

THE FREEMASON.

The Organ of the Craft, a Weekly Record of Progress in
FREEMASONRY, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART.

REPORTS OF THE GRAND LODGES ARE PUBLISHED WITH THE SPECIAL SANCTION OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND; HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND;
SIR ARCHIBALD C. CAMPBELL, BART., M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1890.

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DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BENGAL.

It is evident from the report we have received of the proceedings at the Quarterly Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal, held in Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on the 21st March last, that English Freemasonry in this portion of our Indian Empire, if not exactly in the position in which we should desire to see it, made very considerable progress during the year 1889. There are 37 lodges on the roll of this District Grand Lodge, and though it is to be regretted that seven of these are in abeyance, and likely to remain so, it is at least satisfactory to hear that the 30 lodges which are in a state of activity, have, as a body, increased in numbers, and as regards funds, are in a prosperous condition. The returns show that the number of subscribing members in the District is 776, as against 720 at the close of the year 1888, while the number of Degrees conferred in 1889 was 530, as compared with 455 in 1888. The District Grand Master (Bro. the Hon. H. T. PRINSEP), in the address he delivered on the occasion, laid considerable stress on the latter figures, and he was further careful to point out that the strength of lodges meeting in India is more liable to fluctuations than in other parts of the British Empire, owing to the frequency with which brethren, both civil and military, are transferred from one station to another. As to the pecuniary resources of the Craft, nothing could well be better. Both the Fund of General Purposes and the Hall Sustentation Fund were stated to be in such a prosperous condition that, on the recommendation of the Board, it was agreed to transfer a part of their surplus balances to the Building Fund, so that the balance on the latter has been increased from 19,000 to 23,000 rupees. The Fund of Benevolence was also reported to be in a satisfactory position, while the Bengal Masonic Charitable Association, which has 33 children under its care, possesses an invested capital of 72,500 rupees. The credit for this was ascribed by Bro. PRINSEP to the indefatigable exertions of the Hon. Secretary, Bro. LOUIS, and others, who had been influenced by his example to raise large subscriptions for the benefit of the Association, and the District Grand Master regretted it was not in his power to confer upon those brethren some special mark of favour. However, they have their reward in the knowledge that their exertions have been thus signally successful, while Bro. PRINSEP must be gratified beyond measure to have been able thus publicly to recognise their merit. We congratulate him on the progress made by the lodges comprised in his District during the year 1889.

THE CONFUSION IN NEW ZEALAND.

Apropos of an opinion, which we have again and again expressed—and which, notwithstanding what has happened, we still hold—to the effect that, as the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland had established District or Provincial Grand Lodges in New Zealand, it was most unlikely “that foreign Grand Lodges would venture to invade a territory over which the three Grand Lodges held sway,” a correspondent signing himself “CRAFTSMAN,” and dating his letter from “Wellington, N.Z., July 10th,” informs us that the invasion has been made, and that, according to the *New Zealand Times* of the 1st July, “on Sunday evening”—the 29th June last—“at the Masonic Hall, Boulcott-street, Sir ROBERT STOUT, under commission from the Grand Orient of France, formally opened a Masonic lodge under that Constitution.” On the same authority we learn further that “there were some 23 brethren present, and the ceremony was most impressive. The officers of the new lodge are as follows: W.M., Bro. Sir ROBERT STOUT; S.W., Bro. the Hon. JOHN BALANCE; J.W., Bro. J. D. WRIGGLESWORTH; Orator, Bro. WALTER HILL; Secretary, Bro. W. B. HUDSON; I.G., Bro. WILLIS, of Wanganui. A candidate was proposed for initiation, and it was stated that a large accession of members was expected shortly.” This information which “CRAFTSMAN” has so obligingly forwarded to us certainly

appears to negative the opinion we have expressed as to the extreme unlikelihood of a foreign Masonic power setting up subordinate lodges on British soil. But we are not prepared to sacrifice that opinion merely because in one solitary instance the event has happened which we have declared to be unlikely or even impossible. One swallow does not make a summer, and the fact that a solitary lodge holding a commission or warrant from the Grand Orient of France has been established in a British colony, that is, on territory which is as emphatically British as the ground on which the capitals of England, Ireland, and Scotland are built, will not destroy our belief that, though there may be no clearly-established international Masonic law on the subject, the unwritten law of international Masonic comity will be generally and at the same time most scrupulously observed by the Grand Lodges or Grand Orients of all countries in which the Craft of Freemasonry is set up. Hitherto we believe—though, as we have said, there is no known international Masonic law which governs these matters—the rule has been that Masonry follows the flag. Thus the Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom exercise, each of them, the supreme Masonic authority in their respective sub-divisions of the aforesaid United Kingdom, namely, the United Grand Lodge of England in England and Wales; the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Ireland; and the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Scotland; while as regards those British Colonies and Dependencies to which Masonic autonomy has not been conceded by them, they exercise conjointly, or rather concurrently, the same supreme authority which they exercise at home. Similarly the Grand Orient of France is the supreme Masonic authority for France and the French Colonies and Dependencies; the Grand Lodge or Orient of the Netherlands for the Netherlands and the various Dutch Colonies or possessions abroad. The United States of North America have no colonies or possessions in foreign parts, and therefore there is no difficulty in determining the limits of the authority exercised by their various Grand Lodges. As a rule, each State and Territory comprised in the Union has its own Grand Lodge, which is supreme everywhere within its territorial limits, while as regards the more remote and sparsely-peopled country lying to the west, where no Grand Lodges have yet been established, warrants for new lodges are issued indiscriminately by existing Grand Lodges, until in time the lodges are sufficiently numerous and well-to-do to constitute a supreme authority of their own. In British North America, with the exception of Newfoundland, the same system prevails as in the United States, and each of the Provinces comprised in the Dominion has its Grand Lodge, whose authority is recognised generally as being sovereign and supreme within their several territorial limits, except as regards the small contingent of lodges which have elected to remain in their old allegiance. So, too, with the newly-formed Grand Lodges of South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, the first three are, and the latter no doubt will be at an early date, recognised by us each as being the supreme Masonic authority over the colony in which it is established. In the case of foreign States in which no supreme Masonic authority has been established, it is open to any Grand Lodge or Grand Orient to set up lodges of its own; nor could any one Grand Lodge or Grand Orient which had planted lodges in such a State have just ground of complaint against any other Grand Lodge or Grand Orient which followed its example, seeing that it is only through the courtesy of the “powers that be” that Masonic lodges are permitted to exercise their functions.

We have described as far as possible, in the absence of any written international law on the subject, what we have always understood to be the law or usage followed by the different Grand Lodges and Grand Orients in the establishment of subordinate lodges; and as we imagine that the Grand Orient of France does not issue its commission or warrant for the formation of a lodge until after a petition by the requisite number of brethren has been presented and approved, it is clear that, if the facts are as stated by our correspondent, the supreme Masonic

authority in France has been guilty of a wanton attack on the rights of the Grand Lodge of England as exercised from time immemorial on British territory, and not only on those of the Grand Lodge of England, but likewise on those of the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland, as similarly exercised, as well. But it is still more clear, on the hypothesis that the Grand Orient of France does not scatter its warrants broadcast, but issues them after petition duly presented and approved, that the Grand Lodge of England is indebted for this affront to its prestige—of which "CRAFTSMAN" speaks somewhat sneeringly—to the action of Sir ROBERT STOUT and his brother founders of this clandestine lodge in petitioning the Grand Orient for a warrant for their Lodge L'Amour de la Vérité. Nor can we suppose that this act was done in ignorance of the unwritten international Masonic law or usage we have referred to, at all events, in the case of Sir ROBERT STOUT, who, as Deputy District Grand Master of Otago and Southland, and one on whom his Royal Highness the GRAND MASTER was pleased to confer the brevet rank of a Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies of England at the time of the QUEEN'S Jubilee, must have had some idea of the insult he was deliberately offering to the English Craft in thus obtaining a warrant not merely from a foreign Masonic body, but from that particular body with which his own Grand Lodge was directly at variance. It is not for us to suggest the course which should be pursued by the authorities of our Grand Lodge in resenting this wanton insult, but it might have the effect of discouraging other loose-minded brethren from following so evil an example, if SIR ROBERT STOUT and his confrères in this business were ignominiously expelled from English Freemasonry.

We have only this one remark to add. If the promoters of the recent movement for establishing an independent Grand Lodge of New Zealand had acted less precipitately, there would have been no disturbance of the peace and harmony hitherto prevailing among the brethren of the three Constitutions in that Colony. How much further the confusion which they are responsible for will extend remains to be seen.

FREEMASONRY IN CHESTER.

Bro. J. C. Robinson, who has done so much towards unravelling the early history of Freemasonry in Chester; prior to his leaving for America, managed to make a careful examination of the lists of freemen of that city during the 17th and early part of the 18th centuries, aided by the valuable services of Mr. Thomas Hughes, F.S.A.

He has succeeded in tracing all the names but two, recorded in one of the Harleian MSS., No. 2054 (British Museum), which contains a number of interesting documents relating to the Chester companies; the one under consideration being of great Masonic value. Folio 34 of MS. 2054, gives a roll of twenty-seven names, the first being "William Wade, wt give for to be a free Mason." whose name apparently occurs twice. To no brother are we so much indebted for important particulars respecting this old and curious MS. as Bro. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., whose contribution, which appeared in the "Masonic Magazine" for 1882, has proved of especial value in relation to the general history of the Craft. Bro. Rylands traced a number of these ancient Masonic celebrities through their various wills, bonds, &c., from careful transcripts made by him from the original documents preserved in the Court of Probate at Chester.

