

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 CHARLES DALRYMPLE, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The Anniversary Festival of this Institution was held on Wednesday, the 28th ult., at Freemasons' Tavern. Bro. Col. G. Noel Money, C.B., Prov. G.M. for Surrey, presided over some 400 brethren, who sat down to dinner in the large hall, and besides these a large number of ladies were entertained in another room. Among the brethren who supported Bro. Col. Money were Bros. the Earl of Euston, the Rev. W. J. L. S. Stradling, P.G.C.; Dr. Ralph Gooding, P.G.D.; Baron de Ferrieres, P.G.D.; Horace Brooks Marshall, P.G.T.; W. F. Smithson, P.G.D.; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec R.M.I.G.; and Charles Belton, P.A.G.D.C.

After the usual loyal toasts had been proposed,

Bro. Col. MONEY, in proposing "The M.W. Pro G. Master, the Earl of Lathom; the R.W. Dep. Grand Master, the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," said they all knew the great interest the Earl of Lathom took in Freemasonry, and that whenever it was possible he came among the brethren and occupied the chair. They all deeply regretted his ill-health, which of late had kept him much away from them, and in drinking his health they would wish him a speedy return to strength and re-appearance in the Craft. The Earl of Mount Edgumbe likewise needed no words of commendation from anyone. They would remember that his lordship presided over the Jubilee Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution two years ago, when the largest sum ever contributed to any Charitable Institution in the world was announced. Of the Present and Past Grand Officers there was a goodly gathering that night. Grand Officers had always shown a deep interest in the Masonic Charities. In coupling the name of the Earl of Euston with the toast, he did not think there was a single Freemason in England who worked harder in Freemasonry or did more good in its cause.

The Earl of EUSTON, Prov. G.M., Northants and Hunts, in reply, after thanking Col. Money for his kind reference to himself, said although several Grand Officers were present he would like to have seen more of them. Still it must be a great gratification to the Chairman to see so many brethren around him to assist that great Institution.

Bro. Col. MONEY next proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons." He was sure the brethren would sympathise with him when he said he felt at a loss for words in which to propose it. What could he say that had not been said over and over again previously; what could he say that almost every one of the brethren sitting there had not said when pleading the cause of that noble Institution? Masonry was a charitable Institution, and how nobly this was shown in the three great Masonic Charities—the Old People's and the Boys' and the Girls' Schools. He thought however much interest they felt in the cause of the Boys and Girls, he would not say they felt a greater interest in that of the Old People, but he thought in some ways it was somewhat different, it was a deeper and more tender interest. The children were entering into life, and we looked to them, after we had launched them into life, to look after themselves, to be a credit to us and to the Institution which had looked after them in their childhood. But with the Old People they must feel somewhat as they would feel regarding their own fathers and mothers if they were left in a state of penury and distress. These old people had no one to look to but the brethren of the Craft, and that that was heartily felt by all Freemasons was proved by the great interest and the noble support given to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. At the wonderful Festival of two years ago the unprecedentedly large sum of £69,000 was subscribed. The brethren who subscribed that sum did not intend that it should suffice for a number of years to come; and it was intended to be a special contribution on the occasion of the Institution's Jubilee—to found a reserve by which more aged Freemasons could be provided for and supported by that Institution; and the brethren never dreamed that in the succeeding years the contributions would fall at all short of the average contributions of preceding years. He did not know what result their esteemed Secretary would have to give, but he could only hope it would be worthy of the noble gathering he saw around him, and that it would insure the prosperity of the Institution, and prevent any diminution of its settled funds in order to tide over one or two years. There was nothing more he could say. The brethren knew the statistics of the Institution, and those who did not had had them laid before them that evening, and could examine them at their leisure.

Bro. C. E. KEYSER, P.G.D., in responding, said he owed an apology to the Chairman and brethren because on many previous occasions they had had the privilege of the Institution's most popular Treasurer, Bro. Farnfield's presence, who responded to the toast. Bro. Farnfield was so intimately acquainted with every detail of the Institution that he was the most qualified brother to respond. Unfortunately, however, he was not present, and he (Bro. Keyser) had been asked to leave the lodge of which he was Master and at which he was presiding—as one of the House Committee and one of the Trustees of this Institution—to respond. He need hardly say they were all waiting with great interest to hear the result of their united exertions. He had every reason to believe that those exertions had resulted in a very large amount being got together. He was certain they had but one feeling—that they were all most thoroughly interested in the object for which they were met. Those who had been down to Croydon and seen the happiness which their contributions conferred on the inmates of the Institution would agree that that alone would make them give with pleasure. Thirty-two pensioners were there enjoying the greatest peace and happiness. But there were 420 others who annually received the benefits of the Institution. Throughout the length and breadth of the land the

brethren had the opportunity of seeing the result which the lists announced were able to produce towards relieving the distress and misery of those who often—and generally through no fault of their own—had been brought down from prosperity to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress. He sincerely hoped their dear old friend, Bro. Terry, would announce a result which would be satisfactory to them all. Of course, they all felt that after the magnificent result of 1892 of £69,000, to a certain extent they would go back to what they used to have three or four years before. Last year, under the humble presidency of himself, it was very much lower; but he hoped that this year the result would be very much in excess of what it was last year. They had had an admirable Chairman that evening, the popular ruler of one of the most important provinces. Under Col. Money's chairmanship he was sure the subscriptions would be worthy of that great Institution. He asked them never to forget the Old People, and that they would not fail to do something for an Institution which had done so much for the Craft.

