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REPORTS, etc., intended for insertion in current number, should reach the Office, (198, Fleet-street), by 6 o'clock p.m., on Wednesdays.

REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

LODGE OF ANTIQUITY (No. 2).—This distinguished lodge met in goodly numbers on Wednesday, the 26th ult., and we observed among the visitors present Bros. Lieut.-Col. Shadwell Clerke, G.D.; J. C. Parkinson, P.G.D.; and Brodie. Bro. J. A. Batley was raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. by Bro. W. Hope, D.M., in a very effective manner, and then took place a ceremony, which was undoubtedly the great event of the evening, and which conferred both pleasure and prestige on all concerned, as well as afforded much satisfaction to all present. It had been decided to present Bro. Lieut.-Col. Creaton with his portrait, painted by Bro. Stephen Pearce, and the presentation was now to take place. Bro. P.M. Swinburne, by permission of the D.M., addressed Bro. Creaton in the following manly and touching words, which were warmly appreciated and applauded by the brethren assembled: "Bro. G. Treasurer, I have been commanded by the W.M. to communicate to you the pleasure we all feel at your recent promotion to the office of high dignity and trust which you now hold in Grand Lodge, and to assure you that we all feel that by your promotion to this office the lodge has had an honour conferred upon it also. You have for many years been a prominent member of the Craft, and have especially been associated with what we all consider its greatest good, namely, the noble Charities, which are the practical result of the teaching we have received in our profession as Masons. You have not alone given with an open hand, again and again, but you have done more than this, for although there have been many calls upon your time in the performance of the duties which have devolved upon you as a soldier, a magistrate, and a gentleman, you have, nevertheless, given the first and the best of your time, of your thought, of your patience, and of your labour to those excellent institutions, which are the chief honour of English Masonry. But it is not as a distinguished officer of Grand Lodge, nor as a distinguished patron of the Masonic Charities, that I have been commanded to address you this evening. You have a personal claim nearer even than these, great as they are, in our common brotherhood. You are one of ourselves, a distinguished member of this grand old lodge, where you have especially served us in a manner most gratifying to its members, namely, by promoting its unanimity and concord by your own kind and genial nature, and by upholding its dignity and traditions as its Master. The good work of a man is his best and most lasting monument, and his mission is, in one sense, illustrated by the monument of our greatest Master in the noble cathedral that adorns our city, for you read, on entering that building, that should you wish to see the monument of him who erected it, you must look around, and there it stands a grand and imperishable record of a Master of his lodge. Still, in this room we find records of him scattered around us, and records not alone of him but of other illustrious Masters of this lodge, whose names are household words in Masonry. We have felt that one who has done so well should not alone be remembered by his contemporaries, but by those who are to follow hereafter, and we trust who will follow in the footsteps of such a leader. And it occurred to us, on reflecting on your own good work, that at some future time, when we shall all of us have gone hence, some might care to know what this Master of Antiquity was like that men spoke so well of, and who did such good work in his time. And we therefore said, we have amongst us a distinguished painter; we will confer with him; he may perhaps help us to hand down—not the memory of our good friend and brother, for that we trust will be ever green—but his semblance as he appeared amongst us. And our good friend and Bro.

Stephen Pearce, with that generosity so characteristic of an artist, and of such an artist, has reproduced you here. Accept this, dear brother, from us as a pledge of our brotherly love and friendship. And may you live long to enjoy the good will of this old Lodge of Antiquity, and when no longer with it, may this picture be where good Masons may sometimes see it, and when looking on it, say, 'Ah, that was Creaton, the Grand Treasurer; he was a Master of Antiquity, he stood well in the Craft, did good work in his time, and his name will go down to posterity on the Grand Muster Roll of good and great Masons.' The following is the inscription on the picture: "Presented by H.R.H. Prince Leopold, K.G., &c., &c., and the members of the lodge, to Lieut.-Col. Creaton, Past Master of the lodge." At the conclusion of his able address, Bro. P.M. Swinburne uncovered the portrait, which as a work of art was greatly admired, and reflects the most undoubted credit on the "limner's cunning hand." Bro. Creaton "more suo" returned thanks for the kindly and fraternal compliment in a few well-chosen words, which clearly came from the heart. It was then moved by Bro. J. Sampson Peirce, P.M., and seconded by Bro. Erasmus Wilson, P.M., and carried unanimously, "That the best thanks of the lodge be offered to Bro. Stephen Pearce, for his kindly assistance in placing his great talents at the disposal of the lodge, to do honour to Bro. Lieut.-Col. Creaton." Bro. Stephen Pearce acknowledged the compliment in a few feeling words. The lodge being duly closed, the brethren adjourned to the banquet and the pleasant reunion of the social circle, separating at an early hour, highly gratified with the gathering, and which will ever remain an "Alba Dies" in the warm memories of the many good Masons and friendly men who compose the "phalanx" of "Old Antiquity."

IVY LODGE (No. 1441).—On Tuesday, the 25th ult., the installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, under the guidance of Bro. Louis Cornhill. The officers present were Bros. Ashwell, S.W.; T. F. Knight Smith, J.W. and W.M. elect; Foster, S.D.; Skegg, J.D.; Burgess, I.G.; A. Vernon, W.S.; W. S. Ashford, D.C.; Noke, P.M.; Tolly, P.M., Sec., and others. The minutes of last lodge meeting were duly read and confirmed. After the usual questions, Bros. Trehearne and Shaw were passed to the Fellow Craft Degree. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, and Bro. Francis Gill was raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. The W.M., though speaking in (to him) a foreign tongue, performed these several ceremonies excellently. The lodge was then resumed in the Second Degree, when the chair was taken by Bro. G. Smith, P.M., one of the founders, and the father of the lodge. Bro. T. F. Knight Smith was then duly inducted into the chair of K.S. The ceremony was rendered by Bro. Smith, P.M., in a truly admirable manner throughout, the various orations being delivered fluently and impressively, and made a lasting impression on the minds of those brethren who had the happiness of being present. The W.M. duly appointed and invested his officers. The W.M. had the pleasing duty to present to the I.P.M., Bro. Louis Cornhill, a very beautiful jewel, and in so doing expressed a wish that Bro. Cornhill might live many years to wear it, as a mark of the great esteem the Ivy Lodge felt for him, and for the generous spirit he had frequently manifested. After some other business the lodge was closed in due form. The brethren then adjourned to the Holborn Restaurant, in consequence of the large hall being let for other purposes. This was to many a great inconvenience, and to a certain extent accounted for the sparse attendance, many members having to come from great distances. The interests of the Craft are not so well considered at this hall as formally, at least murmurings of dissatisfaction are rife, and one would think it is certainly to the interests of the proprietors to endeavour to remedy this in future. On reaching the Holborn Restaurant the brethren found an atmosphere of warmth, brightness, and geniality there, which soon dissipated both the effects of the journey and the very unpleasant weather, and sat down to a very excellent banquet, which gave great credit to that establishment and to its admirable manager, Bro. Hamp. In presenting the various loyal and Masonic toasts, the few remarks which fell from the W.M. were well received, and on replying to the toast proposed to his health by Bro. Cornhill, I.P.M., the W.M. said he felt it a great honour to be placed in the position he was in that evening for many reasons,—he was one of the first initiates made in the lodge, and the first who had risen to the chair of the W.M.; but not only that, he loved Masonry for its own sake, for its splendid traditions, its grand teachings, and its widespread Charities, and he would impress upon the brethren the importance of living up to those principles. In the First Degree the beauties of moral truth were unveiled to the eyes of the brethren; in the Second their attention was directed to the wonders of art and science, those endless fields of human investigation; and in the Third those sublime teachings with regard to the future, the spirit of all religions, the necessity of preparing by well-ordered lives here if we would wish to obtain a happy entrance to the Grand Lodge above. In presenting "The Health of the Installing Master, P.M. C. Smith," the W.M. said it afforded him a great pleasure, as the P.M. was one of the founders and father of the lodge. He had initiated him and now completed the work he had so well begun by installing him in the chair of K.S., and in so admirable a manner that it would make a lasting impression both on his mind as well as on the minds of all the brethren present. Bro. C. Smith, in replying, said it afforded him great pleasure to render any service he could to the lodge, for he looked upon it as his child, and loved Masonry in his heart, and trusted it would go on and prosper in the future as it had done in the past. The toast of "The Visitors" was well responded to by Bros. Farwig, W.M. St. James's Union, and Dr. Oswald, P.M. 1328. The toast of "The

Past Masters" was duly honoured and acknowledged by I.P.M. Bro. Cornhill and P.M. Bro. Matlock; and P.M. Bro. Cantle the services of Treasurer. Bro. P.M. Matlock and Bro. P.M. Jolly were duly acknowledged, and after "The Officers" the Tyler's toast brought a very happy evening to a close. The brethren were enlivened during the evening by some songs well sung by Bros. P.M. Ion Cantle, Kift, Martin, and Cooper; and some excellent readings by Bro. Reynolds. Bro. Kift presided efficiently at the piano. Among the visitors present were Bros. Pollard, W.M. 1694; Farwig, W.M. 180; W. H. Morgan, 1385; L. Sarre, 1402; J. G. Rush, 1201; J. P. Tonge, 1216; and P.M.'s Hull, 87, and J. W. Oswald, 1328; Thurkle, P.M. 87; and Bros. Cottebrune, P.G.P. (Hon. Mem.); W. J. Large, S.W. 1321; and many other brethren.

SIR HUGH MYDDELTON LODGE (No. 1602).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Agricultural Hall on the 28th ult. There were present Bros. T. J. Coombs, W.M.; E. Somers, P.M.; E. G. Sim, P.M.; Lee, P.M.; A. J. Rowley, S.W.; John Weston, J.W.; John Greenfield, Treas.; John Osborn, Sec.; W. Norris, S.D.; W. T. Poulton, J.D.; H. Field, I.G.; W. Oppenheim, D.C.; R. G. Thomas, Organist; T. J. Rimell, Steward; W. Steedman, Tyler; R. Allison, J. Firlong, E. Payn, Wm. Payn, James Alexander, E. J. Pearce, J. Brewer, James Crocker, E. Pelikin, J. Raffety, G. Tarrant, J. Kitchiner, C. Parslow, H. T. Godolphin, S. Hollidge, and A. H. Chisholm (Freemason). The visitors present were Bros. H. Sprake, 815; J. O'Connor, 1339; B. Clark, 1507; J. Humphreys, 167; R. Pearce, W.M. 228; J. L. Cogan, W.M. 1365; and E. Roberts, 1623. The lodge was opened at five o'clock, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Alexander was passed. The ballot was then taken for Mr. T. C. Duncan, who, being unanimously approved, was initiated into the secrets and privileges of Freemasonry. Bro. A. F. Rowley was, by a majority of one, elected to fill the office of W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bros. Greenfield, Treas., and Steedman, Tyler, were unanimously re-elected. Bros. Tarrant, Raffety, and Firlong were appointed Auditors. A handsome Past Master's jewel was, on the motion of Bro. Somers, voted out of the funds of the lodge to the retiring W.M., which will be presented to him at the installation meeting in May. Bro. Coombs, in a few appropriate remarks, acknowledged the generous presentation, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to dinner in the lodge-room, the W.M. presiding. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed, interspersed with some capital songs, and after spending a few pleasant hours together, the brethren adjourned until the 23rd of May.

WEST SMITHFIELD LODGE (No. 1623).—The regular meeting of this well established and most prosperous lodge was held at the New Market Hotel, King-street, West Smithfield, on Thursday, the 20th ult. Bro. G. S. Elliott, W.M., opened the lodge. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read, unanimously confirmed, and signed by the W.M. The ballot taken for Mr. John Rose was declared to be unanimous in favour of his admission. The W.M., Bro. G. S. Elliott, in an impressive, correct, and painstaking manner raised Bros. Greenwood, Smith, Woolridge, P. Bowley, and Allen, passed Bros. Kinloch and Cork, then completed his heavy duties by initiating Mr. Richard Titcomb into Freemasonry. Bro. G. S. Elliott, W.M., was highly complimented for the admirable style in which he had rendered every part of the work, his working being an intellectual treat to all who had the good fortune to be present. The proposed bye-laws were then read through by the energetic Secretary, Bro. E. Mallett, P.M. 141, who explained to the lodge that he had sent a copy of these bye-laws to every member, as every item in them had been fully discussed at a previous meeting. On the motion of Bro. W. Malthouse, J.D., seconded by Bro. G. H. Stephens, W.S., it was unanimously resolved, "That the bye-laws, submitted to the lodge, do become its bye-laws, that they be submitted to Grand Lodge, and when approved of by the Grand Secretary the same be printed, and copies issued to all the members." Bro. W. Malthouse, J.D., who had been unanimously elected as Steward to represent the lodge at the forthcoming festival of the Boys' School, made an eloquent and soul-stirring appeal to the members to support him, as their representative of the lodge, at that festival. If eloquence and a clear matter of fact statement, shewing how much the noble Institution needed their support, had any effect—and we are sure no Steward could equal our zealous brother in his endeavours to enlist the sympathies of all who were present—no doubt his list will be well supported. The names of several gentlemen were given in who were anxious to be initiated into Freemasonry. Letters of apology for absence were read from those officers who could not attend in consequence of severe ill-health, viz., Bros. John Johnson, J.W. (since died, on the 20th ult., of bronchitis and disease of the heart), and Frederick Walters, P.P.G.D. Middlesex, P.M., Treasurer. Business being ended, the lodge was closed and adjourned. The banquet then followed, served under the special superintendence of the kind and genial host, Bro. Thomas Butt, who was well supported, in his endeavours to give satisfaction and comfort to all present, by his sons, Bros. T. M. Butt and W. Butt. We need hardly here remark that the worthy host has earned a good and lasting repute for the good catering and lavish expenditure to make everything first-rate with which he puts on all his banquets. Great things were expected of him when he commenced his career as a Masonic caterer, and he has proved his capabilities by the exquisite manner he has done his business. The usual routine of Masonic toasts were given and responded to, that of "The Visitors" being answered by Bro. Elliott, 749 (father of the Worshipful Master, Bro. G. S. Elliott), thanking the W.M., Past Masters, officers, and

brethren for the cordial manner the toast had been given and responded to. He also expressed the great delight he felt at seeing his son in the eminent position as their W.M. The Tyler's toast brought a pleasant meeting to an agreeable close. There were present, besides those named, Bros. J. Howes, P.M., S.W.; H. J. Lardner, D.C., as J.W.; W. Pennfather, P.M., S.D.; T. M. Butt, I.G.; W. Snow, C.S.; T. W. Adams, I.P.M.; Woolridge, Preece, Leggett, Davis, Goodwin, Howard, Roberts, F. J. Howes, G. S. Wintle, P.M.; Delofons, Crombie, Greenwood, Smith, and many others. The visitors were Bros. Elliott, 749; D. Moss, 1275; Van Roelth, J.W. 917; V. Chipp, 1158; H. Blackwell, 177, and many others, whose names we were unable to ascertain.

ROYAL SAVOY LODGE (No. 1744).—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 25th ult., at Ashley's Hotel, Covent-garden, under the presidency of Bro. James Willing, jun., W.M. There were also present, among others, Bros. J. Douglass, S.W.; Clemow, J.W.; Treadwell, Treas.; Siles, Sec.; Jones, S.D.; Hyland, J.D.; Deller, I.G.; Holt, W.S.; Smith, D.C.; Hixon, Philpott, Barham, Sillis, Callaghan, Cook, Read, and Lloyd. Visitors: Bros. Moore, P.M.; H. Stiles, S.D. 1507; Kaufman, 1744; Read, 177; and others. Bros. R. W. P. George, J. W. Wheeler, and F. J. Jagels were raised, and Bros. P. W. Earle, G. C. Dickey, and G. R. Carter passed. Afterwards, Messrs. G. Eshley and Alfred Ramsden were initiated. It was agreed, upon the proposition of the W.M., to have a summer festival, and ladies to be invited. An influential committee was appointed to carry out the same. The list of the W.M., as Steward representing the lodge at the ensuing festival of the Girls' School, was liberally subscribed to, and the brethren adjourned to banquet, after a long evening's work, which was very ably performed.

