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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

JOPPA LODGE (No. 188).—The installation meeting of this old lodge was held on Monday at the Albion, Aldersgate-st., when Bro. Lewis Lazarus, W.M., presided. Bro. Cox was passed to the second degree, and G. J. Wyman was initiated, both degrees being admirably worked by the W.M. Bro. E. P. Albert, P.M., P.G.P., then presented to Bro. Lewis Lazarus, Bro. Joan T. Miller, the W.M. elect, and Bro. Lewis Lazarus impressively installed Bro. Miller in the W.M. chair. The Board of Installed Masters, which numbered 20 brethren, included the names of Bros. Hyde Pullen, Thos. Cubitt, John Boyd and Col. Shadwell Clarke. The officers appointed were Bros. Speigal, S.W.; Hyman, J.W.; E. P. Albert, Secretary; Bro. Campion, S.D.; Baker, J.D.; Isaacs, I.G.; Genese, D.C.; Benjamin, Steward; and Black, Steward. The sum of £5 was voted to the list of Bro. Speigal, S.W., who was deputed by the lodge to act as Steward at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The W.M. then rose and addressing Bro. Lewis Lazarus, I.P.M., said:—I have invested all the officers whom it has been my privilege to nominate. You, Worshipful Sir, claim your rank of P.M. as a right, and no words of mine can add to your dignity. But a very pleasing duty now devolves upon me, and in the name and on behalf of the Lodge of Joppa I present you with this P.M. jewel as a mark of the esteem and regard in which you are held by your brethren. May your valuable life be long spared to wear this jewel, which I have no doubt you will with honest pride, and may it be handed down in your family as a heir-loom from generation to generation. I could say a great deal more as to your excellent working, and the satisfactory manner in which you have discharged your important duties, but I shall reserve what I have to say on that subject to a later period of the evening, when I am sure the brethren will honour with heartiness the mention of your name. I thank you on my own behalf for your most excellent rendering of the ceremony of Installation, which I can assure you has left a deep impression upon my mind, with a lively sense of the great cost of time and labour the mastering of it must have entailed upon you. Bro. Lewis Lazarus, in returning thanks for the presentation, said he could not find words which would adequately express his feelings. He had received much kindness from the brethren, and it would be his constant aim to do all in his power to promote the interests of the lodge. Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, to the number of 168, adjourned to the banquet table, and under the presidency of the W.M., partook of a sumptuous repast, provided by Bro. Jennings. After banquet the usual toasts were proposed, and after that of "The Queen and the Craft," had been duly honoured, the W.M. proposed "The Grand Master." In the course of his observations on this toast he said the whole Craft felt justly proud that the heir to the throne of this mighty empire filled the important position of Grand Master of Freemasons. It was a matter for much congratulation that Masonry had made such great strides under His Royal Highness's rule, and he thought that the more the Order increased the better it would be, provided the brethren admitted worthy men; for if Freemasonry was, as the brethren believed it to be, founded upon the purest principles of piety and virtue, surely it should be encouraged to grow. Moreover, every brother who introduced a candidate conferred a great and lasting boon upon him. In giving the toast of "The Pro Grand Master, &c.," the W.M. said that those who were entitled to attend Grand Lodge (and there were a great many then present), must have witnessed the dignified, effective and courteous manner in which the duties were performed by the Earl of Carnarvon. He would for one moment refer to the proceedings at the last Grand Lodge when in a powerful speech which should be read by every Freemason, the Pro Grand Master referred to the recent action of the Grand Orient of France. The brethren never need fear losing any of their ancient landmarks whilst Masonry possessed such a champion in the Earl of Carnarvon. Ignore T.G.A.O.T.U. and they destroyed the whole fabric of Freemasonry. Bro. Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B., replied. Bro. L. Alexander, P.M., replying to the toast of "The Benevolent Fund of the Lodge of Joppa," said that he had that day attained his majority as an Installed Master. He also said that the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge now amounted to £1400, and it was invested in consols. The W.M. in proposing

"The Health of Bro. Lewis Lazarus," I.P.M., said he need not remind the brethren of the Lodge of Joppa how admirably Bro. Lazarus had worked the ceremonies during his year of office: but it was not only the members of the lodge but visitors had had that evening an opportunity of witnessing the grand ceremony of installation executed in a masterly and perfect manner by the I.P.M. It must be a source of much gratification to P.M. Lazarus that the brethren appreciated his merits, a fact which was abundantly clear by the presentation of the P.M.'s jewel with which his breast had been adorned that evening. Bro. Lewis Lazarus in reply said that having already addressed the brethren in open Lodge it would be simply superfluous for him to detain them now by making a long speech; and the greatest satisfaction he felt in the receipt of the jewel was in the inward conviction that he had discharged his duties of the chair in a way that was pleasing to the brethren. Bro. Lazarus then proposed "The Health of the W.M." and said that during the W.M.'s year the brethren would find they had placed the right man in the right place. The W.M. in acknowledging the toast said I thank Past Master Lazarus very much for the kind expressions he has made use of in proposing my health, and I also desire to tender the brethren my most hearty thanks for the cordial, and, I might say, enthusiastic manner in which they have received it. A great man in returning thanks recently for a toast drunk in his honour said that to disclaim all the kind things that had been pronounced in his favour would seem to invite contradiction and thereby reiteration. I would therefore say at once I am thankful for your good opinion: it has been my constant aim to secure it. You have conferred upon me this evening the highest honour it is in the power of a lodge to bestow on one of its members; and I wish to assure you of my profound gratitude for and appreciation of it. To tell you that I shall do my best to merit a continuance of your confidence is to say very little; that is only what you have a right to demand of me; and when I look round upon the long and distinguished list of my predecessors who have so worthily filled this chair, many of whom have made their mark in the Craft, I may well feel the deep responsibility of the trust you have reposed in me. I shall strive, in season and out of season, in the lodge and out of it, to the utmost of my ability, to promote the interest and maintain the dignity of the Lodge of Joppa. I call to mind with much pleasure and satisfaction this evening, six years ago, when I was initiated in this lodge; but the retrospect that causes me the greatest pleasure and thankfulness is the recollection of that genuine brotherly kindness and generous encouragement I have received from every member of the lodge during the intervening period, as step by step I have worked through the various offices, and to this mainly I owe my proud position to-night. Continuing to me that support you have so freely given in the past, so as to make my year of office eminently successful. Let us all be animated with one desire, the well being and prosperity of the lodge. The Lodge of Joppa stands high in the Craft; let us strive to raise it higher. Our lodge is only a unit of a vast community. Masonry is doing a grand work. Look at our three great and flourishing Institutions. What other body of men can boast of anything like them in the way of charity? Each year as the festivals come round witnesses a larger sum of money contributed by the Craft, and this enables the authorities to increase the accommodation, so as to extend the benefit of the charities. The W.M. next proposed "The P.M.'s," and said that from the newly-initiated brethren upwards there was a feeling of admiration for the veterans whose breasts were decorated with jewels; but the higher a brother advanced the more he appreciated the P.M.'s, because he felt the need of the experience and advice of the P.M.'s, which they were always willing to give. Bro. L. Alexander, P.M., replied. "The Visitors," and other toasts were then given, and the brethren separated after witnessing a most successful evening. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Grove Ellis, Bro. James Kift, presiding at the pianoforte. The music performed at the Lodge of Joppa is always of a high order, and on this occasion, when it was equal to the Joppa standard, was participated in by Miss M. Lynton, Mr. C. Rowcliffe, Madame Alice Barnett, Bros. Kift and Ellis. The following were present as visitors:—Bros. Hyde Pullen, P.G.S.B.; John Cubitt, P.G.P.; John Boyd, P.G.P. and G. Steward; C. F. Hogard, Col. Shadwell H. Clerk, P.G.D. 1383; J. P. Cohen, W.M. 205; I. Peertree, W.M. 185; W. H. Gulliford, W.M. 1017; A. D. Loewenstark, I. Lazarus, S.W. 1017; G. Manners, 1589; C. Barnett, 1707; C. Taylor, 1426; A. Tisley, 8; H. I. Lyons, 205; A. I. Mawkes, 315; Murgloski, 398; C. Davis, 222; Lechoritz, 1642; Williams, 933; Noble, 902; Dolling, 1673; A. Barnard, 749; Maynard, 205; I. Beveridge, 1319; Forge, 619; Morson, 1320; Jewell, 1559; C. Isaacs, 141; C. Horsey, 3; P. G. Jupé, 1287; Hatterf; W. Roroby, 917; B. Newton, 1201; J. Botobol, 1201; W. R. Phillips, 975; H. J. Lewis 907; H. E. Bonheim, W. Birdseye, 715; C. Coleman, 907; E. Lancaster, 1044; Hodgers, 902; Noble, 902; J. Colver, 1031; A. H. Brown, 174; Frankenberg, 73; Field, 65; Fletcher, 180; Rev. V. Rosonsten.

LION AND LAMB LODGE (No. 192).—A meeting of the above lodge was held on Thursday, the 3rd inst., at the Cannon-street Hotel, when there were present Bros. E. Jones, W.M.; Legge, S.W.; Fellows, J.W.; George Kenning, P.M., Treasurer; Rickwood, Secretary; Thomas Cohu, P.M.; George Abbott, P.M.; West, Henry Child, John Kent, Charles Cann, Thomas Fisher, S. T. Lucas, Wm. Cotter, W. Figgis, George Taylor, Alfred Lewis, E. J. Kellaway, T. T. Hampton, C. Gale Sparrow, R. J. Dart, W. H. L. Davies, and others. Visitors, Bro. Farthing and another. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed; the W.M. appointed Bro. W. T. Rickwood as Secretary, pro. tem., in conse-

quence of the indisposition of Bro. J. G. Marsh, P.M. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next meeting. The lodge was then closed. The brethren sat down to a very enjoyable banquet, served under the superintendence of Bro. Rand. The usual toasts were given by the W.M. Bro. Davies added much to the enjoyment of the brethren by his performance on the piano.

KENNINGTON LODGE (No. 1381).—This lodge held its last meeting at the Surrey Club House, Kennington Oval, on the 1st inst., when there were present Bros. H. Higgins, W.M.; Reeves, S.W.; Walls, P.G.O. Middlesex, J.W. (Freemason); G. Everett, P.M. 177, I.P.M.; E. Page, P.G.S., Treas.; Stuart, P.M. 141, Sec.; Kohler, S.D.; Speedy, J.D.; Webb, I.G.; Robinson, D.C.; Marsden, W.S.; Stokes, A.W.S.; Gardner, P.M.; Drysdale, P.M.; Longstaffe, Tyler. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. raised Bros. Pim and Barry, and passed Bro. Webster, the ceremonies being most carefully and correctly performed. The elections for W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler, were unanimously in favour of Bros. Reeves, S.W.; Page, P.M., Treas.; and Longstaffe, Tyler; Bros. Stranger, Fowler, and Higgins, jun., were elected Auditors, and a jewel voted to the out-going Master. The lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The cloth having been removed, the W.M. gave the preliminary toasts, which were duly drunk. In proposing "The Health of the W.M.," the I.P.M. called attention to the excellent manner in which the W.M. had discharged his duties during his year of office, and which official year was nearly at a close. He had had a very onerous term, and he had performed the responsibilities of his position most ably, and he would carry with him in his retirement the well-wishes of every member of Number 1381. In conclusion the speaker said that on that auspicious occasion, being the advent of 1878, he should without further preface wish him good health and a most happy and prosperous new year. The W.M. briefly, in reply, thanked the brethren for the very hearty manner in which, on all occasions he had been received by them. He had endeavoured to do his duty, and he believed he had given them every satisfaction in that particular, both in and out of lodge, and in conclusion, he said that he had passed a most pleasant year, and one that he should ever remember with satisfaction. "The Visitors" having been proposed, was responded to by Bros. Andrews, Hon. Sec. 55, in the absence of his colleague, Bro. Bingamann, P.M. 55, &c. In introducing "The Past Masters," the W.M. said that the lodge was to be congratulated upon having so many distinguished brethren amongst them. Some of them were large supporters of the different charities, and he felt sorry that so few were present that evening, but their health notwithstanding would be drank none the less hearty. Bro. Drysdale in reply, having thanked the W.M. and the brethren for the very cordial manner in which the toast had been proposed and responded to, said that he considered it the duty of every Past Master to attend the meetings of the lodge and to assist their younger brethren—and that without distinction—in the carrying out of their multifarious and onerous responsibilities. The W.M. then rose, and said he was about to propose, and that for the first and last time, a most important toast, namely "The W.M. elect." They all knew the good and genial qualities of Bro. Reeves, who was moreover their first initiate. He had been throughout his Masonic career most indefatigable in his attendance, which characteristic augured well for his successful occupancy of the Master's chair. In personally wishing him a most prosperous year of office, he only expressed that which was the unanimous hope of every member of his mother lodge. This toast having been received with excellent "fire," Bro. Reeves duly replied. In proposing "The Health of the Treasurer and Secretary" the W.M. took occasion to speak of the careful manner in which Bro. Page husbanded their funds, and also in other respects watched over their interests. In Bro. Stuart they also possessed an excellent Secretary, and one who at all times was ready to assist them with the benefit of his advice. The Secretary in response said he felt sorry that the Treasurer had been compelled to leave them at the conclusion of their Masonic labour, but he would take advantage of that circumstance to tell them that in Bro. Page they possessed one of the best Treasurers that he had ever been associated with. He then in conclusion expressed his own thanks for the compliment conferred upon him as Secretary. "The Officers" followed, and was acknowledged by Bros. Walls, Kohler, Webb, and Robinson. During the evening Bros. Everett, Walls, and others entertained the brethren, who separated at an early hour. The installation of Bro. Reeves will take place on the 5th proximo.

BATH.—Royal Cumberland Lodge (No. 41).—On Thursday, the 3rd inst., a regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, which was unusually well attended. Among those present were Bros. F. Wilkinson, W.M.; Ashley, Treas., as I.P.M.; Falkner, S.W.; Rubie, P.M., as J.W.; Capt. Peel, as Dir. of Cer.; Braham, Sec.; Gummer, S.D.; Hunt, J.D.; Robinson and Jacob Smith, Stewards; Bigwood, Tyler; E. White, P.M.; Dr. Hopkins, P.M. 43 and 958, P.P.G.S.W. for Warwickshire; F. Baldwin, W.M. 355. As visitors Bros. Sir John Floyd, 654; Gen. Doherty, P.M. 53 and 906, and P.P.G.S.W.; Williamson, W.M. 906; Hill, P.M. 906; Dill, P.M. 906; Reeves, P.M. 906, P.P.G.O.; J. Shaw, S.W. 326; P. G. Young, S.W. 906; Howes, J.W. 906; Hayward, S.D. 606; Davis, I.G. 906; W. H. Young, 906; Besford, Sec., 703; Ash, 703; Freeman, 906. There were also many members of 41. The lodge having been opened at 7.40 by the W.M., the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. At the request of the W.M., Bro. Dr. Hopkins reported the proceedings of the committee appointed to promote the interests of the family of the late Bro. Cooper, stating that the name of the youngest son had

been accepted as a candidate for admission into the Masonic Boys' School, that circulars had been issued to promote his election, and that a letter had been received from the Grand Secretary announcing that a grant of £40, subject to confirmation, had been made by the Committee of the Benevolent Fund, in addition to the £21 from the Prov. Grand Lodge. A letter was read from Bro. Brown, I.P.M., praying for indulgence on account of absence, owing to severe bereavement in his family. Much sympathy was expressed for this worthy brother, and the Secretary was directed to forward to him a letter of sincere condolence. Bros. White and Ashley spoke at some length as to the election of W.M. for next year, which had been discussed at a meeting of P.M.'s, and reported a recommendation that under peculiar circumstances, both Wardens having expressed a desire that their elevation to the chair should be postponed, the present W.M. should continue in office another year, to which he had given his assent. A ballot was then taken, which proved to be in accordance with this proposal. Bro. Ashley was in like manner re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Bigwood, Tyler. Mr. G. B. Mann, who had previously been admitted by ballot, was introduced, properly prepared, and initiated by the W.M. The charges were delivered by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, and the working tools were explained by the S.W. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and Bros. Gregory, Cartmell, and T. E. Wilton were raised by the W.M., who then dismissed them. In this lodge it is the custom for the secrets to be communicated after the return of the newly made Master Masons, and by request from the chair this was done by Bro. Dr. Hopkins, who also gave the traditional history of the degree and the charge. Bro. Falkner, as before, explaining the working tools. The lodge was then brought down to the First Degree, arrangements were made for the annual banquet, and no other business offering, except a vote of thanks to the visitors, which was carried by acclamation, the proceedings were brought to a close at 10.40.

PLYMOUTH—Brunswick Lodge (No. 159).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the Hayshe Temple, Plymouth. The W.M., Bro. J. H. Stephens presided, and the lodge being duly opened the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. John Andrews, was proceeded with. The ceremony of the installation was ably performed by Bros. Stephens, R. Lose, and George Stentifer, P.M.'s. After the ceremony the W.M. appointed his officers: Bros. Stephens, I.P.M.; F. Littleton, S.W.; J. B. Johns, J.W.; George Stentifer, Treasurer; H. Miller, Secretary, O. Knowles, S.D.; C. D. Stentifer, J.D.; T. W. Trevan, I.G.; H. Mortimer, D.C.; W. H. Carter, Org.; A. Rowe, S.S.; J. W. S. Trevan, J.S.; James Barlett, Tyler. The brethren subsequently adjourned to Bro. Walter's Farley Hotel, Union-street, where they sat down to an excellent banquet. The W.M., Bro. John Andrews, presided, and there were about sixty brethren present. The W.M. was supported by his officers. In the course of the evening a Past Master's jewel was presented on behalf of the lodge by Bro. George Stentifer to the I.P.M., who returned thanks in a graceful and feeling manner.

ST. JOHNS LODGE (No. 279).—On Wednesday, 2nd inst., the brethren of the St. John's Lodge of Freemasons, No. 279—the oldest lodge in the province of Rutland and Leicestershire, held their annual festival at the Masonic Hall, Leicester, for the installation of Bro. George W. Statham, the Worshipful Master elect for the ensuing year. There was a large attendance of the members of St. John's and other lodges in the town and district, as well as from a distance, there being no fewer than three representatives of Lancashire lodges—two from Manchester and one from Prescott, near Liverpool. Bro. Clement Edwin Stretton (son of his Worship the Mayor), P.P.G. Supt. of Works, the retiring W.M., opened the lodge, after which Bro. W. Kelly, R.W.P.P.G.M., took the chair, and proceeded to install the W.M. elect, in a very able and impressive manner. At the close of this ceremony, the W.M. appointed and invested the following officers of the lodge for the ensuing year:—Bro. Clement E. Stretton, I.P.M.; S. Cleaver, S.W.; J. Farndale, J.W.; the Rev. P. Smith, Chaplain; J. O. Law, Secretary; Joseph Jessop, S.D.; P. Colman, J.D.; I. P. Chamberlain, I.G.; E. Newton, D.C.; J. Roadknight and M. A. Cook, Stewards. Bro. C. Gurden was cordially thanked for his services as Treasurer during the year, and being unanimously re-elected, briefly acknowledged the compliment. His Worship, the Mayor of Leicester, Bro. Clement Stretton, P.P.G.S.W., was unanimously re-elected the P.M. to represent the lodge on the General Purposes Committee. The W.M. then proceeded to present a very handsome P.M.'s jewel to Bro. Clement Stretton, I.P.M., as an expression of the esteem in which he is held by the lodge and an acknowledgment of his very valuable and efficient services in the chair during the past year. The jewel bore the following inscription:—Presented to Bro. Clement Stretton, P.P.G., Superintendent of Works, by the St. John's Lodge, No. 279, as a mark of esteem, and in recognition of his valuable services as Worshipful Master, 1877.—Bro. Stretton, in briefly acknowledging the compliment said, "R.W.P. Provincial Grand Master, W.M. and Brethren, I have been frequently told by my predecessors that no moment in their Masonic career has been so appalling to them as when rising to return thanks for a P.M. jewel, but when I look round on the faces of those whom I am proud to believe are my friends, and see their expression of kindly sympathy, I feel my fears changed into some degree of confidence. When I was initiated, six years ago, I had very little hope of ever attaining any position in the lodge, and the Master's chair seemed as far removed as the "Star in the East." But the courtesy of the brethren, and the efficiency of my officers, have made the past year the most pleasant of my life. My health having debared me from an active life, Masonry has been an especial boon in every case, and my happiest hours during the last six years, have

been spent between "the four walls. I thank you very heartily for this handsome jewel which I am well aware will gain me admission into any society of Masonry that I may wish to enter. At the close of the lodge the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet, admirably served by M. A. Cook, the Bull's Head Hotel. The newly-installed W.M., Bro. G. W. Statham, presided, and the following were among the brethren present:—Bros. W. Kelly, P.P.G.M.; S. S. Partridge, P.G. Sec.; Clement Stretton (Mayor), P.P.G.S.W.; Clement Edwin Stretton, P.P.G., Supt. of Works; J. Male McAlister, P.P.G.S.D.; J. W. Smith, P.P.G.P.; S. Cleaver, P.P.G.A.D.C.; J. Farndale, P.G. Steward; C. Gurden, P.P.G.S.P.; J. Jessop, P.G.S.B.; the Rev. J. H. Smith, P.P.G. Chaplain; the Rev. F. H. Richardson, P.G. Chaplain; T. A. Wykes, W.M.; John Orlando Law; Edward Newton, jun.; Thomas Dann, Tyler; S. A. Marris, J. Roadknight, Alfred Palmer, P.M.; Frederick William Bottrill, James Joseph Bird, Matthew A. Cook, R. A. Barker, P.M.; Charles Stevens, William Langmore, H. H. Pezich. The following were amongst the visiting brethren:—E. Mason, I.P.M.; S. Knight, H. Peake, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works; J. Read, S.D.; Edwin W. P. Ister, R. Taylor, S.W.; Morley H. Lewin, I.P.M.; W. H. Chamberlain, W. Broom, T. Worthington, P.M.; J. Vaughan, W.M., Lancashire; J. Sandbach, P.M., Lancashire; S. G. Shepley, J.D.; F. Pracear, Joseph Clemmey, T. A. Wykes, W.M.; T. R. Pickering, J. M. Quinn, and Owen Jones. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and the whole proceedings were of a most enjoyable character.

