallic, F. M. Scott, John Barker, M.O.; S. Harty, Charles Pompie, Samuel Bouchier, John Gerety, Robert Thacker, Morris Harris, A. Ellis, Richard Boyle, J.P.; D. J. Field Harris, J. C. Meredith, LL.B., Thomas Fitzgerald, T. H. Reilly, Thomas Craig, John Whyte, Wm. Curtis, T. J. Wright, A. Jacob, M.D.; R. M. Carnegie, Thomas McGovern, and Thomas Brunker.

There were also present a large assemblage of Past Masters, W. Masters, officers and brethren of the Dublin lodges.

On the arrival of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Grand Director of Ceremonies arranged the procession, which moved to the Grand Hall in the usual order.

When the procession reached the Grand Master's chair, the Grand Officers were separately proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, as they arrived at the station; and immediately on the Grand Master being proclaimed, a grand march was performed on the organ, during which the procession was made three times round the hall, at the termination of which the Grand Master and the other Grand Officers repaired to the seats prepared for them. The cornucopie and the vases, with the corn, wine, and oil, were laid on the altar, on which was also placed the Bible open, and the square and compasses were laid thereon, and on another pedestal was deposited the Book of Constitutions.

These arrangements having been completed, an anthem was sung.

The Grand Secretary then informed the Grand Master that the fraternity desired to have the hall dedicated to Freemasonry, according to ancient usage; upon which the Grand Master ordered the Grand Officers to assist in

the ceremony, during which solemn music was continued, excepting only the intervals of dedication.

The first procession was then made around the lodge. When the Grand Master arrived at the East the music was silent, and the Grand Chaplain offered up the dedication prayer.

The response was then chanted.

The hall was then dedicated to Freemasonry, the Grand Chaplain strewing corn and pouring wine and oil, according to ancient custom.

Grand Chaplain then gave the invocation, and the response was chanted.

The grand honours were then given, and the Grand Master resumed his seat, when an anthem was sung.

The Grand Master said: Brethren, I cannot refrain from addressing to you a very few words to say how much and what heartfelt pleasure it has given me to meet the brethren again here to-day, and to be able to take part in the interesting ceremony we have just performed, I pray that the good providence and blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe may rest upon our institution, and may sanctify all our endeavours for that universal brotherhood and charity to all men, which are the aim and aspiration of all true and accepted Masons. (Applause.)

The Deputy Grand Master before closing Grand Lodge said: I have a pleasing duty; we meet here for the first time as a Grand Lodge in a room of which the Irish Masons may well be proud, the paintings and the decorations being the work of Irish artists. (Applause). The paintings are the gift of Bro. Henry Gibson, brother of the artist and designer of the decorations. (Applause). The carpet, a facsimile of that used at the Installation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of England, was presented by Bro. Lewis, of Huddersfield. (Applause). These observations are a prelude to my pleasing task, I think we should be wanting in our duty to your grace as head of the Order if we did not return you our most grateful thanks for performing the ceremonial. As your deputy I can safely say that you have been unable to come among us as often as you would wish, but your heart has been always with us, and you have been most willing on every occasion to assist in promoting the welfare of the Order. (Applause).

The Grand Master and several of the distinguished brethren were afterwards entertained at dinner by the Masonic Glee Union.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

The winter half-yearly communication of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Wednesday, the 28th of November last, under the auspices of the Commercial Lodge, No. 1391, the chair being taken by the R.W.P.G.M., the Earl Ferrers, who was supported by R.W. Bro. W. Kelly, P.P.G.M.; W. Bros. Rev. W. Langley, as D.P.G.M.; S. S. Partridge, Prov. S.G.W.; W. B. Smith, Prov. G. Treas.; G. Toller, jun., Grand Sword Bearer, Prov. G. Sec.; and most of the other Prov. Grand Officers.

The business of the lodge was of the ordinary routine character.

For the office of Prov. Grand Treasurer, Bro. F. A. Wykes, W.M. 523, P.P.G. Org., was unanimously elected, in succession to Bro. W. Beaumont Smith, who had for many years past ably discharged the duties of that post, but on whom the P.G.M. was about to confer a higher appointment.

The statement of the Treasurer's account, which showed that the province was in a good financial position, was duly passed.

The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested the officers for the ensuing year, as follows:—
W. Beaumont Smith, P.M. 523.....Prov. G.S.W.
W. Hardy, jun., P.M. 1265.....Prov. G.J.W.
Rev. F. H. Richardson, 1560Prov. G. Chap.
T. A. Wykes, W.M. 523Prov. G. Treas.
C. S. Preston, W.M. 50Prov. G. Reg.
S. S. Partridge, P.M. 523Prov. G. Sec.
G. Clifton, P.M. 1391.....Prov. G. S.D.
H. Blood, jun. P.M. 779Prov. G.J.D.
T. Cooke, P.M. 1007Prov. G.S. of W.
J. B. Hall, P.M. 1391Prov. G.D.C.
S. Cleaver, 279Prov. G.A.D.C.
G. T. Willan, W.M. 1130.....Prov. G.S.B.
W. Vial, W.M. 1007Prov. G. Org.
M. H. Lewin, P.M. 1330.....Prov. G. Purs.
E. R. Cust, 1330Prov. G. A. Purs.
J. Jessop, 279Prov. G. St. B.
J. Farndale, 279; T. R. Pickering, 523; J. Webb, 779; R. L. Gibson, 1007; S. W. Black, 1130; and F. Pochin, 1265Prov. G. Stewds.
C. Bembridge and T. DunnProv. G. Tylers.

In pursuance of a recommendation of the Provincial Charity Committee, it was resolved that the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls should be the charity to receive the special support of the province during the ensuing year, and Bro. S. S. Partridge, who last year served as Steward for the Boys' Institution, was appointed to represent the Prov. Grand Lodge at the next festival of the Girls' School. The W.M. of St. Peter's Lodge invited the R.W.P.G.M., to hold the next summer half-yearly meeting of Prov. Grand Lodge at Market Harborough, under the banner of his lodge (No. 1330), an invitation which his lordship was pleased to announce his intention to accept.

Several letters of apology for absence having been read, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and the proceedings terminated with a banquet, at which W. Bro. Clement Stretton, P.P.G.W. (Mayor of Leicester), presided, in the absence of the R.W.P.G.M., who was unable to remain.

CONSECRATION OF THE KAISER-I-HIND LODGE, No. 1724.