DARLINGTON.—Restoration Lodge (No. 111).—A somewhat unusual occurrence took place in connection with this lodge in the death of two of its members, both Past Masters, within a day of each other. Bro. T. Brunton died on the 28th ult., at the age of forty-three, and Bro. A. F. Robinson on the 29th ult., aged forty-one. The former was interred on Tuesday, the 1st inst., and the latter on Wednesday, the 2nd inst. Both funerals were attended by a large number of brethren, who had assembled at the Masonic Hall. Among them were noticed Bros. W. Hobson, W.M. 111; J. M. Meek, W.M. 1379; J. C. Martin, P.M.; George J. Wilson, P.M. and Sec. 111, P.P.G.J.W. Durham; J. Macnary, P.M., P.P.G.D. Durham; John Morrell, P.M.; John Bailey, P.M., P.P.G.J.W. Durham; H. Maddison, John Hodgson, sen., Thomas Ness, John Watson, John Burney, F. Tovey, G. N. Watson, Ottiwell Smith, Minter, P.M.; B. Boulton, P.M.; W. Lear, P.M.; E. Hutchinson, R. A. Luck, John Hodgson, jun., Smith Ward, W. Dryden, A. J. Martin, John Willis, S. Carlton, W. Mitford, J. W. Armitage, W. Swales, D. Brebner, James Hoggett, Dr. Frazer, George Cooper, Wm. Salkeld (C.E.), Thomas Garbutt, and F. A. Kelly (*Freemason*). Bro. Robinson was also a member of the Marquis of Ripon Lodge, in which he held the office of W.M. a few years ago. Bro. Brunton was a member of the Perseverance Court of Foresters, a large number of whom attended his funeral. He had also held the office of 2nd Principal in the Vigilance Royal Arch Chapter, 111. Bro. Robinson being an active member of the Temperance Society, his remains were accompanied to the grave by a large concourse of the members of that society and other friends. The greatest respect to the departed was shewn by the inhabitants of Darlington, for all along the route that the cortege traversed the shops were partly closed, and blinds drawn.

MANCHESTER.—Lodge of Integrity (No. 163).—The monthly meeting of this highly esteemed and influential lodge took place on Wednesday, the 26th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Bro. Henry Walley, W.M., presiding, supported by the following officers:—Bros. Joseph Mackie, P.M., S.W.; Alfred Heald, J.W.; J. M. Sinclair, S.D.; Joseph Senior, J.D.; B. Williams, P.M., Treas.; William Siddeley, Sec.; W. D. Waddell, P.M.; William Livesey, John Studd, and Henry Heap, Stewards; H. H. Warburton, P.M., I.G. (pro. tem.) and Org.; and J. Kirk, Tyler. There was a very large attendance of brethren present, including Bros. G. F. East, P.P.G.D.C., and J. W. P. Salmon, P.P.G.D.C. East Lancashire. The visiting brethren included members from Lodges Nos. 1664, 1011, 1161, 654, 581, 1045, 993, 1609, 44, 204, and 317. At six o'clock between sixty and seventy brethren sat down to a well-served tea, à la fourchette, at the conclusion of which they assembled in the spacious lodge-room. The lodge was opened in ancient form, and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Mr. Alfred Francis Youle having been unanimously elected a member of the lodge, was initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by the W.M., assisted by his officers. At the conclusion of this ceremony, Bro. Leo Bernstein, who was a candidate for passing, was interrogated, and then withdrew. On his re-admission he was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft Freemason, the ceremony in this, as in that of the E.A. Degree, being impressively rendered by the W.M. and his officers. The charge was then delivered to both candidates by the S.W., Bro. Alfred Heald, and at its conclusion the lodge was lowered to the First Degree. "Hearty Good Wishes" were expressed by the visiting brethren, and the lodge was closed in due form, after which the brethren adjourned downstairs to the refreshment board. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been proposed, and duly responded to, "The Healths of the Newly-Initiated Brethren" were next proposed, in response to which Bros. Youle and Bernstein returned thanks. The toast of "The Visitors" was drunk with enthusiasm, and acknowledged by three of the brethren. During the evening several excellently rendered glees and quartets were given by Bros.

Dumville (two), Lister, Turner, and Salmon, and Bro. Greenwood's comic powers caused peals of laughter, his singing of "Brown, the Tragedian," being very funny, while his imitations of Phelps, Buckstone, Fechter, Compton, and Toole were exceptionally good, and did him great credit—in fact, we have never seen this gentleman's equal off the stage. We have before dilated upon the abundance of vocal and instrumental talent among the members of this lodge, and we are quite sure that any of our Lancashire brethren who may pay a visit to the Integrity will not only be cordially received, and hospitably entertained, but will retain a pleasurable recollection of the same.

BEDFORD.—Stuart Lodge (No. 540).—The March meeting of this lodge took place at the Swan Hotel, on Wednesday, 26th ult., Bro. Capt. Colburne, the W.M., presiding, supported by the following officers: G. Nash, I.P.M.; R. H. Coombs, S.W.; H. Thody, J.W.; J. Carter, S.D.; R. Stafford, J.D.; J. Sergeant, Treas.; J. R. Bull, Steward; Capt. Verey, I.G.; Cookson, acting Organist, and about twenty brethren. The minutes of the former lodge were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for a brother of the Ionic Lodge, No. 227, who was unanimously elected and initiated, the W.M. ably performing the ceremony, in which he was well supported by his officers. The lodge unanimously placed the lodge votes for the Boys' and Girls' Schools in the hands of the W.M. Bro. R. Boughton-Smith having offered to represent the Stuart Lodge as Steward at the Boys' School Festival in June. Bro. Bull proposed, and Bro. Coombs seconded, that the offer be accepted, and that the sum of ten guineas be placed on his list out of the funds of the lodge—unanimously agreed to. Several other items of business were transacted. A solicitor of Bedford was duly proposed and seconded as a candidate for initiation, and the lodge was closed in due form, and upwards of twenty brethren adjourned to refreshment, and spent a pleasant evening.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Fraternity Lodge (No. 1418).—The March meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-road, on Thursday week, the 27th ult. Present, Bros. J. J. T. Thorman, W.M.; J. P. Banning, S.W.; James Hall, J.W.; W. J. Watson, P.M., Treas.; John Broome, Sec.; G. E. Pybus, S.D.; J. Pickering, J.D.; G. E. Smirk, I.G.; A. Crosby, Stwd.; J. Trenholm, Tyler; T. Bowman, T. Gibson, T. W. Pybus, J. Cook, R. Bradley, C. Burnett, W. Mace, G. Pickering, W. Henderson, J. W. Richardson, E. F. Wallace, J. Bolt, J. McBride, and R. Headlam. Visitors, Bros. A. S. Fowler, P.M. 940; B. R. Smith, Past Master 940; W. Kinney, George Lazonby, J. Ellis, T. W. Hudson, W. A. Hodgson, John Doherty, and F. A. Kelly (*Freemason*). The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Peter Hallstrom, after due examination, was passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft. The election of officers was then proceeded with. There were six brethren eligible for the office of W.M., but the votes were unanimous in favour of Bro. J. P. Banning, the Senior Warden. His installation will take place on the 24th inst., when a large gathering of brethren is expected. Bro. W. J. Watson, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, an office he has held since the foundation of the lodge. Bro. Trenholm was also re-elected Tyler. The names of two gentlemen were then submitted for initiation at the next meeting, one of whom, Mr. W. H. Atkinson, was the winner of the Queen's Prize at Wimbledon in 1876. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting table. After the cloth was removed, the following toasts were proposed. "The Queen," "H.R.H. the M.W.G.M.," "The Pro and Deputy Grand Masters, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," which were all done full justice to. The toast of "The Prov. Grand Officers" was coupled with the name of Bro. W. J. Watson, to which that brother ably responded. The W.M. then proposed "The Visitors," on behalf of whom, by request, Bros. W. Kinney and F. A. Kelly responded. In reply to the toast of "The W.M. elect," which was very warmly received, Bro. Banning shortly but forcibly replied. Bro. Jackson, P.M. 940, then proposed "The Health of Bro. Thorman." In the course of his remarks, he highly complimented the retiring Worshipful Master for the efficient manner in which he had performed the duties of his office. Bro. Thorman neatly replied. The brethren shortly afterwards separated. The brethren of Stockton are to be congratulated upon possessing such a splendid building in which their meetings are held, devoted solely to the Craft. The following particulars will, we are sure, be read with interest. The building is situated in St. John's-road, and the Stockton Masonic Club was commenced on the 1st of January, 1871, in the Freemasons' Hall, which building had been erected the previous year by the Lodge of Philanthropy, No. 940. It was soon proved that the rooms in the hall available for club purposes were insufficient for the wants of the rapidly increasing number of members, and in Nov., 1875, the corner stone of the present commodious and handsome building was laid by Bro. James Usher, the W.M. for that year, and opened for the use of the lodges of the town and the club in August, 1876. The new hall, which is the property of the Philanthropy Lodge, cost about £7000, and contains large lodge and banqueting rooms, besides others which are let to the club, including separate rooms for reading, conversation and smoking, billiards, in which room are two splendid tables, library, luncheon, &c. The present number of the brethren belonging to the club is 130. One of the conditions of membership is that each member must be a subscriber to a regular lodge. The club has served and still serves the very desirable purpose of promoting and maintaining kindly relations between the different lodges of the town by affording opportunities of agreeable social intercourse

among their members. This institution has been singularly fortunate in having for its President Bro. Alderman John Hunton, J.P. and ex-Mayor of the borough. The members prove their esteem and appreciation of Bro. Hunton's character and services by every year unanimously re-electing him to his honourable office. The success and prosperity of the club are also in a very great measure due to the ability and indefatigable exertions of its Hon. Sec., Bro. A. S. Fowler, who is, in the opinion of the members, so much the right man in the right place, as to be, like the President, annually re-elected with entire unanimity. Other towns would do well to emulate the example shewn by the brethren of Stockton.

HAMPTON.—Hemming Lodge (No. 1512).—This prosperous provincial lodge met in great strength, it being the annual election meeting, at the Lion Hotel, on the 20th ult. There were present Bros. Fox, P.M. Lebanon, W.M.; Jessett, S.W.; Ockenden, J.W.; J. Hammond, P.G.S. Middlesex, I.P.M.; W. Hammond, P.P.G.D. of Middlesex, Secretary; E. Hopwood, P.P.G. S.B. of Middlesex, Treasurer; Raw, Hon. P.M.; J. Hurst, P.M., &c. Kent, J.D.; Hiscox, I.G.; Moody, D.C.; Day, A.W.S.; T. C. Walls, P.P.G.O. of Middlesex, S.D. (*Freemason*); Gilbert, P.G.T., Tyler. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Bunyan bring in attendance was duly and impressively raised to the degree of a M.M. by the I.P.M. The election of officers resulted unanimously in favour of Bros. Jessett as W.M.; E. Hopwood, as Treasurer; Gilbert, as Tyler. The bye-laws were then read. Upon the motion of Bros. Hurst and J. Hammond, a Past Master's jewel was unanimously voted to the W.M., who duly acknowledged the high compliment thus paid him. All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was duly closed, and the brethren adjourned to a collation. The visitors were Bros. C. J. Costelow, S.D. 780; T. Pinckney, 1638. Upon the removal of the cloth the W.M. gave in very brief terms the preliminary Royal and Craft toasts, which were duly honoured. "The R.W.P.G.M. and the rest of the P.G. Officers" was acknowledged at length by the Secretary, Bro. W. Hammond. In proposing "The Health of the W.M.," the I.P.M. dwelt upon the long connection of Bro. Fox with the lodge. It had been his misfortune during his year of office to have been seriously indisposed, and which untoward circumstance had necessarily interfered very much with the proper discharge of his duties. He had, however, as far as was compatible with his health, carried out the duties of his position efficiently, and on his retirement he carried with him the good wishes of every member of the Hemming Lodge. The W.M. having replied, gave "The Visitors," which was responded to by Bros. Costelow and Pinckney, in which they complimented the lodge upon its excellent "working." "The Past Masters," "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers," quickly followed. In giving the latter toast the W.M. took occasion to return his thanks to the members comprising the staff for the very good support they had given him during his year of office, and he hoped that they would bestow the same amount of attention to the discharge of their duties during the reign of his successor. Bro. Jessett, S.W., W.M. elect, responded upon behalf of himself and colleagues. He, in conclusion, also thanked the brethren very heartily for the great honour that they had conferred upon him by electing him W.M. for the coming year. He should endeavour to follow in the footsteps of those who had gone before him in the chair by discharging the responsibilities of his position as far as in him laid. The proceedings shortly afterwards terminated.

CHISLEHURST.—Chislehurst Lodge (No. 1531).—The regular March meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on the 22nd ult. at the Bull's Head, under the presidency of Bro. Henry Gloster, W.M. Amongst the brethren present were Bros. W. Kipps, I.P.M.; John Mason, S.W.; J. Griffin, J.W.; Hutchings, S.D.; Hunt, J.D.; E. Kipps, I.G.; W. O. Goldsmith, Sec.; and visitors Bros. H. Chappell, 147; E. Lambert, 1362; C. Nightingale, 1362; J. Healey, 1348; C. Featherstone, 79; W. Medcalf, S.W. 1621; F. Dawes, 147; B. H. Swallow, P.M. 1568; and H. Massey, P.M. 619 (*Freemason*). The work of the lodge consisted of electing Bro. Wm. Ireland Levevre (No. 211), and Bro. Edward Good (No. 871), as joining members, and passing Bros. Brailey and Jupp to the Second Degree. On the proposition of Bro. J. Griffin, J.W., it was resolved to petition Grand Chapter for a charter for a chapter to be attached to the lodge, and the proposition was received with the heartiest satisfaction by the brethren, the Chislehurst Lodge having, by its work, prosperity, and strong support of the Charities of the Order, assumed a leading position in the province of Kent. Bro. W. O. Goldsmith, Secretary, standing as Steward for the next festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the lodge voted five guineas to his list, which already amounts to over eighty guineas. There being no further work before the lodge, the brethren closed down, and adjourned to a most comfortable little supper, which was made the more agreeable to the visitors by the hearty welcome with which they were received and entertained. The usual toasts followed, but the speeches were very short, and more attention was paid by the brethren to amusing each other with some excellent music and singing than placing before them again all the good qualities of Masonry, which are the stock theme of after-banquet oratory. The cause of the Charities was by no means forgotten, and not only Bro. Goldsmith, who represents the lodge this year as Charity Steward, but several other brethren enforced upon their hearers the necessity of sending up a good list. The brethren returned to town by the last train, after spending a delightful evening.