MONMOUTH.—Loyal Monmouth Lodge (No. 457).—On Tuesday, January 1st, Bro. the Rev. D. G. Davies was installed as W.M. of this lodge, and the ceremony was most ably performed by Bro. Captain S. George Homfray, P.A.G.D.C. and D.P.G.M. Monmouthshire. The brethren afterwards adjourned to a banquet at the King's Head Hotel, Monmouth, presided over by the W.M.

OXFORD.—The Alfred Lodge (No. 340).—On the 19th ult. Bro. F. W. Ansell, at that moment W.M. elect, entertained an influential party of brethren at dinner in the banquet room, consisting of the Past Masters of the lodge, and of officers elect for the ensuing year. Bro. Alderman Randall, P.M., Prov. G. Treas., in speaking to the toast of his health on the occasion, complimented him on such a happy social gathering, which augured well towards the success of his year of office. The installation took place at the festival on St. John's Day, Bro. Houghton ably performing the interesting ceremony. After the installation of Bro. F. W. Ansell, P. Prov. G. Sup. of W., as W.M., he proceeded to invest his officers as follows:—Bros. John Pratt, P.P.G. Deacon, as P.M.; James Jenkin, P.P.G. Sword Bearer, S.W.; Rev. Henry Deane, P.P.G. Chaplain, J.W.; Henry Houghton, P.P.J.W., Treas.; W. R. Hobbs, P.P.G. Sword Bearer, S.C.; T. F. B. Evans, Assist. Sec.; F. Ryman Hall, P. Dir. of Cer., S.D.; J. Jess Hughes, J.D.; Robert Payne, Senior M. of Cer.; W. Ellis Knowles, Junior M. of Cer.; James Mace Dormor, I.G.; W. R. Bowden, P.G. Steward, Organist; Edward Horn and Samuel Harris, Stewards; William Stephens and George Norwood, Tylers. The brethren gave their annual ball in the Clarendon Assembly Room on Wednesday, the 9th inst., when more than 120 members and friends assembled, the Craft appearing, by permission of H.R.H. the Prov. G. Master, Prince Leopold, in full Masonic costume.

DORCHESTER.—The Lodge of Faith and Unanimity (No. 417).—This lodge held its first regular meeting for the ensuing year on the afternoon of Thursday, the 2nd inst. There was a good muster of the brethren to witness the ceremony of installing the W.M. elect, Bro. W. H. Dean, that ceremony being the most important matter on the agenda paper for the meeting. The ceremony was ably performed by the W.M., Bro. R. Case. W. Dean proceeded to appoint and invest the following brethren as his officers for the year:—Bros. R. Case, I.P.M.; W. E. Brymer, S.W.; T. Bevis, J.W.; Rev. H. P. Paikes, Chap.; T. M. Dron, Sec.; A. H. Lock, S.D.; E. Burnett, J.D.; G. Gregory, D.C. P.M.; R. D. Thornton, I.G.; W. P. Cockeram, P.M., and W. How, Stewards; J. Robinson, jun., Org.; Talbot, Tyler; Old, Assist. Tyler. The annual banquet took place after the closing of the lodge. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and ably responded to. The evening was spent very pleasantly, and with that harmony and good feeling so characteristic of Masonic meetings.

PENRYN.—Three Grand Principles Lodge (No. 967).—The brethren of this lodge assembled at their lodge room, at the King's Arms Hotel, on Tuesday the 1st inst., to initiate the W.M. elect (Bro. Thomas Rickard). The lodge was closed at 4 p.m., when the ceremony of installation took place, the beautiful ritual of the Order being impressively performed by I.P.M. G. W. Trener, P.P.G.S.B. The Worshipful Master invested his officers as follows:—G. W. Trener, P.P.G.S.B., I.P.M.; Thomas Gill, P.P.A.D.C., Treasurer; S. Sara, S.W.; Thomas B. Hart, J.W.; J. M. Thomas, P.M., P.G.O., Organist; G. Chapman, Secretary; R. Peters, S.D.; H. Dawe, J.D.; N. Gray, I.G.; W. J. Thomas, D.C.; F. Coode, Steward; R. Carter, Secretary, C.M.A.F. The following members of Lodge Love and Honour (Falmouth) were present:—H. Tidy, W.M.; P. L. Fox, S.W.; J. Walker, J.W. The business having been completed, and the lodge closed in due form, the brethren proceeded to the banquetting room, where a sumptuous dinner was provided, served in Bro. G. Chapman's best style. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and a most agreeable and harmonious evening was spent.

PLUMSTEAD.—Pattison Lodge (No. 913).—The regular meeting of the above lodge took place on Thursday, the 3rd inst. at Bro. Tucker's Assembly Rooms "The Lord Raglan," Burrage Road. Bro. H. Butter, the W.M., filled the chair, and was supported by the following

officers:—Bros. W. T. Vincent, I.P.M.; C. Coupland, P.M. and P.P.J.W. Kent. A Penfold, P.M.; J. McDougall, P.M.; T. Smith P.M.; T. Hayes, S.W.; W. B. Lloyd, J.W.; E. Denton, P.M. and Secretary. James Chapman, S.D.; R. J. Cook, J.D.; H. Mason, I.G. and R. Lester, Tyler. Among the guests were Bros. Wetherill, P.M. 166, I.C.; R. Hilton, 829; W. Weiss, 1076; C. Jolly, (Freemason) &c. &c. The lodge having opened in due form and with solemn prayer, the minutes and accounts were read, and passed. Mr. C. Warburton Russell was then, after ballot and approval, initiated into Masonry, and Bro. F. W. Upton, after most ably answering the usual questions, was raised to the degree of M.M. It was then unanimously agreed that the sum of ten guineas should be given to the Girls' School Charity Fund, and ultimately Bro. Coupland and Smith were jointly appointed to act as Stewards at the forthcoming festival of that institution. The lodge was then closed and after partaking of one of Bro. Tucker's recherché little suppers, the social board was spread and the brethren re-assembled for refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were, as is always the case in this lodge, most heartily responded to, and the name of Lord Holmesdale, P.C.M. Kent, was received most enthusiastically. The toast of "Bro. Eastes, D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present," was then given by the W.M., who in the course of his speech, said they had a fair sprinkling of the P.G. Officers Past and Present in their lodge, he instanced the names of Bros. Coupland, Tongue, Denton, and Smith, as having had the honour of office in the Province, and especially they ought to feel proud of Bro. Coupland, who had taken the highest position in the province, and who was both in his private, as well as in his Masonic life, an honour to Plumstead and the lodge. (Cheers.) To those who had the privilege of seeing him (Bro. Coupland) do the work in chapter, it was a pleasure ever to be remembered. Many a good Mason had come from London on purpose to see him do that work, and there was but one opinion among them, and they had left with, if possible, a higher opinion of the importance of Arch Masonry than they had before possessed. (Cheers.) He then proposed the toast with "a good fire." Bro. Coupland in response said it was a most unfortunate thing for him to have his name so often coupled with a toast of so much importance. (No, no.) Well, what he meant was that having so often to respond to that toast, he found it difficult to do other than keep on repeating the same thing over and over again. (Cheers.) He had the privilege of meeting their esteemed Grand Master, Lord Holmesdale, several times during the course of the year, and as well the Deputy Grand Master, and if the brethren around had the same privilege, they would come to the same conclusion that he had arrived at, and not only himself, but every officer in the province, namely, that in Lord Holmesdale and Bro. Eastes they had at their head two of the best and hardest working Masons it was possible to meet with. (Cheers.) No labour seemed too hard, and no responsibility seemed too heavy for them, while charity warmed their hearts with an undying flame. Long might they live to guide and govern the Masons of Kent. (Loud cheers.) The W.M. had been pleased to allude to him as a "good Mason," and while he felt it to be a high honour to be called so, yet he felt that he only did his duty, and if all the brethren were to do so, and sink individuality in the general good of the Craft, it would be better for the future of Freemasonry, and better for themselves. (Applause.) He then resumed his seat after thanking them most feelingly for the toast. Bro. Vincent then in eulogistic terms proposed the toast of "The W.M.," and in reply, Bro. Butters said that without their support he was as no one. He was more convinced than ever, that if there was not a bond of sympathy existing between himself and the rest of the lodge, he never could carry on the duties with credit to himself or satisfaction to them. (Applause.) He then referred to certain matters personal to the lodge, and said that through the subordinate officers of it, as well as in the present position, he had striven hard to render himself worthy of their choice, and he felt strongly the undoubted sympathy that existed between them, and which had so warmly, under recent circumstances, been tendered him. (Applause.) He meant to maintain the credit and dignity of the lodge while in that chair, and asked them to give him a continuance of that sympathy, which had under some little trial separated him hitherto. Unless the true principles of Freemasonry were kept by them all in view, how could its attributes—brotherly love, good feeling, and affection, keep among them? He asked them to let those principles ever be held as the safeguard of their Order, and then, while he should do as he trusted he had ever done, all that lay in his power for the prosperity of the lodge and the happiness and welfare of its members, they on their part would feel within themselves that they were assisting to carry out a good work, and would have their reward in the harmony and love that should, and always had prevailed in the working and comfort of the lodge. (Loud cheers.) The toast of "The Past Masters" was especially left in the hands of Bro. Penfold, who the W.M. eulogised for his constant and unwearied efforts for the benefit of the lodge, and, in reply, he said that when he had been relegated to the position of Past Master he thought he should have had an opportunity of stacking his pipe in peace, and resting on his laurels, but to-night he found he had been labouring under a wrong impression. He could assure them the object always held in view by the Past Masters was to at all times promote the interests of the lodge by every means in their power. He knew that if the whole of the Past Masters were out of it, Freemasonry would still flourish. They were but units in the grand structure of the Order, and while each lodge formed one of these units, so each brother formed a unit in his own lodge, and it was by his conduct that the cohesion so

necessary for its stability was kept up, or otherwise. By unity they became strong, but by division they must fall; he trusted to see them all united in one bond of brotherhood, and then the result would be for them a strong and flourishing position among the lodges of the province. (Loud cheers.) They had one of the best Masters it was possible to have. He was equal to any emergency, and should one arise, he might be sure of the support of every Past Master, and he felt as sure of every member of the lodge. (Applause.) The toast of "The Initiate" followed, and Bro. Russell modestly replied. "The Visitors" was eloquently responded to by Bro. Wetherill, who thanked the lodge most heartily for the cordial reception accorded to him, as a total stranger that night, but although he was a stranger to them, yet the name and character of the Pattison Lodge was no stranger to him. His mother lodge was at Constantinople, and he was its I.P.M.; in fact he had to leave Turkey so hastily that he could not wait to receive his Past Master's jewel, which was presented to him at the United Military Lodge, at their last meeting. He could tell them that at Constantinople they read their *Freemason*, and every week it was eagerly awaited, and when they met, it used to be a constant question, "Well! how are they getting on in Woolwich and Plumstead? what are they doing at the "Pattison," or the "Nelson," or the "Union Waterloo"? and when they read in the *Freemason* of the splendid progress they were making, it gladdened their hearts for Freemasonry and old England. (Loud cheers.) So they might see that the Pattison Lodge and its doings were no strangers to him. (Cheers.) He thanked them again for their splendid hospitality, and assured them of just such a hearty reception, should they ever visit the "Leinster," No. 166, I.C., at Constantinople. (Cheers and laughter.) The toast of "The Officers" followed, and after Bro. Hayes, S.W., had responded in a stirring address, and Bro. Pryce, who had that night received the collar of D.C. at the hands of the W.M., had said a few words, the Tyler's toast concluded the pleasures of the evening. Some excellent glees and part songs were rendered by Bro. Woodford, Edmonds, and Davies during the evening, added much to its perfect enjoyment.

SOUTHEND.—Priory Lodge (No. 1000).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Middleton Hotel, Southend, on Thursday, the 20th ult., when there were present, amongst others, Bros. Rev. S. R. Wigram, Past Grand Chaplain, W.M.; Dr. E. E. Phillips, P.M. 379, I.P.M.; W. Chaplin, S.W.; J. C. Johnstone, P.M. 20 (I.C.), as J.W.; Rev. H. Hayes, Chaplain; J. A. Wardell, P.M. 160 and 1000, P.P.G.D., Secretary; A. Lucking, P.M. 160, P.M. and M.E.Z. 1000, Prov. G.D.C., D.C.; G. F. Jones, S.D.; F. D. Grayson, J.D.; W. H. Norman, I.G.; J. R. Hermann, P.M., P.P.G.D.; W. S. Cox, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; Rev. H. J. Hatch, P.M. 160, P.P.G. Chaplain; H. Beecher, H. Briggs, E. Birkett, H. Hassell, R. Barrett, G. Berry. Visitors: Bros. Rev.—Heaton, 425; Dr. Fisher, J.W. 379; F. Calrony. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. in a very able manner raised Bros. O. Bentall and W. Griffin to the Third Degree, and initiated Mr. W. Popplewell into the mysteries of the Craft. The lodge then proceeded to the election of a W.M. for the ensuing year, when the S.W., Bro. W. Chaplin, was unanimously elected; Bro. F. Wood, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. A. B. Mountain re-elected Tyler. A P.M.'s jewel was unanimously voted to the retiring W.M., Bro. Rev. S. R. Wigram, P.G.C., for the admirable manner in which he had governed the lodge during his year of office. There being no other business of importance the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The usual toasts were given, and the brethren separated after spending an enjoyable evening.

COCKERMOUTH.—Skiddaw Lodge (No. 1002).—This lodge celebrated the festival of St. John on New Year's Day, in their new lodge room, Station-street, when the W.M. elect was installed. The following members were present:—Bros. I. Evening, S.W. W. F. Lamonby, P.M. and Sec., P. G. Reg., (*Freemason*); W. H. Lewthwaite, P.M. and Org., P.G. Org.; Rev. E. M. Rice, M.A., P.M. and Chaplain; T. Bird, S.D.; G. Brash, J.D.; C. Gibson, I.G.; W. McQuhae and H. Dent, Stewards; W. Shilton, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; James Black, W.M. elect; W. Martin, J.W. 1660; Captain F. R. Sewell, T. C. Robinson, J. Halloway, Richard Harrison, John Pearson, H. Peacock, R. Bailey, and John Towers. The visiting brethren were:—Bros. J. A. Salkeld, 962, Workington; J. W. Young, P.M. and Sec. 1400, P.G. Purst.; John Hartley, 1400; Thomas Wigham, 1400; Henry Irving, Sec. 962; Thomas Mandle, P.M. 371; W. Lamonby, W.M. elect 1073, P.P.G.T.; John Melmore, 371; T. Weatherston, 371; A. Taylor, P.M. 310, P.P.G.S.B.; James Quay, 1400 and 371; Joseph Pearson, P.M. 327, and J. Blackburn, 962. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. W. Taylor, Bro. Rev. E. M. Rice, M.A., opened the lodge, after which the minutes of previous ordinary and emergency meetings were read and confirmed. Bro. W. H. Lewthwaite, P.M. P.G. Org., then assumed the Presiding Officer's position as Installing Master, when Bro. James Black, W.M. elect, was presented. For eleven years consecutively the W.M.'s of Skiddaw Lodge have been installed by Bro. Crowther Morton, P.M. 872, 1002, 1267, W.M. 1660, P.P.G.S.W., but some months since Bro. Morton intimated his wish to retire from the duty in favour of a younger brother, and it was arranged that Bro. R. Robinson, P.M. and Treasurer, P.P.G.S.D., should perform the ceremony of installation. The sudden illness, however, of Bro. Robinson precluded the possibility of his being present, and Bro. Lewthwaite undertook the work at very short notice, and fulfilled it admirably. After the lodge had been opened in the Third Degree a Board of installed Masters was formed, and worked in full, and officered as follows:—Bro. Lewthwaite W.M.; Bro. W. Shilton, S.W.; Bro. W. F. Lamonby,