This newly formed lodge was consecrated on Thursday, the 29th ult., with all solemnity, at the Regent Masonic Hall, Café Royal, Regent-street. The lodge has been established in order to supply a want which has long been felt, namely the association together in Masonry of officers of the army and members of other professions who have been connected with Indian affairs. The lodge meetings will be held on the first Thursdays in May, July, September, and October, and it opens under circumstances which cannot fail to ensure prosperity. The consecration ceremony was ably performed by Bro. J. Hervey, Grand Secretary, who was assisted by Bros. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C.; H. G. Buss, Assist. G.S.; and several other G.L. Officers Present and Past. Amongst those present were Bros. Capt. H. Burton, W.M. designate; Major Blake, S.W. designate; R. W. Fyer, J.W. designate; T. Fenn, P.G.D.; J. Robinson, A.G.D.C.; Dr. Ramsey, E. McIntyre, G.R.; A. W. Hall, P.P.S.G. W. Surrey; T. W. Whitmarsh, P.M. 1150; E. March, P.M. Grand Stewards' Lodge; J. Hawes, 143, P.G.C. Middx.; Sir C. Bright, W.M. 1691; E. B. Webb, 259; Mortimer, 617; Capt. Pratt, S. C. Dibdin (Sec. pro tem.); Lieut. Col. E. H. Vincent, Capt. C. H. Sampson, S. H. d'Avignon, E. B. Bright, 780; Nassau Lees, 259; J. Wilkinson, 1248; W. O. Goldsmith, 1531 (Freemason); C. B. Payne, G. Tyler; C. T. Speight, Prov. G. Tyler Surrey; and others.

The brethren having entered the lodge room in procession, the Grand Secretary assumed the chair, and had as his S.W. Bro. T. Fenn, P.G.D., and as his J.W., Bro. F. Robinson, A.G.D.C.; Bro. H. Buss, Asst. Grand Secretary, acting as D.C. The lodge having been opened in the Three Degrees, the following address was delivered by the Grand Secretary:—

It is hardly necessary for me to say for what purpose we are assembled here this evening. We are assembled to consecrate this new lodge, and to bring it into existence. I think in doing so we may congratulate ourselves on the good way in which in England our Masonic lodges go on. They progress at a great rate, and sometimes, I think, at almost too fast a rate; but still while they progress as they now are doing here, and while they are composed of such gentlemen as we now see around us, I must say I do not think that then they can progress too swiftly. (Applause.) The danger is in what I should call the second-rate lodges—the fear that a great many come into our assemblies simply for what they can get out of it. We are, as you know, in this country very highly patronised; we have the Heir Apparent to the Crown at our head (applause), who always takes the greatest interest in what goes on in Masonry. His Royal Highness is always fully alive to the interest of Freemasonry, and whenever I have the honour of seeing him he always expresses himself as regards the Craft in a manner to show that he knows what he is about; that he is able to give an opinion upon any point which may come before him, and that he is not one who will allow himself to be unduly dictated to. (Applause.) In our Pro Grand Master we have also another brother who stands very high, not only in Masonry, but in every position in life, and he manages to find time, notwithstanding war with the Kaffirs, the annexation of the Transvaal, and the various other difficulties he is surrounded with in the administration of the colonies of the country, he finds time—I say, to devote to Masonry a great deal of attention, and he is always ready to do all he is called upon to do in the discharge of his duties as Pro G.M. You will feel then that it is a great privilege we enjoy in this country to have two such men at our head. (Applause.) We are not, I rejoice to say, at the present moment in the position of our friends across the Channel. We are not setting up a new idea of Masonry, we are not following the example of those who are, I am afraid, laying the axe at the root of the tree. I believe that unless a man believes in the Great Architect of the Universe we had better be without him in our ranks, and I am satisfied that those who are around me in this room would not allow him to enter. (Applause.) What the result of the action of the Grand Orient will be I am afraid to say—indeed it is impossible to foresee—but I very much fear that it will lead to a great deal of schism. I am glad to see that we adhere to our old formula. (Applause.) We do not wish to throw new light on Freemasonry in this nineteenth century, but we go on in our old track, and we find and have proved that it is a prosperous one. (Applause.) Worshipful Master designate, I might, I think, now venture to give you a little advice in the conduct of your lodge. It occurs in the conduct of a lodge that a great deal depends upon the W.M. On many occasions I have mentioned the necessity of performing the ceremonies in a manner that should command the attention and the sympathy of the candidate who presents himself for initiation. I believe a great many candidates come into lodges and afterwards croak at the Craft, because they have been initiated in a slovenly manner, and because they are not impressed, and do not feel satisfied with what occurred. As to the officers of the lodge, unless they work well and harmoniously together, and in unison with the Master, it is impossible that matters can progress satisfactorily. If any one officer is not equal to the post he has undertaken to fulfil, he is simply like a fiddle out of tune in an orchestra, and the whole effect is marred. (Applause.) I do hope, W.M., that you and your officers will think it worth while, as you thought it worth while to obtain a warrant, to work up in such a manner as not only to command the sympathy of the Craft in general, but to show those who are initiated that they have come into a society where the ruling powers take great care to do that which is right, and not only that, but what is necessary to impress the candidate with

a proper feeling of what is taking place around him. (Applause.) I fear I am travelling a little out of the record in giving this advice, but as an old Mason, as one who has worked hard in the Craft, and as one who since he first entered a lodge has the feeling that he had done his duty, I am sure you will extend your indulgence. (Applause.) I do not say that it is necessary the I.G. should be able to take the S.W.'s post, but the officers ought at any rate to make themselves masters of the offices they have undertaken to fulfil. One thing I would impress it to be punctual in attendance, because if any officer is away when the lodge is opened the Master cannot get on efficiently with the work, and is placed in a great difficulty. I am afraid you will think I am detaining you too long, but I have the interest of the Craft much at heart, and Masonry much at heart, and my very able friend at the other end, who is one of the best Masons in England, will join with me in saying that if my advice is adopted it is one of the best things which can happen in the interest of the lodge. (Applause.)

The opening prayer having been impressively rendered by Bro. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C., the petition and warrant were read, and the ceremony of consecration was then very ably performed, in the course of which the following oration was delivered by Bro. A. F. A. Woodford:—