LIVERPOOL.—Dramatic Lodge (No. 1609).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday afternoon, the 25th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, where there was an attendance of about sixty brethren, including visitors. Bro. Lindo Courtenay, W.M., presided during the business, supported by Bros. W. J. Chapman, I.P.M.; Joseph Bell, P.M., P.G.S.; J. McKenzie, S.W.; W. Sandbrook, J.W.; A. Woolrich, Treas.; John Atkinson, Sec.; J. Pifer, I.G.; R. Burgess, Org.; W. Savage, S.S.; H. P. Squire, J.S.; and W. H. Ball, Tyler. Amongst the "privates" present were Bros. J. M. Boyd, J. Shrapnell, M. P. Tueski, W. Heap, P. Lowndes, H. Leslie, J. Wainwright, F. Duncanson, R. J. Roberts, J. A. Mercer, H. Round, Dr. Whittle, Dr. Pitts, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Williams, C. Courtenay, Ownes, R. Evers, J. F. Ainscow, H. Holden, J. Keet, J. Wiatt, W. Williams, W. Hildyard, Barley, C. Burby, C. Campion, G. Martin, and others. The list of visitors included Bros. T. Fozzard, P.M. 1035; D. Donbavand, P.M. 317; W. H. Ivatts, S.W. 155; H. Hallam, 218; Sergeant Walker, and others. Messrs. Collinson and Addis were initiated into the Order, and Bros. J. Wainwright, J. Wiatt, and Sergeant Bullock were raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. by the W.M., assisted by the I.P.M. It was unanimously resolved, after considerable discussion, that the £100 odd realised by the performance last December at the Royal Amphitheatre, under the auspices of the Dramatic Lodge, should in the meantime be held by the Treasurer, and that the House Committee be informed that unless the decoration of the banqueting-room of the Masonic hall be commenced within three months the sum named would be devoted to the benevolent fund of the Dramatic Lodge. The sum of five guineas was voted for the relief of the orphans of a deceased brother, who belonged to the York Lodge, No. 236, and the lodge was afterwards closed. The brethren banqueted at a later period, and a special toast was proposed, and received with enthusiasm—"Bro. R. J. Roberts, Stage Manager of the Royal Alexandra Amphitheatre," who is about to proceed to Australia. During the evening several songs and recitations were given by Bros. J. Busfield, R. J. Roberts, A. Woolrich, D. Donbavand, Webster Williams, W. Hildyard, and R. Burgess, Organist (whose pianoforte accompaniments were again of the choicest nature).

INSTRUCTION.

CHARTERHOUSE CLUB.—The first annual festival of this club took place in New Market Hotel, Snow Hill, on Tuesday evening last. Although the club has been in existence, in name at least, for the last ten years, it appears to have hitherto been in a disorganised condition, owing to the want of a proper place of meeting. During that period it has had to make five changes in this respect, which greatly weakened its numbers. But having acquired suitable accommodation in the above hotel, and a fresh access of members, it is once more beginning to get its head above water. While it is a regular lodge of instruction when occasion requires, its primary object appears to be to afford to Masons the means of acquiring a knowledge of the ceremonies and principles of the Craft by mutual interchange of ideas without necessarily going through the ordinary working of lodge ceremonies. At a meeting of the Masonic Club, held on the 4th ult., it was decided to celebrate the rising fortunes and the removal of the club to Bro. Butt's hotel by a festival, which it is the intention of the brethren connected with the club to hold every year. Previous to the festival the ceremony of installing the W.M., and the appointing and investing of his office-bearers, took place in the lodge room. Bro. James Stevens, P.M. 1426, and Senior Vice-President of the club, kindly undertook the duties of Installing Officer, which he performed in the most efficient manner. The names of the office-bearers are as follows: Bros. Wm. Hames, 1677, P.M. 917, W.M.; James Stevens, P.M. 720, 1216, and 1426, S.W.; Wm. Webb, W.M. 382, J.W.; T. B. Humphrey, Sec.; R. R. Harper, W.M. 1017, S.D.; R. W. Brown, I.G. 179, J.D.; W. Carlton Hale, S.D. 1216, I.G.; J. Seymour Smith, 742, Organist; and John Syer, 720 and 1017, D.C. Before the lodge was closed a vote of thanks was accorded to the Installing Master, which he in a few well chosen sentences acknowledged, after which several brethren were proposed as joining members, and they adjourned to an adjoining chamber, where they partook of an excellent banquet, provided by mine host of the New Market Hotel. Bro. Hames, the W.M., occupied the chair. Besides those whose names we have already mentioned there were present Bros. W. Stead, P.M. 113; F. R. Hayes, 73 and 1697; Maurice H. Levington, 1017; G. W. Taylor, P.M. 917; Robt. Prime, 917; J. L. Coulton, P.M. 382; John Syer, 107 and 120; Wm. Hames, 917 and 1677; P. P. Chandler, 1017; T. F. Vann Raalte, J.W. 917; R. B. Greenwood, 1623; W. H. Gulliford, P.M. 1017; J. W. Wallace, P.M. 1509; Seymour Smith, 742; John Bain 360 (S.C.); Wm. Webb, 382; W. Heath, 584; W. J. Hunter, W.M. 1677; R. D. Cummings, 1677; J. Morgan Lee, 211; and A. H. Chisholm, 1602 (Freemason). At the conclusion of the banquet the customary toasts followed. "The Queen and the Craft," "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," "The M.W. the Prov. G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," having been duly honoured, Bro. Stevens proposed, in a happy speech, "Success to the Charterhouse Club of Instruction," coupling with it "The Health of the President, Bro. Wm. Hames," Preceptor of the club. Bro. Stevens was quite sure that the brethren would all be prepared to do full justice to this toast, which it was his good fortune to propose. Referring first to the club itself, he thought he might be permitted to advert to some of its past vicissitudes. The existence of the club had not been unmingled with very many happy and

prosperous days since its establishment some ten years ago. For himself he had known the Charterhouse Club of Instruction but for the short space of six weeks. But he had had nevertheless during those six weeks the opportunity of associating with many of its members who were well able to inform him with regard to its past history. It did not profess to work a sectional part of Masonry, but really gave itself up entirely to the full working of the ceremonies, and therefore, afforded to every Mason an opportunity of quickly making himself perfect in the office which he might be connected with in his own mother lodge. But for circumstances in its early history over which it had no control, there was little doubt that the club would have by this time occupied a very different position. Those circumstances had been occasioned, not by any inherent defect in itself, but rather owing to the various houses in which it had met during the last few years. He had been given to understand by those who had been associated in it for some considerable time that there had been no less than five changes made as to the place of meeting, and they all knew that no change of this kind took place without some detriment ensuing. In ordinary life it was a common saying that two or three removals were equivalent to a fire, and after such unfavourable experiences as they had had, it was matter of surprise that the Charterhouse Club of Instruction had not been buried out altogether. Some five or six weeks ago, when their Junior Vice-President was elected to the Mastership of a lodge at Uxbridge, he requested him (the speaker) as a friend to attend on one occasion the lodge of instruction in the Goswell-road, for the purpose of supporting him in going through the ceremony. But he could not say they were in the fire that night, but on the contrary they were out in the cold, and a bitter cold night it was. The house where this meeting was to be held was undergoing repairs, and they were literally left out in the streets. In this sad position they were found by one or two brethren, he might say shivering physically and Masonically without a rag to cover themselves (laughter), and they did not know what to do to spend the hour they had intended to give up to Masonry. But devoted as they were to the Craft, they made up their minds not to be baffled, and accordingly they walked to the New Market Hotel. Instead of receiving there a cold reception, they were ushered into a very comfortable room, which he was proud to say was now their lodge room. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) All the brethren then considered that the Charterhouse Club of Instruction could not find a better resting place, and he was certain that the opinion they entertained then had been fully realised by the events of the evening. (Hear hear.) He desired it to be particularly understood that there was nothing whatever antagonistic to the ancient rules, charges, or constitution of the Order of Freemasonry in the means they adopted for the purpose of conveying instruction to one another. In his mind there was no more fit occupation for Freemasons than to meet together as a club and talk over their principles, tenets, and ceremonies, and mutually explain to one another their different significations. Besides, it was one of the best methods of making the young officers who came amongst them fit for carrying out the duties of their respective offices. After a few more words of a similar import Bro. Stevens concluded by referring in a few complimentary remarks to the President, who he was sure had earned the good will and respect of all the members of the club by his untiring interest in its welfare. The toast having been heartily drunk, the W.M. rose to thank the brethren for the honour they had done him in associating his name with the toast. He joined the club when it was first formed, and had consequently gone through all its vicissitudes and ups and downs. (Hear hear.) During the time he had been its Preceptor they had had some very good meetings and some very bad ones, but he ventured to express the hope that all their bad days were now behind them (hear, hear), and that the club would in the future prosper to such an extent that it would be an honour for any Preceptor to preside over it. He would conclude by simply saying that, so far as he was personally concerned, he would always have the greatest pleasure in doing all that he could to promote the interests of the Charterhouse Club of Instruction. (Hear, hear.) It was a lodge to which many were indebted for their first knowledge in Masonry. He could point out at the present time several brethren, who had filled the Master's chair in different lodges, who were indebted to the club for all the knowledge they had gained in Masonry, and he thought if they would rally round each other, and work together in the spirit they had done since they had come to Bro. Butt's, they would in time regenerate the lodge and make it as good as it was at any former period of its history. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Bro. Wm. Webb, Junior Vice-President, next proposed "The Visitors" in a brief, but happy speech. Bro. Morgan, of 211, replied, and, in doing so, remarked that during the ten years of the club's existence it had been instrumental in doing good service in teaching its members some of the finest principles of Freemasonry, and although in the course of its meanderings it had not met with the prosperity which they would all have wished, still, with such associations as this, they must not look for unqualified success. The W.M. had much pleasure in proposing "The Health of the Vice-Presidents, Bros. Stevens and Webb." They had been extremely indebted to Bro. Stevens for the very able manner in which he acted as Installing Master. During his whole career in Masonry he could not remember having seen the ceremony worked in a more efficient manner. The Vice-Presidents having both appropriately acknowledged the toast, "The Treasurer and Secretary," "The Masonic Press," "The Club Host, Bro. T. Butt," were, in quick succession, drunk and replied to, and the Tyler's toast brought the meeting to a close. In the course of the evening Bros. Seymour Smith, Stevens, Prime, Heath, Greenwood, and Turner greatly added to the enjoyment of the brethren by some capital singing,

WANDSWORTH LODGE (No. 144).—A meeting of the brethren of this lodge of instruction was held at the Spread Eagle Hotel, on Tuesday, the 1st inst. Bro. W. A. Blackmore was the W.M.; and there were present Bros. J. Frost, S.W.; P. V. Denham, J.W.; J. J. Holland, S.D.; H. J. Newens, J.D.; F. Reed, I.G.; and W. A. Morgan, J. G. Carter, C. Digby, J. Sanders, and A. A. Denham. Bro. Hunt was a visitor from the Beaconsfield Lodge. The W.M. worked the First Degree, Bro. Morgan being the candidate. The W.M.'s chair was then taken by Bro. C. Digby (the W.M. of the Doric Lodge), who went through the ceremony of raising Bro. Hunt, which was done in a perfect manner. Bro. P. V. Denham, pursuant to notice, moved as to the disposal of the funds now in hand. He suggested that a portion should be spent in giving Bro. J. G. Carter some token for the benefit he had conferred on the brethren as Preceptor, and that a banquet, to celebrate the occasion, should be held. Bro. Carter, with becoming modesty, declined to accept a testimonial paid out of the funds, as he thought they should be given to the Charities. Bro. W. A. Morgan hinted that the better course would be for the brethren to subscribe, and this was agreed to. Bro. P. V. Denham, proposed, Bro. A. A. Denham seconded, and it was carried, "That a banquet be held of the members at a convenient date." It was resolved, upon a motion by Bro. J. J. Holland, seconded by Bro. C. Digby, that the lodge adjourn from the last Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday in September.

Royal Arch.

CHAUCER CHAPTER (No. 1540).—The regular convocation of this chapter was held on Wednesday, 26th ult., at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge. The chapter was opened by Comps. Fuller, P.Z., as M.E.Z.; Littaur, P.Z., as II.; Stidolph, J., and other Installed Principals. The companions were then admitted. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and unanimously confirmed. Apologies were received from Comps. T. J. Sabine, M.E.Z., and J. C. Mason, II; also from candidates for exaltation excusing their absence, caused entirely from unavoidable circumstances. The resignation of Comp. Frederick Walters, P.Z. and S.E., of his membership of the chapter, was accepted with very great regret, he having tendered it through ill health. The election for S.E. was unanimously in favour of Comp. T. J. H. Wilkins, S.N., who was duly invested with the robe, collar, and jewel of that office. Business ended, the chapter was closed and adjourned. There were present besides those named Comps. Hudson, P.S.; H. Falja, A.S.; Ricardo, Spencer, and others.

LEWES.—South Saxon Chapter (No. 311).—At the annual meeting of the above chapter, held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, 26th ult., the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: Comps. R. H. Ellman, M.E.Z.; Jos. Farncombe, H.; S. Tanner, J.; R. Crosskey, Treasurer; G. Stone, E.; Hodgkin, N.; J. Stedman, P.S.; H. Hall, Janitor. A P.Z.'s jewel was voted to Comp. R. Crosskey, he having filled the position of First Principal during the past year.

INSTRUCTION.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT.—The usual weekly convocation of this excellent chapter of improvement was held on Tuesday, the 1st inst., at the Jamaica Coffee-house, Cornhill, and was attended by some of the best working Royal Arch Masons in the metropolis. The three chairs were filled by Comps. Brown, Waterall, and Thompson, and the office of P.S. was most efficiently performed by Comp. Lee, who is now the prospective P.S. of a very flourishing chapter. The ceremony of exaltation was most correctly rendered by the M.E.Z., Comp. Gabb being the candidate, and the subordinate offices were well filled. Comp. Slainey, of the St. Machar's Chapter, No. 37 (Scotch Constitution), was elected a member. The principal offices for the ensuing fortnight were filled as follows:—Comps. Wood, M.E.Z.; Waterall, H.; and Thompson, J. The chapter was then closed in due form and adjourned.

Knights Templar.

NOTTINGHAM.—Abbey Chapter Preceptory.—The installation meeting of this the oldest preceptory of the Knights Templar, Knights of Malta, Knights Mediterranean Pass, &c., was held on Wednesday, the 26th ult., at the Maypole Hotel. There were present, amongst others, Sir Knights J. Thompson, E.C.; M. Vowles, P.E.C.; C. Truman, P.E.C.; R. Fitz Hugh, P.E.C.; C. Wragg, P.E.C.; R. Boughton-Smith, H. Hatherly, W. Hickling, E. Buckoll, W. Glover. The minutes of the previous preceptory having been read and confirmed, the ceremony of installing Sir Knight Robert Boughton-Smith as Eminent Commander was then performed in a very able manner by Sir Knight C. Wragg, P.E.C. Having been duly proclaimed, Sir Knight Boughton-Smith briefly expressed his acknowledgments to the members for the honour they had done him in placing him in that high position, which he would endeavour to fulfil in as able a manner as it had been by his predecessor. The E.C. then appointed his officers as follows: Sir Knights H. A. Attenborough, Senechal; M. Vowles, Prior; R. Fitzhugh, Prelate; H. Hatherly, 1st Capt.; E. Buckoll, 2nd Capt.; D. W. Heath, Marshal; C. Wragg, Registrar; J. Comyn, Treasurer; C. Truman, Expert; R. T. Ingram, Constable; R. G. Hanson, Herald; W. Hickling, Capt. of Lines; H. Glover, Equerry. There being no other business, the preceptory

was duly closed. An adjournment was then made to the banqueting room, where a sumptuous banquet was provided. The E.C., Sir Knt. Boughton-Smith, presided. The usual routine of toasts were duly proposed and honoured. "The Health of the E.C." was warmly proposed by Sir Knt. Thompson, and most heartily received by the Sir Knights. He replied, and said he felt it a great honour to be installed the E.C. of the Abbey Chapter Preceptory, and he could sincerely say that nothing should be wanting on his part to make his year of office a successful one, feeling certain he should receive the same support from the Past E.C.'s as others had done before him. After a very enjoyable evening was spent, the Equerry's toast at an early hour terminated the proceedings.