J.W.; Bro. A. Taylor, I.G. The board having been closed, the newly installed W.M., was saluted and proclaimed in the three degrees, this latter part of the ceremony, as also the presentation and explanation of the working tools, investment of officers, and addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren, being executed by Bro. W. F. Lamonby, P.M. The following is a list of the new officers:—Bros. Captain Sewell, S.W.; Tom Bird, J.W.; T. C. Robinson, Secretary; Lewthwaite, organist; C. Gibson, S.D.; W. McQuhae, J.D.; H. Peacock, I.G. The Treasurer, Chaplain, Stewards, and Tyler will be invested next lodge night. Before the lodge was closed Bro. Lewthwaite moved, Bro. Lamonby seconded, and a hearty vote of thanks was directed to be forwarded to Bro. T. McMechan, P.M. 327, Wigton, for his handsome present to the Skiddaw Lodge of a portrait of Bro. J. Lemon, P.M. and P.Z., 327, P.G. Treasurer. Bro. Lamonby also moved, the W.M. seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to vote the sum of £5 5s. towards completing an additional lodge vote for the Boys' School, the first half of which was granted, in accordance with custom, out of the church collection at the Provincial Grand Festival, held under the banner of the Skiddaw Lodge in September last. This being the whole of the business, and hearty good wishes having been tendered personally and by telegram from Lodges 327, 371, 962, 1073, 1267, 1400, 1532, and 1660, the lodge was closed in form. The brethren then adjourned to the Station Hotel, where a first-class banquet was provided by Bro. Peacock and Mrs. Peacock, the service of which, also, was unexceptionable. Bro. Black, the newly installed W.M., presided, and Bro. Captain Sewell, S.W., was vice-chairman. Grace before and after meat was said by Bro. Rev. E. M. Rice, M.A. The W.M. having proposed "The Queen, the Patroness of Masonry," followed by "The Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," Bro. Bolton gave "The Army, and Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," which he coupled with the name of Bro. Captain Sewell, who made a very suitable reply. Bro. Halloway next gave "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," which was responded to by Bro. Rev. E. M. Rice, M.A. in one of his happiest efforts. The Masonic part of the toast list was then proceeded with, and Bro. W. F. Lamonby proposed "The M.W. Grand Master of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales." In these troublous times, when Masonry was under the ban of excommunication of a Sovereign Pontiff, and when even in our midst a certain section of the Craft had thought fit to eliminate from its Constitutions the fundamental principles of belief in a Supreme Being, the Masonic brethren of England ought to rest doubly assured, when they had at their head the heir to the throne, with two of the Prince of Wales's brothers, also holding high office in the Grand Lodge. Under so happy a reign they might never fear they would drift into that vortex in which the French Grand Orient had plunged itself, whilst, also, they could always afford to treat with contempt the harmless anathemas of the Papacy. Bro. J. W. Young, P.M. 1400, next proposed "The Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master, Lord Skeimersdale, Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers." Bro. Rev. E. M. Rice, M.A., followed with "The Health of the Earl of Bective, M.P., R.W.P.G.M. of Cumberland and Westmoreland." Bro. Bailey gave "Colonel Whitwell, M.P., R.W. Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the rest of the Provincial Officers, Present and Past," coupled with the names of Bro. W. F. Lamonby, Lewthwaite, Young, and Taylor, all of whom acknowledged the compliment. Bro. W. F. Lamonby then proposed what he styled the toast of the evening, "The Newly-installed W.M. of Skiddaw Lodge," and, in doing so, congratulated Bro. Black in attaining the exalted position he had that day. He (Bro. Lamonby) had known Bro. Black ever since he came to Cockermonth, had closely watched his conduct, both as a public man and a Mason, and was perfectly satisfied he would perform his duties in the chair, and retire from office with the goodwill and applause of his brethren. He (Bro. Lamonby) was convinced Bro. Black's sympathies and endeavours were in the important work he had undertaken, and the best proof of this was the fact of their new W.M. having signified his intention to confer the degree of F.C. on the four brothers who were waiting to be passed, on next lodge night. Bro. Black, in reply, assured the brethren of Skiddaw Lodge that no effort should be wanting on his part to insure the efficiency of the work during his year of office. He had had some experience in having twice served as Secretary, and then as Warden, and, besides, he had that day appointed a staff of officers whom he had every confidence would give him their united and zealous support. He proposed "The Health of the Newly-installed Officers." Bro. Captain Sewell, S.W., as senior officer, first replied, and referred to a remark of Bro. Lamonby's when investing him that day, which was to the effect that, with one exception, he was the oldest Mason in Skiddaw Lodge, and that he was the son of a worthy brother, who, years ago, in conjunction with two or three others, by their indefatigability preserved from oblivion, and propped up, what was now one of the most flourishing lodges in the province of Cumberland and Westmoreland. (He alluded to his mother lodge, Perseverance, No. 371, and it had struck him that he ought not to relax any endeavour to merit the compliments which Bro. Black had conferred upon him by appointing him S.W. He should freely promise Bro. Black a regular attendance, and further hoped to see those desirable little notices at the foot of their circular, relating to lodges of instruction, very frequently. Bro. T. Bird, J.W.; T. C. Robinson, Sec.; C. Gibson, S.D.; W. McQuhae, J.D.; and H. Peacock, I.G., also returned thanks. Bro. Bailey gave "The Retiring Officers," which he associated with the names of Bros. Evening, S.W., and Lamonby, Sec., the latter of whom congratulated Bro. Black, on succeeding

to office with a balance of nearly £40 on the right side, although the lodge had incurred considerable expense in the removal of their furniture from the old to the new lodge room, and in the purchase of new fittings. A considerable amount of their proceeds during the year had arisen from arrears, and he threw out a hint to Bro. Robinson, the new Secretary, to keep a sharp eye on members in that respect. The W.M., in complimentary terms, proposed "The Installing Masters," both of whom were about the first acquaintances he made some ten years ago, when he settled down in Cockermonth. Bros. Lewthwaite and Lamonby having replied, Bro. Lewthwaite proposed that they drink the health of Bro. R. Robinson, who would have taken his place that day, but that sickness interfered. Bro. Robinson's health was drank most cordially, and with the warmest wishes for his speedy recovery. Bro. Lamonby gave "The Visiting Brethren," coupled with Bros. Mandles, Lodge 371; Pearson, 327; Salkeld, 962; W. Lamonby, 1073; and Martin, 1660, each of whom responded. Bro. Bolton, in complimentary and fitting terms, proposed "The Health of Bro. Dent," the architect of the new lodge premises, who made a suitable reply. Bro. W. F. Lamonby next gave "The Masonic Charities," and referred to the excellent system recently adopted by the brethren of Sun and Sector Lodge, No. 962, Workington, for the creation of votes in the three Institutions. That system consisted in as many members who liked subscribing the moderate sum of 2s. per month, and so soon as five guineas was raised a ballot was taken, and the member who drew the lucky number was entitled to a life-vote in whichever of the institutions he chose. Some members, also, were giving up their chances to their wives and eldest sons, which, all would know, was a decided numerical advantage. He hoped so admirable a scheme would be set on foot by the brethren of Skiddaw Lodge, and was sure Bro. Irving, the Secretary of No. 962, whose name he associated with the toast, would be most happy to give more detailed particulars of the way in which the concern was worked. Bro. Irving having replied, several members of Skiddaw Lodge expressed their intention to join the "lottery" instanter, one, we are happy to say, being an Entered Apprentice. The W.M. having given "To all poor and distressed Masons," the toast list was exhausted, and the happy party broke up by singing "Auld Lang Syne." Bro. Lewthwaite, P.G. Org. had charge of the musical arrangements, which included, "Oh, who would not a Mason be?" "Three cheers, Brothers all;" and "Brothers, all, of every Nation," harmonised as glees, from Bro. Dr. Philpots' collection; as also other part songs and glees, with songs by Bros. Brash, Weatherston, and Lamonby.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The General Committee of this Institution met on Saturday last, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. William Roebuck in the chair. Among the other brethren present were Bros. Hyde Pullen, Don. M. Dewar, Fred Adlard, S. Rosenthal, Henry Cox, W. F. C. Moutrie, R. B. Webster, A. Durrant, Jesse Turner, John Boyd, C. G. Rushworth, J. G. Chancellor, H. Massey (*Freemason*), C. F. Matier, Henry Norman, Charles Horsley, Geo. J. Palmer, Dr. Jabez Hogg, and F. Binckes, Secretary. Bro. Binckes informed the Committee that His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Senior Grand Warden, had graciously consented to take the chair at the next festival of this Institution, but the day, in June or July, and the place for the festival would have to be fixed by his Royal Highness. He (Bro. Binckes) had a letter from Sir Howard Elphinstone, in which he stated that the Duke of Connaught would have great pleasure in presiding at the festival.

The brethren then proceeded with the petitions of which there were 21 on the list. Of these two were deferred. An outfit of £5 was granted to an ex-pupil of the Institution.

The list of candidates for next election in April was then settled. There were 46 unsuccessful candidates at the October election. Of these, one was taken off on account of his age, leaving 45. Twelve had been placed on the list since October, and 19 had just been accepted, which would make 77. The two which had been deferred would make 79. There were, therefore, a certain 77, and a possible 79. There would be ten vacancies, but Bro. Binckes said the buildings were in a forward state, and he thought 20 more boys might be taken on, making 30 to be elected at the Quarterly Court in April.

The necessary declaration of the number of candidates and vacancies was then made.

The House Committee was thereafter authorised to expend £1500 on fencing, asphaltting, and draining the new playground, which is 250 feet by 200 feet, the old playground having been taken up for the new buildings which enlarge the school.

Bro. Roebuck said the new playground would be a magnificent one.

Bro. Charles Horsley, without desiring to make a motion on the subject, threw it out as a matter for the consideration of the brethren whether some rule should not be laid down, that the fathers of candidates for the school should have subscribed to its funds. By far the greater number had never subscribed anything.

Several brethren opposed any such suggestion, on the ground that to lay down such a rule would be to make the school a benefit society, which was not at all desirable.

Bro. Binckes said this was not at all a new idea. It had been mooted before, and was opposed on the same footing as now, and was immediately dismissed.

Bro. Horsley said he did not intend to make a motion on the point, but he mentioned it merely as a suggestion.

The Committee passed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and then separated.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The usual Twelfth Night entertainment to the pupils who remain in this school during the Christmas holidays was given on Monday evening. There were only thirty-nine girls who did not go home at Christmas, but though these made but a small party, their number was supplemented by several brethren and members of their families, who are generally to be found at this favourite Institution whenever the girls have an evening set apart for amusement. The Twelfth Night entertainment is always a pastime at this school, and though the old amusement of drawing for characters is no longer followed, the children find as much enjoyment in bonbons, and the fanciful dresses which they contain, as their predecessors did in those ill executed and not always complimentary figures and mottoes which were the accompaniment of the Twelfth-night party. Looked forward to with the most intense anxiety by the children, the entertainment never fails to be looked back upon with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction by both the children and the visitors, and the efforts of the former to make the evening pleasurable are equalled by those of the latter to lead the children to wish for a renewal of the visit. Every person who goes to the Girls' School looks upon its inmates as a happy united family, with the matron and governesses as standing in place of the parents, and they find in the healthy and cheerful appearance of the little girls the best evidence that the parental hand is most judiciously exercised. On Monday evening the visitors had another opportunity of seeing the condition in which the school and the pupils were, and it was universally acknowledged that there had been no diminution in the fostering care hitherto observed by the management of the School. The visitors arrived about four o'clock, and were received by the matron, (Miss Jarwood) the governesses, (Miss Redgrave, Miss Ruck, Miss Triggs), the matron's assistant, (Miss Shepherd), and the pupils.

Among the visitors were Col. and Mrs. Burdett and family, Bro. S. Marsh, R. B. Webster, Thos. Robinson, W.M. 309; H. Massey, Miss Massey, and Miss A. Massey, H. Fulcher, I.P.M. 569, and Mrs Fulcher, Griffiths Smith, and Mrs. Griffiths Smith, H. C. Levander, Mrs. McManus of Philadelphia, Miss Rowland, Charles Jacobin, H. A. Dubois, two Masters Dubois, and two Misses Dubois, N. B. White, Thos. W. White, Thomas Hingston, Mrs. Hingston, Miss Louisa Hingston, W. Winn, Herbert Dickets, John Faulkner, Edward Cox, Mrs. E. Cox, Louis Hirsch and Mrs. Hirsch, W. W. Morgan, jun., Mrs. Morgan, Dr. Jabez Hogg, F. R. W. Hedges, Rev. T. W. Morris, S. Rawson, Benj. Head, Miss Head, A. H. Diaper, Miss Muggidge, Alfred Sack, Mrs. Sack, and Jaekel Fébérey, P.M., 851.

The visitors shortly after their arrival partook of tea, and then proceeded with the amusements of the evening. By the liberality of the Shakespeare Lodge, No. 99, these were on a more extended scale than usual, and Mr. Albert Jones, the famous mimic and ventriloquist, who appeared in character costume, amused the company for two hours by representations of Mr. Solemn Sides, who makes a speech at a dinner, an Exeter Hall reverend of the most lugubrious type, and a ventriloquist. After this he gave an impersonation of Mr. Sothern as "Lord Dundreary," the Christy Minstrels, the Wandering Minstrel, and the Peepshowman. All of these were highly amusing, and the whole party were much pleased with Mr. Jones's representations. Then there was a good deal of dancing, and then the children's supper, which was graced by a splendid cake, sent by Bro. and Mrs. Hirsch, frosted, and impressed with the words, "Dear children, your friends, Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch, wish you all a happy new year." Alice Taylor proposed "The Health of Mr. and Mrs. Hirsch, with many thanks for the cake;" and the children cracked their bonbons, adorned themselves with the costumes which the bonbons contained, and afterwards spent the remainder of the evening in the most perfect enjoyment. Bro. Jaekel Fébérey amused them for a long time playing on the piano while they danced, and made them roar with laughter at his amusing songs, "The Untidy Family," and "I'm so sleepy." It was late when the visitors left, and the party broke up with feelings of regret that they could stay no longer.

The January meeting of the Rosicrucian Society was held at the Café Royal, on Thursday, the 10th inst., under the presidency of Frater the Rev. W. B. Church, supported by Fraters Sigismund Rosenthal, Dr. W. R. Woodman, George Cooper, J. C. Cox, George Kenning, and others. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed; two brethren were admitted to the M—C—; Frater T. B. Yeoman was elected Celebrant, the other officers were advanced one grade. The Fraters afterwards dined together.

I understood that the *Times* intended at the beginning of the year to give up its strange freaks in orthography and eccentricities in punctuation. This wholesome reform was inaugurated on the 1st of January by heading an important paragraph "The Prince and Princess of Wales." There is every reason, the more, to suppose we may look for considerable sport in this journal throughout the year.—*The World*.

The directors of the Bank of England have reduced their rate of discount from 4 per cent., at which it was fixed on the 29th November last, to 3 per cent.

The title of Mr. Tom Taylor's new comedy, in rehearsal at the Court Theatre, is "Victims." It will be produced on the withdrawal of the late Lord Lytton's "House of Darnley." Mr. John Clarke—who must not be confounded with Mr. J. S. Clarke, the popular American comedian—has been engaged by Mr. Hare to sustain a leading part in the piece.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The first meeting of the Board of Stewards for the festival of the 13th February, 1878, was held on Tuesday afternoon, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G.P., occupied the chair. There were also present Bros. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C.; E. Terry, C. J. Perceval, Col. Shadwell Clerke, W. H. Phythian, Edward Cox, G. Ward Verry, H. John Hatch, D. W. Holness, John T. C. Murchfield, Joseph Pawsen, Francis Ashlar, J. T. Briggs, W. Charter, J. G. Russell, C. W. Noehmer, Nardus Gluckstein, W. W. Morgan, H. Massey (*Freemason*), James Kew, Charles K. Killick, A. Leigh, W. Gamble, H. Vickery, and James Terry, Secretary.

Bro. Terry said that he had had the permission of His Royal Highness the Grand Master to invite some brother of position to take the chair on the occasion of the festival which H.R.H. fixed for the 13th February. Consequently he wrote to the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Prov. G.M. for Cornwall, to occupy that position. The noble Earl, however, was unable to do so, and he (Bro. Terry) consequently wrote to His Grace the Duke of Manchester, Prov. Grand Master of Norths and Hunts. The Duke of Manchester consented, and that had been ratified by His Royal Highness. After that, he (Bro. Terry) had now the pleasure to announce that he had written to every lodge, and had received in response the names of 189 Stewards—not so many as last year, but still a very good list, and with the exception of last year the largest number of Stewards the Institution had yet had at a festival. With such a prospect he thought a very successful festival would be had.

Bro. Edward Cox proposed, and Bro. G. Ward Verry seconded, Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G.P., as President of the Board of Stewards.

Carried unanimously.

Bro. Verry proposed, and Bro. Phythian, seconded Bro. Edward Cox as Treasurer.

Carried.

Bro. Verry proposed, and Bro. E. Cox seconded, Bro. Jas. Terry as Hon. Secretary, and this having been carried, Bro. James Terry, in thanking the brethren, said he hoped and trusted that his exertions, backed up as he knew they would be by such a board of Stewards as he now had, the next festival of the Institution would be eminently successful.

The details of the arrangements for the festival were then made.

The Rev. Bro. A. F. A. Woodford, P.G.C., moved that the Steward's fee should be two guineas.

Bro. G. Ward Verry having seconded the motion, it was carried.

It was arranged that complimentary tickets should be issued to the M.W.G.M., the Pro G.M., the Deputy G.M., the G.S., the Assistant G.S., the Hon. Surgeon to the Institution, the Secretary of the Girls' School, the Secretary of the Boys' School, the Secretary of this Institution, the Collector, the gentlemen in Grand Secretary's office, the *Times*, *Daily News*, *Freemason*, and several other papers.

The musical committee was appointed, and after the settlement of some other business the Board adjourned till the 24th inst., at four p.m.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of this Institution was held on Wednesday last at Freemasons' Hall. Col. Creaton, V.P., in the chair. There were also present Bros. Benjamin Head, S. Rawson, J. M. Case, Griffiths Smith, F. Adlard, C. A. Cottebrune, W. Hale, L. Stean, Thos. Cubitt, Joseph Smith, Edward Cox, H. G. Warren, George Bolton, James Brett, W. Stephens, Hyde Pullen, Capt. N. G. Phillips, A. H. Tattershall, John G. Stevens, G. Ward Verry, Thomas de L. Long, C. F. Hogard, C. J. Percival, John Bellerby, H. Massey (*Freemason*); and James Terry, Secretary.

After the reading the confirmation of the minutes, Bro. Terry reported the deaths of two annuitants, one at Ware, and the other at Wakefield. The Warden's report for December was read, and the Secretary then reported that the entertainment given on the previous Wednesday to the inmates of the asylum at Croydon was highly successful, and was greatly enjoyed by the old people.

The report of the Finance Committee shewed a balance to the credit of the Male Fund, to 31st Dec. 1877 of £225 8s. 6d.; to the credit of the Female Fund, £1035 10s. 4d.; and to the credit of the Sustentation Fund, £35 10s. 9d.; or a total balance of £1295 1s. 7d.

The Chairman was authorised to sign cheques, and the salary of the clerk, W. Recknell, in the Secretary's office, was raised £20 a year from the 1st of March. £10 was voted to the collection, Bro. Knill, as a gratuity on subscriptions for which he had made application, but which had been paid at the Secretary's office.

One case, which was deferred from last meeting for further information, was placed on the list for election, the enquiries which had been made having proved very satisfactory.

The petitions were then taken. A great many cases were placed on the list of both male and female candidates.

Notice of a motion for a small alteration of the laws was given by Bro. H. G. Warren.

Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G.P., moved, and Bro. John G. Stevens seconded, a pension of ten shillings a week to the late gardener of the Institution at Croydon. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Secretary produced to the committee the returns obtained from the Tylers, who are annuitants of this Institution, of their total income independent of their annuities. They were all found to be within the £40 prescribed by the laws.

Thursday, the 14th February, was, at the request of the Secretary, appointed as the next meeting of the Committee, the usual February meeting this year falling on the day appointed for the next festival. The Committee, however, will meet on the 13th, as prescribed by the rules, but only for the purpose of adjourning to the next day.

Before the Committee separated, Bro. Terry said that the receipts of this Institution for the year 1877, as the brethren had no doubt all seen announced in the newspapers, amounted to the sum of £16,480, a larger amount by a great deal than had ever before been received by any one of the Institutions in one year.

The Committee then separated.

Masonic and General Tidings.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—The Quarterly General Court of the governors and subscribers of this Institution, will be held at Freemasons' Hall on Monday next, at 12 o'clock.

The Duke of Connaught, after visiting Prince Leopold at Windsor Castle, left by the 10. 45 a.m. Great Western Train for London. Prince Leopold remains at Windsor Castle.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is about to pay a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton at Hamilton Palace. According to present arrangements his Royal Highness will arrive at Hamilton on Sunday, the 13th inst., and will leave on the Wednesday following. Owing to the early meeting of Parliament he will not stay so long as was originally intended. The visit is of a private nature, its object being to enable his Royal Highness to enjoy a few days' shooting in the extensive preserves of the Duke. The preserves include Cadzow Forest, the only part of the great Caledonian forest now remaining, and in which a herd of the old breed of wild cattle is kept. There will be a grand ball on the evening of Tuesday the 15th inst., for which about 400 invitations have been issued.

It is stated that the Prince of Wales and a large number of German Princes will be present at the marriage of Princesses Charlotte and Elizabeth of Prussia next month.

INDIAN FAMINE FUND.—The Freemason's of Devon have, through their P.G. Master, forwarded the sum of £300 to the fund.

The Installation meeting of the Hundred of Ellor Lodge (No 469) took place at the Masonic Rooms, Spalding, on Thursday last. Bro. G. F. Barrell being installed W.M. for the ensuing year. A full report will appear in our next.

The German army estimates for the year 1878-79 amount to 294,794,240 marks, the mark of the newly denomination being equal to the English shilling. This amount shows an increase of 1,820,000 marks.

A new comic drama by Mr. Byron is in preparation at the Globe Theatre. The leading characters will be sustained by Mr. Toole and Mr. Collate.