V.W. Presiding Officer, Wardens, and Brethren,—I have so often had the pleasure of addressing my brethren of late, and of assisting you, V.W. Sir (always the most pleasant of duties, believe me), that I almost feel as if some slight apology was necessary for another appearance on my part, for another Oration. And yet, Sir, when I received from our esteemed Bro. Dr. Ramsey the flattering invitation to act as your Chaplain on this interesting occasion, more than one constraining motive led me to accept what I felt to be, I assure you, both a privilege and a pleasure. In the first place, like a distinguished general of our army, and an equally distinguished dignitary of our Order, I for one rejoice to think that the officers of the English army are associating themselves so much with our Masonic Order. I feel sure that I am only expressing the feelings of the Craft when I say, that the more we see of them in our lodges the better we shall be pleased, and I venture to think that they will be able to find in Freemasonry much to interest them, and much to gratify and edify intellectual minds and cultivated understandings. I am also, like all patriotic Englishmen, I make bold to say (Freemasons though we are, we are still ever patriots), always interested in all that concerns British India—that far-off portion of our mighty empire. And not only like some probably now present, do I remember that India is the resting place of a dear relative of my own, who found there a soldier's grave, but I look always with heartfelt sympathy on all that concerns the prestige of our name, and the beneficent sway of our "Kaiser-i-Hind" over those teeming millions. Calling to mind the history of India from the famous victory of Clive, to the last avenging effort of Lord Clyde, I think we shall all agree that time can give out no nobler annals, than those which attest the heroism and devotion of the Anglo-Saxon race on the sun-burnt plains of Hindostan. But I turn, Sir, from this fascinating topic to the more immediate object of our assembly. And if, as I observed at the outset, I am glad to be permitted to be present, to avow my sympathy with the promoters of this special lodge under so good a name, I am also pleased to be privileged at the consecration of another offshoot of our great and goodly Masonic Tree as an old Mason now, to call the attention of my brethren, (my younger brethren especially), to a few thoughts—to a few considerations, which may not be without meaning or value for our present auspicious commencement of the young life of a fresh lodge on our now wonderfully increasing roll. The only difficulty others as well as myself feel on such occasions as this, is how to vary somewhat our addresses. Excellent as is the teaching of Masonry, true as are its precepts, and charming as are its sympathies, it is very difficult to avoid repetition, and not to incur the charge of amiable sameness. If, then, I leave our "first principles" for the nonce, and go a little out of the beaten track on this specific occasion, I trust that you will pardon my effort to say something worthy of your inauguration ceremony, and if I turn for a moment from what is, however admirable, though only theoretical, to what is absolutely practical and before our eyes, so to say, at this very moment. To day, Sir, as you have pertinently observed, when we are peacefully and fraternally employed celebrating our mystic rites, consecrating a new lodge according to ancient form and under religious sanction, Freemasonry, as a system per se, is violently attacked from two quarters at once, from two opposite points of the compass. There are those who condemn Freemasonry, for instance, openly and loudly, with all the paraphernalia, too, of mediæval intolerance, because it allows persons of various religions to range under its kindly banner, and to assemble together within its expansive fold. They anathematize it officially, they sneer at it unofficially, they assail it with the open diatribe and the Jesuitical inuendo, because it humbly endeavours with gentleness and generosity to mitigate the sorrows of humanity, to pour into its ever open wounds the wine and oil of Masonic sympathy and Masonic aid. It is this peculiar union of Christian and non-Christian, the Hebrew, the Hindoo, the Parsee, and the Mahomedan, for humanitarian beneficence, and humanitarian good-will, which serves to help to point the bitter taunt, to justify the angry accusation, and to account for the "invincible ignorance" of petulant accusers of their brethren. In the first Roman Catholic Bull of Clement XII, against Freemasons in 1738, Freemasonry was openly condemned "ex Cathedra Petri," why? but because it allowed persons, "cujuscumque religionis et secte homines," to assemble themselves together, qua Freemasons; and that Sir, which was a grave charge against us then, 140 years ago, is still, as you

know, a favourite complaint with many persons to-day. We actually do—yes, we infatuated Freemasons, do look upon those who differ from us in belief as brethren of the common dust. Yes, I repeat, we are so unprincipled and so latitudinarian as to think our "doxy" need not actually or necessarily be another person's "doxy," and there are such things possible in the world as liberty of conscience, the sanctity of personal belief, that persecution is debasing and proscription irreligious. And, therefore, in defiance of Papal Bulls, of Cardinals' Charges, of Archbishopal "mandements," and the outcry of the smaller Ultramontane fry, we venture to hold our Masonic assemblies, imposing no test, but simply asking from all our faithful brethren an acknowledgment of the Fatherhood of God, sympathy with the brotherhood of man. We profess to pass no judgment, as indeed we cannot, on a brother's views or a brother's tenets; "to his own master, he standeth or falleth;" we condemn no difference of opinion; we object to no honest conviction; our "words are words of pleasantness and all our paths are peace." Far from us, Sir ever be that intolerance which denounces all who do not agree with us, that bigotry which forgets that we have no moral right, any of us, to say that we are alone in possession of the truth. If the fact of gathering together on such a basis, most consonant, as I for one hold it to be, with right religion and sound morality be an offence at all, it is surely, if it be an offence, an offence only against intolerance and injustice, and can assuredly be no offence whatever against light and truth, religion and liberty and true toleration. Indeed, as I venture, Sir, to look at it to-day, this very broad foundation of Freemasonry is after all the truest test of its reality and its surest condition of vitality. It is its best and most enduring tie of cohesion and consistency, and tends to weld together and cement together, in goodly and consistent fraternity those who would otherwise have remained at an impenetrable distance. This much abused universality of Freemasonry is, I repeat, in my humble opinion, the truest evidence of its liberal profession, the most effective witness of its religious practice, and the surest guarantee for its future progress. Freemasonry, Sir, often appears to me to resemble a goodly obelisk, which towers on high, pointing to heaven. The storms of ages have beaten about it, the sand of ages has accumulated at its base, but still, there it is, defying wind and weather, the ravages of time, the march of ages, and the passions of men, and outliving all those petty controversies, all those insane contentions, which have marked, alas, too often and too sadly, the onward career of the human race. And when, Sir, we look back to day on the past history of Freemasonry and contemplate its present position, we are able, I think, to see, that one of the reasons why it still flourishes and still extends, despite the malediction of an "infallible authority," the accusation of the ignorant, and the cavils of the unjust, is just because it has remained true, (as the Great Duke once said of another body), to its "Marching Orders," "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth." And sure am I of this, that we who form part of the lodges happily under the Grand Lodge of England will never surrender, for any reason whatever, those distinguishing tenets of our venerable craft, but shall feel that they in truth deserve our loyal adhesion and our unflinching support. And then, Sir, there is another position hastily and recently taken up by a section of our Order, which I can only shortly allude to, which deserves notice and demands I venture to think, our manly and Masonic reprobation. It is an old saying that "extremes meet," and outside the lodge, we know how often in public and private life that apothegm is made good. In France, for instance, a noisy and intolerant majority has forced the Grand Orient to abjure any professed belief in God, and the reason put forward by those ardent lovers of change is, that the present constitutions keep out certain persons and create difficulties. But when we ask "who are the persons kept out, and what are the difficulties complained of," we find that those who do not and will not accept a personal God, or avow belief in God, are those for whom, under the specious cry of toleration, this momentous revolution has been effected. The only persons to be benefited by the change, are those whom we term "Atheists," that is those who, whether belonging to Positivism or the "Morale Independante," decline to recognize the Great Architect and Moral Governor, the Continual Preserver and Future Judge of all Mankind. I think I shall best illustrate how this untoward change is likely to work by a little anecdote. Bro. Behr, some months back, in the Grand Orient of France (I take the fact from the "Bulletin du Grand Orient," their official publication), made this statement, which has never been denied, and I fancy cannot be refuted. Indeed, proof might be forthcoming showing that the same "animus" exists in many other French and Belgian lodges. That worthy brother, who objected most properly and ably in his speech in the Grand Orient to the proposal originally put forward, spoke as follows:—He said that he had been recently in a French lodge in Paris where the candidate was asked by the "Venerable," amid numerous questions (which are ad libitum in France)—"Have you ever prayed to God?" "Yes," he replied, "quelquefois," (sometimes.) "Sometimes?" said the Master, (I give the French) "Oui, dans les circonstances tres douloureuses de ma vie." (In some very mournful circumstances of my life). He had, it seems, actually prayed to God, sometimes, in sorrow. Infatuated man! And for this act of fanaticism he received twenty three black balls, and was excluded from Freemasonry. Is not comment needless? Does not argument even seem to be an impertinence under such a hopeless, senseless, godless state of things? The effect of the recent legislation can only be to discourage believers in God from entering Freemasonry, and encouraging those to ask for admission into its sodality who refuse to believe in God, who do despite to every sanction of religion, and who deliberately reject all those blessings which in the goodness of the G.A.O.T.U. flow from his message of religious credence