So far as Bro. Robinson has been able to detect, he has given me the trades or occupations noted of the members of this old Chester lodge, or possibly the companies to which they belonged, also the dates or years of their freedom. Of course, it will be understood that there is no absolute certainty of all the names being precisely those of the same individuals referred to in both instances.

William Wade	...	Mason	...	"Made free"	28th March, 1687
Robert Morris	...	Fishmonger	...	"	1659
William Street	...	Glazier	...	"	1683
John Hughes	...	Alderman*	...	"	(?) 1659
Sam Pike	...	Glover	...	"	(?) 1658
William Harvey	...	Pewterer	...	"	1672
Peter Downham	...	Taylor	...	"	1645
Thomas Ffoulkes	...	Alderman†	...	"	1668
Will Hughes	...	Mason	...	"	1681
John Fletcher	...	Carpenter	...	"	1663
Seth Hilton	...	Bricklayer	...	"	1694
	...	Yeoman	...	"	1696
	...	Barber	...	"	1657
	...	Carpenter	...	"	1678
	...	Pipemaker	...	"	1672
	...	Mason	...	"	1679
	...	Mason	...	"	1672

* Mayor in 1666 and 1683. Also in 1688. Possibly the beer-brewer, made free in 1659.

† Sheriff 1667, and Mayor 1678. Spelt *Harvie*. Admitted to Bricklayers' and Linen Drapers' Companies.

Randle Holme (Younger)	...	Herald Painter	...	"Made free"	1656
(Junior)	...	Do.	...	"	1696
Richard Taylor	...	Glazier	...	"	1672
	...	Feltmaker	...	"	1678
	...	Glazier	...	"	26th Oct., 1687
	...	Merchant	...	"	20th Dec., 1687
	...	Gentleman	...	"	1695
Richard Ratcliffe	...	Gentleman	...	"	1672
William Woods	...	Mason	...	"	1660
	...	Do.	...	"	1695
John Parry	...	Carpenter	...	"	1662
Thomas Morris	...	Yeoman	...	"	1660
William Robinson	...	Cordwainer	...	"	1695
Do.	...	Feltmaker	...	"	1663
Do.	...	Carpenter	...	"	1656
Do.	...	Weaver	...	"	1656
James Mort	...	Mason	...	"	1679
John Lloyd	...	Do.	...	"	1663
Do.	...	Feltmaker	...	"	1652
Do.	...	Esq.	...	"	1699
George Harvie	...	Miller	...	"	1649
Do.	...	Linendraper	...	"	1663
William Jackson	...	Tanner*	...	"	1672
Robert Harvey	...	Haberdasher	...	"	1676
John Maddock	...	Tanner	...	"	1656
Do.	...	Do.	...	"	1662
Do.	...	Do.	...	"	1679

Bro. Robinson was unable to discover any trace of the names of either Michael Holden or Thomas May. Of the most of these freemen, I think we can fairly make such a selection that will connect them with the Masonic lodge, and thus abundantly confirm Bro. Ryland's able article respecting their *speculative character*, very few, indeed, having been connected with the Mason-trade, besides favouring the estimate that the MS. itself was written *circa* 1650—70.

Bro. Robinson failed to find the books of the Masons' Company, but consider they are yet to be discovered. The Goldsmiths' and Masons' Companies together bore the expenses of one of the "Whitsun miracle plays" at Chester. In 1691 the latter company petitioned for a charter, but, for some reason not specified, they were refused. (*Hanshall*).

I am not aware of a more valuable or suggestive document concerning the Craft in the olden time, and hence am anxious to supplement, as far as possible, the researches of Bro. Rylands. The opportunity offered by Bro. Robinson's notes was too good a one to be passed over, hence the present imperfect description of his examination of the Chester records. We are all, however, still unable to explain the precise meaning or value of the sums of money, varying from five shillings to a pound, which follow the several names, and those given separately at the top of the page. Bro. Gould's History might be consulted on the subject with advantage.

W. J. HUGHAN.

MASONIC MEMORIAL SERVICE AT CAPE TOWN.

On the evening of the 31st July a Mourning Lodge in memory of the Right Hon. and M.W. the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master of England, was held in the Commercial Exchange. The building had been draped for the occasion, and was filled with Masons and lady friends. The Very Rev. the Dean presided, and delivered the opening address. Though he had been ill for some time past, as he said, he felt bound to appear during this ceremony, and he gave a powerful eulogistic address on the late Earl of Carnarvon. In the centre of the hall, facing the platform, was a coffin surmounted by an Earl's coronet, and after an appropriate service wreaths and flowers were placed on the bier by the Deputy Grand Master and other officers. The musical portion of the service was wonderfully impressive under the direction of Bro. T. B. Dowling.

The Deputy Grand Chaplain, Dr. HEWITT, of Worcester, then gave the funeral oration:—

R.W. and W. Sirs and Brethren,—“In the midst of life we are in death.” When last this District Grand Lodge met, and it was my privilege to address you, it was an occasion of rejoicing, and all our ceremonies spoke of joy, of exaltation, and of life. To-day we are surrounded by the emblems of sorrow, of mourning, and of mortality, and we are in the presence of death. Yet even on that festal day, could we but have seen it, the shadow of death was hovering over our Order; that 24th of June was the 59th anniversary of the birthday of our Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Carnarvon; on that day he was already laid low upon his bed of illness; and four days later came the closing scene of his earthly life—the day of his death—his birthday into life immortal. At the moment when we at our festive banquets were heartily wishing him health and prosperity, the fiat had already gone forth, “Set thine house in order, for thou shalt die and not live.” And yet this is no strange thing, for is it not ever thus? Death is busy all around, on every home his shadows fall; and in the midst of life—life with all its joys and pleasures, life with all its energies and activities, life with all its hopes and fears, life (must we not say it) with all its sins and sorrows—in the midst of life we are in death. In this life of infinite possibilities, and, therefore, of immeasurable uncertainties, this one fact alone is absolutely certain: the fact of death. For, if we consider, death is only the last and the greatest of that series of changes and chances which we call life. All things are changing and moving on. The whole universe is governed by this inexorable law of change. Growth, movement, development, progress, and, therefore, unresting change is the rule of this universe, of which human life is but a part.

* Draper 1635, Beer-brewer 1640, Plasterer 1663, Bricklayer 1687.

All things change, and we ourselves are changed and changing. Change upon change is the sad law of this mysterious tragedy of life; and of all these changes death is the crown—the greatest and the last change. All other changes are as nothing compared with this, “to pass into wholly altered, wholly untried conditions; to lose our foothold on the sands of Time; to fail from the presence of our former selves; to know that the moment is approaching when we shall be face to face with the Unknown” it is the greatest of this change which strikes the strongest heart with awe, which startles us when the dark shadow of death is suddenly cast over the bright sunshine of our daily, busy, joyous, careless, thoughtless, perhaps Godless, lives. It is the greatness of the change which gives its solemnity to this truth that in the midst of life we are in death. Yes, in the midst of life! For death has no choice of time or of season:

Leaves have their time to fall,
And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath;
And stars to set—but all
Thou hast all seasons for Thine own, O Death!

In the freshness and gladness of the sweet morning hour; in the heat and the hurry of the noontide; in the calm stillness that surrounds the setting sun and the dying day; in the hushed silence of the solemn night watches, death is there. In the freshness of the brightness of the budding spring, in the glory of the unclouded summer, in the fading glow of autumn, in the coldness and the gloom of winter, death is there. On days (such as this) when Nature seems in sympathy with Death, and all is dark and dreary, and in harmony with our own sad and sombre thoughts, we have carried forth our dead to bury them out of our sight, and we left them with a shudder in the cold wet grave. Or we have followed the dead on days of perfect loveliness, when on the air and on the deep the smile of Heaven lay, and it seemed to add a new sting to death to die and leave this fair world. In the innocence of childhood, in the strength and vigour of manhood, in the waning years of later life, and in the evening of old age, death is there.

Death is where billows foam,
Death is where music melts upon the air,
Death is around us in our peaceful home;