Two young men named Harris and Walker were on Tuesday week charged at the Mansion House with breaking a window in the shop of Bro. Kibble, a jeweller, in Gracechurch-street, and stealing four watches. One of them, on being apprehended, said he was hard up at the time, and committed the offence in order to be imprisoned. They were remanded.

Bro. Thos. Robinson, of Fareham, was installed W.M. of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 309, on Thursday week. This brother is, we think, one of the youngest Masters in England, having been initiated (as a Lewis), in the year 1874, at the age of 19. A full report of the meeting will appear in our next.

Bro. Gerard Henry's annual evening concert was given at Wimbledon on Monday last, under the patronage of Sir H. W. Peck, Bart., M.P., Sir Trevor Lawrence, Bart., M.P., Sir Joseph Bazalgette, and several other distinguished brethren. A numerous and fashionable audience was present, and the concert was a great success in every way. The artistes were Miss Marian Williams, R.A.M.; Miss Martha Harries, R.A.M.; Mr. Walter Wadmore, Bro. Gerard Henry, Mr. T. Gatehouse (Violin), Mr. W. D. Sumner and Bro. Stephen Jarvis (pianoforte), all of whom acquitted themselves to the entire satisfaction of the audience.

The sixth annual ball will take place in the Town Hall, Barrow, in aid of the Masonic Charities, on Thursday, the 24th of January, under most distinguished patronage.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.—The Quarterly General Court of the governors and subscribers of this Institution, will be held at Freemasons' Hall, this day (Saturday) at 12 o'clock.

In the letter of Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, last week the boy's name should be Twitchett, not Mitchell.

The Installation meeting of the Eclectic Lodge (No. 1201) took place on Friday evening, a report of the proceedings at which will appear in our next. Bro. E. J. Harty of Historical Engraving Notoriety was the out-going W.M., and Bro. A. E. Taylor the new W.M. A report of the meeting will appear in our next.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Multitudes suffering under a complication of disorders might obtain relief through these healing and purifying remedies, which should be employed without a day's delay. When the weather is variable and colds and influenzas are prevalent, this Ointment, well rubbed upon the throat and chest, gives the greatest ease, and checks all tendency to inflammation in the lungs and other organs. The Pills assist the curative action of the Ointment, inasmuch as they purify the blood and so quicken the circulation that congestion is rendered almost impossible. Holloway's treatment deals most successfully too, with that very troublesome and often tedious ailment, indigestion, which is the bane of thousands from overwork and fast living in the present day.—*Adv.*

Multum in Parvo; or Masonic Notes and Queries.

CRAFT CERTIFICATE OF NO. 281, BARNSTAPLE, OF 1766.

Your correspondent "Dryasdust" has done well to transcribe the text of the old certificate of No. 281, Barnstaple, of 6th January, 1766, as it is most desirable to have such documents made public for the benefit of the Masonic students, now happily increasing in numbers and influence. The lodge in question was warranted in 1762 and was then No. 281, the number being altered in 1770 to 228, soon after which it became extinct. In 1873, the "Loyal Lodge" was constituted in the same town, as No. 453; in 1792 it became No. 365; in 1814, (after the "union") 469; in 1832 it was altered to 312, and last of all changed to 251 in 1863. It was usual in those early days for the lodges to issue their own certificates, and, indeed, was even so done early this century.

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

R.W. BRO. HARRIOTT, 1729, LIST OF LODGES.

I will answer our esteemed brother's note shortly, having a copy of the original of 1729, (not 1719), and will transcribe it for the *Freemason*.

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

LODGE CERTIFICATES.

In your last number you gave us a copy of a private lodge certificate (Fleece Lodge, in Barnstaple), dated January 6th, 1766. Hereunder I send you a copy of a similar one, issued by Lodge Hannibal, held at the Masonic Hall, St. George's, Bermuda, dated 5th November last, which is as follows:—

"To all whom it may concern,

"Lodge Hannibal, No. 224, A.F. and A.M.

"Holden under the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

"We hereby certify that Bro. Walter Askew is a regular, registered Master Mason, in the Lodge Hannibal, 224 holden under the Grand Lodge of Ireland: that he has, during his stay with us, behaved himself as an honest and worthy brother, and as such we recommend him to all the fraternity around the globe.

"In testimony thereof we have hereunto set our hands, and affixed the seal of the lodge, at our lodge rooms, Masonic Hall, St. George's, Bermuda, this 5th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy seven.

"Admitted 10th January, 1877,

"Declared off on the 5th November, 1877.

"William Wilkinson, P.M., W.M., P. Tem.

S. J. Cheshire, S.W.

Dan. Taylor, J.W.

Wm. Wilkinson, Sec."

T. SHAPLAND, P.M.

THE PLEIADES.

Can one give me the correct title of Bro. Halliburton's book "The Relation of the Pleiades to the Primitive Traditions, or the Origin of Races." He read a paper at 33, Golden-square, some time back on the same subject.

SIGMA.

The utilisation of subterranean heat for warming houses is suggested by an American engineer in Nevada, who is perfecting a plan for heating the town of Virginia by means of the warmth generated in the subterranean regions of the mines. He believes there is sufficient heat in the lower levels of the mines to warm every house in the city, and recommends a system of pipes through which the heat will be drawn out of the mines, and distributed about the town.

The consumption of horseflesh in Paris, which commenced in 1860 in the face of great prejudices, but which steadily advanced and derived a great stimulus from the siege, has this year averaged 1000 animals per month.

THE NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE EDINBURGH.—A commencement has been made with the clearing of the site to be occupied by the new Medical College, Edinburgh. The houses occupying this site were built about a century ago, and that portion of them constituting Park-place consisted of what were then first-class city residences. One of these, of very graceful design, is considered to be the work of one of the brothers Adam. It was the town residence of the Campbells of Succoth, and was at one time occupied by Sir Islay Campbell, Lord President of the Court of Session. This house, Mr. Anderson, the architect of the college buildings, proposes to re-erect and incorporate with the general design in such a manner as not to interfere with the aesthetic effect of the Anatomy Court, of which it will form a feature. Another of these houses belonged to the Taits of Harviston, and in it the present Archbishop of Canterbury was born, his mother having been a daughter of the Lord President Campbell above referred to. The interiors of these houses contain admirable specimens of mantelpieces, doors, &c., similar in style to those so much affected by the modern Queen Anne school. These Mr. Anderson proposes to utilise as far as practicable in the new class rooms. To carry out the portions of Mr. Anderson's design absolutely required will entail a cost of about £188,000. Towards this sum the public have contributed about £90,000, and the Government have promised to contribute £80,000 conditionally upon the public subscribing the balance.—*Builder*.

A statue to Thomas Campbell has been erected at Glasgow, the poet's birthplace, and forms a companion to the figure of Burns, at the side of the Scott Memorial in George Square. The bronze statue is 9 feet high, and represents Campbell in the costume of the Prince Regent's period, holding a pencil and scroll.

NOTES ON ART, &c.

A "Folk-lore Society" has just been formed for the purpose of preserving the fast-fading relics of our popular fictions and traditions, legendary ballads, local proverbial sayings, superstitions, and old customs. According to the prospectus the new society "will gather together the folk-lore articles scattered throughout English literature, and such communications on the same subject as may be forwarded direct to the society, and select therefrom articles of special interest for publication by the society; and, as opportunities offer, it will print such accounts of the folk-lore of the colonies and also of other countries as may serve to illustrate and explain that of our own. As the society increases and its means further develop, it is intended to extend the field of its labours so as to include the collection and publication of the folk-lore of aboriginal peoples." Among the members of the Council are Mr. F. Ouyry (President of the Society of Antiquaries), Professor Max Müller, Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, M.A., and Mr. Edward Selly, F.R.S. Mr. Thoms has consented to act as director of the society, and Mr. G. L. Gomme, of 26, Merthyr-terrace, Castlenau, Barnes, has undertaken the duties of honorary secretary.

About 50 telephones are now in practical use in Cincinnati as a means of communication between business establishments. The longest connecting wire is from a distillery in Cumminsville into the city proper, about five miles. The telephone has, however, been tested on the police telegraph in that city, equivalent to nearly a hundred miles of wire, and is said to have given satisfactory results. *Philadelphia Ledger*.

THE GULF OF MEXICO.—Professor A. Agassiz, with an assistant, is to be accommodated on board the United States Coast Survey steamer Blake, which has just sailed on a surveying cruise that will occupy this winter. By a study of the animals dredged from the bottom of the gulf, Professor Agassiz will be enabled to make important comparisons with the fauna of the Atlantic, and especially as to growth, habits, migrations, and changes of living forms found in the waters near the British Islands and the Scandinavian Peninsula. The expedition is under the command of Lieutenant-Commander Charles D. Sigbee, United States Navy, who has had several years' experience on coast survey duty, and has been notably successful in deep-sea soundings.—*Nature*.

PURE WATER.—In the last session of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für öffentliche Gesundheitspflege, Dr. Falk described a new method of testing the purity of drinking water by electrical experiment. From researches carried out in the laboratory of the School of Artillery in Berlin, it appears that the conductive properties of water for the electric current vary rapidly according to its degree of purity, the resistance decreasing with the purity of the water. It is possible, in this manner, to detect with great ease the presence of small quantities of organic matter in water.—*Nature*.

The Mercers' Company have given notice that the lectures founded by Sir Thomas Gresham will be read gratuitously to the public on the following evenings at 6 o'clock in the theatre of Gresham College, Basinghall-street—viz., Rhetoric (Mr. T. F. Dallin), January 15, 16, 17, and 18; Law (Dr. A. D. Abdy), January 22, 23, 24, and 25; Physic (Dr. S. S. Thompson), January 29, 30, and 31, and February 1; Divinity (the Dean of Chichester), February 5, 6, 7, and 8; Astronomy (the Rev. E. Ledger), February 12, 13, 14, and 15; Geometry (the Dean of Manchester), February 19, 20, 21, and 22; and Music (Dr. Henry Wylde), February 26, 27, and 28, and March 1.

The Farnesina Palace in the Transtevere, Rome, well-known for its magnificent frescoes by Raphael, has been closed to the public by its owner, the Duke de Ripalta, a Spaniard, on the pretext that the Government works for the improvement of the Tiber trespassed on his grounds and endangered the safety of the building. Bills to this effect were posted on the walls, but the police tore them down and declared that they were illegal, having been placed there without the visa of the authorities. Built more than three centuries and a half ago, the Farnesina is a fine monument of the Italian Renaissance, and contains not only the mythological paintings of Raphael—notably the story of Cupid and Psyche—but works by Peruzzi, Sebastian del Piombo, and a colossal head attributed to Michael Angelo.

MUSICAL NOTATION.—A correspondent from Breslau writes to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* that the musical director, Herr H. J. Vincent, the latest advocate of the new key-board, delivered a few days ago a lecture on this subject in the music-hall of the University of Breslau. The new key-board has already given rise to much discussion in Germany. Herr Vincent asserted that the introduction of a new notation was a "postulate" necessarily associated with it as its written image. Both are consequences of that new view of the essentially chromatic character of the sound-world, which is (he said) forcing its way into universal acceptance. Both of them are the expression of this view in its double relation; for the chromatic key-board is nothing else but an embodied notation, while the notation may be described as an abstract written key-board; they reciprocally correspond to each other. The lecturer declared that the only road to a really simple theory of music was to accept the chromatic system as the origin and foundation of the diatonic. The scale of seven notes must be viewed and treated as a corollary deduced from the scale of 12; therefore the chromatic is the parent of the diatonic system. But this theory leads us directly to the adoption of the new chromatic key-board, and a system of notation adapted to it without keys or clefs. Herr Vincent purposes visiting most of the principal towns in Germany to lecture on his special subject.

Sixteen farms have been entered in competition for the prizes, to the value of £240, offered for best managed farms by the Bristol Local Committee for promoting this year's Show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. The competition is limited to tenant farmers in Gloucestershire, the Eastern Division of Somersetshire, and the Northern Division of Wiltshire. Of the number entered 13 are dairy or stock farms, only three coming in the classes for arable farms.

Captain Nelson, of the American ship Sacramento, recently arrived at Melbourne, reports that on July 9, in lat. 31 59 N., and long. 37 W., he saw a sea serpent. Some 50ft. of the monster was observable. It appeared to be about the size of a flour barrel in girth and of a yellowish colour.

The actual demolition of Temple Bar was begun on Wednesday week. All the stones have been carefully numbered and lettered with a view to its re-erection at some future time.

The Channel Tunnel Works at Sangatte have made special progress of late, according to *Engineering*. A shaft has been sunk 335 feet below the sea, and, starting from this shaft, it is proposed to pierce an experimental tunnel about five-eighths of a mile in length. If this trial should succeed the actual tunnel would be begun at once.

Mr. Charles Matthews has written to the papers contradicting a rumour that he has an intention of retiring from the stage. He is not, he observes, "of a retiring disposition," and is, besides, too fond of his profession to relinquish it voluntarily.

POST OFFICE ORPHAN HOME.—This institution celebrated its annual Christmas Festival on Thursday, 3rd inst., at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association in Aldersgate-street, the chair being occupied by Mr. R. W. Johnston, acting Postmaster of the Eastern Central District, and the arrangements generally being superintended by Mr. W. Powley, the honorary director and treasurer of the home. It appeared from a brief address delivered by the chairman that, although the home had been in existence for something under eight years, there are as many as 70 children on the books, and that ten additional boys and girls will be brought within its protection within a few days, making a total of 80 orphans, who will be clothed, fed, and educated at the expense of the institution. The home has for its patrons the Postmaster-General and several of the chief officers of the Post Office, as well as many of the bankers and merchants of the City of London; and its chief boast is that it has no building, no debt, and only one salaried official. In fact, it is a good instance of the success of the much-abused boarding-out system.

THE GUILDHALL LIBRARY.—It will be recalled that as an experiment and in deference to the wishes of many large firms in the city, the Corporation of London determined that their library in the Guildhall should be opened to the public for 12 months on every evening during the week, except Saturday, until 9 o'clock. Mr. Overall, F.S.A., the librarian, reports that the total number of readers availing themselves of the additional privileges granted by the Corporation had been 49,434—namely, those staying at 5 o'clock, 14,738, and those afterwards arriving, 34,696. The average attendance each evening had been 201 readers, and, taking the months separately, it appeared that the maximum occurred in an evening in February (259), and the minimum in June (170). Thus, as might be expected, the public make more use of the library in the winter months than in the summer. The class of readers using the library and reading-room in the evening would appear to be, for the most part, young men engaged in mercantile pursuits during the day. The literature consulted might be thus classed—1, history, topography, heraldry, and biography; 2, philosophy, science, and the fine arts; 3, poetry, drama, and fiction; 4, voyages, travels, and geography; and 5, classical and English literature and belles-lettres. There was not a single instance of any one injuring the books intrusted to them. The works of the most popular historians had been duplicated, and a purchase had been made, under the bequest of the late Sir David Solomons, of a liberal selection of works upon science and the fine arts. The staff arrangements made by the library committee had worked very satisfactorily. The actual cost of the evening opening had been £1277 for the year. In 1874 the total number of readers and visitors was 173,559; in 1875, 192,716; in 1876, 220,257; and in the first six months of last year, 121,619; the daily average attendance for these years being respectively 603, 724, 767; and for the six months in last year, 816. In conclusion the librarian states that, judging from the rapid increase in the number of readers and the usefulness of the library in all its branches since it has been opened by the Corporation as a free library, and including the evening opening during the past year, he was certainly of opinion that, as the facilities afforded and the great value of the collection in the library became more generally known, the results in the future would be even more favourable. The library committee, having carefully considered the librarian's report on the details of the working of the library, and having regard to the very satisfactory evidence as to the extent to which the public had been benefited by the evening opening, recommended the Court to authorise its continuance, and permanently sanction the arrangements which during the experimental period had been found to provide so effectively for the care, maintenance, and supervision of the library. This recommendation has been adopted.

Sir John Astley, Bart., M.P., in consideration of the three very bad seasons which have done so much damage to agriculturists, has returned 10 per cent. to his Lincolnshire tenants whose rentals are over £200 per annum, and 15 per cent. on those under that amount.

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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.

BOOKS &c., RECEIVED.

"The Delusion of the Day;" "Man's Best Food;" "The Masonic Eclectic;" "The Scottish Freemason;" "Bulletin du Grand Orient;" "The Freemason's Repository;" "Keystone;" "Science for all;" "Wallace's Wonderful Water;" "Proctor's Planet Earth;" "Mr. Lockyer's Logic;" "Journal of Travels;" "Young Folks;" "Canadian Craftsman;" "Voice of Masonry;" "The Fight between Aleck and Humid;" "Israel's Jubilee 1882."

ERRATUM.—For "300,000 Masons" read "1,300,000 in the world," in the *Freemason*, December 29.

PANACHE.—In our next.

CONSTANT READER.—Unfortunately too late; in our next.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

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

BIRTHS.

BARBER.—On the 6th inst., at Westbourne-terrace, Hyde Park, the wife of J. Barber, Esq., of a son.

FARR.—On the 31st ult., the wife of Dr. A. Farr, of a daughter.

PACKE.—On the 6th inst., at Charles-street, Berkeley-square, the Lady Alice Packe, of a son.

WALKER.—On the 5th inst., at St. Ann's-villas, Notting-hill, the wife of W. G. Walker, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ROFFE—POWELL.—On the 22nd ult., at Garsington, near Oxford, C. Marceloff Roffe, to Emily, daughter of the late W. Llewellyn Powell, of Instow, North Devon.

TORRENS—HARRISON.—On the 5th inst., at St. Peter's, Eaton-square, by the Rev. Thomas Millington, vicar of Woodhouse-Eave, William M. Cullagh Torrens, M.P., to Emily, third daughter of the late William Harrison, of Eastland House, Leamington.

DEATHS.

ALDHAM.—On the 5th inst., at Braddock Rectory, Cornwall, Jane Seymour, wife of the Rev. V. H. Aldham.

DOYLE.—On the 5th inst., at 14, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, aged 50, W. Doyle, P.P.G.J.D. W.L., P.M. and Treasurer, 667.

HARRIS.—On the 4th inst., at Villa D'Esté, Ryde, I.W., George Douglas Harris, late Capt. 19th Regt.

WRIGHT.—On the 2nd inst., at Duke-street, Southport, H. Wright, J.P., aged 64 years.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1878

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual Festival of this admirable Institution of our Order will take place on the 13th February, 1878, under the distinguished presidency of the Duke of Manchester, R.W., Prov. G. Master of Huntingdonshire. A very numerous Board of Stewards has already been formed, among whom may be named Bro. the Marquis of Hartington and the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, together with many Present and Past Grand and Provincial Grand Officers. Up to the present time the Stewards number 195; which large list may well be increased before the second meeting of the Stewards on the 24th of January. This we trust will prove to be the case, and we need hardly add that if Bro. Terry can open our Charitable Festivals for 1878 with 200 Stewards, it will be indeed a good augury for the cause of Masonic Charity in this new year of light and grace. At the first meeting of the Stewards on the 3rd inst., Bro. Joseph Smith, P.G. Purst., well known to most of us, for many good genial qualities, was elected Chairman. Bro. Edward Cox, an old and worthy member of our Order, was chosen as Treasurer, and to our zealous and untiring Bro. Terry, was delegated the important office of Secretary to the Board of Stewards, not only "virtute officii," but as a special mark of fraternal regard and confidence. The Stewards very wisely fixed the amount of deposit for Stewards at the reasonable figure of two guineas, and we are inclined to think that this fact may induce many other worthy brethren to volunteer to act as Stewards to this most deserving charity of our Order. For let us remember what the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution really does do. It is now giving annuities to 145 aged and decayed brethren, of £40, equivalent to £5800 annually, and annuities of £32 to 130 widows, amounting to £4160. Thus it is pledged to an annual expenditure of £9960. In addition to this the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution gives to 13 widows (this is a unique arrangement of our excellent Masonic Charity) one half the amount of their late husband's annuity. Thus on the whole, the payment to the annuitants will absorb somewhat over £10,200, and we may well bear in mind that during the last five years we have added 99 annuitants and £4600 annually in allowances. These are facts to be recorded and realized. We may observe that of these annuitants fourteen brethren and fifteen widows live at Croydon, where they have comfortable rooms and coals provided for them. We make bold to say that there is not one Charity of our Order which is in itself more useful and valuable, or more deserving the kindly support of the entire Craft. It does as much good, humanly speaking, as can be done by any other similar charity, and does it simply, straight-forwardly, and unostentatiously. It has been sometimes said that the Institution is a rich institution, but that is a complete mistake. It has no doubt a considerable amount of funded property, but the interest of that, which amounts, in both the funds to about £1440 annually, in round numbers, as will be seen, bears but a small proportion to the sum necessary to carry on the Institution, namely £10,200 annually at the very least. It has been remarked that the balances of the Institution are large, and so they are, and well it is that they should be so, as the Committee and Bro. Terry very properly always bear in mind that seasons of prosperity may be followed by the chilling hours of adversity, and that it is always wise to keep on the "credit" side if possible of your Banker's account. The "debit" page is a bad one for societies and individuals. We feel it to be our duty strongly to commend the claims of this excellent Institution to the notice and sympathy of our many readers. We shall hope on the 13th of February, to hear Bro. Terry announce a noble total, and shall be glad to think that thus our old English

Craft remains true to its high mission, the inculcation of Masonic brotherhood, the practice of kindly and discriminating true hearted charity. May our anticipations be realized, and the anniversary of 1878 demonstrate that English Freemasonry is "moving on."