and revealed truth to man. Sir, I only mention this painful reality but to "point the moral," if not to "adorn the tale." Thus we see how intolerance most alien from our Masonic toleration, works, if under different names, and from antagonistic points of thought and action. The Ultramontane objects to our meeting together here with Christians and non-Christians, the "Libres Penseurs," the Esprits Forts," deny our right of professing to believe in God, as Freemasons. They have, so far, in France, got the upper hand, and not only have banished the Bible from the lodges, but they now take away the only bar apparently to the admission of materialistic professors of infidelity, and actual Atheists. Surely in these things there is a warning. Yes, Sir, there is an exhortation which speaks trumpet-tongued to us when we meet in our lodges, when we consecrate a new lodge to-day. Such abnormal acts remind us of our happier truths, and our good old teaching. Do they not, as it were make us determine that we will not only "quieta non movere" but that we will resolutely stand "super vias antiquas." Far better than any novel definition or political cry is our most true Old English Masonic Triad which has gone the old world over, "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth? Is there not a striking message to our English Craft in these things to follow the good advice of our Royal Grand Master, to keep clear of politics, and steadily repressing hurtful cliques and noisy clamour, to adhere to the great principles of English Freemasonry, "Loyalty and Charity," the reverence of God and the love of man?

Let us not allow anyone to degrade our noble and fraternal Order by infusing into it the hurtful elements of party strife, or degrading it to the level of some barbaric faction, but under our Royal Grand Master, let us hold fast resolutely by the "safe old lines," and, neither turning to the right hand or to the left, let us march on a devoted phalanx of friends and brethren, whom persecution cannot intimidate, divisions cannot destroy. A living Masonic poet, in a very pretty poem, has said; and I venture to repeat his words to you, in conclusion of my address, because I think you will appreciate both their seasonableness, their grace, and their truth:—

The voice of love, who can ignore its accents mild and pure?

It is a balm for every wound, for every grief a cure,
And our Grand Master who presides in majesty above,
Ne'er gave a richer boon to man than sweet fraternal love,
To wipe the tear from sorrow's eye, the broken heart to bind,

Will yield to us the purest bliss that we on earth can find;
Go to the desolated home, assuage the mourner's grief,
And pour into his listening ear the voice of kind relief;
More potent than the strongest spell which eloquence can cast,

Is that soft voice of magic power, not least, though mentioned last;

It gives a sacred charm to age, a matchless grace to youth,
And stands pre-eminent of all, the voice of spotless truth.
Dear brethren of the mystic tie, into your ready ears,
May all these "voices" find access, dispelling all your fears.

And when you pass within the veil, life's conflict nobly won,

May our Grand Master say to each, "Faithful and true,
well done!"

V.W. Sir, officers and brethren, I trust that you will accept these imperfect remarks as the friendly words of an old Mason, and, as he believes, entirely an agreement with our Masonic love, and that you will permit him to express in conclusion, his sincere congratulations at the object of your meeting to-day, and his "heartly good wishes," for the future prestige, usefulness, and Masonic work of the Kaiser-i-Hind Lodge. (Applause.)

At the conclusion of the consecration ceremony, the lodge was resumed to the Second Degree, and Bro. Capt. H. Burton was presented by the D.C. as the first Master of the lodge. A Board of Installed Masters was then constituted, and the W.M. was fully installed and afterwards saluted. He then proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follows: Bros. Major Blake, S.W.; R. W. Fyers, J.W.; Rev. A. W. Hall, P.P.S.G.W. Surrey; Chaplain; S. C. Dibdin, P.M., Sec.; S. C. Pratt, S.W.; Lieut.-Col. E. H. Vincent, J.W.; Cant. C. H. Sampson, O.; S. H. d'Avignon, I.G. C. T. Speight, Prov. G. Tyler, Surrey, was elected and invested as Tyler. A vote of thanks was passed to the Grand Officers who had assisted in the ceremony, and Bros. J. Hervey, Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, T. Fenn, McIntyre, Buss, and Robinson were elected honorary members of the lodge, a compliment which was briefly acknowledged by Bro. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford. Subsequently a banquet took place, at which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured. The speeches were of an entirely complimentary character, and the warmest wishes were expressed for the prosperity of the lodge.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Dorsetshire during the hunting season has been fixed for Monday, January 28. They will be the guests of Lord Alington, at Crichel House.

NEW RESIDENCE FOR THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.—The Builder gives a view of a new mansion in course of erection at Bagshot Park, Surrey, for H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G. The old house, once the residence of the Duke of Gloucester, stood in a low situation, and having become much dilapidated has recently been pulled down. The site selected for the new structure is considerably more elevated, and commands an extensive and beautiful view. The house now building is in the Tudor style, which has been preferred to Lombard-Gothic; the materials are red brick and Portland stone. The plan is formed so as to admit of future additions when required.

GRAND MARK LODGE.