PLYMOUTH.—Holy Cross Preceptory (No. 30).—The annual meeting of this preceptory was held at the Huyshe Masonic Temple recently. The E.C. elect, Sir Knight Elliot Square, P.P.G.C., was installed by the retiring E.C., Sir Knight Admiral F. H. Glasse, C.B., Prov. Sub-Prior of the Province of Devon, supported by the following Board of I.E.C.'s:—Sir Knights Col. Fitz Gerald, Past G.C. of England, and P.G.C.; C. Gotschalk, P.P.G.M.; S. Jew, P.P.G.T.; J. B. Glover, P.P.G.T.; E. Aitken Davies, P.P.G.V.C.; L. D. Westcott, P.P.G.C.L.; J. H. Keats, P.G.H.; G. V. Hilson, P.P.G.S.B. At the close of the installation the following Sir Knights were invested as officers:—Admiral Glasse, P.E.C.; J. S. Short, 1st C.; R. Pengelly, 2nd C.; Admiral Glasse, Prelate; L. D. Westcott, Treas.; J. Harris Square, Regis.; Jas. Griffin, Ex.; A. Vernon Maccall, C.L.; G. V. Hilson, H.; Lieut. St. Clair, S.B.; Lieut. Littledale, Alm.; Jas. Gidley, T. Smith, Equeries. The preceptory was then closed, the Priory of Malta opened, and Sir Knight Elliot Square installed as Prior. The E.C., in reply to the congratulations of the Fraters on his accession to office, said before separating he could but notice that the pleasure of their meeting had a sad gloom thrown over it by the decease of their distinguished Frater and Freemason, Sir Knight Richard Rodda. That night week Bro. Rodda was in good health and excellent spirits, and had promised to attend on the present occasion to conduct the installation. Providence had willed it otherwise. Their brother had been taken from them, and his remains now lay awaiting the rites of sepulture on Thursday next. During his busy life Bro. Rodda had been widely known in his sphere as an active and able business man. In the Masonic Order he had been a thorough Mason, and risen to eminence in all the various branches of the Order. It had always been his aim to extend and benefit the Order. His loss, he was sure, would be very generally felt throughout the Masonic body, and his memory respectfully cherished by the brethren who knew him. He felt sure all present would join in a vote of condolence with the bereaved family. It was at once resolved: "That the members of this preceptory desire to express their deep regret at the death of Sir Knight Richard Rodda, P.E.C., and their heartfelt sympathy with the members of his family at their loss." The P.E.C.'s among the visitors present, who represented all the other preceptories in the three towns, joined with the members of the Holy Cross Preceptory in their vote of regret and sympathy. The vote of condolence was directed to be drawn up and presented to the family, signed, in addition to the E.C. of the Holy Cross Preceptory, by the E.C. of the Royal Veterans Preceptory, and a representative P.E.C. from the Loyal Brunswick and the Royal Sussex Preceptories.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

The catalogue of Masonic books in the British Museum, commenced in the April number of the *Masonic Magazine*, promises to be of great use to readers, and I would suggest that the plan of this excellent chart be still further extended, by adding a supplementary list of works, not exclusively Masonic, and, therefore, not catalogued as such, which contain many references and allusions to Masonry. As examples of the class of work referred to I may instance "The Archaeologia;" "Anthologia Hibernica (1794);" "Wren's Parentalia;" "Higgin's Anacalypsis;" "Plott's Natural History of Staffordshire;" "Hope's Essay on Architecture;" "Dalloway Anecdotes of the Arts in England;" "De Quincey;" &c.

It struck me as a little singular that such well-known works as "Fort's Antiquities of Freemasonry," and "Kenning's and Mackenzie's Cyclopaedias," were not obtainable in the British Museum.

R. F. G.

BOHME, JACOB (called also Jacob Bohmen), was born in 1575, and died in 1624. He was originally a master shoemaker at Gorlitz, but about 1594 began, it is said, to study the Bible very carefully, and at the same time the writings of Paracelsus and Val Weigel. He then began with visions, and soon after this appeared as a mystic writer. His first work, "Aurora," appeared in 1612, and in "The Description of Three Principles of the Divine Being" we hear of "sex puncta mystica, sex puncta theosophica." Bohme's fundamental speculation is that "the forthcoming of the creation out of the Divine unity . . . which is itself distinguishable into a Trinity . . . can be contemplated by mystic illumination, and expressed in words." He seems about this time to have come across the clergy at Gorlitz; then in 1624 the "Handbuch" tells us he found milder judges among the Dresden Consistory in 1624, in which year he died. He was called "Philosophus Teutonicus," because he made use of the German language, and his works have been published several times since 1675, their first appearance, ten volumes in one edition of 1682, six volumes in 1846. The "Handbuch" tells us that a certain Jane Leade, in 1697, instituted the

society of "Philadelphists" which made its aim the diffusion of his writings. Some writers have contended that Freemasonry was greatly affected by the "Theosophy" of Jacob Bohmen, but we think there is a good deal of exaggeration in any such statement, though perhaps his name was often used by those who knew nothing of his writings. Such as we have seen are pure mysticism, constituting a jargon of its own without anything that we can discern of practical utility or good. That Swedenborgianism was coloured to a great extent by the reveries of Bohme is, we apprehend, undeniable, and that those restless spirits who made up the Rose Croix and Hermetic Adepts of the end of the last century made use of his theosophy is also probably true. But beyond this the evidence does not go.

ANNIVERSARIES.—The two great anniversaries of the Masonic Order are St. John the Baptist's Day, June 24th, and St. John the Evangelist's Day, December 27th. When the custom began of considering the two St. Johns the patron saints of Freemasonry is not very clear. It is in all probability a relic of the old Guild customs. Many of the Guilds kept St. John the Baptist's Day, many St. John the Evangelist's, and others kept the festivals of various saints; and we have, we are inclined to think, in this association of St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist, another witness to the Guild connection. In Bro. D. Murray Lyon's valuable work, the "History of the Lodge Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh," he gives us some very early regulations—viz., 1599—for the choosing of the "Wardenis" on St. John the Evangelist's Day. The first election which he records is St. John's Day, 1601. Nothing is said of St. John the Baptist, and we know from the Westminster Fabric Rolls that in the 13th century the Masons claimed neither of the two St. John's Days, but they belonged to the king, and were working days. The Guild custom seems then to be later, and the Masonic observance of them is, we think, not ancient. St. Andrew's Day seems to have been the Scotch Masons' anniversary, just as St. George's Day is for the English Grand Lodge practically now, or rather the Wednesday following St. George's Day.

CARBONARI, ORDER OF.—Properly the charcoal burners. The "Handbuch" says, and we agree with it, that it sprung up in Italy, in the early part of this century, though it may have had something to do with other such societies, which were prolific at the end of the last century. Some have affirmed that there was a society in France of "Charbonniers" and "Fendeurs," and "Bons Cousins," from whom the Carbonari also took the appellation of "Bons Cousins." They claim for themselves a high antiquity, and their patron saint is St. Theobald. They appear to have borrowed many of their forms from Masonry, but as a secret political order we entirely agree with Mackey that they are "entitled to no place" in a Masonic cyclopaedia, except, perhaps, to give us an opportunity of repudiating the notion that they are in any way, however slightly, really connected with Freemasonry.

IONIC ORDER, THE.—One of the three famous Grecian Orders of Architecture, and so called from Ionia in Asia Minor, it is averred. It is distinguished by what architects term the volute of its capital, and is, as Mackey well puts it, more delicate and graceful than the Doric, and more simply majestic than the Corinthian. Preston preserves a tradition that it was formed after the model of an agreeable young woman of an elegant shape, with her hair carefully dressed, as a contrast to the Doric, which was said to be formed after the model of a robust young man. We doubt our old historian in this instance much. It has been also pointed out that the distinguishing features of the Ionic order are these—the body of the pillar is usually channelled or furrowed with twenty-four gutters, and its length with the capital and base is twenty-nine modules, the chapter being chiefly composed of volutes or scrolls. It represents with us symbolically the W.M., and is supposed to be an emblem of wisdom.—*Kenning's Cyclopaedia of Freemasonry.*

Obituary.

BRO. JOHN JOHNSON.

Bro. John Johnson, S.D. 1423, J.W. 1623, 176, Caveac Chapter, M.C. 176, Era, Mark, &c., died on Saturday, March 29th, at his official residence of the Gas Light and Coke Co., 148, Goswell-road, after a short but painful illness. He was initiated at the Era Lodge, No. 1423, in the early part of 1875. He commenced office by being appointed D.C. in 1876, and was J.W. nominate at his decease. He was a founder of the West Smithfield Lodge, also we believe of 1719, Evening Star Lodge. He was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry at the Caveac Chapter 176, and was afterwards a founder of the Era Chapter, 1423. He was advanced to the ancient and honourable degree of a Mark Master Mason at the Era Lodge, 176, was a founder of 211, Hammersmith, Mark, and 223, West Smithfield, Mark, Lodges. He was a Past Steward, and a Life Governor of all the Masonic Charities. His last public act in Masonry was representing his 1623, West Smithfield Lodge, when the large sum of over £14,000 was collected at that auspicious anniversary. He was always found to be a kind, genial friend, a worthy brother, and one beloved by all who knew him. He has left a widow and sorrowing children to lament his early decease, besides a large circle of relations and friends, who deplore his loss. Our deceased brother was a native of Leicester, and by profession a gas engineer, in which business he greatly distinguished himself. He was in his 51st year.

W. BRO. A. J. WHEELER, P.M.

It is with deep regret we learn that this worthy brother, who was Editor of the *Masonic Jewel* at Memphis, Tennessee, has fallen a victim to that dreadful scourge—the

yellow fever. He remained at Memphis during the late trying times, and took up the heavy work connected with the Secretaryship of the Masonic Relief Fund, and did his utmost to relieve the sad suffering that surrounded him. Through his zeal for the good of his fellow men, he was constantly visiting those stricken by the fell disease, and at last became one of its victims. The *Masonic Jewel* held a high place in American Masonic literature. We had missed its regular issue for some months, but considered the terrible plague that was ravaging the southern portions of the United States was the cause of its silence, and hoped to see it again as soon as things were more settled. But the sad fate that has now met its editor being known, we fear one periodical, which so ably advocated the cause of Masonry in the great Republic, will be lost. The loss will be a serious one, for the true spirit of Masonry was infused in its pages, and it was conducted with that ability characteristic of our American Masonic journals. Bro. Wheeler died at his post. He did his duty unflinchingly. He shared the toils and perils of that trying period bravely—a period most terrible that has visited America for years. He was as honest and conscientious in the discharge of his duties as he was ready and able with his pen in defending the rights of our noble Order. May he meet with his reward in the Grand Lodge above!—*Masonic Record of Western India.*

FUNERAL OF BRO. R. RODDA, OF STONEHOUSE.

The funeral of the late Bro. Richard Rodda, for twenty-one years high bailiff of the Stonehouse County Court, took place on Thursday, the 27th ult. The cortege of twenty carriages proceeded from the deceased's residence in Durnford-street, Stonehouse, to the parish church of St. George, of the congregation of which Bro. Rodda was a member. There was a large attendance, including many prominent Freemasons, among whom the deceased had held high office. In the first mourning coach were Mr. Jonathan Rodda and Mr. Charles Rodda, sons of the deceased; Master Rodda, grandson; Mr. William Rodda, brother; and Mr. Thomas Rodda, nephew. Second—Mr. Martin Thomas, of Manchester, nephew; Mr. John Ivey, of Penzance, nephew; Bro. W. J. Hughan, Past S.G.D. of England; and Mr. George Cox, Manor-office. Third—Mr. R. G. Edmond's, Registrar of the County Court; Messrs. J. E. Curteis and T. S. Bayly, the executors; and Mr. J. R. Newcombe. Fourth—Bearers: Four P.E.C.'s of the Masonic Knights Templar—Fraters Colonel H. C. Fitz Gerald, R. R. Rodd, J. Sadler, and I. Watts. Fifth—Bearers: Four Past Masters of Lodge Fortitude, No. 105—Bros. George Hilson, G. C. Bignell, W. H. Anthony, and John James. Among others present were, in the first cab, Messrs. Davey, Field, and Castle, clerks of the County Court, and Mr. Mugford, clerk to Mr. Charles Rodda; in the next, the bailiffs of the court, and in the others, Dr. Wilson, Messrs. S. Jew, S. Hyne, S. Vosper, F. R. Tomes, J. S. Roach, G. Temple, T. W. Bastow, R. P. Culley, R. M. Bennett, G. V. Hilson, W. Brown, M. H. Rickard, J. E. E. Dawe, J. F. Veal, W. Powell, W. Woods, J. F. B. Hodge, F. A. Thomas, W. J. Thuell, P. Hamley, J. Williams, J. Baxter, J. Ingram, Mark F. Oldrey, high bailiff of the Totnes County Court; F. Lake, W. W. Bray, W. Harries, E. Aitken Davies, M. Watts, Horswill, H. Cochrane, W. Mitchell, H. Scott, E. Taylor, and H. E. James. Mr. Matthew Fortescue, judge of the County Court, wrote expressing deep sympathy with the family in their bereavement, and added that he would have been present at the funeral but for severe indisposition. Letters of sympathy had been sent by several other friends, who regretted their inability to be present to pay a last token of respect for the deceased.

At the church gate the corpse was met by the Rev. Percy R. Scott, the vicar, and Bro. the Rev. W. Whitley, P.P.G. Chaplain of the Freemasons, and minister of the Independent Chapel in Batter-street, Plymouth, who walked together into the church, where the vicar read the Psalm and the lesson, Bro. the Rev. W. Whitley occupying a chair by the reading desk, Mr. Scott having had one placed there in order that Bro. Whitley might remain near him. The hymn, "A few more years shall roll," was sung, and as the mourners left the church the Dead March in "Saul" was played on the organ. Mr. Scott and Bro. Whitley rode together to the Plymouth cemetery, where a vault in which rested the remains of the deceased's second wife had been prepared for the reception of the body. This vault is situated in the Nonconformist portion of the ground, and here the concluding portion of the beautiful service of the Church was read by Bro. Whitley, Mr. Scott standing by his side, and leading the responses. At the close of the service, Bro. Whitley gave a brief address to the Masonic brethren present. He pointed out the suddenness of the death. In the full vigour of life on the Monday evening, an inanimate corpse on the evening of the following Saturday. Cut off before the usual span allotted to man. How soon for aught they knew might that be the fate of any one of them. What a solemn admonition to live so that it might be a life of preparation for the certain lot of all. Might they all be looking forward to that hopeful reunion promised to all that proved true and faithful. A large number of the brethren gathered around the grave to take the last farewell of their brother according to the rites of the Order. The deceased, although he suffered much in his illness, died in perfect consciousness. His end was one of hopeful faith; almost his last words were, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." The coffin was covered with floral remembrances; among them Lodge Fortitude contributed a large and handsome wreath containing the square and compasses in camellias, azalias, and lilies of the valley, a similar wreath with a triangle came from the gardens of Mount Edgcombe, and another

in the form of a P.E.C.'s cross was sent by Frater J. E. Curteis.

The cost of the improvements at St. George's Church will entail an expenditure of £600, without including the re-seating, which is also contemplated. A portion of the £600 is as yet not gathered. On the Monday before Mr. Rodda's decease he was in conversation with the vicar and churchwardens at the church on the question of providing a central painted window, and on being told that it would cost £50, he at once undertook to obtain ten parishioners, including himself, who would provide the money by contributing £5 each. Towards the improvements recently effected Mr. Rodda contributed largely in personal exertions and pecuniary aid, and in obtaining an organ he was an active member of the Committee and contributed liberally. The opening performances were given on it on Friday previous, when he was on what proved to be his deathbed, and its next performance, besides accompanying the services on Sunday, was at his funeral.

STRASBURG CATHEDRAL.

There is a quaint old tradition, which comes down to us from ancient times, tottering under its load of age and replete with superstitions of the past. On the borders of Alsatia there lies a great city, dating its foundation far back, to the old Roman days, and rich in those architectural relics of the olden time which are ever so dear to the antiquary,

"Quaint offspring of centurial years, the town of Strasburg stands;

Rich in the love of a mighty past, in legend, and in story;

Rich in high hearted, honest sons, a country's truest glory;

Rich in its old Cathedral Church, with clustering ivy spread,

The Santa Croce of the land, where sleep her noble dead."