And the world calls us forth—and death is *there!* And as death has no choice of time or season, so death—it is a truism to say—death knows no distinction of rank or of fortune. The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power, all the beauty and the wealth of the world, await alike the inevitable hour—the hour of death. This is the one event that comes alike to all. Widely different though men are in the position and circumstances of their lives; widely different even in the surroundings of their deaths. One dying in his full strength, wholly at ease and quiet, and another dying in the bitterness of his soul, yet in the act of death they are not divided. They lie down alike in the dust and the worms cover them. Here, indeed, meet on the level the prince and the peasant, high and low, rich and poor; the wise men also die and perish together as well as the ignorant and foolish, and leave their riches to others; for he shall carry nothing away with him when he dieth, neither shall his pomp follow him. Virtue is the only true nobility, and does not borrow but sheds lustre upon the external advantages of rank and wealth, which shine with a loftier dignity in the persons of the virtuous and the honourable. And such was our departed brother and Pro G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon. Right honourable indeed, not only in title, but in character and in life, “a selfless man and stainless gentleman.” Of illustrious descent, of the noble family of Herbert, a name as distinguished in literature in the persons of Lord Herbert of Cherburg, and of the gentle George Herbert, the ideal “Country Parson,” as in arms and in statesmanship, and numbering among its connections Sir Philip Sidney. Henry, fourth Earl of Carnarvon, was himself distinguished as an accomplished scholar, as an honourable and upright statesman, as a genial and courteous gentleman, and as an earnest and devout churchman. As a scholar he was an author of no mean repute, and had filled the high offices of High Steward of the University of Oxford, as well as Chancellor of the University of the Cape; as a statesman he had served his Queen and country in the lofty position of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Secretary of State for the Colonies. But it is in his character as a Mason that we are specially met to deplore his loss. Here, too, his career was bright and distinguished. Initiated into Masonry in the Apollo Lodge at Oxford, in 1852, he soon rose to prominence in the Order, and was appointed Deputy G.M. by the Marquis of Ripon, and in this capacity installed the Prince of Wales as Grand Master in 1875, in the presence of 8000 Masons from almost all parts of the Empire. By the Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, he was himself appointed Pro Grand Master of England—an office which is only called into exercise when a Prince of the Blood Royal accepts the office of Grand Master. In this capacity he also presided, during his visit to the Cape in 1887, at the consecration of the new temple of the British Lodge, and all who were privileged to meet him on that occasion will long remember his kindly words and genial courtesy. Long may his memory be cherished among Masons. His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth evermore. What are the lessons of his life to us? His death this mourning lodge has brought before us the *memento mori* which! Masons should never forget, have reminded us afresh of the truth, so true yet so unwelcome that in the midst of life we are in death. But has his life no lessons for us, who are as yet in the midst of life? My brethren, is it fanciful to see in the motto of the noble house of Herbert the war cry of the family which records in quaint chivalrous old Norman-French *Rug je Servirai*—one will I serve—the unity of purpose which (I venture to think) was the guiding principle of Lord Carnarvon's life, the lesson which we, as men and Masons, may well learn from his distinguished career? “The death of Lord Carnarvon,” wrote a recent newspaper critic, “has taken from politics one of the fairest, most candid, and gentle of statesmen. His career was the outcome of a character singularly attractive in private life, but rarely effectual for public action in stormy times. He tried to rise above prejudice and rancour, and to soften the edge of controversy. Yet his was not an undecided mind, and he could act with firmness. The churchman who was proud to acknowledge his indebtedness to Mr. Spurgeon, the Conservative who hoped to reconcile Mr. William O'Brien and Colonel Sanderson, the administrator who passed the Bill for uniting the Canadas in one dominion, was true to himself. He wanted to make all men as kind and fair to each other as he was kind and fair to all men. This is not the place nor is this the time for political allusions, but may not we South Africans see in his unsuccessful scheme for the confederation of the South African Colonies and States another instance of his desire for conciliation and unification? It is not given to many of us to occupy positions of rank and influence such as his, but every one of us, each in his vocation and according to his opportunities, may learn to do what in him lies for the unity, and the softening of the asperities of life—social, political, and, may I add, religious. And for this end there must be an unity of purpose and of mind in ourselves—one must we serve, one must we fear. “Fear our God and know no other fear.” Friend of our hearts, rest in peace, until raised by the Great Master's word mayest thou share with us the blessing of immortal life and unfading glory.

After further service the District Grand Lodge retired, and the proceedings concluded.

The German Emperor, who consented a short time since, at the invitation of the Duke of Edinburgh, to become a patron of the Royal Sailors' Home, Portsea, has sent, through the German Ambassador, a cheque for £50 to the funds of the institution.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The following is the business to be transacted in Grand Lodge on Wednesday, the 3rd prox. :—

1. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 4th June for confirmation.

2. The following resolution will be moved in the name and on behalf of his Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master on the melancholy occasion of the lamented death of the late Most Worshipful Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master of England :

That Grand Lodge has received, with the most profound regret, the sad intelligence of the decease of the late Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, who, for upwards of 15 years, had held the exalted position of Pro Grand Master of the Order in this jurisdiction, and it desires to place on record its grateful appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by him to English Freemasonry during the whole of that period.

His wise advice, his just rulings, and his unfailing courtesy will long be remembered by Grand Lodge, over whose deliberations he has so often presided with conspicuous ability, whilst his unceasing exertions for, and devotion to the best interests of the Craft will ever be recognised as having signally contributed to the high position it now occupies.

It will further be moved :—

That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Countess of Carnarvon, with the expression of the deep sympathy felt by Grand Lodge with her in her sad bereavement.

3. Report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following Grants, viz. :—

A brother of the Burrell Lodge, No. 1829, Shoreham	£80 0 0
A brother of the Duke of Athol Lodge, No. 210, Denton...	50 0 0
A brother of the Gosport Lodge, No. 903, Gosport	100 0 0
The widow of a brother of the Star in the East Lodge, No. 650, Harwich	50 0 0

4. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England. The Board have to report that in consequence of the abolition of the duty on gold plate, they have been enabled to reduce the cost of the Charity jewel from its present price, £2, to £1 17s.

The Board also submit a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts, at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 15th day of August instant, showing a balance in the Bank of England (Western Bank) of £4,976 8s. 4d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £100, and for servants' wages £100, and balance of annual allowance for library £36 13s. 11d

(Signed) THOMAS FENN, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
19th August, 1890.

5. Application from a body styling itself “The Grand Lodge of New Zealand,” dated 1st May, 1890, requesting its recognition by the Grand Lodge of England as the sole Masonic jurisdiction in that colony.

6. Application from a body styling itself “The Grand Lodge of Tasmania,” dated 12th July, 1890, requesting its recognition by the Grand Lodge of England as the sole Masonic jurisdiction in that colony.

List of lodges for which warrants have been granted by the M.W. Grand Master since the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge :—

- No. 2371.—The Felix Lodge, Felixstowe, Suffolk.
- 2372.—The James Terry Lodge, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.
- 2373.—The Hardwick Lodge, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
- 2374.—The William Shurmur Lodge, Chingford, Essex.
- 2375.—The Hilbre Lodge, Hoylake, Cheshire.
- 2376.—The Carnarvon Lodge, Leyland, Lancashire (W.D.).
- 2377.—The Royal Connaught Lodge, Ahmednagar, Bombay.
- 2378.—The Fenwick Lodge, Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland.

The *South Australian Freemason* says: “Some of our brethren may have noticed that in the list of Grand Lodges with which our Grand Lodge exchanges representatives, the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania does not appear. The explanation is this—that Grand Lodge holds that no body is entitled to be recognised as a Grand Lodge unless it holds jurisdiction over every lodge in its district; and as the Leinster Lodge in Adelaide, by agreement between the Grand Lodge of South Australia and the Grand Lodge of Ireland, still continues to work under an Irish charter, our Grand Lodge is deemed by that of Pennsylvania to be non-Masonic. Masons therefore made in South Australia cannot be received in a Pennsylvania lodge, and in that State would be regarded as ‘Cowans.’ We consider it most unfair that any American Grand Lodge should attempt to force upon us the American doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction. The British and Australasian doctrine is that on the erection of a new Grand Lodge any lodge desiring to remain in allegiance to its parent Grand Lodge should be permitted to do so. In our eyes this is strictly fair and Masonic. Coercion should be unknown in Masonry. It is unfair that a doctrine purely of American origin, however beneficial it may be in the United States, should be applied to the Masonic affairs of other countries where a different doctrine has been amicably agreed to by the sole parties interested. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, too, stands convicted of inconsistency in the pages of its own ‘Proceedings,’ as therein is set forth that it does recognise the Grand Lodges of Quebec and Scotland, neither of which possess exclusive jurisdiction within their own boundaries. Quebec certainly (although illogically) claims it as a right; but the Grand Lodge of Scotland recognises the Masonic standing of one lodge in Scotland which is independent of her, namely, the Freemason Lodge, St. John, Melrose. It is a curious thing to note, too, that not a single Grand Lodge on the Continent of Europe is recognised by Pennsylvania. Do our Pennsylvania brethren mean us to gather from this that they consider Freemasonry in Europe non-existent? We are glad to be able to add to these remarks that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania stands almost alone in its view of what constitutes a legal Grand Lodge. The other Grand Lodges of the States rightly maintain the American doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction in the case of North American Freemasonry, but do not demand that it shall be observed in the case of other countries where they themselves have no foothold.”

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—Established 1837.
Chief Office—103, Cannon-street, London, E.C.
Capital £1,000,000
Funds in hand 1,200,000
Total income exceeds 335,000
Chairman—Sir ANDREW LUSK, Bart.
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To Correspondents.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

"Masonic Review" (Ohio), "The Tyler," "Proceedings of the Grand Council, Red Cross, Pennsylvania," "New Zealand Mail," "Keystone," "Victorian Freemason," "South African Freemason," "Freimaurer-Zeitung," "South Australian Freemason," and "Madras Masonic Review."



SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1890.

Masonic Notes.

It will be seen from the agenda paper of the Grand Lodge, which we publish in another column, that the newly-formed "Grand Lodge of New Zealand" and the "Grand Lodge of Tasmania" have applied for recognition, and that the subject will come before Grand Lodge at its meeting on the 3rd prox.

Since the last meeting of Grand Lodge warrants have been granted for eight new lodges—viz., the Felix Lodge, Felixstowe, Suffolk; the James Terry Lodge, Cheshunt, Herts; the Hardwick Lodge, Chesterfield, Derbyshire; the William Shurmur Lodge, Chingford, Essex; the Hilbre Lodge, Hoylake, Cheshire; the Carnarvon Lodge, Leyland, West Lancashire; the Royal Connaught Lodge, Ahmednagar, Bombay; and the Fenwick Lodge, Woolloongabba, Brisbane, Queensland.