Bro. JAMES TERRY then announced the lists, pre-facing his statement with the remark that there were 296 Stewards, 137 from London and 159 from the provinces. There were 11 lists yet to come in. The total brought in by the 137 London Stewards was £5421 3s. 6d., and by the 159 brethren from the provinces £7237 11s. The Chairman's personal donation was 50 guineas. West Yorkshire sent £1837 10s., included in which amount was 1200 guineas, for which he had the personal cheque of Bro. George Heaton, of Heckmondwike. The total was £12,658 14s.

The Earl of EUSTON proposed "The Chairman," whom he congratulated on the success of his presidency. He thought the amount would soon be £13,000. Whether the Chairman was satisfied with the big amount that had been brought in he could not say, but whether he was or not all the brethren must congratulate him. They all knew the work Colonel Money had done in Masonry, not only in the Craft but in every other Degree to which he belonged; he was at the head of everything; he was one of the Supreme Council of the 33°, and of those Orders which were coveted by every Mason. That showed how he was appreciated by Freemasons. The Province of Surrey had supported him that evening, and he must be very proud of that support.

Bro. Col. MONEY, in acknowledging the toast, said the result of the evening's subscription was commensurate with his gratitude. They ought to be gratified that the total of £12,000 had been reached, but he felt sure that it would yet be £13,000. It was not more gratifying to any one than it was to him. It was with feelings of great trepidation that he acceded to the request of Bro. Terry that he should preside. It was a great responsibility, but he could not sufficiently thank the brethren for the great success they had contributed to. He must also thank most heartily the Province of Surrey for its noble support. Masonry had no more devoted adherent than himself, and as long as God gave him health and strength, all his best powers should be devoted to the cause of Freemasonry. He thanked Lord Euston from the bottom of his heart for the extremely kind way in which he had proposed the toast.

The Rev. W. J. L. S. STRADLING, P.G.C., proposed "The Sister Institutions."

Bro. F. R. W. HEDGES replied. The Boys' Festival would have the presidency of Bro. W. L. Jackson, Prov. G.M. for West Yorkshire, and he was sure the brethren would make that Festival a great success. With reference to the Girls' School Festival, he would remind the brethren that that Institution was the next to celebrate its Festival, and would take place on May 9th, when the Earl of Lathom would preside. Last year that Institution was favoured with a Festival much better than it had been able to celebrate since 1888, when the Institution celebrated its Centenary. The School had had the misfortune this last year to be visited by a severe epidemic, which put it to considerable expense. They were now looking forward to May next for the funds to be replenished. They hoped that the expense incurred last year would be more than covered, and that the work of the Institution might go on without let or hindrance. He had on many recent occasions declared that the work of the Masonic Institutions was never more efficiently carried out than at the present moment. He said it on Friday last at the Emulation of Improvement; but since then they had had further evidence—if it were needed—for the result of the Cambridge Local Examination was that the Boys' had scored another great success, and with the Girls' School the whole 15 girls who competed passed—six with honours, 12 with distinction. This was the third time in five years all the candidates had passed, without one failure. The brethren would all agree with him that these Institutions were doing a great work in a thorough, admirable, and most efficient manner, and it was with confidence he said the brethren would afford help to them.

Bro. Dr. STRONG proposed "The Stewards," and

Bro. F. WEST, P.G.D., Deputy Prov. G.M. Surrey, responded, and said he was very proud of what Surrey had done.

Bro. Alderman and Sheriff DIMSDALE, returning thanks for the toast of "The Ladies," which was proposed by the Chairman, said he was glad the Chairman had selected him to speak on the qualities and blessing of woman. They had all known the blessing of the ladies. In them was associated in their minds home rule, but not the Home Rule they had heard so much about; theirs was not the disintegration of the house, but the concentration of all that was true, right, beautiful, and he thought they could all say—

How blest is she whose bright unchanging ray
Can make to-morrow happy as to-day,
And who never answers till her husband cools,
And if she rules him never shows she rules.

The brethren then adjourned to the Temple, where a splendid concert was given, Bro. Col. Money again presiding.

STEWARDS' LISTS.

Table listing stewards for London and various provinces including Berkshire, Dorsetshire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, and Northants and Hunts.