The story runs that once in every twelve months, on the eve of St. John, when the quiet burghers of that ancient city are wrapt in slumber, and when the hour of midnight clangs out from the loud-tongued bell which hangs in the old cathedral tower, that the spirits of the stonemasons, by whose hands the sacred pile was erected, arise from the tomb and once more revisit the scene of their former labours. Up from the dark and gloomy crypt, along the columned aisles and vast dim nave, across the white gleaming marble floor, checkered with ghostly shadows that stream from pictured oriel, past the stone-carved statues that keep watch and ward with their swords and sceptres, comes the long train of death-like, night-wandering shadows. Clad in their quaint old mediæval costume, the Masters with their compasses and rules, the Craftsmen with their plumbs and squares and levels, the apprentice lads with their heavy gavels, all silently greeting their companions, old and dear, with time-honoured salute and token as of yore. While the last note of the deep-mouthed bell is still trembling in the air, reverberating from arch to arch, and dying away amid the frozen music of the tracered roof, forth from the western portal streams the shadowy throng. Thrice around the sacred edifice winds the waving, floating train, brave old Erwin himself leading the way, while far above, up above the sculptured saints who look down upon the sleeping city, up where at the very summit of feathery, fairy-like spire, the image of the Queen of Heaven stands, there floats a cold, white-robed female form, the fair Sabina, old Erwin's well-beloved child, whose fair hands aided him in his work. In her right hand a mallet, in her left a chisel, she flits among the sculptured lace work of the noble spire like the genius of Masonry. With the first faint blush of dawn the vision fades, the phantom shapes dissolve, and the old Masons return to their sepulchres, there to rest until the next St. John's Eve shall summon them to earth.

HAMPTON COURT.—Era Lodge, No. 1423.

—The installation meeting of this well-known Middlesex lodge will take place on Saturday, 12th inst., at the Island Hotel, Bro. Tagg's, at 3.30 p.m. The installation ceremony will be conducted by Bro. Thos. J. Sabine, P.M. 73, 1540, P.P.G.S.B. Middlesex, the present W.M., assisted by Bro. J. W. Baldwin, P.M. 1423, P.P.G.P. Middlesex. Splendid views of the river Thames, extending on one side as far as Hampton Court Palace, and on the other as far as the village of Hampton, are obtained from this hotel. The charming locality chosen for the meeting of the Era Lodge should render it one of the most popular of the London summer lodges.

We are glad to hear that as the result of our paragraph announcing that thirteen out of fourteen of the girls of the Masonic Schools had passed the Cambridge Local Examinations, a Suffolk brother has offered to take the fourteen competitors, with two attendants, to a grand morning concert to be given at St. James's Hall, London, in May next, in aid of the funds of the new Hospital for Women, 222, Marylebone-road, London.—*East Anglian Daily Times.*

The installation of Bro. E. W. Devereux, of the Era Lodge, 1423, and Hon. Sec. of the Surrey Masonic Club, will take place at the Island Hotel, Hampton Court, on Saturday, the 12th inst.

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

THE LONDON MASONIC CHARITY ASSOCIATION.

A special general meeting of the Committee of this association took place on Wednesday last at the offices, 1, Clifford's Inn, when the arrangements for the elections were carefully considered, and several communications ordered to be replied to. A meeting will take place on Wednesday next, the 9th inst., at 5 o'clock p.m., of the General Committee to make the final arrangements. All voting papers should be at once sent, *not filled up*, to Bro. A. Tisley, 1, Clifford's Inn, Fleet-street, E.C., in order that the same may be registered and properly applied.

FAREWELL BANQUET TO BRO. J. CLARK.

A farewell dinner was given by Freemasons belonging to several lodges in the Portsmouth district on Wednesday, the 26th March, at the Golden Fleece, Commercial-road, Landport, to Bro. John Clark, Senior Warden of No. 1776, agent for the Buttery Iron Company, on the completion of an extensive contract for sliding caissons in the new extension works of Her Majesty's Dockyard, Portsmouth. Bro. E. S. Maine, P.M., &c., occupied the chair, and Bro. J. Craven, P.M., &c. the vice-chair. The dinner was of a substantial character, and reflected great credit on the host.

After the cloth had been removed the Chairman gave the customary loyal and Masonic toasts; and in proposing the toast of the evening viz., "The Good Health and future Prosperity of Bro. John Clark," remarked that Bro. Clark had been a sojourner in Portsmouth for about six years, that he came among them a stranger, but during this period he had, by his good nature, geniality, and courtesy of manner, gained a large number of friends. Not the least sincere were those who surrounded the festive board that night. In bearing testimony to the many good social qualities of Bro. J. Clark they must not omit to pay a tribute of respect and admiration to the great Craft to which they belonged, inasmuch as however great the qualifications of Bro. J. Clark might be, he would not have had the opportunity of making so many or such genuine friends had it not been for the organisation of the great Order of Freemasonry, which enlisted men of all classes under its banner and enabled them to interchange their ideas and form the basis of many sincere friendships which death alone would sever. He need not say how exceedingly delighted they were to meet their guest that night, and regretted that it should be occasioned by his leaving the neighbourhood, and hoped that he would carry away with him kindly feelings towards the Masons of Portsmouth, and receive a cordial welcome from the brethren in Derbyshire.

The toast was drunk with musical honours, and Bro. J. Clark, who was much affected, in response, said that he could not find words to express his lasting gratitude to the Freemasons of Portsmouth for the kind, cordial, and sincere manner they had treated him during his stay there; he had never received an unkind word from them, but, on the contrary, had received from them the greatest assistance. He regretted much that he was compelled to leave them, but as they had finished their contract, there was no alternative for him but to return, and, as a consequence, the best of friends must part; he should, however, ever remember the unexpected kindness in inviting him to a farewell dinner in the handsome manner they had done. Again thanking them for their fraternal conduct, he resumed his seat amidst considerable enthusiasm.

Bro. J. Clark next proposed "Success to the Borough of Portsmouth Masonic Hall and Club Company," and observed that he was certain the company would prove a great success, and be highly beneficial to Freemasonry in Portsmouth. He coupled with the toast the names of Bros. H. Cawte, P.M., and G. Cunningham. Bro. H. Cawte, P.M., in reply, said that he had long desired to see a company formed for the purpose of affording lodges good accommodation in a central part of the borough; they had at last succeeded in their object, and secured the co-operation of brethren belonging to all the lodges. Bro. Cunningham also, in reply, observed that the company must be a success from the perfect unanimity which prevailed amongst the Masons there with respect to the objects of the company; he remarked that he was a Mason of some years' standing—he had belonged to the Robert Burns, No. 25, London, since his initiation, but he had become an affiliated member of the newly-constituted Landport Lodge, and intended to do his utmost to make the new company successful for the benefit of the Masonic lodges of the borough. They had succeeded in inducing the Mayor, Bro. W. D. King, to be the chairman, and from his known aptitude for business augured well for its ultimate prosperity.

Bro. J. Willmott, W.M. 342, who was mainly instrumental in getting up the dinner, proposed "The Health of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman," which was briefly responded to by Bros. E. S. Maine and J. Craven. Some capital harmony was rendered by the brethren during the evening, and a most agreeable and happy evening was spent.

There were present Bros. E. S. Maine, P.M.; J. Craven, P.M.; H. Cawte, P.M.; A. Riddell, P.M.; Clay, P.M.; W. Payne, P.M.; R. Turney, P.M.; Willmott, W.M. 342; R. Barnes, S.W. 342; C. G. Adames, J.W. 1776; Bacigalupo, E. J. Smith, G. Cunningham, J. G. Niven, G. Chamberlain, A. Holbrook, R. King, J. Cowd, A. H. Hancock, J. Smith, Lenanton, Groom, Matthews, Robinson, German, Parkhouse, Green, McKinlay, Johns, J. Clark, and others.

The Goldsmiths' Company announce that several exhibitions in their gift are vacant at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Notes on Art.

The Paris Salon promises to be unusually good this year, artists having no such counter-attraction as the Exhibition Fine Art Galleries proved last spring. All the pictures had to be sent by Friday, the 28th ult. Amongst the most noticeable are a portrait of Victor Hugo by Bonnat, the well-known portrait painter, yet another episode of the struggle in 1870 by M. Detaille, "Defence of Champigny by the Division Faron," a military scene in Brittany by M. Berne-Bellecour, and an enormous triptych depicting the miracles of St. Cuthbert—large enough for the wall of a Cathedral—by M. Duez. M. Henner sends a painting of Naiads on the banks of a stream, and a head of a sleeping girl, taken impromptu from one of his models who had been overcome with drowsiness, and M. Carolus Duran, one of his usual portraits; but MM. De Neuville, Vibert, and Munkaczy will not be represented at the Palais de l'Industrie.

THE TELEPHONE.—At the Royal Society's *soirée*, held at Burlington House on Wednesday evening, the 2nd inst., there was a demonstration of the power of Edison's new loud-speaking telephone.

LORD BEACONSFIELD.—Mr. Jabez Hughes has executed some remarkably life-like photographs of the Premier.

The Society of Painters in Water-Colours have elected Mr. A. P. Newton a member, and Mrs. Helen Angell and Mr. H. M. Marshall Associates of the Society.

The sun will not shine for a longer period than seventeen million years, according to Professor Dubois Reymond, of the University of Berlin. By that time, he adds, the earth will be covered with glaciers.

NATIONAL GALLERY.—The National Gallery will be closed, for cleaning, from Monday, the 7th inst., to Saturday, the 12th inst., inclusive, but will be re-opened to the public on Easter Monday, and during the whole of the Easter week, including Thursday and Friday—the days ordinarily reserved for students.

ROYAL GIFT TO THE BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY.—At a meeting of the Birmingham Town Council on Tuesday, the Mayor read the following letter, which had been received from General Ponsonby, on behalf of the Queen:—"Buckingham Palace, March 24, 1879.—Sir,—I am commanded by the Queen to inquire if the managers of the Birmingham Library will accept from Her Majesty the volumes, a list of which I enclose. Not being certain to whom I should address myself, I venture to trouble you with this letter in the hope that you will communicate the Queen's offer in the proper quarter. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, Henry F. Ponsonby.—The Mayor of Birmingham." The list of volumes is as follows:—"Lepsius' 'Denkmale aus Aegypten und Aethiopien,' 12 volumes, large folio; Dr. F. Bock's 'Kleinodien des heiligen Romischen Reichs Deutscher Nation,' 1 volume, large folio, Wien, 1864; Nash's (Joseph) 'Windsor,' London, 1848; and Wyatt's (Mr. Digby) 'Industrial Arts of the 19th Century,' London, 1853. On the motion of the Mayor, it was resolved "That the letter of Lieutenant-General Ponsonby be received and entered on the minutes, and that he be requested to be the medium of conveying to Her Majesty the Queen the grateful acceptance by this Council of her gracious offer to present to the free library of this borough a valuable selection of books."

Bro. Stephen Pearce, who has painted the likeness of Bro. Lieut-Col. Creaton—see report—is well known by his exhibited life-sized portraits at the Royal Academy Exhibition. We well remember the eminent President of the Royal Society, General Sabine, painted by him some few years ago, and also his fine manly portraits of the distinguished Arctic heroes, Sir Leopold McClintock, Sir Robert McClure, Captain Penny, and others. Then, if we mistake not, there were very beautiful portraits of the late Duke of Bedford, Sir Francis Beaufort, and Sir John Barrow, also exhibited in successive years on its walls.

The Duke of Connaught has appointed Dr. Charles Murchison Physician-in-Ordinary.

Professor Virchow has left Berlin for Troy in acceptance of an invitation of Dr. Schliemann.

Mr. Carlyle has been unanimously re-elected President of the Edinburgh Philosophical Academy for the ensuing year.

A somewhat novel haul was made by a fishing-boat from St. Ives last week, for in the meshes of a large net, besides some hundred mackerel, were found 400 gulls, kittiwakes, and "murr's."

Lord Beaconsfield has placed Mr. Frederick Martin on the Civil List for a pension of £100 a year, in recognition of the service he has rendered by compiling the *Statesman's Year Book*, which he has now issued for sixteen years.

According to report, the White Lady, whose visits always precede the death of some member of the Royal Family, was seen on the eve of Prince Waldemar's death. A soldier on guard at the old castle was the witness of the apparition, and in his fright fled to the guard-house, where he was at once arrested for deserting his post.

At Paris, on Monday, the church of St. Germain l'Auxerrois was the scene of a funeral service, conducted, with the greatest pomp, over the remains of M. Heriot, one of the proprietors of the immense shop in the Rue de Rivoli, known as the "Magasins du Louvre." The hearse was followed by all the *employés* of the vast establishment, divided into nine groups; the last group consisted of the young women of the shop, to the number of upwards of 200. M. Heriot rose from the position of a shop-boy to that of part owner.

TO OUR READERS.

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

	United Kingdom.	America, the Continent, &c.	India, China, &c. Via Brindisi.
Twelve Months	10s. 6d.	12s. 0d.	17s. 4d.
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Subscriptions may be paid for in stamps, but Post Office Orders or Cheques are preferred, the former payable to

GEORGE KENNING, CHIEF OFFICE, LONDON, the latter crossed London Joint Stock Bank. Advertisements and other business communications should be addressed to the Publisher.

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

Further information will be supplied on application to the Publisher, 198, Fleet-street, London.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

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

Several P.O.O.'s are now in hand, but having received no advice we cannot credit them.

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.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Whole of backpage	£ 12 12 0
Half "	6 10 0
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These prices are for single insertions. A liberal reduction is made for a series of 13, 26, and 52 insertions.

Further particulars may be obtained of the Publisher, 198, Fleet-street, London.

Answers to Correspondents.

Can any brother give us the name or send us a specimen of an Anti-Masonic paper published at Chicago.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

"Hull Packet," "Le Monde Masonique," "Brad Arrow," "Scottish Freemason," "Modern Thought," "Western Morning News," "Brief," "Condition of Malta," "Prize Paper," "Masonic Newspaper," "Voice of Masonry," "Bulletin de Grand Orient de France," "Our Home," "West Central News," "The Advocate," "Temperance Journal," "New York Dispatch," "Keystone," "Stoke's Rapid Drawing," "Hebrew Leader," "The Liberal Freemason," "Die New Yorker Bundes Presse."

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[The charge is 2s. 6d. for announcements not exceeding Four Lines under this heading.]

BIRTHS.

DALRYMPLE.—On the 29th ult., at 39E, Onslow-square, the wife of Mr. Charles Dalrymple, M.P., of a son.

MACLACHLAN.—On the 30th ult., at 29, Marloes-road, Kensington, the wife of Captain D. MacLachlan, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

COLLET—HARRIS.—At the Parish Church, Broadwater, Golding Bird, son of the late Dr. Collet, of Worthing, to Minnie, daughter of Mr. William Harris, of Aller House, Worthing.

DEATHS.

BRUNTON.—On the 28th ult., at Park-terrace, Darlington, Bro. Thomas Brunton, P.M. Lodge No. 111, aged 43.

ROBINSON.—On the 29th ult., at Northgate, Darlington, Bro. A. G. Robinson, P.M. 1379, aged 41.

THE FREEMASON.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1879.

WHAT FREEMASONRY DOES DO.