Some little commotion has been created in New Zealand Masonic circles through the action of Bro. Sir Robert Stout, Past Grand Deacon of England, in opening a lodge in that colony under the Grand Orient of France. One would have thought that the commotion had arisen through the fact of the Grand Orient being ostracised from English-speaking Masonry some years ago, when it thought fit to excise from the qualifications of candidates the essential *sine qua non* of belief in the Great Architect of the Universe. Our Colonial brethren, on the other hand, are irate from a totally different cause, namely, that, now there is a Grand Lodge of New Zealand, the planting of a constituent of a foreign body in their midst is an invasion of territory.

The London Correspondent of a San Francisco paper has been interviewing Grand Master Vrooman and his companions at the Hotel Victoria. He called on them, he says, and they were about going to the banquet given by the "Anglo-Saxon" Lodge. This, although a slip of the reporter, suggests an excellent name for the next new lodge—broad and cosmopolitan enough to satisfy the staunchest objector to class lodges.

We regret we should have placed an interpretation that was never intended on a remark made by Bro. the Rev. J. N. Palmer, Past Grand Chaplain, when proposing the health of Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Provincial Grand Master, at the recent annual banquet of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hants and the Isle of Wight. But it seemed to us only natural that the rumour we had heard of the probable appointment of Bro. Beach to the office of Deputy Grand Master of England should have found its way into the province which has been so ably presided over by that distinguished brother for the last 21 years, and that the Rev. Bro. Palmer might have had it in his mind when he suggested that the appointment would be an excellent one and most gratifying to the brethren of Hants and the Isle of Wight. It seems, however, that our reverend brother had no idea that, in paying a compliment to his chief, he was giving "form and substance" to anything

beyond the compliment. Hence this present expression of our regret that we should have attributed to what he said a meaning he never intended.

Through an unfortunate oversight, the concluding words of the opening sentence of our last week's article on the "Surrender of Warrants" were omitted. The sentence should have run: "We have always been strongly of opinion that a late ruling that the law in our Book of Constitutions which provides for the surrender of lodge warrants was not applicable to those cases in which a lodge determines by a majority of votes to secede from the parent jurisdiction and . . . could not be justified. A careful reading of the sentence in question will show that it was incomplete, while the tenour of our argument throughout the whole article will make it clear that some such words as we have just supplied in italics were necessary in order to give it completeness.

What we intended to say, and what we did say later on in another form was, that there was nothing in the terms in which the said law was laid down, or in any other law in our Book of Constitutions which, in our humble opinion, in any way justified the non-application of this law to the particular class of cases which the Grand Registrar has decided must be excepted from its operation.

The law is stated clearly and unequivocally, without the slightest reservation of any sort or kind in favour of any particular class of cases, and it is difficult to understand how so learned an expositor of law of every description could have discovered an exception which is manifestly not provided for in the law itself, and which, so far as our knowledge goes, is not set forth in any other part of the Book of Constitutions.

This law lays it down that "Should the majority of any lodge determine to retire from it, the power of assembling remains with the rest of the members, but should the number of members remaining at any time be less than three the warrant becomes extinct."

It will be seen from this that, provided only the minority which remains consists of three or more members, it may retain the warrant and carry on the lodge. Nothing whatever is said as to the reasons which have led to the retirement of a majority of the members from any lodge. They may have determined to retire for private and personal reasons which are shared amongst them in common; because they are desirous of forming a new lodge under the Constitution they belong to; because they are desirous of forming a lodge under another Constitution, or for any other reason which may seem to them good and sufficient. But whatever the reason may be which determines them (the majority) to retire, the minority, provided they are not less than three in number, have it in their power, under the law as above quoted, to retain the warrant and continue working the lodge if they are so minded. Of course there is nothing to prevent the minority from surrendering the right thus conferred, but on the other hand there is nothing either in the law itself or elsewhere in the Book of Constitutions, which, as far as we are able to see, can deprive them (the minority) from exercising this right if they are minded to do so.

That the law, which ever way it may be interpreted, whether in accordance with the opinion we have expressed, or in accordance with the ruling of the Grand Registrar, will inflict a certain amount of hardship in particular cases, is undeniable. The junior lodge in the District of Westland (N.Z.) mentioned by our correspondent—Bro. John J. Williams, P.M., P.Z.—in which seven voted for secession and six against it, is one case in point. Here, if the Grand Registrar's ruling is sustained, the lesser half of the lodge will be deprived of its rights as an English lodge in obedience to the will of a majority outnumbering it by only a *single* vote.

In the first case the lodge voted by a majority of one voice out of 13 to join the Grand Lodge of New Zealand; in the second case, we are given to understand that 95 voices were in favour of joining the Grand Lodge of Tasmania and five against it. Hence, in the Westland case, if the Grand Registrar is right, six brethren are deprived of their legal rights by seven brethren, while in the Tasmanian case, if our opinion is just, the 95 who have joined the Grand Lodge of Tasmania will be deprived of their warrant, furniture, and money by the action of their five opponents. We think it is time the law, which we have been discussing

in these "Notes," and which formed the subject of our article last week, should be carefully reviewed, and in such a manner that the smallest possible amount of harm may be inflicted on any lodge or brethren.

* * *

On the other hand, we have received a letter from a correspondent of ours in Tasmania, in which, after announcing to us the formation, in a regular and constitutional manner of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania, he goes on to say that in the case of the "Tasmanian Union Lodge, No. 536 (E.C.), there is a very small but very active minority, amounting to about 5 per cent. of the total number of members on the lodge, who are still opposed to the new order of things." He adds later on with reference to the Grand Registrar's ruling—"These few active opponents now contest this ruling, and I am informed have written to the Grand Secretary of England to order the warrant of Lodge 536 to be handed over to them, for the purpose of having a *solitary lodge* under the English Constitution in territory now otherwise occupied, and together with the warrant to claim all the furniture and other assets, including, of course, moneys in banks, &c., as belonging to the five who represent 536." Here, if our opinion is correct, that these five members are only claiming a right which the law relating to the "Surrender of Warrants" confers upon them, we have an illustration of the opposite kind of hardship to the one referred to above.

* * *

The Madras "Masonic Review" advises Tylers to be very careful in examining the premises of their various lodges. Several ladies who have read the article by Bro. Whymper on "Ladies and Freemasonry" have made up their minds to emulate the example of Mrs. Aldworth.

* * *

The Masonic contributor to the Glasgow *Evening News* say that "Grand Secretary Bro. D. Murray Lyon has arranged an opening and closing ceremony for deliberative bodies such as Grand Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges. It is already in use among those who recognise the difference between a lodge meeting for the purpose of working Degrees and one for legislation. In the absence of regularly-installed officers, the ceremony at present practised in Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodges is not always gone through with smoothness. The introduction of a shorter form would be welcomed, and cannot come too soon."

* * *

The Grand Lodge of British Columbia has on its roll 10 lodges and a total of 587 subscribing members, the latter being an increase of 30 over the year 1889. Its investments amount to upwards of \$4700, while the value of its lodge funds and property is set down as \$41,907. Bro. John S. Chute, of New Westminster, is M.W. Grand Master, and Bro. Henry Brown, of Victoria, is Grand Secretary. The Right Reverend Bro. the Rev. A. W. Sillitoe, D.D., Bishop of New Westminster, is Grand Chaplain, and to judge from the intelligence which reaches us from time to time, takes a very great interest in the Grand Lodge of this distant British possession. We dare say that as British Columbia becomes more numerously populated, this Grand Lodge, which is now on a modest scale as regards members and lodges will become far more numerous.

* * *

The 93rd annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York was held in Albany in the early days of February last, when Comp. Richard H. Parker, G.H.P., had the satisfaction of presiding at a numerous gathering of Grand Officers, Present and Past, and members, there being 178 chapters represented, and only eight unrepresented. The reports show that the number of chapters on the roll is 186, with a total of subscribing members numbering 15,646. The receipts and expenditure were nearly on a level, the latter amounting to the larger sum, but the invested property amounts to upwards of \$3700. The Grand High Priest for the current year is Comp. William J. McDonald, while Comp. Christopher G. Fox remains at his post of Grand Secretary.

* * *

The New York *Dispatch* thus speaks of Bro. Ross Robertson, the newly-elected Grand Master of Canada: "Bro. Robertson is the proprietor and publisher of the *Evening Telegram*, a paper which has a larger city circulation than any other Toronto daily, and which is said to yield larger cash returns. But if Bro. Robertson has acquired wealth rapidly, he has also expended it liberally. He has been a generous contributor to the charitable institutions of his city, and has for several

seasons borne the chief expense of maintaining summer houses on the island, as it is termed, for sick children and overworked sewing girls, thus showing that he is actuated by a spirit which is at once truly humane and truly Christian. In the cause of Masonry he has been a most zealous and enthusiastic worker. He has devoted considerable time and labour to historical research, and has obtained copies of minutes and other documents from almost every old lodge in the province for the purpose of gaining thorough information in regard to the establishment and progress of Freemasonry in Western Canada. He has prepared a very interesting lecture on the subject, which he has delivered in almost every city and town in Ontario, as well as to a number of rural lodges."

Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for 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.]

LODGES OF EMERGENCY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have lately heard the, to me, novel contention that under Art. 185, the proposition of a candidate for initiation on emergency need *not* be in writing; the argument being that the word "may" before "transmit in writing" gives an option in the matter, and that any two brethren may *verbally* state to the W.M. their wish for a brother to be initiated on emergency and he may comply. This view is so startling to me that I should much like to know if any of your readers can give me any instance of a W.M. having ever acted on it, and what view the authorities have taken if it has come before them.