The half-yearly communication of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, and the colonies and dependencies of the British Crown, was held on Tuesday evening, at Freemasons' Tavern. There were present the M.W. Bro. Right Hon. the Earl of Limerick, M.W.G.M.; R.W. Bros. Samuel Rawson, Prov. G.M.M., China, as Deputy G.M.; Lieut.-Gen. J. S. Brownrigg, C.B., P.G.W. as G.S.W.; Captain N. G. Phillips, P.G.S.W., as G.S.W.; A. B. Cook, G.M.O.; I. J. H. Wilkins, G.S.O.; D. M. Dewar, G.J.O.; Rev. F. W. Thoys, and Rev. T. F. Ravenshaw, G. Chaplains; V.W. Bros. Fredk. Davison, G. Treas.; H. C. Levander, G. Reg.; Fredk. Binckes, (P.G.J.W.), G. Secretary; W. Bros. A. Spears, G.J.D.; Wm. Wigginton, G. Inspector of Works; Robt. Berridge, G.D.C.; W. Spencer P.G.A.C.; Hyde Pullen, G. Sword Bearer; J. G. Poderin, G. Standard Bearer; W. T. Belcher, D.M., G. Org.; H. W. Binckes, G. Assist. Sec.; Thos. Poore, G.I.G.; C. T. Speight, G. Tyler; Joseph Tomlinson, S. S. Pearce, George J. McKay, G. Stewards; R. W. Bros. John Wordsworth, Prov. G.M.M., Yorkshire; Hon. R.W. H. Giddy, South Africa; W. E. Gumbleton, P.G.W.; V.W. Bros. Magnus Ohren, P.G.M.O.; Thomas Meggy, P.G.M.O.; James Stevens, P.G.J.O.; W. Bros. J. C. Gregg, P.G.J.D.; Thomas Hargreaves, Geo. Neall, P.G. Supt. of Works.; S. Rosenthal, Thomas Cubitt, P.G.D.C.; T. J. Sabine, P.G.A.D.C.; W. A. Barrett, P.G. Org.; J. H. Spencer, P.G.I.G.; T. R. Parker, A. Williams, C. Pulman, H. Massey (Freemason), P.G. Stewards; and the following Prov. G. Officers:—W. Bros. George Toller, jun., P.P.G.S.W. Leicestershire; John Chadwick, Prov. G. Sec. Lancashire; Reginald J. Mure, P. Prov. G.M.O., Middx. and Surrey; B. Meyer, P.G.S. Middx. and Surrey; J. B. Shackleton, P.G.D.C., Middx. and Surrey; John Wrightson, P.G.S. Middx. and Surrey; J. W. Klenck, P.G. Reg. of Marks, Middx. and Surrey; with many brethren representing the St. Mark's Lodge, No. 1, Southwark Lodge, No. 22; Casarean Lodge, No. 74; Keystone Lodge, 107; Panmure Lodge, 139; Grosvenor Lodge, 144; Temple Lodge, 173; Duke of Connaught Lodge, 199; St. Mary's Lodge, 121; St. Cuthberga, 99.

After the opening of Grand Lodge, the minutes of Grand Lodge of 5th June last were read and confirmed.

Bro. T. J. Sabine, P.G.A.D.C., in rising to nominate a Grand Master for the ensuing year, said:—M.W.G.M. and brethren, our old and familiar friend whom none of us can shake off in our travels through life, has at last brought us round to the day when it is necessary out of respect, and in conformity with the constitutions that govern this Order, that some distinguished brother should be nominated to take his seat on the throne which you, M.W.G.M., now occupy, and which you have so well occupied for a long time past. I rise to propose to you a nobleman [whose name I am quite sure will be accepted with the greatest amount of respect, not only on account of his personal fame as a citizen and as a nobleman, but more especially on account of those varied and distinguished services which he has rendered to Freemasonry in every one of its branches, which he has hitherto touched. I refer to the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale. In making this proposition to Grand Lodge, I have thought it my duty to look back for a period of ten years, and to compare what Mark Masonry was in the year 1866-7 with what it is in this year, 1876-7; and I find, Sir, that Mark Masonry has made, thanks to the energy which you and your predecessors have shown with respect to this degree, most rapid strides, and I am justified in saying it has made a most tremendous success. Despite the opposition which the degree meets with—the conscientious objection, I will say—from some of the old Masons who look with some degree of affection on that wonderful decision which was taken by Grand Lodge when they united in the year 1813, an opposition which it is difficult to overcome, I find that whereas in the year 1866-7 we had then upon the roll of Grand Mark Lodge somewhere about 90 or 95 lodges, at the present time I am told by our respected Grand Secretary, we have on the roll something like 214 lodges.

Bro. Binckes, G.S.:—214 lodges in addition to the old time-immemorial lodges, which would bring the number up to 230.

Bro. Sabine:—That, of course, makes it so much the better. I have an invitation to attend the consecration of No. 211 on Saturday next, and I hear that since the warrant was granted three or four more applications for warrants have been received and granted. In 1866-7 the annual income from all sources was about £330. I find our annual income now exceeds £800. I find, further, that ten years ago, when our highly respected Past Grand Master Beach was Grand Master, the number of the Provincial Grand Lodges was five. I find at the present time the number of Provincial Grand Lodges is twenty-four. I find, further, that in 1866-7 there was no Benevolent Fund; but since then a Benevolent Fund has been started; and you may possibly remember that in 1869 some six Stewards, of whom I had the honour to be one, tried if such a thing would succeed. At the present time we have not only furnished and firmly established that Benevolent Fund, but we have invested £800, and instead of bringing in at the Benevolent Festival some £50 or £60, as we did at first, last time we got £232 or £234 by the exertions of seventeen Stewards. In 1866-7 this Grand Lodge had not on its general account one penny invested in order to meet the future claims that might arise. Now, on the General account we have £500 invested: at the period I have named we had comparatively very few members: now, I am told, they muster from 10,000 to 12,000. I think in stating these facts I am steadily showing you, M.W.G.M., and also the members of the Grand Lodge, that it is owing to the wise discretion which Grand Lodge has hitherto exercised of selecting every three years brethren of distinction, and position, and energy, to fill the throne of Grand Mark Lodge, that this success

has come about. Hitherto the first Grand Masters of the Order, Lord Leigh and Lord Carnarvon, and others, laid the foundation of Mark Masonry unquestionably, and they laid it well; and it had been strongly built upon: those who succeeded them unquestionably built up a very noble superstructure; and it is for those who shall succeed you, M.W.G.M., to beautify and adorn the noble structure of Mark Masonry, and to extend its influence and teaching. I have the honour, M.W.G.M., to propose Lord Skelmersdale as the Grand Master of the Order for the ensuing year.

Grand Secretary then read the following report of the General Board:—

During the six months, ending 30th September last, the number of certificates issued has been 405, bringing the number of brethren registered as having been advanced to membership of the Order to 10,466.

In the same period charters for new lodges were granted as follows:—

- No. 203 "Vousoir," Bengal.
- " 204 "Frontier," Bengal.
- " 205 "Beaconsfield," Walthamstow.
- " 206 "Fort," Cornwall.
- " 207 "Lebanon," Bengal.
- " 208 "Rough Ashlar," Bengal.
- " 209 "St. Wilfred," Alford, Lincolnshire.
- " 210 "Vale of Brislington," Somerset.

The most successful festival yet held on behalf of the "Mark Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund" was celebrated at the Alexandra Palace on Wednesday, 1st August, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, R.W. Grand Senior Warden, the contributions, through the active agency of seventeen Stewards, having reached a total of £232. There is now standing to the credit of this fund at the banker's the sum of £286 1s., and the Board recommend the investment of £200, which will make a total of £800 as the invested property of the Fund of Benevolence.