We are often asked by the curious and the impertinent, what does Freemasonry do? We are often taunted by the credulous or the sceptical that it is practically "much ado about nothing." We have thought it well, then, to throw our thoughts together, so to say, and to answer these doubting or deprecatory queries, by pointing out to-day what Freemasonry does do, and we hope next week equally clearly to demonstrate what Freemasonry does not do. And in order to clear the way from the "debris" of all that dreadful rubbish which socialist Freemasons themselves, alas! a goodly number, or Ultramontane opponents, have placed in our way, misleading the gullible, and also deceiving the confiding, we wish, in the first place, to state what we mean by Freemasonry. In using that word we do not include in its use fictitious systems, or perverted jurisdictions. We do not claim as our brethren those who denounce or deny the fundamental tenets of our universal Order. We openly repudiate any teaching or any body which throws over Freemasonry and Masonic teachings, aims, or practice, the hurtful colouring of political reveries, or the debasing, the grovelling animus of sectarian violence. The Freemasonry we mean is that which is now openly professed before the world by above a million of Freemasons, banded together in brotherly love, peace, and goodwill, intent and never ashamed in its lodges to "own" T.G.A.O.T.U. under all circumstances, and, at all times, anxious ever to promote the welfare of humanity, to advance the brotherhood of Freemasonry, and to sympathize with any fallen, struggling, weak, erring, and dying brother and sister of the dust. And thus it is that Freemasonry seeks ever by its unselfish efforts, and its generous devotion to benevolence and timely aid, to make clear to all men that it is not merely a goodly profession, that it does not begin and end in fine words alone, but that it is a reality, practical and active, God fearing and philanthropical, seeking to render all its meetings and organizations, its brilliant assemblies, and its social pleasures all alike minister, and minister truly, to the help of truthful indigence, the raising up the fallen, the friendless, and the destitute. And therefore, at this very moment, while it proclaims and promulgates with unflinching voice, whenever and wherever "Freemasons most do congregate," the goodly and ever needful axioms of toleration, justice, sympathy, kindness, liberty of conscience, goodwill for all men, and, above all, the "household" of Freemasonry proper; it also tries to evince that its practice and its profession go hand in hand. It does not content itself with goodly dogmata or didactic morality; it despises and discountenances the baneful sophistries of "Pecksniff," and the vulgar hypocrisy of "Stiggins;" it knows nothing of "bunkum" or "high falutin," the brainless outpourings of the fanatic, and the childish moonshine of the self-constituted censor, but it works manfully to make its words good, its aims evident, and its use admitted in the great thoroughfares of life, as well as in the more secluded recesses of the lodge-room. Hence, to-day "charity," true charity, in its widest meaning and fullest sense, is the keynote which nominates all true Masonic harmonies. It begins in the lodge, it goes on in the Prov. Grand Lodge in our provinces, it continues in the Grand Lodge, it culminates in our great Metropolitan Charities, and is also to be clearly traced in those local efforts for education and the like, which are such a credit to those warm-hearted brethren who have constituted them, and kept them afloat in many of our Masonic provinces. All honour to them. There is no earthly society that we know of which does more, year by year, to prove that it "says what it means, and means what it says," than does our own good old Craft. And long may it so continue. Warned by the follies and the falls of foreign bodies, by the pitfalls and the

stumbling blocks they place in the way of weaker minds, the discredit they bring on the Order, the injury they do to Masonry proper, let us all hope and strive that Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry may long pursue the "even tenour of its way," without deviating to the right or the left, advocating and practising that great virtue of charity, which ennobles all its efforts, sanctifies all its aims, and elevates all its struggles, as it marches on to day, leaving stragglers and "malingerers" behind, under that emblazoned banner high over head, on which we still read the good, old, and sacred motto, "Glory to God on High, on earth peace, goodwill, and kindness to men."

A PLEASANT PRESENTATION.

On Wednesday week, as by a report elsewhere, it will be seen that the brethren of the Lodge of Antiquity presented to their Treasurer and esteemed Bro. Col. Creaton, now Grand Treasurer, a very admirable portrait of himself, painted expressly for this presentation by that distinguished artist, Bro. Stephen Pearce. It is not too much, we think, to say that in this little fraternal episode the greatest credit is reflected on all concerned, and the genuine principles of Freemasonry, alike in their theoretical aspect and practical effect, are remarkably exemplified in the generous and unselfish exertions of the Craftsman artist, on the one hand, as well as by the fraternal regard and friendly sympathy of the brethren on the other. Our Grand Treasurer is too well known and too widely appreciated to need any encomiums from us in our unassuming pages. His services to the Lodge of Antiquity, as to the Craft at large, have been many, and great, and untiring, and the brethren of that most ancient and distinguished lodge have testified to their appreciation of his Masonic career, as well as of his private worth and personal amiability, by a presentation both pleasant and praiseworthy to all, and a lasting memorial of the skill of the artist, and the worth and eminence of Bro. Lieut.-Col. Creaton.

THE LONDON MASONIC CHARITY ASSOCIATION.

At the approaching elections for the Girls' and Boys' Schools this, in our humble opinion, valuable and useful Association will endeavour to secure the election of several London candidates, who, for want of effective support, might probably otherwise "be left out in the cold." On their behalf we think it is advisable that all brethren unpledged should send in their votes at once to the Secretary, Bro. C. Tisley, 1, Clifford's Inn, Fleet-street, E.C., as they may feel confident that all votes, so generously given, will be both gratefully received and faithfully appropriated to their much needed purpose.

Original Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for, or even 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.]

THE ELECTIONS IN APRIL.

Dear Bro. Kenning,—

May I be permitted in your pages to ask any of my brethren who have votes to spare for the Boys' and Girls' School, to kindly give them to me? I shall be truly grateful for any little help.

Yours fraternally,

A. F. A. WOODFORD.

10, Upper Porchester-street,
Hyde Park-square, April 2.

IGNORANCE AND INTOLERANCE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Under the above heading you have lately published some remarkable intelligence of great interest to your readers, and the Craft in general. I venture to think that the case I am about to state will, if you deem it worthy of insertion in your columns, prove both interesting and surprising, if not even startling, to your readers in all parts of the world.

The week before last I received a visit from a Norwegian clergyman, Pastor J. H. Simonsen, a priest of that branch of the Lutheran Church which is established in Norway. He brought me a letter of introduction from my friend, Bro. Oscar Dickson, of Gothenburg, whom many will remember as one of the Swedish deputation at the Prince of Wales' installation, in the Albert Hall, in

1875. A few years ago Bro. Simonsen was appointed pastor of a Norwegian congregation in Wisconsin, one of the United States of America; and he went out there to discharge the duties of his office. It happened that he had been initiated into Freemasonry in Christiania, but had only received the First Degree when he went over to America. He was, however, not inclined to "hide" his Masonic "light under a bushel," and it came to the knowledge of his brother clergy that he actually was a Freemason. They took counsel on this (to them) extraordinary fact, and he was summoned before the Wisconsin Norwegian Synod, at their annual meeting in the town, or city, of Lisbon. The Synod not only required that he should abjure Freemasonry, but that he should denounce it as "sin!" Our brother declined to do either of these things; but, on the contrary, had the courage to deliver before the Synod a very bold defence of Freemasonry, in which, with perhaps more courage than caution, he strongly rebuked the narrowmindedness of his opponents. But he paid dearly for his outspoken advocacy of our Order; he had not a single supporter in the Synod, which by an unanimous vote then and there deposed him from his pastorate. He had, however, gained the affections of his flock, who would not submit to his deposition; and he continued for three years to act as their minister. But at length the persecution to which he was now subjected was such that he felt compelled to resign, and return to his native land. And even there it has followed him! The persecutors reported his case, accompanied by slanders of different kinds, to the bishop at Christiania, who now refuses to license him to any church, or to permit him to advance in any way in his profession. I must say that I was greatly surprised to hear this, well knowing that in Sweden many Lutheran priests, and some of them eminent men, are members of the Craft. But Bro. Simonsen tells me that in Norway there are but eight priests who are Masons, as against about from one to two hundred in Sweden, and that these eight have not "come to grief" simply because their Masonry is somewhat "sub-rosa," while he has drawn down the episcopal ire upon his devoted head by frankly defending it, and still more by allowing a brother to publish his "Defence," in a pamphlet.

Bro. Simonsen has come over to England with a view to circulate a translation of his pamphlet, and in the hope that by the sale of copies he may raise funds to enable him to live until something can be done to reinstate him in his position as a clergyman in the Norwegian Church; a good brother in Christiania having given him a free return ticket by one of the Hull steamers. I tell him that I do not know that we can do much to help him over here, but that the best thing I can do for him (after giving him some pecuniary assistance, which I would not mention except as an example) is to ask you to make this case known by this letter. I have also told him it is a great pity that he did not take his Third Degree before coming to England to seek admission into our lodges as a visiting brother. I will only add that he is a married man, with a young family dependent on him.

I remain, yours, faithfully and fraternally,
 R. P. BENT,
 Past Grand Chaplain of England, and
 Canon of the Order of Knights Templar
 in Sweden.

DR. HOPKINS' MASONIC CHARTS, &c.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have several times drawn attention to the Masonic and Ecclesiastical charts, so beautifully drawn by the W. Bro. Dr. Henry Hopkins, P. Prov. S.G.W. of Warwickshire, &c., of 14, Belvedere, Bath, not only because of their great value and excellence as symbolical charts accurately and most artistically executed, but likewise because the proceeds of their sale were devoted to one or more of our "Great Masonic Charities." This Dr. Hopkins had done for many years, until the cost of the materials bring ultimately a considerable burden, he has of late years given one half of any profits for so good an object.

The charts are a marvel of skill and ingenuity, and just "brim full" of Masonic or Ecclesiastical suggestions, so much so that they have but to be seen to be admired and purchased. The price, however—because of the time involved—did not bring them within the reach of some who could only admire; but now, happily, our brother has had them photographed by Messrs. J. and J. Dutton, of Bath, and the charts can now be obtained at 3s. each, or 2s. each, according to the sizes required (see advertisement). I shall be very pleased to be the medium of the sale of any of these gems of art and industry, or communications may be sent direct to Dr. Hopkins. As upwards of £100 have been devoted to our Charities through this means alone, it will readily be seen that brethren can gratify their tastes and their benevolent proclivities at the same time.

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

Truro, April 1st, 1879.

THE GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Although in no wise desirous of putting myself forward as the champion of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, I cannot allow your remarks regarding the Irish Grand Lodge balance sheet to pass without protesting against the manner in which you put the subject before our English brethren. You appear to take a leaf out of the books of those who sneer at everything Irish, which I cannot help thinking is scarcely in accordance with the principles laid down for your guidance, and if your Irish brethren are not educated enough to make out a balance sheet suffi-

ciently clear to please fastidious England, let yours be the task to teach, not to ridicule.

Yours fraternally,

H. S. CAMPBELL, P.M. 95.

[Our worthy brother is wrong, both in his premise and his conclusion, as far as we are concerned. Our good Irish brethren have no warmer admirers than ourselves.—Ed.]

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

D. ar Sir and Brother,—

As an Irishman I most strenuously object to your remarks on the balance-sheet of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; brotherly love does not seem to pervade the tone of your article, judging from the sneering allusions you make to the "Irish way" things are done, and the "Flemish account" you would expect. Did you have an inquiry?

Allow me to suggest you are in the position of the man in the glass house who threw stones. Look well to the doings of your own Grand Lodge, and tickle the fancy of your English brethren by a few facetious remarks on the position assumed by some of its late officers.

The disbursements of Grand Lodge of Ireland may not be in accordance with your views, but Irishmen have yet to learn of anything detrimental to the cause of Masonry by one of its members.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally.

A. H. SUNNER.

[We refer our impetuous brother to our editorial remark above.]

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I consider the "cutting" the Freemason so neatly is a great improvement, and I have reason to believe that many agree with me in that statement, for it is a great convenience, and the paper keeps better for binding. One other change is still needed (which has been pointed out by my friend and Bro. Captain F. G. Irwin), and that is to keep all the advertisements on separate sheets, that may easily be detached and excluded from the part to be bound. We have wished the Freemason every health and happiness on its tenth birthday, and are glad to see that as its age increases its appearance continues to improve, which is more than can be said of,

Yours fraternally,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

Truro, April 1st, 1879.

A QUERY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Could you kindly give me any information about Botzaris Eustratius Kras, a P.M. in Liverpool before 1867, and for many years a member of lodges under various degrees in that city, as to what lodges he belonged?

A line in the Freemason would greatly oblige,

Yours fraternally,

C. L. CONSTANTIOUS, 1009.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,—

Your weekly columns indicate that the lines of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite are not falling in pleasant places; its paths are so tortuous, traversed and crossed as to form a labyrinth, from which the only escape is by jumping the barriers. Many, unable to escape in any other way, have so vaulted over them, probably on the principle that repudiation of one oath, unwittingly taken, is better than constant perjuries. Sometime ago a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, and Sovereign Prince, Rose Croix, of one of the Supreme Grand Councils of the Holy Empire, led me to the top of one of the pinnacles of his temple, and directing my attention to a mirage, which he imagined, in his distempered fancy, to be a landscape of cities and kingdoms, said: "All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." I replied "Nay, not so, but I will view this landscape of mystery from the summit of the pyramid of Memphis, which embraces a prospect few have comprehended, and those few Orientals, and I will not defile myself by the worship of those who are marked with the mark and number of the beast. Listen to what a modern seer, who visited the temple of visions, whither we shall follow, has recorded of thee and thy Rite."

"His face was covered with pimples, such as accompany a burning fever, his eyes had a ferocious look, his breast swelled out into a great prominence; from his mouth he belched forth fire, like a furnace, his loins seemed on fire; in place of feet he had bony ankles without flesh; and from his body there exhaled a foul and stinking heat. I was terrified at the sight of him, and cried out, 'Approach no further, tell me whence you are?' He replied, in a hoarse tone of voice, 'I am from below, and live there in a society of two hundred, which is the most super-excellent of all societies; there we are all emperors of emperors, kings of kings, dukes of dukes, and princes of princes; no one is barely an emperor, or barely a king, duke, or prince. We are seated there on thrones of thrones, and thence dispatch our mandates over the whole world, and even beyond it.' I then said to him, 'Do you not perceive that you are in a state of insanity, arising from the fantasy of super-eminence?' He replied 'How can you talk in this manner, when we absolutely seem to ourselves, and are also acknowledged by ourselves, to have such distinction?' Verbum sap.

To abandon abstruse sentiment, and to descend to facts and to plain things, which every one can comprehend. It seems that by the impulse of its own inordinate vanity the Rite is now at war within itself in every quarter of the

world. The latest dissention has arisen in Canada, and I have just received from a brother, holding high degrees in the Ancient and Accepted Rite, a printed slip of a newspaper letter, which I send herewith for the indulgence of its insertion.

The writer's argument applies equally to this country. The Constitution of the Rite, Article 5, Section 3, provides:—"In each great nation of Europe, and in each kingdom or empire, there shall be a single Council of the said degree." Now England, Ireland, and Scotland form only one nation and one kingdom, namely, the British Nation and the United Kingdom, and is therefore only entitled to one S.G.C., and not three S.G.C.'s, as at present existing. That of Ireland was formed August 13, 1824; Scotland claims from 1814, but this is doubtful, as other authorities only allow her to date from 1843; England, 1845. Now leaving Ireland and Scotland to settle the point of priority between themselves, it is very certain that England was the latest constituted, and consequently, by establishing her S.G.C., has invaded the rights of either Scotland or Ireland; therefore the English Supreme Grand Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite must of necessity be a nullity, and is spurious for that reason, but also for others, and clandestine. Moreover, there is no escape, for the Constitution (forged no doubt though it be) ordains that it shall remain for ever the supreme law of the Rite. As Bro. Pike points out, every member has sworn to obey it, and hence so long as these three councils continue separate every English member violates his oath, and puts himself as an honourable man outside his Rite.

Whilst adopting a representative Constitution the Ancient and Primitive Rite, or Oriental Rite of Memphis, avoided such a mistake by obtaining a charter for the whole of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, added to which it has degrees of great value in addition to its Knights Rose Croix and Royal Arch ceremonies.

MEMPHIS.

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE IN CANADA.