It seems to me that a careful reading of 184 and 185 together can leave no doubt that the proposition *must* be in writing and *must* state the cause of the emergency. Art. 184 lays down a stringent, a *very* stringent rule. following course *may* be pursued. Any two members Art. 185 relaxes it a little—"In cases of emergency, the *may* transmit in writing . . . and the circumstances which cause the emergency." Can it be seriously contended for a moment that the words "may transmit in writing" can be altogether ignored? But if there were any doubt upon the point, if it could be said or thought that strict compliance with *all* the letter of the law were immaterial, the words that follow are most important, "and if, in his opinion, the emergency be real, the Master *shall* (!!) notify the proposition." He has no option in the matter, beyond that he may postpone the ballot till his next regular lodge if he do not call an emergency; he is only allowed "to satisfy himself of the reality of the emergency, and then he *must* notify the proposition." This is rather strongly trenching on the W.M.'s prerogative, and more stringent than the provision in the Const. of 1873, "and the Master, *if it be proper*, shall notify." Then, before the ballot is taken, he *shall* "read the proposition, and state to the lodge the cause of the emergency, which shall be recorded in the minutes." How can he read it if it be not in writing. I take it to be clear that the proposition *must* be in writing, *must* contain every particular required by Art. 185, *must* be signed by two members, and *should* be copied in the minutes.

The only thing that makes me feel the slightest hesitation as to my being right is that I can see no other side to the question. If any of your readers take an opposite view it would be a kindness if they would state their reasons.

Another question I have lately heard raised as to which I feel more doubt is whether the conferring of a Second or Third Degree on a brother who is eligible is permissible at a lodge of emergency if no notice of intention to do so has been expressly given on the summons. Art 166 states "the business to be transacted at such lodge of emergency shall be expressed in the summons, and *no other business* shall be entered upon." Would the conferring of a Degree on a brother who was eligible be "other business?" Ordinary lodge business, such as money matters, reports of Committees, propositions, &c., would clearly be out of order; but the contention is that there is a difference between lodge business and lodge *work*. That the former should only be done at a *regular* lodge when the brethren may be expected to have made their arrangements to attend, or otherwise that they shall have due notice to enable them to attend, but the conferring of Degrees is lodge *work*, which it is entirely in the discretion of the W.M. to take at any time when the lodge is open, and no one can be aggrieved by the want of express notice and *cessante ratione cessat lex*. Of course, if notice be duly given on the summons, *any* business can be taken, unless such as is *expressly* forbidden either by the Constitutions (*e.g.*, the confirmation of the minutes of the last regular lodge) or by the lodge by-laws. If Degrees are *business* within Art. 166, would it be legal to put upon the summons for an emergency the general clause I have been somewhat struck with in *regular* lodge summonses I have lately seen—"To initiate, pass, and raise those eligible?" The opinions of some of your correspondents well read in Masonic law will be thankfully received.—Yours fraternally,

LEX SCRIPTA.

RE-NUMBERING OF LODGES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will you allow me space in your valuable paper to make a few observations on the above subject, referred to in an article by one of your contemporaries, on Saturday, the 23rd instant.

Lodges were re-numbered in 1814, 1832, and in 1863, and many of us well remember the great inconvenience experienced on the last occasion, when it was found necessary to give in the Calendar the old and the new numbers side by side to enable brethren to trace even their own lodges. I therefore think this alteration of numbers should not be made without absolute necessity.

In the agenda for Grand Lodge on Wednesday, the 3rd September, there are two applications for the establishment and recognition of Grand Lodges in New Zealand and in Tasmania, which, if granted, will reduce our numbers by 30 to 40; then Queensland, with a similar number of lodges, will probably and also shortly desire to form a Grand Lodge, still further reducing our numbers, it therefore appears to me a very inopportune moment for this process of re-numbering.

I shall be glad of your opinion, and of others more experienced than—yours truly,

HENRY SMITH, P.M. 387.



912] "WESTMINSTER JOURNAL," A.D. 1742.

Dr. Begemann, of Rostock, has sent me the following particulars in support of my views as to the text of the "exposure" in the above journal. He is particularly well informed on such points, having made an exhaustive examination of all these curious books, which were printed from A.D. 1723. He states that "The Mystery of Free Masons" is quite the same, to my view, with that of the *Daily Journal*, August 15th, 1730, reprinted in several copies under the same title. One is in the *British Museum*, Theology, 1892 d., under No. 22 x., "The Mystery of Free Masons, taken from a Manuscript found amongst the Papers of a deceased Brother, one page with coppers, Printed for and sold by Andrew White." Another copy is the *Gild Hall Paper*, which I saw when in London, the title is "The Puerile Signs and Wonders of a Freemason; with their Ways of Admittance and Entrance, being found in the Cabinet of M.S., a Brother Deceased, the 6th of August, 1730. Likewise their Oath, and by what Means they know a Brother, &c." "The Mystery of Free-Masonry," one leaf, Printed in the year 1730. All of them contain the same mistake as to the place of the Wardens, putting them in the "East." The *Daily Journal* is the original, the others being reprints thereof. The copy of Bro. Carson's is the same as the "White" reprint in the *British Museum*. The piece was also reprinted in the *Daily Journal*, 18th August, 1730; in *Reed's Weekly Journal*, or *British Gazetteer*, 22nd August, 1730. A separate reprint on a single sheet is to be found in *Vol. IV. Newspapers* in the *British Museum*, 1730; also in America in the "Pennsylvania Gazette," December 8th, 1730. In May, 1887, this catechism was reprinted with some remarks of mine in the "Kneph." Those interested in these curious, and certainly important, enquiries will find my communication respecting the reprint of General Lawrence's copy of the "Westminster Journal" for May 8th, 1742, in the *Freemason*, June 14th, 1890. The error as to the Wardens being in the East, instead of the West, as was the early usage, enables us to fix the original of a goodly number of these prints from the third decade of last century.

W. J. HUGHAN.



Craft Masonry.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

CHINGFORD.

Brooke Lodge (No. 2005).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Royal Forest Hotel on Friday, the 15th inst., Bro. Alfred G. Hayman, W.M., occupied the chair, supported by Bros. S. G. Vaughan, I.P.M.; Sadler Wood, P.M., P.P.G. Stwd. Middlesex; Wm. Williams, P.M.; J. Van Essen, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; J. R. Johnson, P.M. 1320, Sec.; Wallis, S.W.; B. Hoddinott, B.A., J.W.; W. Herbage, P.P.G.R., Treas.; C. J. Dale, P.G. Org., Org.; J. J. Knight, S.D.; Johnson, I.G.; G. H. Finch, P.P.J.G.W., Stwd.; H. H. Goddard, Tyler; Slater, Woodcock, Lorrimer, Crump, Bailey, Bullen, Frigout, Strugnell, C. G. Hayman, and many others.

It was announced that Bro. Ralling, P.A.G.D.C. England, P.G. Sec., was present, and he was duly saluted by the brethren. The minutes having been read and confirmed, Bro. Lorrimer was balloted for and approved as a joining member, and three candidates were then raised by the W.M. After other business the lodge was closed.

The banquet, which was served in first-rate style, was immediately discussed, after which the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Grand Lodge toasts.

Bro. Ralling, who was received with great enthusiasm, responded to the toast of "The D.G.M., the Earl of Lathom, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past." In a few well chosen remarks he congratulated the Brooke Lodge on its rapid development. When last he visited the lodge it might be described as a bantling, it now gave evidence of the strength and robustness of early manhood. He trusted it would continue to grow and thrive until it attained to a full and vigorous maturity. He referred to the rapid progress made in the province generally during the Prov. Grand Mastership of Lord Brooke, M.P., after whom the lodge was named, and whose arms it was privileged to bear. He ascribed that to the deep and genuine interest his lordship took in the administration of the business of the province, the ready tact he displayed on all occasions, and last, but not least, to the geniality of his government. The distinguished brother thanked the brethren for the hearty reception recorded to him. It was not his fault that he had not been able to visit them more frequently—he hoped to do so in future. After assuring the W.M. and brethren of the deep interest he took in the development and prosperity of the Brooke Lodge, he resumed his seat amidst hearty applause.

The Worshipful Master then proposed "The D.P.G.M., Bro. Philbrick, O.C., G. Reg., and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past." He did so with peculiar pleasure, as this was the first meeting since the last Prov. Grand Lodge, when the Prov. G.M. was pleased to confer the collar of the P.G. Org. on their esteemed Organist, Bro. C. J. Dale. Bro. Dale ever since his joining the Craft had devoted his distinguished musical talents unreservedly to the service of the Brooke Lodge. They were much indebted to him. On his own behalf and that of his brethren he congratulated him, and asked him to accept, in an informal way, a set of Provincial Grand clothing appertaining to his new dignity as a slight mark of the love and esteem in which the brethren held him, and as an expression of the unqualified gratification the appointment had afforded to every member of the lodge.

Bro. Dale appropriately responded to the toast, and acknowledged with evident feeling the very practical way in which the brethren had testified their pleasure at the honour he had received from Provincial Grand Lodge. The appointment came to him as a surprise, and although he could not but regard the honour chiefly as one conferred on the lodge, he none the less appreciated it personally. He trusted he might be spared for many years to render his best services to his mother lodge.

A capital programme of music was provided during the evening by Bro. Dale, who was assisted by Bros. B. Hoddinott, B.A., J.W., Strugnell, Crump, and Bailey. Bro. J. Van Essen, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., gave a choice selection of music on the violin, and Miss Emily Davies, R.A.M., contributed much delight to the brethren by her talented and artistic rendering of several songs.

GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.