Satisfactory as this result must be regarded—the work of eight years, after having provided liberally for the relief of several distressed claimants on the Fund—the Board desire again to impress upon the members of the Order generally to what a considerable extent this fund may be augmented by the establishment of a "Charity Box" in each lodge, and by the adoption of a resolution by every Provincial Grand Lodge that a brother be appointed to act as a Representative Steward at each recurring anniversary festival.

It has been suggested to the Board as highly desirable that a plan should be adopted by the Order by which the necessitous orphans of deceased Mark Masters might be assisted in their education. The Board will be glad to receive suggestions from brethren on this subject, addressed to the President.

The Board further recommend the investment of £100 on behalf of the General Fund, making a total of £500, the invested property of the General Fund.

The Board have considered two petitions for relief, and recommend in the case of—

1. Mrs. H. C., widow of the Bro. T. C., of Dorchester, whose services in behalf of the Order were exceedingly valuable, and only interrupted by his premature decease—That Grand Lodge do approve the grant of £30,

And in the case of—

2. Bro. S. M. L., that the grant of £25 be approved.

With the sanction of the M.W.G.M., a circular letter with appeal in aid of the "Mansion House India Famine Fund" was issued in October last to the W.M. of every lodge, to the R.W.P.G.M.M. of every province, and individually to every Present and Past Grand Officer. In answer to this, certain contributions have been received and promised, which will be handed over to the fund.

Bro. Meggy, P.G.M.O., having undertaken to represent the Mark Degree at the ensuing Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, it is recommended that a sum of £21 be voted from the Funds of Grand Lodge, to be added to his list.

The Board have the gratification of announcing to Grand Lodge the formal recognition by "The General Grand Chapter of the United States of America" of this Grand Lodge as the legitimate governing jurisdiction of the Mark Degree in England and Wales, and the colonies and possessions of the British crown other than those of Canada and North America.

The letter from the E. Comp. Grand Scribe E. of the General Grand Chapter, addressed to and forwarded by the General Representative of this Grand Lodge, Ill. Bro. Albert G. Goodall, 33°, is as follows:—

"General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the United States of America.

"Office of General Grand Secretary, Buffalo, N.Y.,

"September 12th, 1877.

"A. G. Goodall, Esq., New York City."

"Dear Sir and Companion,—I am in receipt of your favour of yesterday's date, in which you express a desire to have sent to your address an official copy of the resolution recognising the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, &c., &c., adopted by the General Grand Chapter, in order that you may send the same to England by the mail on Friday next.

"I should be most happy to comply with your request, but just at present I find myself very busy in the preparation of the proceedings of the late Triennial Convocation for the printer's hands, an occupation that brooks no delay, and therefore cannot spare the time to suitably prepare the resolution to be presented to so distinguished a Masonic body as the Grand Mark Lodge of England in time for the purpose for which you desire it.

"I will give the matter attention early in next week, and will forward the papers directly to R.W. Bro. Binckes.

"With kindest regards, I am fraternally yours,

(Signed)

"CHRISTOPHER G. FOX.

"142, Broadway, New York, September 14th, 1877.

"Fredk. Binckes, Grand Sec., &c., &c., London.

"Dear Sir and Brother,—Your esteemed favour of

August 28th is duly received, and I now have great pleasure to inform you that the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown was duly recognised at the last session of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and the official communication of which will be forwarded to you by Christopher G. Fox, Grand Secretary, as you will see, per enclosed letter, that I have arranged.

"Sincerely yours,

"A. G. GOODALL."

The Grand Treasurer's accounts for the six months to 30th September are subjoined, which show:—

GENERAL FUND.	
Balance from 31st March, 1877	£205 16 10
Half-year's receipts... ..	386 14 10
Dividends	9 17 7
	£602 9 3
Half-year's disbursements	295 8 0
Balance in favour of Grand Lodge	£307 1 3

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.	
Balance from 31st March, 1877	£161 13 8
Receipts for half-year	194 13 6
Dividends	14 16 4
	£371 3 6
Disbursements	65 0 0
Balance in favour of the Fund	£306 3 6

Examined and found correct, THOS MEGGY,
15th November, 1877. Auditor.
(Signed) G. R. PORTAL, Past G.M.M.,
President.

Bro. Thoys, G.C., moved, and Bro. I. J. Hooper Wilkins, G.S.O. seconded that this report be received and entered on the minutes.

The M.W.G.M. said: Brethren, before I put this motion to Grand Lodge I should wish to call your attention to one or two items in this report of the General Board which I think are of considerable importance and interest. It is very satisfactory, I think, to all the brethren to see the increase which has taken place in the number of new lodges; and the brethren will remark that that increase is only up to the six months ending 30th September. I think I am right in saying there are some three or four lodges established since then.

Grand Secretary: Yes!

The M.W.G.M.: So that we may say, besides the eight mentioned in the report there are three or four more lodges to be added to them. As regards the lodges so sanctioned I might call the attention of Grand Lodge to the fact that no less than four of those lodges are for the province of Bengal. This shows what an energetic District Grand Master, with his Deputy and officers and brethren, can do in a province. The brethren will concur with me in saying that the increase in that province is deserving of the highest praise of Grand Lodge; for there must be good work done in the province to enable such an increase as that to be made. Not many weeks ago the subject of the Indian Famine Fund was brought before me, and I felt that the brethren of the Mark Degree would wish that they should not be behind other Masonic bodies in endeavouring to render assistance to the distress which that terrible famine has caused in India. I therefore sent out a letter, as has been stated in this report. That letter was sent out at rather a late date, and the announcement came very shortly afterwards that owing to the improved state of the weather which gave hopes of good crops in the future, no large further additions to the fund would be necessary. No doubt if it had not been for that the sum which had been contributed by the lodges of the Mark Degree would have been very considerable, but that intelligence coming very shortly after the sending out of the letter of course made many lodges and brethren think that it was not necessary to move in a manner that they otherwise would. I trust Grand Lodge will agree with me that such a calamity as that which has happened in India was one which the Grand Master of such a party as the Mark Degree could not pass over, and that I was justified in bringing it before the brethren. (Hear, hear.)

The last thing which I have to call attention to is that part of the report relative to the action taken by the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America. We all feel the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that a body which is the governing body of all Grand Chapters and Chapters of America, a body which has under its banner by far the largest body of Royal Arch Masons and Mark Masons in the world, has stretched forth a fraternal hand and recognised the position of this Grand Lodge as being the legitimate head of Mark Masonry in England. (Hear, hear.)