A question of very great importance to the members of this Rite in Canada has suggested itself to my mind from a careful study of the Constitutions of 1786. The question is this. Are these Constitutions regarded by members of the A. and A. S. Rite as the fundamental law of the Rite? Dr. Mackey, in his admirable Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, says most distinctly and emphatically that they are so regarded. Bro. Albert Pike, the Grand Commander of the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S.—the mother Supreme Council of the world—published these Constitutions in 1872, in Latin, French, and English, and in his exhaustive annotations respecting them says: "The Supreme Council of Charleston (formed in 1801) had a perfect right to adopt them as the law of the new Order, no matter where, when, or by whom they were made, as Anderson's Constitutions were adopted in Symbolic Masonry: that they are and always have been the law of the Rite, because they were so adopted, and because no man has ever lawfully received the Degrees of the Rite without swearing to maintain them as its supreme law." In view of this testimony, so decidedly given, by the two most eminent and learned members of the Rite, I think that all interested must, without hesitation, acknowledge, that the Constitutions of 1786 are, and have always been, the supreme and fundamental law of the A. and the A. S. Rite. Let us now consider carefully one particular clause of the Constitutions, and the bearing that it has upon the present position of Canadian members of the Rite. I refer to Article V. Section III., which reads as follows: "In each of the Great Nations of Europe, whether Kingdom or Empire, there shall be but a single Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree. In all those States and Provinces, as well of the Main land as of the Islands, whereof North America is composed, there shall be Two Councils, one as great a distance as may be from the other. In all those States and Provinces also, whether of the Main land or the Islands, whereof South America is composed, there shall be Two Councils, one at as great a distance as possible from the other. Likewise, there shall be one only in each Empire, Supreme State, or Kingdom in Asia, Africa, &c." In the preamble it is declared that "these Decrees are and for ever shall be the Constitutions, Statutes, and regulations, for the government of the Rite," consequently they cannot, by any authority whatever, be ever abrogated, altered, or changed. I think it must be held as an undeniable fact, that by the Constitutions of 1786, unaltered and unalterable as they are, and binding upon every member of the Rite, inasmuch as he has solemnly sworn to observe them in their integrity, that two Supreme Councils, and two only, can legally exist in North America, and that if more than that number should have been inadvertently created, that those in excess of the two first are of necessity illegal, and are in fact nullities. Unfortunately there are now more than two Supreme Councils in North America: there are three, to my certain knowledge, and possibly may be more, as, for all I know to the contrary, Mexico and the Central American States may claim to possess one each. Those of which I have information are as follows: first, the S.C. of the Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S., dating from 1801. Second, the S.C. of the Northern Jurisdiction of the U.S., dating from 1815. Third, the S.C. of the Dominion of Canada, dating from 1874. The S.C. of the Northern Jurisdiction has authority over only fifteen States, which were specially given up to it by the S.C. of the Southern Jurisdiction, which claims the remainder of the States, on account of its priority of origin, amongst which States are Iowa, Minnesota, and California.

As it has been proved that only two Supreme Councils can legally exist in North America, and as it is certain that the two legal councils are those of the Southern and Northern Jurisdiction of the U.S., it behoves Canadians, claiming to be members of the A. and A. S. Rite, to con-

sider what their real position is. It must be evident to every one who has followed the proofs above given, that the so-called Supreme Council of Canada, created in 1874, was, and is, an illegal body, being formed contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the Constitutions of 1786. It is true that this S.C. was inaugurated by Bro. Pike himself, under warrant from the S.C. of England, but neither Bro. Pike nor the S.C. of England, nor any other man or body of men, had the power or authority to repeal or set aside even one section or article of those Constitutions, which are the fundamental law of the Rite. No doubt the mistake was unwittingly made, but still the mistakes and oversights that the ablest of men at times fall into cannot exonerate others if they persist in violating an acknowledged law, after the existence of that law has been plainly pointed out to them. It is now, therefore, incumbent upon the members of the Rite in Canada to yield their allegiance to the body that is alone entitled to receive it, and that body is, without a shadow of doubt, the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, which has the sole right to exercise authority over the whole of North America, excepting only that portion which was yielded to the S.C. of the Northern Jurisdiction at its formation in 1815. Up to 1874 all members of the Rite made in Canada, under the authority of the Supreme Council of England, and by the tacit consent of the S.C. of the Southern Jurisdiction, U.S., are regular and legitimate. Since the withdrawal of the English authority in 1874, and the illegal creation of the so-called Supreme Council of Canada, all persons receiving Degrees under the auspices of the last mentioned body are irregular and illegitimate, and must of necessity be healed by the lawful authority alone entitled to receive them before they can be considered as members of the A. and A.S. Rite at all. The only course that can now be lawfully followed is this: let the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction, U.S., declare the so-called Supreme Council of Canada dissolved, as being from its inception an illegal body; form its members into a Grand Consistory for the Dominion of Canada, and give it authority to heal those brethren who have been inadvertently misled into considering themselves members of the Rite. This will no doubt be a bitter pill for Canadians to swallow, but what else can be done? The fundamental Constitutions to which the Rite owes its existence, and under which alone it exercises its lawful authority, must be obeyed to the very letter, because, to again quote Bro. Pike, "no man has ever lawfully received the Degrees of the Rite without swearing to maintain them as its Supreme Law." This solemn obligation, now that it is brought plainly to our remembrance, must be respected, even at the sacrifice of national feeling or of personal consequence. We must now retrace our steps, and yield our allegiance to that Supreme Council—that of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States—which is alone entitled to receive it, and which cannot lawfully refuse to receive it.

S. P. OF THE R. S.

Ontario, Canada, 11th March, 1879.

P.S.—By a singular coincidence, the reverse of the paper whence I send the enclosed cutting has the following "Inscriptions from Egyptian Tombs," which I beg to transfer to your columns. Surely, the checks of the Christian Knights and Princes of the Holy Empire will tingle when they read the sentiments, by which these un-saved pagans directed all their lives. If they do not so tingle mine would blush for the degradation of humanity:—

"He loved his father and mother, and honoured his brother. He never entered his house with an angry heart. He never favoured the nobleman above the simple."

"On earth I was a prudent and wise man, and my soul ever loved God. If I was a brother to the noble, I was a father to the poor, and never scattered hatred among men."

"I will tell you, O ye that live after me, how it was with me during my life. I was not haughty, neither did I curse, neither did I revile, neither did I love to quarrel with my neighbour. I never withstood the poor and oppressed, but always sought by word and deed for reconciliation."

"I honoured my father and respected my mother, and loved my brother. I provided burial for those that died and were not laid in the earth, and supported the children who were born. I founded houses for them, and filled them with good deeds, as a father doeth by his own children. For behold! it was an evil time in Sais, when the great disaster passed over Egypt."

Reviews.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES. A REPORT TO THE LODGE HOPE AND CHARITY, No. 377. By Bro. GEORGE TAYLOR, P.M., P.G. Purst. Worcestershire. Kidderminster: W. Hepworth, Sun Office, Bull Ring.

We have read this "brochure" with singular pleasure. It is alike simple and yet lucid in statement, ably drawn out, and effectively written. Bro. Taylor has done good service to our Metropolitan Charities, by a seasonable and eloquent recital of their work and their merits, their needs and their claims. We recommend any of our brethren who wish to be "posted up" in a few comprehensive words as to what our Masonic Charities really do, to obtain Bro. Taylor's pamphlet, as many who do not like to wade through long reports will find in his clear pages and concise statements, complete justification of Masonic usefulness and Masonic Charity. We hope to see a fuller review of this little publication in the *Masonic Magazine* for May. We thank Bro. Taylor for it, and sincerely hope that it may be widely circulated and largely read.

AN ADDRESS BY THE REV. J. H. SIMONSEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCANDINAVIAN WISCONSIN SYNOD. George Kenning, 198, Fleet-street.

It appears that the Rev. J. H. Simonsen, a Norwegian Lutheran clergyman, has been practically excommunicated by the Synod of his co-religionists, both in America and Norway, and deprived of the means of living for himself and family, simply for his defence of Freemasonry. The "appeal" we have just noticed is put forth by him to attract the notice and sympathy of brethren in England, and is alike forcibly written, and appears to make out a good case. Such, at any rate, is the opinion of competent judges like our worthy P.G.C., Bro. Bent, whose acquaintance with Swedish affairs is well known. We confess that we are deeply struck by the intolerance manifested, and the injustice perpetrated. Some Scandinavian Lutheran "pastors" in America seem to be excessively active in condemning Freemasonry, so let us preserve the names of the worthies, the Revs. Preus and Hvistendahl. Their main objection seems to be the fact of secrecy, though, as ardent controversialists, they forget that to secrecy, per se, there is, and can be, no objection, and that the only possible condemnation of it can be found in opposition to the laws of the land. We have recently observed in some of the American Masonic papers allusion to these high-handed, loud-voiced Scandinavian acts of intolerance and injustice, which remind us of the worst excesses of an ignorant and blatant Ultramontanist. But then, as we know, the spirit of persecution is the same in all ages, if under altered forms, and we only ascribe it to that petulance, ignorance, and unfairness of human nature, which like to impose what is subjective for what is objective, with all the bitterness of sectarian rancour, on the minds and consciences of fellow mortals. We trust that Bro. Simonsen's pamphlet may lead to a more critical examination of the whole affair, and may induce many worthy brethren, haters of injustice and intolerance, to study the case for themselves. We also trust that Bro. Simonsen's energetic and eloquent appeal may be largely read with profit to this modern victim of an unreasoning opposition to, and dislike of, Freemasonry. Some of us may ask, is such a state of things possible in 1879? But so it is, my masters, and as the world wags apace we fear there is but little change and less amelioration in the baleful and hopeless tendencies of our poor, our weak, our selfish humanity!

Public Amusements.

THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.—A grand dramatic performance was given at the above theatre on Wednesday evening, the 26th ult., in aid of the funds of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, London, and the Cheshire Royal Masonic Institution. The entertainment enjoyed the distinguished patronage of His Worship the Mayor of Birkenhead (John Laird, Esq.); David MacIver, Esq., M.P.; Bro. the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., R.W. Deputy Prov. G.M. Cheshire; Bro. the Viscount Combermere, R.W.P.D.G.M. Cheshire; Bro. Aeneas J. McIntyre, G.C., V.W.G.R. of England, R.W.G.S.W. Cheshire; Bro. Lord Richard Grosvenor, P.G.S.W. England, P.G.J.W. Cheshire; Bro. the Hon. Col. F. Stanley, M.P., R.W. Deputy Prov. G.M. West Lancashire; Bro. G. W. Latham, R.W.P.G.D. England; Bro. Major Horner, P.P.G.S.W. West Lancashire; William Laird, Esq., J.P., Birkenhead; C. J. Preston, Esq., Birkenhead; Clarke Aspinall, Esq., J.P., Bebington; Lieut.-Col. King, Oxtou; Thos. Bracey, Esq., Major Walker, and officers of the 1st Cheshire Engineers; Worshipful Masters of lodges in the district, and others. The performances began with *A Kiss in the Dark*, in which Bro. C. Courtenay, 1609, as "Frank Fathom," Mr. Stoddart as "Mr. Pettibone," Miss F. Courtenay, Miss Stinton, and Miss Smith took part. After an interlude, in which the band of the 1st Cheshire Engineer Volunteers played a selection of popular music, Tom Taylor's comedy of *Still Waters Run Deep*, was played by the Amphitheatre company. Bro. Lindo Courtenay, W.M. 1609, took the leading rôle as "Captain Hawksley," and Bro. W. Constantine, I.P.M. 1609, was a capital "John Mildmay." Miss L. Courtenay as "Mrs. Sternhold," and Miss Florence Courtenay as "Mrs. Mildmay," sustained these characters with effect; while the subordinate characters were represented by Mr. F. Clarke "Potter," Mr. Forrest, "Jessop," Bro. C. Courtenay, "Dunbilk," Mr. Wilson, Mr. Harris, and Bro. H. Leslie, the latter as "Gimlet." The actors were several times applauded, and the performance as a whole was much admired.

THE LONDON COTTAGE MISSION.—The crowd of hungry children, numbering several hundred, that presented themselves on Wednesday at the doors of Conder-street Hall, Limehouse, E., to partake of the 14th Irish stew dinner, given by the London Cottage Mission, of 14, Finsbury-circus, E.C., was no mean sight, and one that shews only too plainly the sad distress that still exists, even though mild weather has come upon us. The little ones brought, as usual, their plates and spoons, and quietly waited until their turn came to participate in so good a meal. They were ravenously hungry, and devoured the Irish stew with the greatest rapidity and relish, which was repeatedly served to them. Such a real work of charity that feeds the hungry, and has for its one aim the social, intellectual, and religious elevation of the working classes, should have the warmest support of the benevolent and philanthropic; and, as the funds are now exhausted, we hope that as our readers have so far enabled this mission to do so much good that they will not allow it to collapse for the want of means, and the smallest donations will be cordially received and acknowledged by Mr. W. Austin, at the office of the Mission, 14, Finsbury-circus, E.C.

THE ALTAR IN MASONRY.

The presence of the altar in the lodge-room testifies emphatically that Freemasonry recognises and enforces the truth that there exists one only true and living God, who is the hearer and answerer of prayer. So long as that altar remains, so long must the fraternity continue to be theists; but when it is removed, or the First Great Light is removed from on it, and it comes to be termed merely a pedestal, then those that gather around it are no longer Freemasons, but only an organised society of atheists. What is the history of the decline and fall of the Craft in France, as it exists under the present Grand Orient? It is simply the history of the removal of the Bible from the altar, and the degradation of that altar into a pedestal. Bro. Mackenzie in his *Royal Masonic Cyclopaedia* most erroneously says: "In an ordinary English Craft lodge, the altar is also called the pedestal." There could not be a more radical error—one more calculated to undermine the pure principles of Masonry. Bro. Woodford, in *Kenning's Cyclopaedia*, states the truth in this connection when he says: "It is a mistake to call the altar the pedestal, which is purely the Master's desk, and such a confounding of two distinct things is a remnant of the slovenly working of the early part of this century." But it is more than slovenly, it is a departure from principle, and surely entails, as we have shown, the most fatal results.

There were two altars in King Solomon's Temple, the altar of sacrifice and the altar of incense; and in like manner there are two altars in Masonry. In the Blue Lodge there is only the altar of sacrifice, but in the Royal Arch Chapter there is besides it the altar of incense. We shall not do more now than refer to the latter. The altar, par excellence, in Masonry, is the altar of the Blue Lodge, that of sacrifice—the sacrifice of prayer, and the pledging of solemn vows.

In American lodges the altar is placed in the centre of the lodge room, but in English lodges it is located not only in front, but also near to the Master's station. The former position appears to us to be the true one. King David said: "I will wash my hands in innocency; so will I compass thine altar, O Lord"—compass, that is, pass around and go to. How true is it that the candidate for Masonry compasses the altar, and having reached it, does he not offer a sacrifice thereon—the sacrifice of prayer, and the offering up of his vows? Some, perhaps, pray there who never prayed before. It is a solemn moment, and its lessons are for a life-time.

Man is naturally a worshipping animal—indeed, it is this quality which chiefly distinguishes him from the brute creation. All heathendom had, and still has, its altars. The famous city of Athens was wholly given to idolatry when St. Paul visited it, so that it is said to have been easier to find a God there than a man! There were altars to all the known Gods, and one to the unknown God!

Prof. Chase has termed the world-renowned Acropolis at Athens "one grand, vast altar." It was, and is, a natural altar. It is an immense table of rock, one hundred and fifty feet high, eleven hundred feet long, and five hundred feet broad. This altar is now covered with the remains of stupendous and magnificent temples, the grandest being the Parthenon. These ruins are the most remarkable in the world, exemplifying, as they do, such unique classic beauty, monumenting so vast a body of history, and suggesting so great a pageant of immortal memories. In the language of a modern historian: "As Pausanias saw it, the Acropolis was covered with statues, as well as with shrines. It was not merely a Holy of Holies in religion, it was also a palace and a museum of art. Even all the tides and slopes of the great rock were honeycombed into sacred grottoes, or studded with votive monuments."