Industry Lodge (No. 48).—The first meeting of this lodge after the summer vacation was held on Monday, the 25th inst., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. W. F. Raeburn, who was supported by Bros. Wm. Brown, I.P.M.; W. Dalrymple, P.M.; Robert Whitfield, P.M.; M. Corbitt, P.M., Treas.; T. R. Jobson, as S.W.; M. R. Wright, J.W.; W. J. Jobson, Sec.; W. H. Denton, as S.D.; Thos. Stafford, J.D.; T. Chegwidan, as I.G.; R. Ferry, Organist; T. W. Bagnall and H. Jackson, Stwds.; Joshua Curry, Tyler; G. C. Potts, J. J. Bowman, B. Grice, W. J. Campbell, and Wm. Towers. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. Joseph Cook, P.M. 481; T. R. Short, S.W. 424; James Shaw, J.W. 424; Charles Kempson, I.G. 424; T. R. Jobson, S.W. 1664; C. P. Laedler, I.G. 1664; Tom Spedding, P.M. 1643; A. Lane, 1085; T. Brookes, 1342; R. Fletcher, 1342; William M. Lyon, P.M. 406; and others.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, Bro. Ben. Grice was passed to the Second Degree, the acting S.W. explaining the working tools and giving the charge incidental to the Degree. A proposition for initiation was made, and the proceedings having terminated, the brethren adjourned to the refreshment room.

SOUTHEND.

Priory Lodge (No. 1000).—An emergency meeting was held on Saturday, the 23rd inst., at the Middleton Hotel, when there were present Bros. W. E. Bridgland, P.M. 933, Prov. G.S.B., W.M.; T. Hood, S.W.; B. Thomas, J.W.; Rev. T. W. Herbert, P.P.G.C., Chap.; A. Lucking, P.M., P.G.P., Sec.; A. Vandervord, S.D.; C. W. Barnard, J.D.; F. J. Cumine, I.G.; E. J. Bowmaker and C. H. Bowmaker, Stwds.; A. W. Martin, Prov. G.T., Tyler; G. J. Glasscock, P.M. 1817, P.P.G.S.B.; J. W. Harris, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Captain E. E. Phillips, J.P., P.M. 379, P.P.G.D.; Dr. G. F. Jones, P.P.S.G.W.; G. Berry; W. D. Merritt, P.P.S.G.W.; G. R. Dawson, P.P.G.D.; J. F. Harrington, P.M. 160, P.P.G.P.; C. Floyd, P.M. 1817, P.P.A.G.P.; H. Luker, W. M. Peacey, G. F. Vandervord, B. Fearnside, L. Warren, A. Baker, G. E. Underwood, F. Cantor, J. A. Hobday, W. Tyler, C. J. Dobson, W. Wallis, and J. Pritchard. Visitors: Bros. Colonel the Hon. D. G. Lambert, P.M. 1460; W. Langham, P.M., and J. Taylor, 276; C. Walton, 160; G. Thomas, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. Hall and C. Spalding, 1817; J. A. Brown, Rev. H. Hayes, W. J. Chigwell, and T. Walker, Asst. Tyler, of 160. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to: "That the brethren assembled at this lodge of emergency, summoned in consequence of the deeply regretted death of Bro. T. F. Barrett, P.M., P.G.R. of the Province of Essex, take this opportunity of showing their sense of the loss which they have sustained, and whilst they desire to place on record their grateful remembrance of his long services to Freemasonry, the high esteem in which he was held, his kind and courteous manner to all with whom he came in contact, and their appreciation of the high character which ever distinguished him in every walk of life; they also beg to offer to Mrs. Barrett and her family their heartfelt sympathy and condolence in the irreparable bereavement with which it has pleased the Great Architect of the Universe to afflict them."

After having resolved that the above be recorded on the minutes and a copy sent to the family, the lodge was closed, and the brethren attended the funeral of our late respected brother. Before leaving, each one dropped a white glove and a sprig of acacia in the grave.

YORK.

York Lodge (No. 236).—A meeting of the members of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Duncombe-place, on the 18th inst., Bro. Border, I.P.M., P.G.R., presiding. The lodge was opened and Bros. J. R. Dodd and J. Kemp Turner were raised to the Degree of M.M., the tools being presented by Bro. T. S. Brogden, S.W. The Secretary, Bro. Foster, stated that he had, in accordance with the resolution passed by the lodge, forwarded a letter of condolence to the representatives of the late Bro. R. W. Hollon, and he had received a note of acknowledgment. The lodge was shortly afterwards closed.

Royal Arch.

TORQUAY.

St. John's Chapter (No. 328).—A regular convocation of this chapter was held in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 19th inst., when there were present Comps. John Chapman, P.Z., P.P.G. Std. Br., Z.; T. W. Morgan, P.P.G.O., H.; J. Dodge, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., as J.; John Lane, I.P.Z., as S.N.; W. Taylor, P.Z., P.P.G. Treas.; John Taylor, S.E.; T. J. Crossman, Treas.; R. L. Mugford, P.S.; T. H. Wills, as 1st A.S.; S. Wills, D.C., as 2nd A.S.; T. Brooks, Org.; T. Beckett, J. E. Newton, J. W. McKellar, J. W. Beer, W. H. Rowland, J. Whiteway, E. J. Pratt, and G. Burt, Janitor.

The minutes of last regular chapter were read. Successful ballots were then taken for Bros. Beer, Whiteway, and Rowland, and they being in attendance were exalted to the Degree of R.A. by the M.E.Z., Comp. John Lane, I.P.Z., delivering the lecture with his usual eloquence, Comp. John Taylor, S.E., taking the duties of P.S. Feeling reference was made by the M.E.Z. to the great loss R.A. Masonry had sustained through the much lamented death of the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro G.Z., and he also spoke in sympathetic terms of the loss the chapter had sustained in the unexpected death of its Third Principal, Comp. Thomas Prust, and moved that a letter of condolence be sent to his widow. The report of the By-laws Committee and other general business then occupied some time, after which the chapter was closed.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

CAMDEN LODGE (No. 704).—The weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Lewisham Masonic Rooms, adjoining the White Hart Hotel, 116, High-street, Lewisham, on Thursday, the 21st inst., and was presided over by Bro. G. A. Pickering, as W.M.; and amongst the brethren present were Bros. J. A. Shelton, S.W.; C. G. Sheppard, J.W.; James Stevens, P.M. and Preceptor; Walter Robin, Sec.; C. Thomas, S.D.; S. Lancaster, P.M., J.D.; James Clark, I.G.; A. A. Drew, P.M.; Wimbush, Bedford, and others.

The lodge having been opened in the Third Degree, the W.M. rehearsed in perfect manner the ceremony of raising, delivering the traditional history, and closing the M.M. and F.F.C. lodges. After an interval, the brethren assisted the Preceptor in working the 2nd Section of the First Lecture. Bro. Bedford was elected a member. A very instructive evening afforded full satisfaction to all present. Bro. Shelton was elected W.M. for the 4th prox., the 28th inst. being "Preceptor's night."

EMBLEMATIC LODGE (No. 1321).—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Mona Hotel, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C., on Tuesday, the 19th inst., when there were present Bros. W. O. Welsford, W.M.; J. D. Graham, S.W.; E. D. F. Rymer, J.W.; J. Greenway, Preceptor; G. F. Swan, Sec.; C. Weedon, S.D.; W. Hoggins, J.D.; A. J. Bailey, I.G.; H. S. Hunter, P.M.; E. L. Berry, W. Williams, and T. Mogford.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Berry having offered himself as a candidate to be raised to the Third Degree, was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. The 1st Section of the Third Lecture was worked by Bro. Greenway, Preceptor, the brethren answering the questions in rotation. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising, with Bro. Berry as the candidate. The Preceptor, Bro. Greenway, then worked the 3rd Section of the Third Lecture. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The S.W., Bro. J. D. Graham, P.M., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. Nothing further offering for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed.

HYDE PARK LODGE (No. 1425).—A meeting was held on Monday, the 25th inst., at the Porchester Hotel, Leinster-place, Cleveland-square, Paddington, W., when there were present Bros. W. Hillier, W.M.; John Davies, W.M. 169, S.W.; W. Chapple, J.W.; W. H. Chalfont, P.M. 1425, Deputy Preceptor; G. Read, P.M. 511, Treas.; H. Dehane, P.M. 1543, Sec.; C. G. Wetzlar, W.M. 141, S.D.; W. R. Hatton, J.D.; R. T. Godfrey, I.G.; Edmund Coleman, Stwd.; W. J. Hakim, I.P.M. 141; J. R. Allman, P.M. 1425; J. Cruftenden, H. Campbell, J. C. Conway, J. Smith, and O. W. Battley. Visitor: Bro. Edward Stone, 723.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees, and after the usual preliminaries, the ceremonies of passing and raising were rehearsed, Bros. Stone and Campbell being candidates respectively. The 3rd Section of the Third Lecture was worked by Bro. Read, assisted by Bro. Davies. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bro. Stone was elected a member. Bro. Davies was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. After "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

COVENT GARDEN LODGE (No. 1614).—The usual meeting of this lodge was held at the Criterion, Piccadilly, S.W., on the 14th inst., when there were present Bros. W. P. Fendick, W.M.; R. E. Cursons, S.W.; W. Hoggins, J.W.; J. Greenway, Deputy Preceptor; W. Williams, S.D.; C. T. Smales, J.D.; C. Cater, I.G.; T. C. Weeks, Tyler; G. A. Bergholz, and R. Kirk.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. W. Williams having offered himself as a candidate for initiation, the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony. Bro. W. Williams answered the necessary questions leading to the Second Degree. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. Bro. G. A. Bergholz offered himself as a candidate to be raised to the Third Degree, and was duly examined, entrusted, and retired. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the W.M. rehearsed the Degree of M.M. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. On rising for the second time, Bro. R. E. Cursons, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. On rising for the third time, Bro. G. Reynolds Secretary, said he felt sure that every member of the Covent Garden Lodge of Instruction would be grieved to hear of the sad and serious illness of their worthy Preceptor, Bro. W. Brindley, P.M. of the Wanderers Lodge, and he proposed that a vote of condolence and sympathy be sent from the lodge of instruction to Bro. W. Brindley, sympathising with him in the serious illness with which he is suffering, and praying that T.G.A.O.T.U. will support him, that He in his goodness will soon restore Bro. Brindley to health, and that the brethren may soon see him again amongst them; seconded by Bro. Greenway, Deputy Preceptor, and carried unanimously. The Secretary promised to send the vote of sympathy. Nothing further offering for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed.