I was glad when I found that we should now be able to enter into official relations with a body of Masons so eminent in every respect as are those that work under the banner of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America. I do not think, brethren, that there is anything further which I need allude to in this report. The subjects dealt with are of great importance, as they testify generally to the continued prosperity of Mark Masonry in this country, and I think that justifies the hope that that distinguished brother who has been nominated to-night, and will be elected at our next meeting, will find the Order in a flourishing state when he assumes the throne; and I believe that a nomination could not be made of a brother more capable and willing to discharge the duties of the throne than our Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, the present D.G.M. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was then put and carried.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, M.A., P.G.M., thereupon rose and said: Before moving the recommendations contained in the report which has just been read, and which is also in the hands of most of the brethren here, I should just like to add to the very weighty remarks which you,

M.W.G.M., have just made, that it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the recognition of this Grand Lodge by the General Grand Chapter of the United States. We have already been recognised by the Grand Chapter of Ireland and by the Grand Chapter of Canada. We are still unrecognised by the Grand Chapter of Scotland; but we all know how difficult it is when having once taken a wrong step to retrace it; and, therefore, I think that every excuse is to be made for them. It was, no doubt, a bitter thing for them to see the lodges in England which worked under them absorbed by this Grand Lodge; and, therefore, I am not surprised at their non-recognition of us at present. I have no doubt we shall be recognised by them, because I feel it must come not only from their fairness and good sense, but from their Masonic feeling. We know that Masonry is nowhere so strong as it is in the United States, and, therefore, I think it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the fact of their recognising us. I should like to draw the attention of Grand Lodge to the recommendation of the Board, that a charity box should be established in each lodge; and I hope the G.M. will direct the Grand Secretary to communicate with Prov. Grand Masters in our provinces, and urge them to try and carry that resolution into effect in their respective provinces; because I am sure by that means, and appointing a Steward for our charity festival, we should have a regular and not a spasmodic contribution to our Benevolent Fund. Then, as regards the suggestion to the Board, as to assisting the necessitous orphans of deceased Mark Masters in their education, Grand Lodge is, no doubt, aware that in the north of England, as in the extreme west, there is a large Provincial Fund which is devoted to the educational assistance of the deserving children of Masons. There may be many brethren here well acquainted with the details of that fund; and what the Board wish in bringing the matter before Grand Lodge to-day is, that brethren who have had experience of the working of those funds in the north and west will be good enough to impart that experience to the General Board, and make any suggestions as to the future, which would improve the working of such a system as that. When we have been furnished with that advice the Board will be ready with a scheme which they will submit for Grand Lodge's acceptance.

The following recommendations of the Board were then put and carried:—

(a) "That a further sum of £200 Colonial Stock be purchased on account of the 'Benevolent Fund.'"

(b) "That a further sum of £100 Colonial Stock be purchased on account of the 'General Fund.'"

(c) "That a sum of £21 be voted from the funds of this Grand Lodge to the 'Royal Masonic Institution for Girls,' and placed on the list of Bro. Thomas Meggy, P.G.M.O., who has offered to represent the Mark Degree as Steward at the festival in May, 1878."

(d) Grants from Benevolent Fund:—
"That £30 be granted to the widow of the late Bro. T. C."

"That £25 be granted to Bro. S. M. L."

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, P.G.M., concluded by moving the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Bro. Thomas Meggy, P.G.M.O., and carried.

Charity jewels were then presented to Bros. J. H. Spencer, J. G. Podevin, the Rev. F. W. Thoys, C. W. Wyndham, H. R. Cooper Smith, Captain J. Wordsworth, Alfred Williams, A. Middleton, and George Higgins, and an extra bar each to Bros. S. Rosenthal and F. Binckes.

Grand Secretary announced that he had received letters of apology for inability to attend from R.W. the Rev. C. Tristram, D.C.L., P.G.C. Northumberland and Durham; Lieut.-Col. T. Davy, P.G.M. Durham; L. A. Homfray, P. G.M. Monmouth; Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, P.G.M. Warwick and Staffordshire; W. Kelly, Pro. G.M. Leicester; Earl of Donoughmore, G.S.W.; Sir H. St. John Halford, G.J.W.; H. Hopkins, P.G.S.W.; G. P. Brockbank, P.G.S.W.; V.W. J. D. Moore, M.D.; G. Barlow, P.G.M.O.; Lieut.-Col. F. Gadsden, P.G.M.O.; Rev. Dr. Brette, G.C.; Rev. P. M. Holden, G.C.; Rev. C. R. Davy, P.G.C.; Rev. D. J. Drakeford, P.G.C.; Rev. J. Horden Jukes, P.G.C.; W. T. G. Irwin, D.P.G.M. Somerset; Rev. C. W. S. Stanhope, D.P.G.M. Cheshire; W. Rowe, G.S.D.; R. C. Else, G.S.D.; W. O. Walker, P.G.S.D.; T. W. Swinbourne, P.G.J.D.; E. T. Inskip, P.G.J.D.; T. Trollope, P.G.D.C.; H. M. Baker, Grand Steward; A. Greatrex, P.G.S.; T. B. Whytehead, W.M. York Lodge; and R. Boggett, W.M. Humber Lodge;

Bro. Meggy, P.G.M.O., informed the Grand Master that a Mark Lodge of Improvement would be held every Wednesday evening, after the 1st January, at 2, Red Lion-square, until the end of April. It was held under the auspices of the Grosvenor Mark Lodge, and he commended it to the notice of the London brethren as an excellent medium by which they might attain perfection in the working of the Mark ceremony, in which brethren were now somewhat deficient.

Bro. James Stevens suggested that Grand Mark Lodge should establish and aid with funds a Lodge of Improvement of its own.

Bro. Binckes said this would be contrary to the usual custom, which was that a lodge of instruction should work under a regular lodge which was amenable to Grand Lodge. With regard to pecuniary support from Grand Lodge, as Bro. Stevens had stated that the lodge of instruction he proposed was for metropolitan brethren, what would provincial brethren say to such a step?

Bro. Levander said the Grosvenor Lodge required no such pecuniary assistance from Grand Lodge, for they were able to pay all their expenses.

Bro. Stevens, in explanation of his remarks, said, three brethren of the Grosvenor, last Wednesday evening, were desirous that the subject should be brought before Grand Lodge. As far as he could see there was nothing in the Constitutions dealing with this matter. It might be an omission; but that subject might be referred to the General Board. No doubt Grand Lodge would approve of a lodge of instruction under efficient management.

Bro. Meggy moved, "That it be referred to the General Board to take into consideration the question of lodges of instruction with regard to the Mark Degree, and the manner in which they should be held."

Bro. I. J. H. Wilkins seconded the motion.

Bro. Levander referred to the Book of Constitution, whose 52nd rule provided for the holding of a lodge of instruction on the day of the Half-yearly Communication of Grand Lodge. That was carried out for some time, but had now dropped.

The M.W.G.M. said his attention had been called to that rule, and it disposed of the point that all lodges of instruction should be held under private lodges. The lodge of improvement referred to in Rule 52 was held directly preceding Grand Lodge and under the authority of the Grand Master. The rule required more elasticity, and the proposal made by Bro. Meggy was a very good one.

Bro. Meggy's motion was then put and carried, and Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS
For the Week ending Friday, December 14, 1877.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8.