A NOTE OF WARNING.

Those who know most of what is going on in Freemasonry are the fullest of some little anxiety for the future. We have at this moment before us the spectacle of a weekly increasing Order, and of an enormous list of candidates for Freemasonry. A large number of lodges have their agenda papers covered positively with the names of the applicants, whether as initiates or joining members. And though it is very pleasant to us old Masons to witness the appreciation of an Order, to which some of us have devoted the best hours of our lives, we still feel, and feel strongly, that there is another side to the picture, not so cheerful, and certainly not so welcome. It is the old saying, "After the dinner comes the reckoning," and after we have thus added to our numbers, rapidly and indiscriminately, what then? We now wish to point out to our readers two ways in which this untimely haste of admission is likely to injure the prestige and prosperity of the Craft. We shall suffer greatly from a lowering of our standard of admission. It is an undoubted fact that in order to swell lodge funds many candidates are admitted who have no claim to be admitted at all. Too many brethren forget both the responsibility of a Freemason and the need there is that they should have some knowledge of the candidate. Many candidates get in in a sort of haphazard way like this. Bro. Jones says to Bro. Jiggins, "I am going to propose Beckington, will you second him?" "I don't know him," says Jiggins, "but if you propose him I will." "Capital good fellow is Powter," says Napper—"let's have him in our lodge, Johnson." "I don't know him," says Johnson, "but if you do that's quite enough." Accordingly, Beckington and Powter are proposed, seconded, and admitted. We have known of a case where candidates were admitted on the fiat of one brother, though unknown to the other brethren, and at this moment no possible enquiry can be made as to those who are trooping in, and on whom will depend the future of Freemasonry. Of the above there is no possible doubt; though its remedy may not be so easy to find, and then, secondly, let us remember, the evil accruing to us as an Order, in respect of overwhelming demands on our Charities. Ask Bro. Terry, or Bro. Binckes, or Bro. Little, all of whom know the working of Freemasonry well, and they will tell you, we feel sure, that the present rapid increase of brethren fills them with most serious considerations for the future. Of those who now are so carelessly admitted in such large numbers, a very sensible proportion will become inevitably candidates for our Charities. And when we realize what has been doing, what is doing in this respect, we often ask ourselves, what is to be the possible limit? What will be the probable result of such a startling increase of our numerical membership? We then beg, respectfully, with the beginning of 1878, to call the attention of W. Masters to this most important subject. Let them set their faces against this extraordinary facility of proposition and of reception, and let us all remember that if our lodges are to continue to be what they are meant to be to us, we should endeavour to make them a family party to us all, in which all are known, all are loved, all are on terms of affection, and happy when with us. Freemasonry is not and never will be strong because of numbers, but it is and must be strong in the heartfelt sympathy and Masonic fellowship of all the members of its kindly lodges.

THE INDIAN FAMINE FUND.

The result of the appeal from the Mansion House to the benevolent public for the relief of our

distressed fellow subjects in India, must be deeply gratifying to patriotic Englishmen and Freemasons. Up to Tuesday evening, January 1st, 1878, the Indian Famine Fund now being raised at the Mansion-House reached the splendid total of £500,000 sterling, or reckoning it in Indian currency, over five and a half million rupees. It will be in the remembrance of some of our readers, as our contemporary, the *Times*, clearly points out: "The fund was opened on the 15th of August last when, at the request of the Duke of Buckingham, the Governor of Madras, the then Lord Mayor (Sir Thomas White), made a public appeal for help. The donation of the Prime Minister came by the first following post, and those of Her Majesty and the Prince of Wales the same week. Since then over 16,000 separate donations have been paid in at the Mansion-House, besides many more remitted direct to the bankers. The fund was distinct from those collected at Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Bradford, which were kept purposely quite apart, and sent to India. Dublin, however, contributed £13,000 to the Mansion-house Fund, and a large number of other cities and towns throughout the Kingdom and in the Colonies also sent their donations through the Lord Mayor. It is still not the case, as it has been asserted, that the greater portion of the money received was obtained by the action of provincial organizations, for the bulk of the collection was contributed by private donors; by bankers and merchants in the City, and through church and chapel offertories. The largest sum received in any one day at the Mansion-House was £13,000. In the box outside the Lord Mayor's residence over £1000 was contributed in coin by passers-by in the space of six weeks. Up to the present time £475,000, or over 5,000,000 rupees have been remitted to India, but a further large remittance was made at the meeting of the Committee on Monday. The Central Relief Committee in India, at the head of which is the Duke of Buckingham, have all along been full of gratitude for the aid rendered by the English people, resulting in the saving of a vast number of lives, and in the prevention of much misery. Yesterday £8500, including £2000 previously advised, was received through the Mayor of Sydney as an instalment of the contributions in New South Wales; and £200 also came from New Plymouth, New Zealand. These sums brought up the fund to the half million. In reply to a message from Sir Thomas White, General Sir Thomas Biddulph telegraphed from Osborne on Tuesday, the 1st. ult.:—"The Queen is much gratified at the magnificent result of the Mansion-house collection." And while, then, we congratulate the poor sufferers in India on so noble a contribution, and while we rejoice to think how wise and patriotic was the timely movement of the then Lord Mayor, as the head of the greatest municipality in the world, we also think it well to point out another fact to our many readers. In addition to the half-million raised at the Mansion-house for the relief of the sufferers by the famine in India, £54,216 was also received there during the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas White for the purposes of charity—viz., Hospital Sunday Fund, £26,082 19s. 1d.; the Inundations Relief Fund, £8904 14s. 3d.; the Welsh Miners' Fund, £4674 12s. 5d.; the St. John, New Brunswick, Fire Relief Fund, £7062 5s. 10d.; and the North Sea Fishery Disasters Fund, £7491 16s. 3d. Thus the year's result for charitable appeals at the Mansion-house amounted to the magnificent sum of £54,000. We think that there will be but one feeling of satisfaction and gratitude at so eminently successful an appeal, and we congratulate the late Lord Mayor most sincerely on the pleasant memory which his mayoralty must afford him, of a great work carried on and achieved, in the noblest of all causes, the claims of suffering humanity. Too much praise cannot be accorded to the zealous labours of a distinguished committee, and especially to those humbler officials whose labours have been untiring, and whose punctual attention to all letters is worthy of imitation by all who are placed in a similar position of importance and trust.

THE STATE OF TRADE.

Various suggestions have been made as to the reasons of the abnormal and unwelcome depression of trade. Some seem to think that we may trace it to the unfortunate strikes in various trades, which have marked the last year; some numerous other causes, proximate and remote, which we need not dilate upon in these pages. We believe that much of it must be laid at the door of the unsettled state of affairs abroad, the alternating doubts as between war and peace, and the great drain such an untoward war is sure to cast both on the finances and resources of Europe. We always distrust those persons who talk glibly and cheerfully about war, as if it were a pastime of idleness or a freak of folly. It is the witty French writer, "Scribe," who says that most wars have begun about a trifle, and as a rule we are inclined to agree with him. As Freemasons we are friends of peace, not of war, because war brings in its train not only its own attendant horrors, but because, also, it inevitably overthrows for the time the peaceful struggles of commerce, the legitimate channels of trade. If peace shall happily reward the efforts of mediation, and the new year behold an armistice, as preliminary to a conference, we shall, we think, soon witness a revival of trade amongst us. We are not amongst those who take a depressed view of the prospects of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; on the contrary, we venture to think that the result of the year's returns will justify both his cautious anticipation, and his well-balanced Budget. If such should prove to be the case it will be a great satisfaction to all classes of the community, and it will be a signal proof of calm calculation and faithful statistics. We always have croakers amongst us who delight in possible deficiencies and probable short-reckonings, but we fancy that this year, as last, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will prove to be in the right, and will announce to the House of Commons a sufficiency of receipt, and a satisfactory equilibrium. In the present state of trade it is clear that the revenue must suffer, as they say, "by sympathy," but it will be no little merit, no slight proof of ready resource and tranquil confidence, if the returns justify the estimates, and the House of Commons applauds once more the announcement of a surplus, be it more or be it less, instead of a deficit. The figures on the face of them, though close running, no doubt, point, we think, clearly to such a happy contingency, and we venture to hope that we may be in due time permitted to hail a "consummation" so "devoutly to be wished for" by us all alike.

FRIENDLY ADVICE.

We do not profess to give "advice gratis;" but we think, every now and then we can afford to be both philanthropical and large-hearted, and so endeavour to be both to-day. Two cases in the Law Courts have recently struck our attention forcibly. The one is the case of a gentleman, who ought to have known better, certainly, who married a young woman 45 years younger than himself, and did not find a congenial help-mate or a happy home. Very strange this, is it not? Yes, it came to pass, that the fair and youthful wife took it into her head that she could live more comfortably separate, and so she suggested that he should live apart from her, while she enjoyed his well-furnished house. After a little the reality of the isolation came so congenial and common to her mind, that she actually forgot that she was married at all, and she went to a broker, as a single woman, and asked him to sell her furniture. At this moment, however, when the furniture was gone, a sense of "sentiment" lingered with her, and so she asked her darling husband to pay her a little visit, (having remembered that she was married all the while), and when he reached his well known house of connubial bliss and joy, and saw, as Lord Byron says, his household gods shivering on the hearth, &c. No more dramatic situation can well be realized. How well Bro. Toole would act the suffering husband. The court of law restored to the injured man his "household stuff," but nothing is said of the partner of his joys and his bosom,

and of his property. On the whole we think that he is perhaps happiest, "alone once more in the world," with no "dear gazelle" to look on him with "tender eyes," and we earnestly deprecate the notion of any old man or any old Mason, be he who he may, marrying a charming young woman only forty-five years younger than himself. The chances of happiness seem dubious and hazy,—verbum sat sapienti. In another case, a young man obtained £250 damages from an Irish jury, because his young lady declined to marry him. Her excuse for not marrying the ardent swain is both peculiar and suggestive. She said, she "did not care very much about him," and, she "should not be dictated to when coortin." On the whole we agree with the young woman strongly. She clearly knew best whether she liked the young man or not, and she certainly had a moral right not to be "dictated to when coortin." The young man was poor, the young lady rich, and so an Irish jury, ever warm-hearted and sympathetic, gave that young "lover" £250 damages, to console his "blighted affection, and to heal a broken heart." It is just possible substantial justice was done in the matter, but from some remarks of the able judge we are inclined to think, that had he had to assess the damages they might have been somewhat less. We trust that our young men will not be encouraged to propose to young ladies in order to obtain damages from young ladies who "don't care for them very much," and who "will not be dictated to." Had we been upon that jury, we think, yes, we think, that we should have considered the "smallest coin of the realm" sufficient damages for the wounded evidence of such ardent affection. We, however, may be wrong, and the jury who saw both in court, complainant and defendant, were probably right. But the precedent is a serious one, and in the present state of our young men may lead to much litigation. An English jury, we think it right to remark, may not be so very liberal.

COMMUNIQUE.

We are very much pleased to be privileged to communicate to the Craft the following translation of a letter from the Grand Secretary of the St. John's Hungarian Grand Lodge, and which is the best possible reply to many assumptions and unwarranted assertions. All Anglo-Saxon Masons will rejoice to hear that the St. John's Hungarian Grand Lodge is not committed to the suicidal course of the Grand Orient of France.

[TRANSLATION.]

Or. Buda Pest, 13th Dec., 1877.

V. W. and B. Brother,—

The circumstance that our Hungarian St. John's Grand Lodge has some time since been added by the English Masonic Newspapers to those Grand Lodges which ought to be declared proscribed, in consequence of having abolished the belief in God, like the Grand Orient of France, induces me to write.

This assertion evidently rests upon error and wrong information, and I therefore consider it necessary to call your attention to the point, that although our brethren have considered this question in a semi-official conference, it never has been brought officially upon the agenda, and scarcely ever will be brought under discussion in this thorough-going sense. Not only does our constitution, and upon the faith of which we have been sanctioned by our government in part II. number I., very minutely settle the question, but even our ritual, which with us is an addition to the constitution, informs the individual to be initiated that he would be mistaken if he believed that in our Temple anything would be suffered that was in opposition to God and the government, as also that the initiation is effected to the glory of the G.A.O.T.U.

All this is very far removed from atheism, and you would very much oblige me, if you could cause this to be inserted in the *Freemason* in the same way as was the one with reference to the Grand Orient of Italy, in the number before last.

Offering you my best services in return, and in case of necessity or want of explanation expecting to hear from you,

I am, (Signed) UHL, G.S.

THE GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE AND THE GRAND ORIENT OF ITALY.

Notwithstanding the bold statement of the energetic Bro. Desmons, (more zealous than discreet), we have always felt assured that our distinguished Bro. J. C. Parkinson was perfectly correct when he said that the Grand Orient of Italy had not followed in the wake of the Grand Orient of France. Had it done so it would have undoubtedly lost all Britannic and American and Canadian sympathies. That Bro. Parkinson is absolutely correct in his welcome statement in the *Freemason*, is proved by the last Bulletin du Grand Orient, which though it publishes the "affectionate sympathies" of the Grand Orient of Italy "envers le Grand Orient de France, dans les circonstances difficiles qu'elle traverse" does not deem it wise evidently, as it says, to print the document "in extenso." To use a somewhat slang expression the Grand Orient of Italy refuses to go the "entire animal." Where then is the Grand Orient of France? We fear that the answer must be, as before Cosmopolitan Masonry, in complete isolation. The letter we publish above from the Grand Secretary of the St. John's Grand Lodge of Hungary proves how unwise and unfounded have been those rhapsodists and sectarians, who have backed up the insane act of the Grand Orient of France, and what a fearful amount of injury is accruing to Cosmopolitan Freemasonry by the ill-directed agitation of the intolerant and revolutionary.

KENNING'S MASONIC CYCLOPÆDIA.

Dear Bro. Kenning,—

I rejoice to tell you that the whole of the Cyclopædia is in print, and that the list of subscribers is printing. Under these circumstances I think that with the aid of our good friends, Messrs. Hazell, Watson, and Viney, we may undertake to deliver the book to our subscribers quite early in February, at latest. We have to make allowance for binding, &c., but I do not anticipate that we need now hesitate to look forward to this early delivery of the long expected work. I am Sir,

Yours fraternally, 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.]

GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

To the Editor of the "*Freemason*."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Yours of the 5th inst. contains a report of the annual meeting of the Lodge Mother Killwinning, on 21st December, at which it was agreed to call the attention of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the "unfortunate step taken by the Grand Orient of France" &c. In order to guard against the impression that in such an important matter the Grand Lodge of Scotland requires to be urged in its duty by a lodge in Ayrshire acting upon the suggestion of a brother living in Banffshire, I beg through you to intimate that the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Sir Michael R. Shaw-Stewart, Bart., and his Committee sitting at Edinburgh, had taken action in the matter three weeks prior to the date at which the Killwinning Lodge resolved to address Grand Lodge on the subject. This will be seen from the following excerpt of minute of the Grand Committee of the Grand Lodge of Scotland of 27th November last, a copy of which is in possession of the Grand Orient of France. The same excerpt minute was published in the "*Scottish Freemason*" of 7th December:—

"The Grand Secretary directed the attention of Grand Committee to the recent change in the Constitution of the Grand Orient of France, whereby belief in God is not now essential to admission as Freemasons. Bro. Dr. Loth, representative from the Grand Orient, who had been asked to be present, having satisfied the Committee upon certain points in connection with the subject upon which they desired information, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Bro. William Mann, P.M., No. 65, seconded by Bro. R. S. Brown, P.M., No. 124:—"Having had their attention directed by the Grand Secretary to the recent change in the Constitution of the Grand Orient of France, whereby a profession of belief in Almighty God, the Great Architect of the Universe, and the immortality of the soul, is not now exacted of candidates for admission as Freemasons, and having maturely considered the same, instruct the Grand Secretary to intimate to the Grand Orient of France that, should it be the case that such a radical change in the fundamental principles of Ancient Freemasonry has indeed been con-

firmed by the Grand Orient of France, Grand Committee will be under the necessity of recommending to Grand Lodge to sever the fraternal relations that have for so long a period subsisted between it and the Grand Orient of France."

As regards the sending a copy of the Killwinning resolution to the Grand Orient of France, I may state that it was an instruction by Grand Committee at their meeting on the 24th December, that I should intimate "that it is beyond the province of Mother Killwinning or any other lodge holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to communicate direct with any foreign Grand Lodge on the subject of Freemasonry."

I am, yours &c.,

D. MURRAY LYON,
Secretary to the Grand Lodge.

Freemasons' Hall,
Edinburgh, 7th January, 1878.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

[We give the two following letters from the *Times* in order to keep our readers "au courant" of the progress of the late controversy, and we shall continue to do so. We may add that the Marquis of Carabas, who began it, states that he has as much right to call himself K.G. Practically, the gist of his second letter, as of the first, is that the English Order of St. John is a pseudonym.—Ed.]

To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,—The Order of St. John or of Malta being a military body, I cannot enter into a public controversy about it. But when so distinguished an officer as Colonel Porter denies the existence of the Grand Master, I feel justified in replying. The present chief is John Baptist Ceschi di Santa Croce. His title is "Pro Magister," or Lieutenant of the Magisterium. This title has been used since 1805, because the Grand Master having the rank of a Sovereign Prince, with the style of "Most Eminent Highness," or "Serene Highness," would have to keep up a state which would be inconvenient under present circumstances.

I have before me the official roll of the Order, containing the names of all the members—a book of 157 pages. The succession of chiefs from Hompsch is as follows:—Paul I, Emperor of Russia, 1798-1800; John Tommasi, 1802-1805; Innico Maria Guevara, 1805-1814; Andrea di Giovanni, 1814-1821; Antonio Busca, 1821-1834; Carlo Candida, 1834-1845; Filippo di Colloredo, 1845-1864; Alexander Borgia, 1865-1872; John Baptist Ceschi di Santa Croce, elected the 14th of February, 1872, in accordance with the statutes of the Order. Colonel Porter will find him duly recorded in the Almanack of Gotha, and his election was notified to all the Continental Courts. The Order has a resident Minister Plenipotentiary at Vienna. His Imperial Highness the Cesarevitch a few months ago asked for the Cross of the Order, and it was granted by Count Ceschi di Santa Croce as Lieutenant or Pro Grand Master. I am aware of the facts regarding the supposed revival of the Langue and Priory of England and the story of Sir Robert Peat, which was fully explained to me by the late Garter King-at-Arms, Sir Charles Young.

I regret that Col. Porter has sought to bring in religious prejudice by saying that we are "under the patronage of the Pope." The Order has resided for some years in its own palace at Rome, and has enjoyed the status of a Sovereign Prince.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE BOWYER.

To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,—If Colonel Whitworth Porter will refer to the "*Almanach de Gotha*" (p. 810 of the edition of 1877) he will find the information he requires as to the present organisation and government of the Order of St. John set forth with all the accuracy of that valuable publication. If he should require more detailed information, he may refer to the "*Ruolo Generale del Sovrano S.M. Ordine Gerosolimitano*," of which a new edition was published at Rome by the Fratelli Pallotta a few months since.