A meeting was also held at the above address on the 21st inst., when there were present Bros. R. E. Cursons, W.M.; C. Cater, S.D.; G. H. Foan, J.D.; J. Greenway, Dep. Preceptor; G. Reynolds, Treas. and Sec.; F. S. Jarvis, S.D.; R. Kirk, J.D.; G. A. Bergholz, I.G.; T. E. Weeks, Tyler; and J. C. Edmonds.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. The W.M. worked the 1st Section of the Second Lecture. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. worked the 1st Section of the First Lecture. Bro. R. Kirk offering himself as a candidate to be passed to the Second Degree, was duly examined, entrusted, and retired. The lodge was resumed to the Second Degree. The W.M. rehearsed the Degree of F.C. Bro. R. Kirk, J.D., worked the 5th Section of the Second Lecture. Bro. C. Cater, S.W., worked the 4th Section of the Second Lecture. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. On rising for the second time, Bro. C. Cater, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation, announcing his intention of working the Third Degree. On rising for the third time, Bro. J. Greenway, Deputy Preceptor, said it gave him great pleasure to inform the brethren of the Covent Garden Lodge of Instruction that their worthy Preceptor, Bro. W. Brindley, was slightly better, and he desired him "to ask the members of this lodge of instruction to convey their hearty congratulations to the mother lodge on the successful launching of the Royal Arch chapter in connection with the lodge. To him, who knew so many members of the Covent Garden and other lodges it was gratifying, and also to know and feel that the chapter had emanated from the mother lodge. He wished the chapter every success." Bro. J. Greenway said he endorsed all the kind sentiments expressed by their worthy Preceptor, Bro. W. Brindley, and would ask their Secretary (Bro. G. Reynolds) and the Scribe E. to the chapter to convey all their good wishes both to the lodge and the chapter, to which Bro. G. Reynolds replied, thanking both the Preceptors and the brethren for their good wishes, and he felt sure that the lodge and the chapter would be pleased to hear the kind wishes expressed that evening. Nothing further offering for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed.

KENSINGTON LODGE (No. 1767).—A meeting was held on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at the Scarsdale Arms Hotel, Edwardes-square, Kensington, W. Present: Bros. G. A. Knight, W.M.; W. Hillier, S.W.; J. R. Hubbard, J.W.; George Read, P.M., Preceptor; F. Craggs, Sec.; J. H. Morrish, S.D.; T. W. Heath, J.D.; F. A. Barth, I.G.; G. Swann, A. J. Turner, J. B. Cory, H. Wake, J. Spraggs, C. Woods, W. Dresden, James Sims, P.M.; and W. G. Danby.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Swann acting as candidate. Bro. Wake then offered himself as a candidate for passing, and having given the necessary proofs, was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony was rehearsed. The lodge was closed in the Second Degree. Bro. Hillier was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

CREATON LODGE (No. 1791).—A meeting was held on Thursday, the 21st inst., at the Wheatheaf Hotel, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush, W. Present: Bros. F. Woodard, W.M.; W. Hillier, S.W.; F. Bick, J.W.; W. H. Chalfont, P.M., Sec.; G. E. Higginson, S.D.; F. Stanley, J.D.; W. J. Jennings, I.G.; D. Stroud, W.M. 1037; Redfern Hollings, Leonard Cox, F. Craggs, and H. Cotton.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Hollins offered himself as a candidate for passing, and was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony rehearsed. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. The 1st and 2nd Sections of the Third Lecture were worked by Bro. Higginson, assisted by the brethren. The lodge was closed in the Third and Second Degrees. Bro. Hillier was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

WARNER LODGE (No. 2192).—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at Bridge Chambers, Hoestreet, Walthamstow, on Monday, the 25th inst., when there were present Bros. T. Scoresby-Jackson, Prov. S.G.D. Essex, W.M.; Chas. H. Bestow, S.W.; J. H. Wildash, P.M., J.W.; William Shurmur, P.M., P.Z., Preceptor;

Fred. Taylor, S.D.; W. W. Cook, J.D.; Wm. P. Allen, I.G.; John Ives, P.M.; N. Fortescue, P. D. Parsons, T. E. Horley, Geo. Long, E. Gray, jun., J. Speller, J. Wilson, J. J. Briginshaw, and others.

The lodge was opened in due form, and after the usual preliminaries, the ceremonies of initiation, passing, and installation were rehearsed in a satisfactory manner. Bro. C. H. Bestow was elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. There being no further Masonic business, the lodge was closed.

HORNSEY CHAPTER (No. 890).—A convocation was held on the 22nd inst., at the Porchester Hotel, Leinster-place, Cleveland-square, Paddington, W., when there were present Comps. W. C. Williams, Z. 733, M.E.Z.; J. Cruttenden, 779, H.; W. H. Chalfont, J. 975, J.; H. Dehane, P.Z. 890, S.E.; W. Hillier, 834, S.N.; G. Swann, P.S. 733, P.S.; G. March, H. 733, 1st Asst. Soj.; J. C. Tilt, 862; J. R. Allman, Treas. 890; J. Smith, 890; and O. W. Battley, 2246. Visitor: Comp. Joseph Cox, 733.

The chapter opened, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Cox being candidate. Comp. Cox was elected a member. Comp. Cruttenden was elected M.E.Z. for the ensuing two weeks. After the M.E.Z. had risen the usual number of times, "Hearty good wishes" were accorded, and the chapter was closed.

Knights Templar.

TORQUAY.

Royal Sussex Preceptory (No. 25).—A meeting of this preceptory was held at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, the 21st instant, when there were present, amongst others, Sir Knights John Chapman, 18°, P.P.G. Reg., Preceptor; John Lane, 18°, P.P.G. Reg., I.P.E.P.; W. Bennett-Maye, 18°, P.P.G.M., Registrar; John Taylor, 18°, P.P.B.B., Constable; F. Cornish Frost, P.E.P., as Marshal; P. B. Clemens, P.E.P., P.P.C., as Sub-Marshal; W. Taylor, 18°, P.E.P., P.P.G.T., as C.G.; and John Heywood, Guard.

The preceptory being formed, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, Comp. T. H. Wills, elected at the last meeting, was regularly installed as a Knights Templar by Sir Knight W. Bennett-Maye, who performed the ceremony with eloquence and ability. Sir Knight Dr. F. Adams Davson, J.P., was then unanimously elected as a joining frater. The E.P. then moved a vote of condolence on the sudden and melancholy death of Sir Knight Thomas Prust, Sub-Marshal, and that a letter of sympathy be sent to the widow of the deceased sir knight. The E.P. then addressed the preceptory at considerable length upon some of the recent alterations which had taken place in the regulations of the Order, upon the restoration of the rule as to past rank, and strongly advocated the desirability of further legislation, in order that provincial fratres might have the opportunity to attend the meetings of Great Priory and Convent General. The E.P. moved, and Sir Knight F. Cornish Frost, in a vigorous speech, seconded, the following resolution, which was also supported by Sir Knights Jno. Lane and W. Taylor, and unanimously carried—"That this preceptory views with regret the decision of the Council and the Great Priory, with regard to the place of future meetings of Great Priory and Convent General, having regard to the overwhelming influence of the London fratres, as incorporated by the alteration of the powers granted to actual Constables and Marshals, it is hereby resolved that for the convenience of provincial fratres attending Great Priory and Convent General, and for a more equitable legislative power between the provinces and London, it is recommended that the future meetings of Great Priory and Convent General be held alternately in York, Manchester, Bristol, and London." A copy of the resolution to be forwarded to the Provincial Priory and the National Great Priory.

A Priory of Malta was then held, and Sir Knight T. H. Wills, was ably installed by Sir Knight P. B. Clemens, after which the priory closed.

Victoria.

MELBOURNE.

Combermere Lodge (No. 752, E.C.).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 17th ult., in the Freemasons' Hall, Collins-street. Bro. R. B. A. Virgoe, I.P.M., presided, in the absence from the colony of the W.M., Bro. W. R. Virgoe. The lodge was draped in mourning out of respect for the memory of the late Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master of England, this being the first regular meeting of the lodge since the cable news recording the death of his lordship was received. There was no business, except the confirmation of the minutes of the last regular meeting, and the election of Bro. Max Klein, St. Asaph Lodge, No. 2, London, as a joining member. Before the lodge was closed the choir sang Dr. Calcott's anthem, "Forgive, blest shade," with Bro. Ernest Wood, Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, presiding at the organ.