- Lodge 108, London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 173, Phoenix, F.M.H.
- " 176, Caveac, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 1361, United Service, Greyhound Hct., Richmond.
- " 1426, The Great City, Cannon-st. Hot.
- " 1671, Mizpah, Albion Tav. Aldersgate-st.
- Mark Lodge 211, Hammersmith, Windsor Castle Hot., King-st., West Hammersmith, (Consecration).

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, DECEMBER 10.

- Lodge 5, St. George's and Corner Stone, F.M.H.
- " 29, St. Alban's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 59, Royal Naval, F.M.H.
- " 90, St. John's, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 222, St. Andrews, Inns of Court Hot.
- " 957, Leigh, F.M.H.
- " 1571, Leopold, Woolpack Tav., Bermondsey-st.
- Chap. 1118, University, F.M.H.
- Rose Croix, Holy Sanctuary, 33, Golden-sq.

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.
- St. George's, Globe Tav., Greenwich.
- London Masonic Club, at 101, Queen Victoria-st. E.C., 2nd and 4th Monday every month, at 6 o'clock.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11.

- Lodge 96, Burlington, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 166, Union, Westminster Palace Hot.
- " 180, St. James's Union, F.M.H.
- " 198, Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 211, St. Michael, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 228, United Strength, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
- " 235, Nine Muses, Long's Hot., Bond-st., W.
- " 548, Wellington, White Swan Tav., Deptford.
- " 854, Ranelagh, Bell and Anchor Hot., Hmsth. G.
- " 933, Doric, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
- " 1538, St. Martin's-le-Grand, the London, Fleet-st.
- " 1604, Wanderers, F.M.H.
- " 1614, Covent Garden, Ashley's Hot. Covent Gdn.
- Chap. 185, Jerusalem, F.M.H.
- Rose Croix, Bayard, 33, Golden-sq.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

- Metropolitan, 269, Pentonville-rd.
- Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
- Domatic, Surrey M.H., Camberwell New-road.
- Faith, 2, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-st.
- Prince Fredk. Wm., Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
- Dalhousie, King Edward, Triangle, Hackney.
- Prosperity, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall-st.
- Florence Nightingale, F.M.H., William-st., Woolwich.
- Constitutional, Bedford Hot., Southampton Bds. at 7.
- 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 Edgecumbe, 19, Jermyn-st., St. James's.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12.

- Com. R.M.B.I. at 3.
- Lodge 3, Fidelity, F.M.H.
- " 11, Enoch, F.M.H.
- " 13, Union Waterloo, M.H., William-st., Woolwich.
- " 15, Kent, F.M.H.
- " 87, Vitruvian, White Hart, College-st., Lambeth.
- " 147, Justice, White Swan, High-st., Deptford.
- " 238, Pilgrim, 101, Queen Victoria-st.
- " 781, Merchant Navy, Silver Tav., Limehouse.
- " 1228, Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone.
- " 1260, Hervey, F.M.H.
- " 1305, St. Marylebone, Eyre Arms, St. John's Wood.
- " 1306, St. John of Wapping, Gun Hot., Wapping.
- " 1503, Francis Burdett, Albany Hot., Twickenham.
- Rose Croix, Grand Metropolitan, 33, Golden-sq.

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, at 8.
- Lewis, King's Arms Hot., Wood Green.
- Royal Jubilee, 81, Long Acre.
- Langthorne, Swan Hot., Stratford.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13.

- Com. Mugginger Testimonial Fund, 175, Aldersgate-st.
- Lodge 18, Old Dundee, Bridge House Hot.
- " 19, Royal Athelstan, Holborn Viaduct Hot.
- " 206, Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 263, Bank of England, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 534, Polish National, F.M.H.
- " 657, Canonbury, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
- " 860, Dalhousie, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
- " 879, Southwark, Park Tav., Southwark Park.
- " 1076, Capper, Marine Hot., Victoria Docks.
- " 1216, Macdonald, Hd-qtrs., 1st Surrey Rifles, S.E.
- " 1558, Duke of Connaught, Surrey, M.H.
- " 1593, Royal Naval College, Ship Hot., Greenwich.
- Chap. 72, Royal Jubilee, Horns Tav., Kennington.
- " 145, Prudent Brethren, F.M.H.

- Mark Lodge 86, Samson & Lion, M.H., Masons' Avenue.
- K.T. Encamp. 117, New Temple, the Inner Temple.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14.

- Lodge 134, Caledonian, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
- " 157, Bedford, F.M.H.
- " 177, Domatic, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
- " 1201, Eclectic, F.M.H.
- Encamp. 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., at 7.
- 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.
- 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 Myddelton, 25, King Edward-st., Liverpool-rd., N.

MASONIC MEETINGS IN WEST LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

- For the Week ending Saturday, December 15, 1877.
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 10.**
- Lodge 292, Sincerity, M.H., Liverpool.
 - " 314, Peace and Unity, Militia Rooms, Preston.
 - " 721, Independence, Eastgate-row, Chester.
 - " 1021, Hartington, Custom House Bds. Barrow.
 - " 1398, Baldwin, Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.
 - " 1496, Trafford, Northumberland Hot., Old Trafford
 - " 1350, Fermoer Hesketh, M.H., Liverpool.
 - Derby L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11.**
- Lodge 241, Merchants, M.H., Liverpool.
 - " 1250, Gilbert Greenall, M.R., Warrington.
 - " 1713, Wilbraham, Walton Institute, Walton.
 - Chap. 537, Zion, M.C., Birkenhead.
 - " 613, Bridson, M.H., Liverpool.
 - William de la More Encampment, A.H., Bootle.
 - Stanley L. of I., 214, Great Homer-st., Liverpool.
 - Prince Arthur L. of I., 80, N. Hill-st., Liverpool.

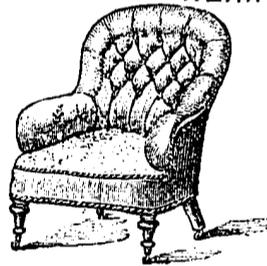
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12.**
- Lodge 281, Fortitud., The Athenæum, Lancaster.
 - " 1094, Temple, M.H., Liverpool.
 - " 1356, De Grey and Ripon, M.R., N. Hill-st., L'pool.
 - " 1547, Liverpool, M.H., Liverpool.
 - Chap. 673, St. John's, M.H., Liverpool.
 - " 1345, Victoria, Cross Keys, Eccles.
 - Neptune L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.

- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13.**
- Lodge 216, Harmonic, Adelphi Hot., Liverpool.
 - " 333, Royal Preston, Royal Hot., Preston.
 - " 477, Mersey, M.R., Birkenhead.
 - " 786, Croxteth, United Service, M.H., Liverpool.
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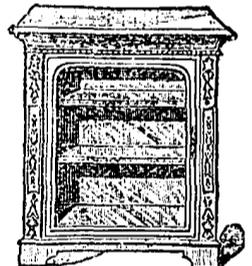


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