The Order of St. John is, as every student of history knows, a religious Order of the Roman Catholic Church, just as much as the Benedictines or the Jesuits. It has, as other Catholic Orders have, lay brothers and honorary members, who take no vows and are not monks. It has also honorary members, who are not even Roman Catholics. They are very few in number, and of very eminent rank. The Prince Consort was a Knight of St. John. His brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, Duke Charles of Schleswig-Holstein, Duke Augustus of Saxe-Coburg, and the present Cesarevitch have, as Prince Albert had, the honorary Grand Cross of the Order. The German Princes I have named are ranked on the "*Ruolo*" under the Grand Priory of Bohemia. The Cesarevitch is classed among the members of the Order who are under the immediate jurisdiction of what Colonel Porter playfully calls "the fragment of the Order resident at Rome under the patronage of the Pope." Of course, there is no reference in the "*Ruolo*" or the "*Almanach de Gotha*" to "the philanthropic association presided over by the Duke of Manchester," as it was quite correctly described in the *Times*, on the occasion of its adding an august lady to its list of members last autumn.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
January 4.

C. H.

THE APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE.

To the Editor of the "*Freemason*."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

We think that Bro. Riach, in the letter which appeared in the *Freemason* of the 29th of December, showed a little too much confidence in his powers of memory. We do not wish to parade the names of those who have been elected members of the Apollo University Lodge, though they were neither present nor past mem-

bers of the University of Oxford, nor among the founders of the lodge; but we could refer him to pages 76, 79, 84, 90, 106, 116, and 118 of the last edition of the bye-laws. On each of these pages he will find the name of one whose name appears in the list of the ordinary members of the lodge, and not in the university calendar among the members of the university. He is quite right as to the existing bye-laws.

We are, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

THE EDITORS OF THE LAST EDITION OF THE BYE-LAWS OF THE APOLLO UNIVERSITY LODGE.

MASONIC SLANDER.

To the Editor of the "*Freemason*."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

On the evening of the last day of the year 1877 (not three hundred miles from the "Great City") I heard the character of a very ill. Brother traduced in a railway carriage, by a person professing to be a Mason. Without entering into all the particulars of the affair, permit me through your valuable paper, to protest publicly, as then I did in the railway carriage, against such conduct, the traducing the character of a brother, whether high or low in rank, and that in his absence.

Any novice in Masonry must know that such conduct is wholly un-masonic, and entirely opposed to the spirit and teaching of Masonry. Many may think, and perhaps some may ask, "Pray, what is Masonry?" Well, to my mind, and to my way of thinking about Masonry—if I am wrong, I hope some kind brother will put me right on this point—Masonry is not merely a profession; Masonry is not ritual, ceremony, &c.; Masonry is not self-love and self-seeking; Masonry is not cant and hypocrisy; Masonry is not a wind-bag; but true Masonry throughout the world is, I think, the daily endeavour to put into practice the noble and sublime principles which she teaches to her pupils, so that they may show to the outer world, that in all climes, and amongst all nations, her teachings when practised elevate the mind and ennoble the character of the man who is her true disciple.

A Mason! For to be a Mason in fact and in deed should be, to be a man whom all could trust, love, and honour, both as a man and a citizen.

Masonry, I think, teaches that Masons shall in the everyday walks of life endeavour to practise everything that is true, noble, high-minded, and God-inspiring. The keystones are Faith, Hope, and Charity, and so long as the brotherhood shall continue to build in their daily work on the imperishable foundation-stones of Masonry, so will the world at large, from E. to W., and from N. to S., rejoice to see that Masonry is not a fashionable toy, a commercial adventure, a dramatic bauble, or an evening entertainment for young men, but that its actual workings are productive of good, both to the Mason and to the world in general.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

(Signed) "BILLY D—,"

as requested by the Brother.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE HEART AND PARALYSIS.

To the Editor of the "*Freemason*."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The violent storms of the last few weeks have so seriously injured this hospital as to have necessitated all the back walls and the roof being propped up with heavy beams of timber. To enable the entire outer walls to be rebuilt, at an estimate of £1400, funds are most earnestly needed.

Many serious cases of heart disease have been sent to their homes, and very bad cases are awaiting the restoration of the building before they can be admitted.

Diseases of the heart have greatly increased during the last 10 years, and it is melancholy to see so many young persons and even little children suffering from this terrible malady, and most serious to reflect in some of the cases as to the sad future which is in store for them, many having inherited the disease.

It is however, most encouraging to find how subservient certain heart affections are to prompt and proper medical treatment.

Rheumatic fever is a great generator of heart disease, but the very large number of cases annually relieved and cured at the above institution is most satisfactory, as numerous and most grateful letters from patients testify.

The Treasurer of the charity is the Right Hon. the Earl of Glasgow, who would most gratefully receive and acknowledge donations.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

VINCENT AMBLER,

One of the Physicians to the Hospital.

CONSECRATION OF THE TEMPLE BAR LODGE, No. 1728.

On Friday evening, the 4th inst., while the old structure of Temple Bar, by some considered an ornament, by others an eyesore, and by all an obstruction, was in the course of being demolished, a lodge of Freemasons, bearing the title of "The Temple Bar Lodge" (No. 1728), was consecrated in the spacious and commodious rooms of "The London," Fleet street, a few yards only from the edifice which was being removed. Venerable and ancient as Temple Bar was, the heartiest wishes were expressed at the consecration of the lodge that it might be still more venerable and ancient than the structure from which it took its name.

Starting under most favourable auspices, there is no reason for doubting that these wishes will be realised, and when those brethren who took part in the ceremony are crumbled into dust and are as much forgotten as the head that a century ago figured on Temple Bar and defaced

the civilisation of what was then considered an enlightened age, it may stand forth as a monument of progress and adorn the Order which it seeks to propagate.

The ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. J. Hervey, Grand Secretary, who was assisted by Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson, Past Grand Chaplain, as Chaplain, and Bro. H. G. Buss, Assistant Grand Secretary, as Director of Ceremonies. Bro. C. A. Murton, Past Grand Deacon, acted as Senior Warden; Bro. Thomas Fenn, Past Grand Deacon, as Junior Warden; Bro. Nelson Reed, W.M. 1671, as Secretary; and Bro. John Constable, P.M. 185, as I.G. The musical arrangements were under the direction of W. Bro. Capt. Reginald W. Williams, M. A., P.P.G. Org., Middlesex, W.M. 1275, &c. &c. The other brethren present were Bros. E. Terry, W.M. 1319; W. S. Larham, P.M. 1216; J. Dann, P.M. 72; W. Banson, W.M. elect 1580; J. Penderbith, 1598; G. H. Atkinson, 1622; C. Lovebond, J.W. 1707; A. Reed, W.M. 1671; C. Butcher, 975; J. Dixon, 1558; C. A. Murton, P.G.D.; H. Goodall, P.M. 784; T. W. C. Bush, W.S. 185; A. E. Staley, 185; Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C.; B. Lyons, S.W. 1227; G. Adamson, P.P.G.A.D.C. Kent; R. Harris, 1185; G. S. Symmons, 1707; W. W. Medcalf, J.W. 1671; R. A. Morgan, W.S. 1671; B. Buckworth, 7471; W. Hitchcock, 733; W. Poore, W.M. 1306; D. McNiven, 1426; J. Kimpton, 1601; R. W. Gillard, 725; F. Buckworth, 1471; B. Goodwin, S.W. 733; G. Coleman, 1614; J. Bergmann, J.D. 1671; J. Gow, 619; C. Payne, G.T.; W. D. Bayley, 185; J. L. Jones, W.M. 1670; W. S. Whitaker, P.M. 1572; E. Chetwynd, J.W. 1538; C. Goodwin, 1623; S. B. Wilson, P.M. 59; F. Binckes, P.G.Std.; T. Sleep, W.M. 1558; H. Masscy, (Freemason), P.M. 619; J. B. Tidmarsh, 1671.

After the lodge had been opened, Bro. Hervey said: Brethren, I have so often addressed you on the occasion of consecration, and I have so repeatedly said that I can find no new subject to address you upon, that I am sure you will pardon me if I make very few observations this evening. And if there be one which I may venture to make it is that the ceremony of the consecration of a lodge is perhaps one of the most beautiful ceremonies which we have in the Order. It is one which of late years has been of frequent occurrence in the city of London, and its immediate vicinity, and not only in London proper, but the lodges have also been extending themselves in every part of the country, for we find both in the home provinces and in the northern ones Freemasonry has continued to spread, and I hope, to prosper. But the advance of Freemasonry has not been confined to England, for in India, Australia, and every colony where the English tongue is spoken and to which the constitution of the United Kingdom extends—in every one of those districts Masonry has flourished and advanced. I trust that we are advancing, too, not only in numbers but also in efficiency, in the manner in which the work of the lodges is carried out and in the way in which the brethren look upon the Order—with that respect with which I think it ought to be regarded, and which I am sure all those around this room would wish it to be regarded. It has been an objection to us on many occasions, and one which I do not think we are fairly open to, that we look more to enjoyment than we do to the working of the Craft, but I may say that the working of the Craft is to many of us a great enjoyment, and I think a good many look to the working of the Craft in its proper spirit much more than they do to the social enjoyment of the Craft, and much more than they would do to the mere pleasures of the table. I think that in recent years when we look to the Charities of the Order, how much they have advanced and the prosperous condition in which they now are, we must feel that Masonry in that respect at any rate has made a great advance and that we have for some years past effected an object—a good object—and one which I hope will continue to flourish and prosper during many years to come. But there is one thing to be said in our prosperity, and that is that it may draw a great many in to the Craft whose absence we might tolerate very well, and who simply come in for the purpose of what they can get and for what they may derive of benefits from being a member of the Freemasons' Society. Now a very good friend of mine told me—we were only speaking of it this week—that in his own lodge a surgeon desired to be proposed as a member, and in the course of conversation said to him, "Well, but what benefit would it be; would it extend my practice?" The answer was, "You need not say anything more, because I must decline to propose you in my lodge." The answer, I think, was one which if many of us made when we were asked to propose a candidate would be very much to the purpose. And in looking to the prosperity of the Order we must necessarily have many who come into it solely for the purpose of what they may obtain from it. Now, in my position, I know that from the publicity which is given to the grants which are made by Grand Lodge, applications come in from all sides from charities, for contributions of all descriptions, not only from England, but from foreign lands, simply because the applicants think that the Grand Lodge of England is rich, that it is generous, and that it will give. Now that is another inconvenience we are subject to from the trumpet voice of fame blazoning forth what has been done for charities, and what has been voted by Grand Lodge to various objects, such as the Indian Famine, the fires in different parts of America, &c. Now, brethren, while we congratulate ourselves upon our prosperity we may, I fear, have some reason to think that it would be well that when brethren are requested to propose candidates that they should understand, and it should be understood generally, that the Craft is not to be made a medium of success in a profession or in a pursuit of whatever description, but that a man if he joins Masonry joins it to do good and not to be done good by. Such is my view, brethren, of what Freemasonry ought to be; such is my view, which I am sure many around

this room entertain, of what ought to be done in the Craft, and what ought to be the qualifications for it; that we may not be led into difficulties hereafter. I am sure I need not say that I and that you all cordially coincide with me in this opinion; and in the ceremony we are about to perform this day I trust that we shall go away after it has been performed with a still higher opinion of Masonry even than we at present possess, and that we may look back to the 4th Jan., 1878, with pleasure and gratification at having introduced a new element into the Craft, or a new vehicle by which many will be introduced into Masonry who will be a credit and an ornament to the society to which we belong.

After the customary formalities the Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C., delivered the following address: W.M., Wardens and brethren,—You will pardon me if I follow the course which I have adopted on occasions like this of avoiding anything in the shape of a formal address, and rather giving myself and the brethren such thoughts as may be suitable to the occasion or suggested by the particular lodge which may be at the time consecrated. I cannot but feel, the more one regards life, that it is a life of pulling down and building up, and that the observation applies not less to man than to the things around us in the material world—with this great difference, that we men and Masons believe ourselves to be members of two worlds instead of one. I remember some beautiful lines, familiar I dare say to many of my brethren, from the old American poet—

"Art is long, and life is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches to the grave."

But he adds:—

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul."

And hence when we look to-day at the peculiar circumstances in which we find ourselves suggested by the name of the lodge about to be consecrated, we find within earshot of this place an ancient landmark of our country being demolished, and we find within these walls another landmark being erected; but I need scarcely say that in the latter case there will be enduring elements in reference to the edifice that we raise to-night which cannot be said of that after which this lodge is called. I have spoken of art; and I look upon art especially in the light of the present day, as one of the grandest witnesses to the beneficence, the wisdom, strength, and glory of the Great Creator; and I am bold also to add, whatever others may say, wiser perhaps and far more able than my unworthy self, that science too, so far from in any way derogating from the majesty, the power, and the omnipotence of the Great Creator, becomes daily more and more a witness to His unbounded power and love. The idea of art at once suggests to us a design, and there cannot be a design without a designer. That very idea of a design must intimate at once, and necessarily that there must be a great mind in which that design will find its source, and hence I look upon it that every great work of art, ministering as it should, not merely to the pleasures of man but to the glory of God, should be regarded as a fragment of the Divine Image, the Divine Power, the Divine Wisdom, and the Divine Love by which the works of this wonderful world have been completed. But it is more than that. At the present day you and I are well aware that from the very bowels of the earth disinterred cities come up to bear witness to the truths of history, and thus in their place supplying a wonderful power on which we may rely for those higher and more sacred histories which we all as Masons venerate. The discoveries at Nineveh, to say nothing of others, have thrown the grandest light upon the truths of this Divine Volume, and the recent discoveries of Dr. Schliemann have, as you know, proved to us that even before the present era we have witnesses raised up from the earth to testify to the truths of history, and that what was believed by men to be mere fable has turned out to be fact. But not only in the region of art, but in the region of science do we look for these great testimonies to the power and the wisdom of the Great Creator. No one at the present day can look around him and see the discoveries of science, without feeling with old Shakespeare that there are secrets in nature which our philosophy has not even yet dreamt of, that there are to be developed wonders of science which shall yet make our posterity wonder even to their latest day; and surely when we look at these things, when we look not to secondary causes but to the Prime First Great Cause from which all these laws must proceed, we cannot but be struck with admiration and awe as from time to time we find the development of science, its latest development in this marvellous instrument, which, by the by, has had a very long pedigree—for the idea which led to the telephone has, as you are aware, as set forth, I dare say, in the hearing of some of my brethren by Mr. Bell the other evening, had a long pedigree—has been worked out by the brains of many men, for many years past, and has now attained to a marvellous excellence, and will probably yet be a greater wonder. Can we doubt with that marvellous science that He who planted the ear must be able to hear, ever mechanically, if the waves of sound can be converted into electricity and reproduced at almost any distance—who can doubt, that even mechanically the sound of prayer shall not reach the ear of Him who planted the ear and must hear. This idea may perhaps seem to some far-fetched; but I venture to say that to myself it has brought an immense amount of consolation. One thought more. This monument outside is as you perceive numbered—every stone is numbered—with a view to its being rebuilt in some other place. Masonry I look upon

as in some measure analogous. Every stone of Masonry is numbered: its landmarks are clear and distinct. If that monument yonder were not so numbered, if it was found that any stone was added to it in its new position, or any stone taken from it, it would not be Temple Bar; and I venture to think, especially in the light of passing events, that Masonry, to be identical with what it has been, is, and I hope shall be, shall not suffer from the additions of one nation or the subtractions of another; but that it shall permeate the universe, holding fast the great fundamental truths which I have reasons to believe were taught at the beginning. Under such circumstances let me hope and trust that the Temple Bar Lodge, bound by name as well as by Masonic nature to hold fast the great truths taught from Masonic antiquity, will prove to be witnesses among the other witnesses I have mentioned to the glory of God, to the furtherance of peace and brotherhood amongst men, and above all for building up that which is the noblest work of God, the living temple of man, adorning it with wisdom, strength, and beauty, making it fit at last to be transplanted into that world where there shall be no decay.

The ceremony of consecration was afterwards conducted, and at its close Bro. John Dixon was installed by Bro. Hervey as W.M. of the lodge. The officers invested were Bros. Charles Butcher, S.W.; Thomas W. C. Bush, W.S. 185, J.W.; G. Adamson, P.M. 199 and 1208, P.P.G.A.D.C. Kent, Treasurer; Nelson Reed, W.M. 1671, J.W. 1572, J.W. 1601, S.D. 765, Secretary; A. E. Staley, S.D.; K. Harris, J.D.; D. McNiven, I.G.; B. Buckworth, D.C.; J. Kimpton, Steward; and Church, Tyler. The addresses were delivered by Bros. Hervey, Murton, and Fenn; after which, on the motion of Bro. Nelson Reed, seconded by the W.M., Bros. Hervey, Simpson, Buss, Murton, and Fenn, were elected honorary members of the lodge. Bro. Hervey having acknowledged the compliment, Bro. Reed read a large number of propositions for joining and initiation, and then announced that he had received letters of apology for absence from Bros. Sir Albert Woods, J. B. Monckton, Woodward, W.M. 1538, (the recommending lodge), Williams, 1538, Windale, Palmer, Pearce and Child, Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Percival Reed. After dinner the usual toasts were proposed and honoured, and several excellent songs were sung, Bro. Bergmann, J.D. Carnarvon Lodge, presiding at the piano.

Bro. Thos. Fenn, P.G.D., replying to the toast of "The Grand Officers," congratulated the lodge on taking the name of "Temple Bar." That old landmark of London was very ugly and obstructive and many persons were very glad to have it removed. Still the brethren liked to keep it in remembrance because there were some pleasant recollections suggested by it. Many of the brethren might recollect as he did an old clock standing in front of Temple Bar at St. Dunstan's Church with a giant on each side the clock to strike the hour. To his mind it brought some pleasurable reflections of Temple Gardens at a time when men of business lived in London, and their children walked in Temple Gardens. He remembered flirtations he as a child had there at thirteen or fourteen years of age—a time of life when we loved more romantically and unselfishly than in our mature periods. Those were the old days of yellow hackney coaches with grand armorial bearings, driven by the many-eared jarvies represented in pictures. If this lodge had been consecrated a week or two later Temple Bar would have disappeared. Now, however, some members would be able to relate to initiates that they remembered this lodge before Temple Bar was removed. He hoped the lodge would long prosper and exercise the same hospitality it had that evening.

The W.M. replying to the toast of his health, which was proposed by Bro. Murton, P.G.D., said it was a difficult thing for a W.M., as he was that evening for the first time, to be quite au fait in his duties, but he hoped at a future time to be better able to discharge them. He trusted that during the twelve months he was in the chair he would be able to follow out his duties. He would do his best to make the Temple Bar Lodge the most prosperous in London, and when he handed the warrant to his successor he hoped it would have acquired some lustre.

Bro. John Hervey, G.S. replying for "The Consecrating Officer," said it had often struck him that instead of being the Consecrating Officer it should be the Consecrating Officers, because the Consecrating Officer could do nothing without assistance. He did not know what he should have done without the adequate support he had received from the two Wardens. Then again there was Bro. Buss, who at all times rendered most efficient service; and he could not forget the excellent address which was delivered by Bro. Simpson. The brethren had estimated his own services in a way that almost made him blush. He wished success and prosperity to the lodge, and that it might exist longer than the Bar which was now being removed.