There is one other well-known natural altar—the noted Rock of Cashel, in Ireland. Upon it is its great cathedral, the Parthenon of the place, and near by it is the holiest of all, the beautiful Cormac's Chapel. Around the base of the rock flourished a number of abbeys—all looking out upon the golden Vale of Tipperary. We do not wonder that men revered the Acropolis of Athens, and the Irish Rock of Cashel, since both seem designed by nature for the worship of nature's God.

Freemasonry now, whatever may have been its early origin and intermediate history, honours and worships the one only true and living God, who is the Grand Architect of the Universe. We believe in the principle of progress, and we think we clearly see how mankind and Mason-kind have been steadily advancing more and more into the light, and towards the highest truth. Among the Jews, the Abrahamic or patriarchal dispensation led up to the Mosaic or priestly, that to the Solomonic or kingly, and that in turn to the crowning ultimate or Christian dispensation, under which we are now living. So, if Masonry began, as some allege, in its simpler form in the earliest times, it is developed and been gradually evolved into its present highest form of pure Freemasonry. It owes this purity and prosperity primarily to one great cause—its acknowledgment of the one only true and living God, the prominent symbol of which is the altar in the lodge room.

Let us cherish the Masonic altar, together with the First Great Light which rests upon it, for in them is, as it were, the very life-blood of the Craft. Were there no God in Masonry, Masonry would be dead. Degrade the altar into a pedestal; remove the Holy Bible and replace it with the Book of Constitutions; take away the Square and Compasses, and substitute the crossed swords, and you sign, seal, and deliver the death-warrant of Freemasonry.—*The Keystone*, Philadelphia.

The Marquis of Hartington, Lord Rector of Edinburgh University, has offered a prize of twenty-five guineas annually, during his term of office, for the best historical essay, to be competed for by students of the University. The subject of the first essay is "The Share of Scotland in the creation of British India."

MASONS AS JUDGES, JURORS, &c.

There is a popular belief that Masons, when acting as judges, jurors, or citizens, frequently permit the guilty members of the Craft to escape such justice as they would measure to those not members of the Order. An eminent officer of the government addressed me on this subject, and although believing that such conduct was in opposition to the law of Masonry, yet he had no faith that it was adopted by many as the rule for their guidance. Not long since one of the Craft was tried in this State for murder. The evidence adduced was such as would authorise conviction, yet the jury failed to agree, nine being in favour of a verdict for murder in the first degree, and three for it in the second degree. Of the nine four were Masons—of the three, two were Masons; and the public generally believed that the disagreement was occasioned by Masonic influence in behalf of the accused, because he was a Mason. If the brothers who adhered to the lesser finding were controlled by the fact simply that the accused was a Mason, then it is hardly necessary to inform you that they failed to do their duty as jurors, and had no precedent for such action in Masonic law.

Masonry acknowledges the supremacy of the government, enforces respect for the civil magistrates, and enjoins upon its followers an obedience to law, to be exemplary in the discharge of civic duties, and to be quiet and peaceable citizens. It does not array itself against law, or seek, however remotely, to shield the guilty from punishment. It has its own trials, and convicts offenders who have been acquitted in civil courts by reason of legal or verbal technicalities; and, while it exercises, as far as practicable, a sympathising equity, it exacts, when the occasion demands, a rigid justice. There is no condonation of crime in Masonry. One is first a citizen, then a Mason. Bad citizens make bad Masons. Good Masons are always good citizens. They recognise their duties to society as paramount, and are aware that the general welfare reaches them as well as others; that, as all is more than a part, their duties as good citizens to the common community are among their primary obligations; and that support to the laws and the punishment of law-breaking is alike expected, irrespective of the professions of the offenders. It is time that less-informed Masons and the non-Masonic community should be told that neither judge nor jury, as Masons, have a right to avert a merited punishment from a guilty Mason, or in any civil procedure to have their verdicts influenced in favour of a party because he is a Mason. This is not Masonry, and if it were, then Masonry would be justly doomed.—*Grand Master Browne, of California.*

THE PRINCESS ALICE.

(From "England's Royal Home.")*

LOVING MINISTRY.

"The following letter (recently found amongst some treasured papers), was written by the Princess Alice in the early part of the year 1861, which ere it closed, was to bring such deep sorrow to the Royal Home. It shows how truly she had already learned the lesson of sympathy which so markedly characterised her after life. Mr. Corbould, to whom the letter was addressed, had the office of drawing master to the Princess, and the loss he had experienced was the death of a daughter. The Princess wrote:—

"Tuesday Morning, May 24th, 1861.

"Dear Mr. Corbould,—Having just heard of your sad bereavement, I cannot refrain from sending you a few lines to tell you how truly I sympathise with and mourn over your loss. Having so lately, for the first time, seen death (the Duchess of Kent died in March) and felt its grief, and the anguish of losing one we love so deeply, so truly. I know what bitter trial you have, and how little words from others can bring comfort to the bleeding heart at such a moment. There is but One who can give you consolation, and we have that blessed hope of meeting again to part no more. She has only left you for a little while, and her gentle spirit watches over you, and waits for you. If the sympathy of one who feels, and that most warmly, for your grief, can bring you the slightest consolation, I do sympathise with all my heart. May God support, strengthen, and comfort you, and your wife and children, under this heavy affliction. This is the fervent prayer of

"ALICE."

* "England's Royal Home." By the REV. CHARLES BULLOCK, B.D., Editor of "Home Words" (Hand and Heart Office, London, E.C.)

Mr. Manley Hopkins writes to the *Times* that the absence of caloric during the past winter has extended to Hawaii (20 deg. N. lat.), where, in January, the mercury touched 50 deg.—a very unusual reading in that latitude. Mr. Edwin Freshfield states that on the 25th of January, after a calm for some days, the Bay of Smyrna was, to the astonishment of the inhabitants, found frozen, the ice extending about 40 yards into the sea. There is no record of such a circumstance ever having occurred before.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—The stomach and its troubles cause more discomfort and bring more unhappiness than is commonly supposed. The food and its that settle there may be prevented or dislodged by the judicious use of these purifying Pills, which act as a sure, gentle anti-acid aperient, without annoying the nerves of the most susceptible or irritating the most delicate organization. Holloway's Pills will bestow comfort, and confer relief on every leadachy, dyspeptic, and sickly sufferer, whose tortures make him a burden to himself and a bugbear to his friends. These Pills have long been the popular remedy for a weak stomach, for a disordered liver, or a paralysed digestion, which yield without difficulty to their regulating, purifying, and tonic qualities.—[Advt.]

Masonic and General Tidings.

The Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., has intimated his intention to appoint Viscount Ebrington, eldest son of Earl Fortescue, to the Provincial Grand Mastership of Devonshire, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. L. Huysh, of Clyst Hydon. Lord Ebrington is Senior Warden of the Barnstaple Lodge, and is now only 24 years of age. His grandfather, however, was Provincial Grand Master of Devon for 42 years.

The Consecration of the Prince Leopold Lodge of Mark Master Masons will take place at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Monday next, the 7th inst. We understand that H.R.H. Prince Leopold has permitted the lodge to use his crest and arms upon the summonses, jewels and lodge banner, and has further conferred upon the lodge the distinguished honour of enrolling his name as its first honorary member. The day fixed for the consecration is the anniversary of the birthday of His Royal Highness.

In our report of the Holmesdale Lodge meeting last week Bro. J. Greig was described as G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; it should have been Past D.D.G.M.

Among the forthcoming pictures for the Royal Academy Exhibition will be a powerful work by Keeley Halswelle, A.R.S.A., entitled, "Waiting for the Blessing." The scene represents some groups of Italian peasantry, seated on a wall, under a brilliant sunlight effect, awaiting, with expectant faces, the appearance of Pius IX.

Bro. J. R. Hodgkins, a Past Master of Victoria Lodge, No. 1026 (E.C.), Hong Kong, China, has been visiting in Boston, Mass. Bro. Hodgkins was present in February, 1878, at the opening of the first Hindoo Lodge in Bombay. He also states that the first Parsee was made a Mason in Paris in 1847, and is still living.

MEMORY AND THE FINE ARTS.—Some extremely ingenious applications of the Mnemonic Art have been made by Bro. Stokes for teaching principles of the fine arts, in a little publication, "Stokes's Rapid Drawing," now before us. As its price is but a shilling, we advise all to read it, and we are confident that those who give the book most attention will be most pleased. All that is worth knowing is put into the book. Bro. Stokes is lecturing as usual at the Polytechnic.

The next convocation of the Frederick Chapter of Unity will be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on Tuesday next, at 4 p.m., when the election of Principals and Officers for the year will take place.

We are glad to hear that Bro. Thomas, who is as celebrated for his piety as his "Hots," has taken extensive premises at 167, Fleet-street, where we hope he will be as successful as he is energetic.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Philip and Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha honoured Messrs. Felton and Sons, in Albemarle-street, on Thursday week, with a visit, and graciously favoured them with commands for the renowned "Spécialité" Sherry.

PRESENTATION.—A set of gavels, made of sandal wood from Hawaii, having been presented to the Fortitude Lodge of Instruction, 131, Truro, by its sole honorary member, Bro. J. J. Taylor, W.M., of Penzance, on the eve of his leaving England, at the last lodge meeting, the hearty thanks of the members were voted to him. The gavels, each of which is suitably inscribed, were cut from wood Bro. Taylor obtained for the purpose from the King of Hawaii, David Kalagna, who is himself an enthusiastic member of the Craft.

The third biennial Aldersgate ball, under the patronage of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of Middlesex, and a large number of gentlemen of influence and position, will take place at Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, the 24th inst. The band of the Hon. Artillery Company will attend, and Messrs. A. J. Altman, W. G. Howard, T. Illman, and T. M. James will officiate as Masters of the Ceremonies. The proceeds of the ball are to be devoted to one of the Aldersgate Charities.

The Haberdashers' Company have voted £100, in aid of the funds of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, for the Education and Maintenance of the Orphans of Scottish Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines.

At a meeting of the United Wards' Club on Wednesday evening last, at the Salutation Hotel, Newgate-street, Mr. Bonnewell urged the advisability of establishing a fish market at Smithfield.

At the meeting of the Lodge of Antiquity on the 26th ult., Bro. Col. Creton, Grand Treasurer, was, by the command of Bro. H.R.H. Prince Leopold, P.G.J.W., W.M. 2, presented with an admirable painting, executed by Bro. Stephen Pearce, a member of the lodge. The subject of the picture is Col. Creton himself, and the portrait is of life-like truth. The presentation was made by Bro. Chas. A. Swinburne, P.M. 2.

A presentation portrait of Bro. Sheriff Burt, painted in his official robes, has just been completed by Mr. J. Edgar Williams. It is said by all who have visited it to be not only a successful likeness, but an admirable specimen of the "art which doth immortalize."

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

Bro. Sheriff Burt will preside at the twelfth annual dinner of the City Waiters' Provident and Pension Society, to be held at the Cannon-street Hotel, on Tuesday, the 29th inst.

The Lord Mayor, Bro. Sheriff Burt, and Mr. Sheriff Bevan, have accepted an invitation from the Master and Court of the Tylers and Bricklayers' Company to dine, on Monday, the 21st inst., at the Albion.

The Right Hon. Earl Cairns (the Lord Chancellor) will preside at the 90th anniversary dinner of the Royal Literary Fund, to be held at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, May 7th.

THE OWL CLUB.—Monday was a "ladies night" at this club, when an excellent concert was given in the great hall of the Cannon-street Hotel. The attendance was good, and the selections gave evident satisfaction. The programme, consisting of glees, part songs, ballads, and pianoforte solos, was rendered by Mr. Burgess Perry, Mr. A. James, Mr. Moss, Mr. Collins, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Musgrave, Mr. Hubbard, and Mr. Harper. Mr. Burgess Perry was much applauded for his song, "Afton Water." Mr. James, with a fine baritone voice, gave, with considerable effect, the ballad, "The Thorn." Mr. Thompson's clear tenor was heard to advantage in several concerted pieces, and especially in his solo, "Just as o' Old." Mr. Hubbard assisted materially with his bold and powerful bass voice. These three gentlemen were undoubtedly the favourites of the evening. The part songs and glees were good; and Mr. Harper's pianoforte solo, comprising selections from Sterndale Bennett and Bach, was executed in artistic style. The club will reassemble early in October. The Secretary is Mr. C. E. Layton.

Sir Wilfred Lawson is to lay the foundation-stone of the Temperance Hospital on the 8th of May. Some twenty M.P.'s have already promised to assist at the ceremony.

Orders have been received from the Admiralty directing the armour-clad ships Nelson and Audacious to be completed, the former by the end of this month, and the latter by the middle of June. The Flying Fish is to be out of hand by the latter end of May.

The Council of the Royal Agricultural Society have added to the other attractions of the Exhibition by taking advantage of the railway embankment in the show-yard and arranging for an international horticultural display of growing plants. A comparative museum of ancient and modern farm implements will enable the visitors to form some idea of the rapid advance made in agricultural machinery during recent years. £13,188 has been allotted in prizes for live stock and produce. The subscriptions received by the Mansion House Committee amount to about £7000, whilst it is anticipated that at least £10,000 will be required to cover the expenses of the Exhibition. At Liverpool, last year, £7500 was raised by the local Committee, and taking into consideration the fact that the Show Yard this year will be fifty per cent, larger than at Liverpool, and that other expenses will be correspondingly large, it is evident that, unless the subscriptions be considerably increased, the Society will suffer seriously in its finances. All donations forwarded to the Mansion House (Agricultural) Committee will be gladly received and duly acknowledged.

The marriage of the Right Honourable Lord Richard d'Aquila Grosvenor, M.P. for Flintshire (only brother of the Duke of Westminster), with Miss Eleanor Frances Beatrice Hamilton Stubber, daughter of the late R. Stubber, Esq., of Moyne, Queen's County, Ireland, was solemnised on Thursday, in All Saints' Church, Ennismore-gardens, Knightsbridge. The Rev. John Blomefield, Vicar of All Saints, performed the ceremony. The wedding was carried out with almost Quaker-like simplicity, the bride being attired in a plain brown dress and bonnet to match. Her only bridesmaid was her sister, Miss Florence Hamilton Stubber, who was similarly attired. The bride's brother, Mr. Robert Hamilton Stubber, gave the bride away. There were scarcely 100 people present, and amongst them were the Duchess of Westminster, Lord Wenlock, Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, &c.

MASONIC PRESENTATION.—On Tuesday, the 1st inst., the W.M. and several members of the York Lodge, 315, waited on Bro. Hugh Saunders, at his Brighton residence, and presented him with an illuminated testimonial. It marked the respect in which Bro. Saunders was held by the brethren, and their great regret at his retirement from the post of Treasurer, after holding office thirty-three years. Bro. C. Hudson, W.M., presented the address in appropriate terms, and his remarks were endorsed by several Past Masters and officers of the York Lodge, who formed the deputation.

OPENING A NEW STREET.—On Saturday last Sir James M'Garel-Hogg, M.P., accompanied by several members of the Metropolitan Board of Works, opened to the public a new street in connection with the Bethnal-green improvements. The street thus thrown open for traffic is 2,000 ft. long and 60 ft. wide, and forms a junction between High-street, Shoreditch, and the wide portion of Bethnal-green-road.

DULWICH COLLEGE.—The annual distribution of prizes to the boys of the Lower School Dulwich, took place last Tuesday in the large hall of the new building. The Rev. W. Rogers, chairman of the governors, presided on the occasion, and the Rev. Mr. Carver, head master of the College, and the Rev. Mr. Smith, head master of the Lower School, delivered addresses.

Bro. Sir John Bennett lectured on "The Paris Exhibition, its Lessons and its Warnings," in the Wardour Chapel, Wardour-street, on Thursday last. Mr. E. F. Storr presided.