The lodge having been closed, the brethren assembled at the supper table, and after the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft" and "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master of England," from the chair, Bro. W. F. Lamony, P.M., gave "The Memory of the Earl of Carnarvon," in the course of which he observed that he had the privilege of being present at the Royal Albert Hall, in London, in 1875, as W.M. of his mother lodge, when the late Lord Carnarvon installed the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of England, in the presence of an assemblage of some 10,000 Masons.

The toast was drunk in solemn silence, shortly after which the proceedings terminated.

Bro. Lieut.-General the Hon. Somerset Calthorpe, Chairman of the County Council of the Isle of Wight, and the Hon. Mrs. Somerset Calthorpe gave a garden party at their residence, Woodland's Vale, near Ryde, to the members of the County Council and the ladies of their families, together with many other guests. The band of the 5th battalion of the Hampshire Regiment was in attendance.

KILWINNING.

Kilwinning will always be a place of interest to Freemasons, by reason of its early connection with the Craft. A correspondent of the *North British Mail* thus describes the town:

"Kilwinning is a place of great antiquity, its history being traced back to the founding of a church in 715 by an Irish evangelist named St. Winnin. Out of this church grew an abbey founded in the 12th century, the buildings of which at one time covered some acres of ground, and which drew the tithes of 20 churches. There are still standing some interesting portions of this ancient structure, including a fine window. At Kilwinning Freemasonry is said to have been first established in Scotland. The practice of having a yearly shooting by archers at the papingo existed here as far back as 1488, and, it is believed, at even an earlier date, and it is only quite recently that the custom has fallen into desuetude. The appearance of the town bears some indication of its ancient date in its winding and irregular main street, and the occurrence here and there of thatched houses of antique appearance. There are, however, in contrast to these many modern buildings of handsome appearance. It shared in the prosperity of the cotton weaving in the early part of the century, having at one time between five and six hundred looms at work. There are now not more than half-a-dozen hand-loom weavers in the town. Another lost industry is the sewed muslin work, at which many females were employed previous to the failure of the Western Bank. This is now to some extent represented by embroidery work in white and colours. The sewed muslin work which at one time employed many thousands of women in the North of Ireland was introduced there by workers from Kilwinning, who were sent over to Donaghadee by Glasgow and Paisley firms to teach it. In the employment of the population of between three and four thousand the Eglinton Iron Works take the principal share; but there are besides these several works of importance."

BELFAST MASONIC CHARITIES.

The Rev. J. E. Kelly, P.P.G.C. Portrush, in the course of a sermon on behalf of the above object, under the auspices of Lambeg Lodge, No. 565, at the Lambeg parish church, on the 10th inst., said: "Charity, my friends, is greatest, because, as said, it stimulates, and gives tone, vigour, and beauty to the other graces; is greatest, because it benefits others as well as those who exercise it; Charity is greatest, because it partakes of the nature of God. God is love; and Charity is greatest, because it is immortal, it is imperishable. Faith and hope shall cease, but Charity never faileth. Charity is one of the brightest jewels in our ancient and honourable Masonic Order—an Order that is intended to present itself to the world as a Charitable Society; a Society whose great aim is to urge upon its members to bear one another's burdens, to relieve one another in distress, to comfort the sorrowing, and love one another in adversity and in prosperity; to visit the fatherless children and helpless widows; to keep themselves unspotted from the world. We may, I think, gather something of the spirit and principle of Masonry from one of its poems—

Genius of Masonry, descend,
And with thee bring thy spotless train;
Bring with thee virtue; brightest maid,
Bring love, bring truth, bring friendship;
Bring Charity, with goodness crowned,
Encircled in thy heavenly robe;
Diffuse thy blessings all around,
To every corner of the globe.

Masonry does not only feel, but aids; it not merely pities, but endeavours to relieve sorrowing, suffering humanity. Its aim, as already said, is to comfort the sorrowing, to console the dying, to relieve the destitute, to shelter fatherless children, and extends to the weeping widow the consolation of fraternal sympathy and support. It is for such a Society as this that I appeal to you this morning, and yet it is not for any society that I appeal to you; but on behalf of suffering, sorrowing brethren, on behalf of suffering, sorrowing widows, on behalf of helpless children and orphans. The Belfast Masonic Charities consist of two funds, which were instituted, the first in the year 1862, and the second in the year 1873. I cannot possibly in the time given to me tell you fully the work or even the objects of these two Charities, though I may mention one or two of each. One of the great objects of the first is to help and assist aged and deserving Masons, who, through growing infirmities, are unable to help themselves, however willing they may be. Many such we know are in our own province, depending solely upon the help of sons or daughters—absent sons or daughters. When the aid of these sons and daughters is removed by accident, by disease, by death, or by any other cause, they are left helpless, and would be hopeless only that one Masonic Society comes as a good Samaritan to their aid. The demands then upon this Society are pressing, and I sincerely trust that I shall not appeal to you this morning in vain. The other is the Widows' Fund, and I think its objects may best be stated in the words of a recent report, which says:—'In the ceaseless and startling changes which are incidental to life it often happens that those who were once enjoying ease and abundance are reduced to severe straits of unaccustomed poverty, and when this sad trial is accompanied by one sadder still, in the death of the head of the family—its main support and centre of its joy—

how deeply painful is the consequent distress. It is to bring comfort and help to such mourners, the widows and children of those whose hands we once grasped as brethren, that this fund was established; and the accomplishment of this purpose the Committee believe to be an object in every way worthy of that spirit of Charity which so brightly adorns our Order.' Do you ask 'What is being done?' I may tell you that at the present moment there are in connection with this Society 60 widows and their families (numbering about 250), and almost £500 given in yearly grants. Nor do our Charities end here. It may well, I think, be said of them, as of loving ones of old, 'In death they are not divided.' A portion of ground has been taken in the Borough Cemetery for the burial of our poor brethren who may be strangers in a strange land, or who through poverty are unable to purchase ground themselves, so that they may not slumber in paupers' graves. We ask you, then, this morning to aid us to perform this purpose, to aid us in this benevolent work, in this charitable work. Not only do we ask you to enable us by your money, but we ask your prayers—your constant, fervent prayers—for this grace of Christian Charity. 'Pour into our hearts the most excellent gift of Charity; pour into our hearts this Charity, because it surpasses all others, because it outshines all others, because it outlives all others. Pour into our hearts this most excellent gift, because Charity is the consummation of all others. Faith and hope shall cease, they shall one day fail, but throughout the endless ages of eternity love shall shine more and more in all its glory, in all its splendour, in all its beauty, and ever as it shines it shall reflect upon the Divine Giver the odour of its heavenly sanctity.' 'And now abideth Faith, Hope, and Charity, these three; but the greatest of these is Charity.'

The following were the collectors: Bros. Robert Macartney, P.P.J.G.W.; David Hannay, P.P.S.G.W.; Hugh Smyth, P.P.J.G.D.; W. J. Stokes, P.P.J.G.W.; J. D. Barbour, J. Arnot Taylor, R. Niven, G. B. Wilkins, A. Mussen, R. Knox, P.J.G.W.; and E. J. Charley.

The complete renovation of the church, it may be stated, was executed by Mr. Joseph Scott, Bridge-street, Lisburn. At the close of the service a handsome sum was subscribed.

A MEDICAL MASONIC LODGE.

The following letter has been addressed to our contemporary the *British Medical Journal*:—

SIR,—At the recent annual meeting at Birmingham of the British Medical Association I found, in conversation with many professional brethren, a widespread concurrence with my opinion that, taking into consideration the vast number of medical men who are Masons, the formation of a medical Masonic lodge would meet with unanimous professional support. In the interests alike of the profession and of the Craft, to both of which I have the honour to belong, I therefore should feel deeply gratified if you would kindly afford this scheme the powerful circulating medium of your valuable columns, with a view to ascertaining the sentiments of the profession at large upon the subject. Might I venture to supplement the same with the further suggestion that the Æsculapian Lodge would be a highly appropriate designation?

I shall be most happy to receive the names of any professional brethren willing to join such a lodge, with a view to concerting active measures for its formation.—I am, &c.,

J. BRINDLEY JAMES, I.P.M.

Jamaica-road, S.E.

Marriage.

WEBB—WHYMPER, 24th July, 1890, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Murree, Punjab, India, Algernon Edward Webb, Lieutenant Bengal Staff Corps, son of Colonel R. F. Webb, to Annette, daughter of Bro. H. Whympere, C.I.E.

Bro. the Earl and the Countess of Wharncliffe will entertain a large house party at Wortley Hall, Sheffield, during Doncaster race week, and in all probability the Dukes of Clarence and Cambridge will be included among the guests.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife's party at Mar Lodge Braemar, has this week included the Princess of Wales, the Princesses Victoria and Maud of Wales, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, the Count and Countess of Paris, Prince Waldemar of Denmark, the Russian Ambassador, and others.

The annual fête of the Order of Foresters, in aid of their Distress, Gift, and Asylum Funds, was held at the Crystal Palace on Monday, when there was a very large attendance and a full programme of entertainments was carried out satisfactorily. The Mining Exhibition proved a great attraction.

The Queen has given orders for the following appointments to the Most Honourable Order of the Bath:—To be an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Second Class or Knights Commanders of the Order—Sir Henry Percy Anderson, K.C.M.G., of the Foreign Office. To be an Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions of the Order—Major and Lieut.-Col. and Col. Ivor John Caradoc Herbert, Grenadier Guards, Military Attaché at St. Petersburg. To be an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Third Class, or Companions of the Order—Mr. Henry Hamilton Johnston, Her Majesty's Consul for the Portuguese Possessions on the East Coast of Africa.