After the toast of "The Visitors" had been proposed, drunk, and responded to,

Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C., proposed "The Masonic Institutions." He said: No one can deny that we have great pleasure in meeting together in our lodges to perform the very beautiful and significant ceremonies which are attached to our Order, nor can we ignore for a moment the pleasant and happy social intercourse which is derived from what is called the Fourth Degree; but I venture to say without any possibility of contradiction that there is still a residuum of happiness and satisfaction, which Masons must value after all, above even the pleasant happiness of the lodge or even the social gathering. We have been told to-night in many forms that the happiness of life as well as its material fabrics must crumble and decay; but we are also fully assured that there are certain institutions, certain elements of Masonry which like charity shall survive for ever;

and I take it that there is no more thorough, significant, and eloquent representative of that abiding element than our noble charities—our Boys' School turning out into life hundreds of boys, well and properly educated to fulfil their duties as good citizens and as men who are under a responsibility to God; our Girls' School turning out girls who will be, I trust, the future mothers of our English homes, conducting them as I believe they should be conducted, as the great units and centres of civilization, and of all that is holy and of good report; and our Benevolent Institution, supporting our aged men and women, the representatives, to some, of bygone chattels who are to be put on the shelf as useless, but who to noble men and Masons are the remnant of what once was good and noble, labours well and truly done, and to whom if we be true men we should pay that respect and sometimes veneration which is due to the aged which is one of those old lessons in our English school, which even in School Board days we must read again. I feel, therefore, that in proposing to you the toast of "The Masonic Charities" I am not proposing a formal toast, but a good toast, and one which you will all drink with the zeal which becomes Masons, and the intelligence which is the characteristic of educated men. I have never done much myself on behalf of our Masonic Charities; but I need not remind you how heartily, and thoroughly, and liberally they are supported by the great body of our brethren. The magnificent collections at our festivals speak trumpet-tongued, and therefore it would be superfluous if I were to attempt to paint the lily in regard to the support which they receive. But I am bound as an honest man and Mason to say that our Masonic Charities, like all human institutions, are neither infallible nor perfect, and that there is scope, and great scope, for reform in the mode of election to the charities. (Cries of "Question, Question.") It is the question of the day, and must come forward. Honesty is the prime attribute of Englishmen. I never hunted for popularity, and never will do so; and I have that trust and confidence in my brethren, whether Englishmen, whether Christians or Jews, or whatever their profession may be, that I feel that honesty is paramount and stands above all other attributes. (Renewed cries of "Question.") It is the question, I am rightly reminded by my brother—the question of the day, and it is the question which must come to the front, and I will be the one that will be ready to sacrifice my popularity on that question. I say that there is jobbery (cries of no, no,) in regard to all charities in England; and therefore I hold that our brethren will do well to take stock with regard to the manner in which candidates are elected to our Masonic charities. I say it quietly, dispassionately and deliberately, and I am quite sure that investigation into the different claims of candidates forms one of the first necessities of our charities being properly worked; and secondly, that the more we carry our charities out of the happy-go-lucky and haphazard system into the intelligent and deserving category the better it will be. Now, brethren, I do not wish for a moment to throw any cold water on the charities. I am thoroughly disinterested; but I am bound as a Mason and an Englishman to speak what I feel; and what I say I believe to be true. But while I say this, that our Masonic charities are capable of improvement, (and I hope no man at this table will say the charities are perfect and incapable of improvement), I say it is the bounden duty of every one of us Masons, so far as God gives us power to do so, compatible with the other claims upon us, by our voice, our money, our influence, to make them perfect. Many and many a time have I wished I was a rich man to support those charities more than I do; but this I will say, I have done what I recommend the brethren all to do, young and old, to visit the charities to see the fruits of the labour of our Secretaries, and our subscribers, and of the great men who have helped on our charities. Notwithstanding the imperfections which must attach to them, as to every other charity, we should be ready to come forward to help those charities, and where there is an opportunity to support them. Let me just before I sit down mention a case in a charity I am professionally connected with: A little while ago a dear and excellent colleague died of cancer, leaving a widow a share of £600. The interest of that was all the poor widow had to live upon, and we were anxious to get the child into the Clergy Orphan School. The widow had to go to the expense of £11 os. 6d. to print cards. I protested against it, and I am happy to say that this morning we have by perseverance got one great leading member of the committee to give his hat against that horrible waste of money, which could benefit only the printer. It is the abominable system, and I denounce here as a disgraceful waste, for it is either something or nothing. If the cards are of no use, why then it is waste to have them; if they are of use, then the persons who can put them forth by the thousands, and others by the tens or hundreds, there is an inequality, and the poorest suffer and go to the wall. Bro. Simpson concluded by asking the brethren to join him heartily in drinking the toast of "The Masonic Institutions."

Bro. Binckes in reply, said that nothing ever gave him greater pride, pleasure, or gratification than to have his name associated with this toast. He knew what the Institutions were now, and what they had been years ago. Many of the brethren equally knew what they were, the most sanguine among them a few years ago, never could have anticipated the success that now attended the Institutions. A few years ago the number of children the school supported could almost be counted on the fingers. Now they supported more than 300 children, and very shortly there would be more than 200 boys in the Boys' School. The Secretaries were most deeply grateful for the enormous support rendered to those Institutions, and he for one was proud that for the last 25 years of

his life he had spent his time (he would not go into the question of paid or unpaid) in the support of those institutions. He said it without fear of contradiction, that contrast those institutions, and their annual expenditure, as the brethren might with other Institutions, they would not find any more honestly or faithfully administered than the Masonic Institutions. As we said in one of our ceremonies whatever you choose to contribute shall be gratefully received and faithfully applied, and we might say so it was with these institutions. He rose to respond that evening under perhaps greater circumstances of difficulty than ever he did during the last 25 years. He knew Bro. Simpson's feelings and notions about these charitable matters; but he (Bro. Binckes) did place it before the brethren (and the brethren should either deny or endorse what he said) that anything more unjustifiable than the opportunity taken by Bro. Simpson of introducing a question of charitable administration at a Masonic meeting like that could not have been imagined. It was not fair. We might all have our opinions as to how charities should be administered, as to how children should be educated, but these questions should come before the Quarterly Courts, and not be introduced at Masonic Lodges, where the brethren met for the single purpose of the Craft, and not for the discussion of questions which might lead to divergence of opinion and perhaps to feelings far stronger than was desirable among brethren. He did not think it right, and he was speaking there in the presence of distinguished members of the Order, and he said it with his impulsive feelings, but he never for one instant had allowed himself to ventilate this question in a private Masonic Lodge. He had been appointed as one of a deputation to wait on the Prime Minister of this country, and had stated his views on the subject there, and he would state them at the Quarterly Court; but he would say, in Heaven's name do not let us have these differences of opinion brought into private Masonic meetings. A greater mistake was never made than for Bro. Simpson to introduce this question to a Masonic meeting of how the boys and girls should be elected to the schools, or the old people to the Benevolent Institution. Why was he (Bro. Binckes) there as the honoured guest invited by the lodge. He felt the compliment very highly and appreciated it most sincerely. Do not let them think him egotistic when he said he expected his name would be coupled with this toast. He was proud to say the Institutions had had a most successful year in 1877. Over £42,000 had been contributed to them, and he believed that in the current year, spite again of commercial depression they would exceed what they had done in the past. He was going to be plain—if he was not plain and could not speak his mind he was nothing—and he would say, do not allow—and he asked the W.M. with all submission and respect—do not for a moment allow administrative questions to be discussed over the social table. There were the House Committee, where every brother had the most perfect right of enunciating his opinions in the most open way. Notice of motion could be given to alter the laws, and on a majority being found to be in favour of the alteration it would be made. But when at a Masonic meeting the toast of "Success to the Masonic Institutions" was proposed, he held that no greater solecism could be introduced by anybody than to bring forward his private opinions on the question of administration. If a brother wished heartily success to the Institutions, he (Bro. Binckes) could tell him how it was to be achieved. Let them give their money, let them give their names as Stewards. All the Institutions were enjoying a large amount of success. The Benevolent Institution had a large amount of funded property; the Girls' School the same; but the Boys' School was not so fortunate. Questions had been raised whether they should husband their resources. They were both husbanding their resources for the future and taking care of the present. They had funded £8000, and they were going to make up the number of boys to 220 or 225. The Duke of Connaught would take the chair at next festival, and when in a few days Temple Bar would be a thing of the past, he thought the Temple Bar Lodge would raise a lasting monument in connection with Freemasonry by sending a Steward to represent it at the next festival of the Boys' School. Without quarrelling with Bro. Simpson on the question of administration, he for one would never surrender the right of private judgment. The most deserving cases should be admitted, and if he gave his ten, twenty or fifty guineas he would exercise his votes as he liked, and give them to the case he thought most deserving. If people liked to spend £5, £10, or £15 in canvassing cards, why should they be debarred? He concluded by saying that he would not leave the room without taking the name of a brother as a Steward for the Boys' School. Bro. Binckes afterwards announced that the W.M. had kindly consented to take the Stewardship for the Boys' School.

The other toasts were given, and the brethren separated.

CONSECRATION OF THE CHOLMELEY LODGE No. 1731.

The above lodge was consecrated on Wednesday last at the Alexandra Palace, by Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary, assisted by Bro. Henry Gustavus Buss, Assist. Grand Secretary; Bros. E. J. McIntyre and Thomas Fenn, as Wardens; and the Rev. C. W. Arnold, G.C., as Chaplain. Bro. Henry R. Cooper Smith, was the W.M. Master designate; Bro. Thomas Clarke Tatham, S.W.; and Bro. John Bradley Dyne, J.W.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.—A well-executed Crayon Portrait of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with a Biographical Sketch, appeared in last Saturday's *Whitehall Review*.

OPENING OF A NEW MASONIC HALL IN LIVERPOOL.

Another striking evidence of the steady progress of Freemasonry in the Province of West Lancashire, especially in and around Liverpool, was furnished on Wednesday, the 2nd inst., by the opening and dedication of a commodious and well constructed hall for Masonic purposes, the ceremony attracting the largest and most influential meeting of the Craft seen in Liverpool for a long time. The building has been named the Skelmersdale Masonic Hall (out of compliment to our esteemed Deputy Grand Master and Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire), and is situated at the corner of Kirkstall-street and Westminster-road, Kirkdale, Liverpool, having been erected for the purpose of giving accommodation for brethren at the north-end of the town. The formal dedication of the building to Masonic purposes took place in connection with the annual installation of the Walton Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, No. 1086, and the ceremony was most impressively performed by Bros. H. S. Alpass, P.G. Sec., assisted by a large gathering of P.G. Officers, W.M.'s, P.M.'s, and prominent members of other lodges.

Amongst the brethren connected with the Walton Lodge present were Bros. G. E. Hammer, W.M.; J. C. Lunt, P.M.; John Lunt, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; J. P. McArthur, P.M.; J. Ellis, P.M.; R. Abraham, P.M.; W. Sephton, P.M.; G. J. Townsend, S.W.; W. Walker, J.W.; W. Archer, P.M., Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Hyde, Secretary; I. Leece, J.D.; G. Kiley, E. Plummer, M. Lansing, W. Blease, J. J. Mills, W. Hughes, W. Temple, R. Woodend, A. Rodgers, H. Gill, T. Haslam, R. Beckett, J. Evans, E. Atkinson, H. Spencer, H. Walker, T. Lewis, J. Davies, W. Smith, R. Parry, G. Marsden, F. S. Halpin, E. H. King, J. Parry, G. Cain, W. Roberts, H. Hughes, J. Griffiths, H. Worthington, Sec. 1574; E. Smith, T. Balsbaw, R. Roberts, W. Copestake, J. Whalley, W. Roberts, and W. Evans. The long array of visitors included the names of Bros. H. S. Alpass, P.G. Secretary; Dr. S. J. McGeorge, P.G. Reg.; H. Jackson, P.G.A.D.C.; J. Wells, P.G.S.; J. E. Jackson, P.G.S.; H. Pearson, P.G.S.; P. Macmurdrow, P.G.S.D.; W. Iyler, P.G.S. of W.; E. C. Cooper, P.G.S.; J. Skeaf, P.G.O.; J. R. Ross, S.D. 1289; W. Pulford, W.M. 477; W. McGawley, 724; W. B. Townsend, S.D. 1211; J. P. Hewitt, 1239; E. O. Simpson, P.G.S.; J. Calverley, 1211; J. B. Sprake, 1211; W. Quayle, W.M. 1505; J. Armstrong, W.M. 1250; T. McWean, J.W. 1035; J. W. McWean, S.W. 1035; J. Smith, 77; C. Stopford, 14; J. Beesley, 823; R. H. Webster, 823; W. Bradshaw, 673; C. Arden, Sec. 1356; H. Williams, P.M. 249; J. B. Gill, 1054; J. Normanton, 667; R. W. Hickson, J.D. 1713; T. S. Atkinson, J.D. 1108; J. Cobham, P.M. 241; R. Sedden, 1035; Joseph Wood, Treasurer 1094 (*Freemason*); W. Jones, P.M. 220, 1299, 1675; G. Fowler, W.M. 155; W. Atkinson, 203; S. E. Ibbes, P.M. 594, P.P.G. St. B.; E. T. Gee, 1035; A. Willis, W.M. 1035; J. Croxton, 249; J. H. Carter, 1570; P. M. Asher, 477; J. Queen, 673; J. D. Thomas, 1289; T. Dixon, 477; W. Roberts, 1264; G. Lloyd, 477; T. F. Carter, 1609; T. Hughes, 216; T. Chesworth, P.M. 724; J. Busfield, 216; C. Haswell, 203; W. Fish, 1264; Fred. J. Pentin, S.W. 1713; A. Hart, S.W. 724; S. J. Henochberg, J.D. 1502; W. Webster, D. R. Davies, 1264; J. K. Moore, 431; H. Burrows, W.M. 673; W. Curtis, 1035; J. Roberts, 1182; W. H. Vevers, 594; J. Davison, 724; A. Fitzsimons, 220; J. Threlfall, 1035, and others.

The hall is Gothic in style, with ornamental brickwork, having an Ionic doorway, and has cost about £2000. It consists of a lodge room on the second floor, with ante-rooms, lavatories, &c., and a large dining hall on the ground floor, with the necessary offices, cloak-room, &c. The latter room is seventy feet by twenty-eight feet, being sixteen feet high, and the lodge room is fifty-five by twenty-eight feet, with segmental arched ceiling, which greatly promotes its acoustic properties. Messrs. R. Wells and Co., the contractors, while observing architectural outlines, have admirably kept in view the requirements of Freemasonry, and the result is that a hall of the finest capacity has been provided. The building operations were personally superintended by Bro. J. Wells, P.G.S., P.M. 680. A striking novelty in the fitting of the building are the pneumatic bells and speaking tubes, fitted by Messrs. Homfray and Co. (by their Liverpool agent, Bro. W. Sephton, P.M. 1086), and the communication thus readily established between the W.M. and the Tyler will be a great advantage for Masonic purposes. Messrs. Chappell had charge of the brickwork; Mr. P. Stock executed the plastering; Bro. W. Griffiths the painting; Bro. J. Hayes the plumbing; Bro. W. Jones the gasfittings; and Messrs. Walker and Pendleton were entrusted with the heating apparatus, which seems to be admirable.

There was an attendance of about 150 brethren, and the influential nature of the meeting may be seen by the fact that there were no fewer than thirty-six Past Masters present. After the lodge had been duly opened by Bro. G. E. Hammer, W.M., Bro. Alpass, P.G. Sec., took the chair, and dedication prayer was offered by Bro. the Rev. Dr. Hyde. Boyce's anthem, "I have built surely Thee an house," was then sung by Bros. C. Haswell, J. Busfield, J. Queen, and T. J. Hughes, Bro. J. Skeaf, P.G.O., presiding at the harmonium. Bro. H. S. Alpass, as the Presiding Officer, in dedicating the building to Masonry, referred to the great advantage of having halls specially dedicated to the purposes of Masonry, and said that in Liverpool there were happily only three lodges which now met at an hotel. This state of things, as compared with that which formerly existed, had in a great measure secured the success of Masonry in this town and province. In West Lancashire there were more subscribing members than in any other in the kingdom, and the numbers continued to increase most steadily. He was certain

that it was the wish of the middle class, from which the ranks of Freemasonry were largely recruited, that their Order should be as much as possible disassociated from hotels, and in consequence of that feeling this beneficial change had taken place with such excellent results for the Craft. In the exercise of temperance, Masons of the present day were in advance of the age, and their charities had been highly assisted by the removal of lodges from hotels. In conclusion, Bro. Alpass expressed his sense of the honour conferred on him in being asked to perform the ceremony that day; and he hoped the Walton Lodge, which now numbered over 100 members, would continue to prosper.

Bros. Hammer, the retiring W.M.; and Archer, P.M., then presented the W.M. elect, Bro. G. J. Townsend, for installation, the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. Alpass, P.G. Sec., the remainder of the work, after the Beard of Installed Masters—orations and charges—being most impressively delivered by Bro. John Lunt, P.M. 1086, P.P.G.D.C. A cordial vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes to both these officiating brethren.

The officers were appointed and invested as follows:—Bros. G. E. Hammer, I.P.M.; W. Walker, S.W.; Rev. Dr. Hyde, J.W.; W. Archer, P.M., Treasurer; J. Lecce, Sec.; Casy, S.D.; Riley, J.D.; R. Beckett, I.G.; J. Lunt, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C.; H. Gill, S.S.; and J. S. Templeton, J.S. About 100 of the brethren subsequently dined in the large hall, the banquet being most satisfactorily served by Bro. Casy. During the evening a valuable P.M.'s jewel was presented to Bro. Hammer, I.P.M., in recognition of his valuable services to the lodge. A capital musical programme was given by Bros. Hughes, Busfield, Haswell, Queen (with Bro. Skeat as accompanist); and Bro. H. Gill, S.S., again delighted the audience by his most delightful performance on the fairy bells. The menu card and toast list were marvels of Shakesperian gems, and the "toasting" was cordial, pointed, and enthusiastic.

Reviews.

"Freemasonry: Its Two Great Doctrines, the Existence of God, and a Future State," by Bro. CHALMERS I. PATON. Reeves and Turner, 196, Strand, London.

Important, most important, as the subject is, which has thus been most ably treated by our Bro. Chalmers I. Paton, we should not be honest reviewers if we did not commence our remarks with one or two notes of Masonic reserve. What we mean and wish to say is this. We think that, in all such important discussions, we should be most precise in stating, most careful in laying down, the outlines of our argument, the facts of the case, and that we should never either start with a "petitio principii" or put forward as the basis of our thesis what is somewhat in excess of the actual facts of the case. For such conscious and unconscious exaggeration always reacts not only upon itself but upon the combatants. It renders the battle more arduous to fight, the victory more difficult to win. It provokes retorts and replications, and as it must be actually defended, leaves yourself and your allies often at the mercy of the common enemy. We say this, because we fear that those opponents whom Bro. Paton seeks to convince and confute, may fairly ask for a proof of his statement, in the first instance, that belief in the two great and needful truths he seeks to strengthen and to uphold, has been declared indispensably requisite on the part of every Freemason, and without profession of which no candidate is ever admitted into the Order. And here consists our difficulty. We are not aware of any such declaration, and as we cannot be too particular in such assertions, we think it well to guard ourselves from assenting, as a matter of fact, to them. Strictly speaking, the only pre-requisite declaration required from candidates by our Book of Constitutions, our "Lex Scripta," is the one given at page 85, and no mention of religious belief occurs in it.

But by the "Lex inscripta" of Freemasonry, its common law, we act as a rule on the charges and ritual as well. The charges declare that "A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the Moral Law, and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid atheist, nor an irreligious libertine." Whatever the exact force of these words may be, they have always been held to exclude atheists and libertines from Freemasonry.

Beyond this, we are aware of no official declaration on the subject, but though we say this, because we deem it best, in the interest of all, that we should not expand or exaggerate the fact beyond what it will fairly prove, we do not disagree with Bro. Paton, except in form of expression. In spirit and substance we are fully in accord with him. That is to say, we hold with him that in our Ritual the immortality of the soul is distinctly taught, and that as we accept the Bible, "The Volume of the Sacred Law," and are bid to "consider it the unerring standard of truth and justice," and to "regulate our actions by the divine precepts it contains," we accept the moral law of God and the revelation of God with all their solemn and personal responsibilities for ourselves in every scene, every circumstance of life.

The difference, then, between Bro. Paton and us consists in this. We accept the two great truths which he upholds so firmly, as taught us partly by our charges and ceremonial, but we cannot quite concur in his dictum that the admission of belief in God and the immortality of the soul are officially laid down as pre-requisite conditions for initiation. Practically they are taught, but they are not officially laid down as pre-requisite. This is not "a distinction without a difference," but it is a very important distinction and difference. For were we to assent to Bro. Paton's statement as a fact, officially in respect of English Masons, we should not be correct. And if we cannot do so we think it better not to weaken our true position, by stating that which is doubtful and debatable.

Actually, there is no great difference of opinion between Bro. Paton and us, as the happy and distinct teaching of English Freemasonry, as a fact, is to impart to all its members a distinct assertion of these great truths. But we are sticklers for accurate terminology, and matter of fact statement just now, noting often how much harm is done by loose assertions and untenable arguments. If Bro. Paton will permit us to say so, we think his own position would be strengthened, and the value of his work increased, were he to recognize the difference we have sought to point out, namely, that while Freemasonry having by its common law, its immemorial usage, proclaimed belief in God, it is also inculcated in its ritual acceptance of the great truth of the immortality of the soul. Indeed, the teaching of Freemasonry in these respects may be considered most expressive and direct.

We think Bro. Paton's work valuable in this, that it serves to point out what is, to those who study its "aporreta," the admitted teaching of Freemasonry. We are inclined to hope that his undoubtedly clear and connected argument in respect of the truth of the Divine Existence and a Divine Revelation is needless, happily for Freemasons. *We do not believe that we have really and truly a single unbeliever amongst us.* At least if he be so he has no business to remain in our Order, which equally rejects stupid atheism and polished unbelief.

At the same time there is unfortunately a good deal of scepticism and material infidelity and independent morality afloat in society just now, and we commend Bro. Paton's lucid arrangement of the argument to all non-believers in God and in Revelation. If not altogether novel in form and substance, if these who have carefully studied "the evidences may be reminded of older writers and familiar positions," we yet think the work one of much meritorious compilation.

We trust that our words will not be misunderstood; we have lived so long that we are fully aware of the course and consequences of all such discussions as these. Having studied the matter carefully ourselves, though we have no doubt of the ultimate issue of the struggle, that truth will master error, that God's kingdom will prevail among men, we yet think it always best to give no vantage ground, to lend no unhappy weapon by any weakness or defect in our argument to our watchful and restless foe.

No doubt the position of the controversy just now, as between the impugners of Revelation and the defenders, is one of some little anxiety; but we never for one moment lose our faith or trust in that vindication of His own eternal wisdom, and goodness, and power, and truth, which T.G.A.O.T.U., in His own good time, will make manifest to all.

We thank Bro. Paton for a very readable book, and we shall hope to hear that it is largely patronised by the Craft.

"Practice of the Supreme Court of Judicature and of the House of Lords on Appeal" by LOCOCK WEBB, Esq. Q.C., Butterworth's, 7, Fleet street

Bro. Locock Webb is well known to our Order as one who has done the Craft good service, and as an able and leading Q.C., at the Chancery Bar.

The remembrance of his Masonic career, predisposes us to regard his name with favour, while his merits as a lawyer would fairly claim due regard and respect. But well known as he is, and few more hard working members of a great profession exist, and much esteemed as he is, he is now before us in a new character. No longer in forensic wig and gown, he has, as Sergeant Snubbin said in Pickwick, the "car of the court," but appeals boldly on his own merits, as an author in the great public thoroughfare of literature. And though his work be technical, no doubt, and special, it has many claims to perusal and attention, and we can honestly pronounce it to be a great success. We have reason to believe that the work, as a "vade mecum," on the subject on which it treats, is regarded with unanimous approval by these distinguished men who adorn the judicial bench of this country, while in his own profession there is but one opinion as to its merit, importance and value.

We note that some of our legal contemporaries have spoken in high terms of praise of the labours of our distinguished brother, and we think that their commendations are most fully justified. The "Law Examination Journal" says—"This work is the most exhaustive that has yet appeared on the new procedure." The "Justice of the Peace" observes:—"We think this a most useful and seasonable volume to all who are actively engaged in present litigation, and in the practice of the High Court of Justice, not omitting the two Courts of Appeal." The "Law Times," points out, that "This is a work of undoubted merit, and is in every way superior to the books of practice under the Judicature Acts already published. . . . We congratulate Mr. Webb on the fact that he has not adopted the rôle of a bookmaker. With the aid of several competent assistants, he gives to the profession a pithy treatise on Jurisdiction, Law, and Procedure. Some of what may be called the brief essays on the different heads embraced, are models of concise statement. . . . This volume must prove a most welcome addition to the library of the judge and the practitioner."

No one can peruse its pages without feeling strongly what an amount of careful thought and consideration, of study and research, must have been exercised by Bro. Locock Webb, in order to enable him to write so clearly, so fully, and so well. This very valuable "Handbook" is composed of six books, which are as follows:—

Book I.—Constitution and Judges of the Supreme Court—Jurisdiction and Law—Sittings and Distribution of Business—Trial and Procedure—Officers and Offices—Jurisdiction of Inferior Courts—Fees and Per-centages—Unclaimed Dividends.

Book II.—Rules of Court—Rules and Orders relating to Costs—Court Fees—Per-centages and Stamps

Book III.—Statutory Jurisdiction as to (inter alia) Administration—Arbitration—Charitable Trusts—Confirmation of Sales—Copyholds—Declaration of Title—Improvement of Land—Infants' Custody—Settlements—Inclosure—Land Clauses Consolidation Act—Land Registry—Leases and Sales of Settled Estates—Life Assurance—Liquidations—Lord Mayor's Court—Married Women's Property—Merchant Shipping—Partition—Patents—Perpetuation of Testimony—Petitions of Right—Property Law Amendment—Railways—Rectification of Register—Rivers Pollution Prevention—Solicitors—Special Case—Trade Marks—Winding up—Vendors and Purchasers.

Book IV.—Bankruptcy—County Palatine of Lancaster and the Stannaries.

Book V.—Appellate Jurisdiction of the House of Lords and Standing Orders.

Book VI. (Appendix) comprises Forms—Schedule of Costs—Order as to District Registrars—Schedule of Court Fees—Rules as to Solicitors—Fees of Official Referees—Stamps—Forms of Judgement by Default in the Chancery Division—Rules relating to Proceedings for Divorce and other Matrimonial Causes—Trustee Relief Acts—Bankers' Book Evidence Act—The Winter Assizes Act and Orders in Council thereunder—Provisions of Regulations of Railway Act, 1873, relating to Cases from the Railway Commissioners—Forms and Method of Procedure on Appeal to the House of Lords—Lord Cairn's Chancery Amendment Act, 1858, and Sir John Roll's Chancery Amendment Act, 1862.

We have before observed that we think these words of praise are fully borne out by the book itself, which can be profitably studied by all, even non-professionals, who wish to understand the present position and practice of the High Court of Judicature and the other branches of legal jurisdiction and machinery. We especially commend that portion of the work which relates to the House of Lords as displaying alike archaeological research, as well as legal precision, and we can assert that the work is not only most clear in its statement of facts, and is never dry, but on the contrary is very readable. It is in fact a work much needed by the profession, and most useful for daily handy reference in chambers, and in solicitors' offices, and as a large contingent of the legal profession, whether as barristers or solicitors, belongs to our Order, we think it well to press upon their notice this useful and compendious work. The changes which have come alike upon the constitution and practice of our law courts are many and great, and we feel that both the public and the profession are greatly indebted to Bro. Locock Webb for his timely work, of which we see he speaks very modestly, but which is, we know, highly valued by all who consult its "dicta," or study its pages. In thus mentioning its seasonable appearance and prevailing merits, with a grateful and admiring appreciation of its undoubted importance and authority we wish also to say that we hope this is not the last time we shall hail Bro. Webb as well in the guild of Literature as in our good old Masonic Order. There are many other subjects interesting to the public which we think he might well elucidate and illustrate with his facile pen and clear statement, and we shall always be pleased to record his new triumphs in the field of our great expanse of literary wars, as in that profession of which he has been so long a leading member, especially in his own branch. We feel sure that all our brethren whose professional engagements or legal tastes induce them to study Bro. Locock Webb's practical work will be glad to find for themselves not only how very readable the book really is, as we said before, but how great is its intrinsic value, as a correct exposition of those principles and that practice which are so important, whether for barristers or solicitors, carefully to master and clearly to comprehend. The book is destined to be a success.

"The Cure of Cataract and other Eye-Affections," By Bro. JABEZ HOGG; Bailliere, Tindal & Co., 30, King William-street, W.

Our well known brother Jabez Hogg, whose services in the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital are widely appreciated, has published a very useful and interesting work on this, always to us, affecting subject. There is perhaps hardly any form of human suffering which so appeals to our inner sympathies as deprivation of sight. Happily, of late years, much has been done to improve the condition of the blind, especially mentally and may allude here, "en passant" to Dr. Moon's praiseworthy efforts for many years in this most needful and important direction.

Bro. Jabez Hogg comes before us with a little work clearly written, and admirably illustrated, which may be well perused not only by those who make ophthalmic affections their study, but those who like to see and to realize what the curative skill of a great profession can do to alleviate the many and constant sufferings of humanity. At the same time, strictly speaking, the work is more properly adapted to professional readers, and we have no doubt that it will be truly welcomed by all to whom the diseases of the eye are a constant source of anxious experiment a happy treatment and skilful cure. We have a large number of that most valuable body of citizens, "Surgeons," amongst our friendly readers, and we are glad to call their special attention to Bro. Hogg's important work.

At the meeting of the Etonion Lodge, No. 209, held at Windsor on Saturday, besides the Ferns, Palms, Flowers &c., several novelties in device for flowers were placed on the table, consisting of Square, Level, and Plumb-rule, Square and Compasses, and five pointed Star, these being placed opposite the respective officers. We need hardly mention that the decorations, which were supplied by Bro. Dick Radclyffe and Co. were much admired.

Obituary.

BRO. J. SUTCLIFFE.

Our readers will have learnt with regret of the death of our much esteemed Bro. John Sutcliffe, as recorded in the *Freemason* of December 29th. The following particulars of his Masonic career (which reached us too late for insertion last week) will doubtless be read with much interest.

Bro. Sutcliffe was made a Mason, we believe, at Heckmondwike; he was also a member of the Lodge of Harmony, Bradford, and was a subscribing member to that lodge for many years. At West Hartlepool he took a prominent part in the direction of the Harbour of Refuge Lodge, of which he was the first W.M. He served the office of P.G.J.D. for Durham. He became a member of the Pelham Pillar Lodge, and was one of the founders of the St. Alban's Lodge, of which also he was first Master. He took the office of P.G.S.W. for Lincolnshire, was afterwards, as a member of the Remigius Mark Lodge, Lincoln, made P.G.M.M. for Lincolnshire. He was subsequently made P.G.M. for Lancashire and Cheshire, for the Royal Order of Scotland. He took the Knights Templar Degree in Hull, and the Rose Croix in Sheffield. He was also a member of the Oliver Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at Grimsby. He continued to subscribe to the whole of these Lodges and Orders to the last. His death is a very great loss to the Masons of Lincolnshire, as he entered into the business of Masonry with much spirit and method. He made all arrangements himself, to the minutest details, previous to the meetings, more particularly those of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

BRO. W. DOYLE.

It is with much regret we have to announce the somewhat sudden death last Saturday, of Bro. Wm. Doyle, P.P.G.J.D., at his residence in Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Our brother was well known and highly respected, and an extended notice of his Masonic career and largely attended funeral last Tuesday, will appear in our next issue.

BRO. W. H. WRIGHT.

It is our melancholy duty to record the death of W. H. Wright, Esq., J.P. of Bolton and Southport, which took place on the 2nd inst., at his residence, Duke st., Southport, in the 64th year of his age. More than eighteen months ago he became enfeebled in health and removed from Bolton to Southport, where he remained up to his death, his last visit to Bolton being about eleven months ago. Suffering from a painful internal complaint, he has been constantly attended by Dr. Heath, of Southport, but his constitution gradually broke up and he succumbed at half-past three o'clock on the 2nd inst.

The late Bro. Wright was initiated into Masonry in the Anchor and Hope Lodge, No 37 (then No. 44) Bolton, in June, 1850, and after serving the various subordinate offices in the lodge was installed W.M. of the lodge in 1858, and in June, 1862, he was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden of East Lancashire. Bro. Wright was exalted to the degree of Holy Royal Arch, and in the same year was installed as a Knight Templar in the St James's of Jerusalem Encampment in Bolton, and in this Order the deceased was perhaps more universally known and esteemed for his labours than any other Knight in the Province of Lancashire. He soon obtained the position of Eminent Commander of his Preceptory and filled the office of Provincial Grand Chancellor for several years and on the 14th Nov., 1867, he was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Commander. Through the failing health of Bro. A. H. Royds, Provincial Grand Commander, Sir Knight Wright was frequently called upon to represent the province at the meetings of Grand Conclave, where his face was exceedingly familiar, and where he was as highly respected as he was known. For many years he attended the Grand Master's Council, and was a member of the Ritual Commission. In 1873, on the installation of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of the Order of the Temple, Sir Knight Wright was promoted to the rank of Knight Commander of the Order, for the eminent services rendered by him. He was also Registrar of the United Preceptory at Manchester for a great number of years.

He was also a member of the Palatine Rose Croix Chapter, at Manchester, and one of the promoters of the St. George's Rose Croix Chapter, at Bolton. Indeed, it may truly be said that during a great portion of the late Bro. Wright's Masonic career, and until failing health compelled him to relinquish the bulk of his Masonic engagements, no brother so zealous or more universally esteemed could be found in the province, and his loss will be lamented by a large circle of friends and brethren.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

On the same evening that the Twelfth Night Entertainment was given at the Girls' School, Battersea Rise, an entertainment was likewise given to the Boys at their School at Wood Green. Mr. Bridgeman Smith, who has on former occasions afforded much amusement by a display of his inimitable dissolving views, again entertained the boys with the same work of art, representing this time the various scenes in the tour of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in India. Mr. Bridgeman Smith's dissolving views are so well known that it is unnecessary to give a description of them, further than to say that they were highly appreciated, and with some chromatropes and comic views afforded great amusement to the boys and the company assembled, among whom were the Rev. Dr. Morris and family, the Misses Binckes, and Miss Pullen.

METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending Friday, January, 18, 1878.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12.

Quart. Gen. Court, Girls' School, at 12.
Lodge 108, London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
" 176, Cavac, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
" 1328, Granite, F.M.H.
" 1361, United Service, Greyhound Hot., Richmond.
" 1426, The Great City, Cannon-st. Hot.
Chap. 1293, Burdett, Mitre Hot., Hampton Court.

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, JANUARY 14.

Quart. Gen. Court, Boys' School, at 12 (See advt.)
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.
" 193, Confidence, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st
" 1366, Highgate, Gatehouse Hot., Highgate.
Chap. 22, Mount St. Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st
" 1118, University, F.M.H.

R.C. Con., 2, Plantagenet, Regent M.H., W.

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, JANUARY 15.

Board of Gen. Purposes, at 4.
Lodge 30, United Mariners', Guildhall Tav.
" 73, Mount Lebanon, Brid. Hou. Ho., London-bdg.
" 95, Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-st.
" 162, Cadogan, F.M.H.
" 165, Honour and Generosity.
" 194, St. Paul's, Cannon-st. Hot.
" 435, Salisbury, F.M.H.
" 704, Camden, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town.
Chap. 46, Old Union, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
" 890, Hornsey, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16.

Gen. Com. Grand Chapter.
Lodge Grand Stewards.
" 174, Sincerity, Guildhall Tav., Gresham-st.
" 190, Oak, F.M.H.
" 619, Beadon, Greyhound Tav., Dulwich.
" 700, Nelson, M.H., William-st., Woolwich.
" 969, Maybury, Inns of Court Hot., Lincoln's-inn.
" 1044, Wandsworth, Spread Eagle, Wandsworth.
" 1340, Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars.
" 1382, Corinthian, George Inn, Cubitt Town.
" 1507, Metropolitan, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 1624, Eccleston, Grosvenor Hall, Ebury-st., S.W.
" 1673, Langton, 101, Queen Victoria-street.
Chap. 141, Faith, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 192, Lion and Lamb, Cannon-st. Hot.
Mark 144, Grosvenor, 68, Regent-st. W.
" 181, Francis Burdett, Albany Hot. Twickenham.

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, JANUARY 17.

Lodge 25, Globe, F.M.H.
" 55, Constitutional, Inns of Ct. Hot., Lincoln's-inn.

Lodge 63, St. Mary's, F.M.H.
" 169, Temperance, White Swan, High-st., Deptford.
" 179, Manchester, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
" 181, Universal, F.M.H.
" 813, New Concord, Rosemary Branch, Hoxton.
" 1139, South Norwood, Public Hall, South Norwood.
" 1278, Burdett Coutts, Approach Tav., Victoria Park.
" 1287, Great Northern, F.M.H.
" 1365, Clapton, White Hart Tav., Clapton.
" 1512, Hemming, Lion Hot., Hampton.
" 1623, West Smithfield, Market Hot., W. Smithfield
Chap. 733, Westbourne, Lord's Hot., St. John's Wood.
Encampt. E., Observance, 14, Bedford-row.

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., Milbank.
Highgate, Bull and Gate, Kentish-town.
The Great City, M.H., Masons' Avenue.
High Cross, Coach & Horses, High-road, Tottenham.
Salisbury, Union Tav., Air-st., Regent-st.
Southern Star, Crown Hot., Blackfriars-rd.
Great Northern, Berwick Arms, Berners-st., Oxford-st.
Prince Frederick William Chapter, St. John's Wood.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18.

House Com. Boys' School, at 4.
Lodge 6, Friendship, Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
" 143, Middlesex, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-st.
" 197, Jerusalem, F.M.H.
" 201, Jordan, F.M.H.
" 1589, St. Dunstan's, Anderton's Hot., Fleet-st.
Encampt. 48, Kemeys Tynte, 33, Golden-sq., W.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

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, January 19, 1878.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14.

Lodge 613, Unity, Palatine Bdg., Southport.
" 703, Clifton, Clifton Arms, Blackpool.
" 292, Sincerity, M.H., Liverpool.
" 314, Peace and Unity, Militia Rooms, Preston.
" 721, Independence, Eastgate-row, Chester.
" 1021, Hartington, Custom House Bdg., Barrow.
" 1398, Baldwin, Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.
" 1496, Trafford, Northumberland Hot., Old Trafford
" 1350, Fernor Hesketh, M.H., Liverpool.
Chap. 148, Elias Ashmole, C.R., Warring ton.
Derby L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
Red Cross Instruction, M.H., Liverpool.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15.

Lodge 667, Alliance, M.H., Liverpool.
" 897, St. Helen's Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helen's.
" 986, Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston.
" 1225, Hindpool, Hartington Hot., Barrow.
" 1256, Fidelity, Bull Hot., Poulton-le-Fylde.
" 1276, Warren, Stanley Arms, Seacombe.
" 1325, Stanley, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1570, Prince Arthur, M.R., N. Hill-st., Liverpool.
Merchants L. of I., M.H., Liverpool.
Bootle L. of I., 146, Berry-st., Bootle.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15.

Lodge 86, Loyalty, Crown Hot., Prescot.
" 484, Faith, Gerard's Arms, Ashton-in-Makerfield.
" 537, Zetland, M.R., Birkenhead.
" 580, Harmony, Wheat Sheaf, Ormskirk.
" 758, Ellesmere, M.H., Runcorn.
" 823, Everton, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1080, Walton, Skelmersdale Hall, Kirkdale.
" 1345, Victoria, Cross Keys Hot., Eccles.
" 1353, Duke of Lancaster, Athenæum, Lancaster.
Chap. 580, Unity, Wheat Sheaf, Ormskirk.
De Grey and Ripon L. of I., M.R., N. Hill-st., L'pool.
Downshire Lodge, M.H., Liverpool.
Downshire, do., M.H., Liverpool.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17.

Lodge 203, Ancient Union, M.H., Liverpool.
" 343, Concord, Militia Rooms, Preston.
" 425, Cestrian, Eastgate-row, Chester.
" 605, Combermere, Seacombe Hot., Seacombe.
" 950, Hesketh, Royal Hot., Flectwood.
Chap. 249, Mariners, M.H., Liverpool.
" 1032, Townley Parker, Howard's Arms, Whittle.
" 1070, Starkie, Black Horse Hot., Kirkham.
" 1299, Pembroke, Rawlinson's Hot., W. Derby.