Table listing stewards for various provinces including Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, and Middlesex.

Table listing stewards for various provinces including Oxfordshire, Surrey, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire, and Guernsey.

Table listing stewards for various provinces including Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire, and Guernsey.

SUMMARY OF THE PROVINCES.

Summary table showing the total number of stewards for each province, including London and the Provinces.

ANALYSIS OF THE RETURNS.

The task upon which we now enter, which has devolved upon us for several years past, will be performed with all the greater pleasure from the fact that though we were somewhat sanguine of the result—we believed there are those who condemned us for being over-sanguine—the total is in excess of what we had hoped.

first, we find that among the lists comprised in the total just stated the distinction of occupying the first place has devolved, and very worthily devolved, upon the Secretary of the Institution who, as Steward for the Highbury Lodge, No. 2102, compiled the admirable total of £187 10s.

1366, who raised £158 11s.; and then close together are the following, viz.: Bro. S. G. Edridge, La Tolerance Lodge, No. 538, with £130 os. 4d.; Bro. G. E. Higginson, Creton Lodge, No. 1791, with £127 10s. 6d.; and Bro. Walter T. Johns, Leopold Lodge, No. 1571, with £126. Bro. James Cook, Royal Albert Lodge, No. 907, raised £107 12s. 6d. Three Stewards had the satisfaction of handing in lists of £105, namely: Bro. J. H. Whadcoat, Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19; Bro. H. A. Baxter, Southwark Lodge, No. 879; and Bro. W. Baddeley, Unattached; Bro. R. Baker, Clerkenwell Lodge, No. 1964, bringing up the rear with £102 18s. Other good lists which, though falling short of three figures, are most creditable to the Stewards who raised them, are those of Bro. G. Trenchard Cox, Fidelity Lodge, No. 3, for £88 5s. 6d.; Bro. E. Forbes Lankester, Shakespear Lodge, No. 99, for £72 19s.; Bro. Alfred Moore, Phoenix Lodge, No. 173, £86 2s.; Bro. Joseph Curtis, representing United Strength Lodge, No. 228—Bro. Terry's mother lodge—for £85 10s.; Bro. Hugh Cotter, Yarborough, No. 554, for £80; Bro. G. R. Nichols, Nelson Lodge, No. 700, for £85 1s.; Bro. Rev. R. Milner, Friends-in-Council Lodge, No. 1383, for £84; Bro. J. J. Mackay, Kensington Lodge, No. 1767, for £78 6s. 6d.; Bro. W. G. Lowe, Clarendon Lodge, No. 1769, for £97 13s.; Bro. W. C. Smith, Chough Lodge, No. 2264, for £90; Bro. Alfred Banks, Viator Lodge, No. 2308, for £70 17s. 6d.; Bro. Rich. R. Collick, Bolingbroke Lodge, No. 2417, for £92 12s.; and Bro. G. F. Smith, Gatwick Lodge, No. 2502, which was only consecrated a few days ago, for £70.

THE PROVINCES,

though the area from which their representatives were drawn was more circumscribed than in ordinary years, deserve full credit for the part they took in the celebration. Only 27 out of the 46 Provinces—including the group of lodges in the Channel Islands where there is no Provincial organisation—were represented, the number of their Stewards being 160, while the aggregate of the lists they compiled reached the handsome figure of £7237 11s. Last year when the reaction that set in after the successful efforts of the Jubilee year was in full force, only one less than the same number of Provinces was represented, while the number of Stewards was only 122, and the total of their Returns reached £4634 8s. 6d. There has thus been a substantial advance as well in the country as in town in the Returns on this occasion as compared with those of 1893.

The following Provinces were absentees from the Festival, namely: BRISTOL (nine lodges), which has now been unrepresented at four successive Festivals on behalf of this Institution, but which in 1891 and 1892 raised upwards of £900 for the Boys' School, and is, we believe, included among the contributing Provinces at one or both of the School Festivals now approaching. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (18 lodges) is an absentee for the first time since it was organised into a separate Province, its contributions only last year to our three Charities having been—to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, £81 18s.; to the Girls' School, £212 1s.; and to the Boys' School, £184 5s. 6d.; the total during its three years' existence as a separate Province which it has distributed among our three Institutions amounting to £1694 2s. CHESHIRE (45 lodges) has been doing excellent work of late. In 1891 it raised £134 10s. for the Girls' School, and £1050 for that of the Boys. In the following year it distributed its favours to the extent of £2168 10s. among all three Charities, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution receiving at its Jubilee £1988 10s., the Girls' School, £117 12s., and the Boys' School, £63 8s. Last year it gave only two small amounts to this and the Boys' Institutions, the Province being at the time engaged in finding the capital for a Benevolent Institution of its own, and at the first annual festival in aid of this local Charity, donations and subscriptions were announced to the extent of a full £3000, of which five-sixths had been received when the Festival was held. Add to this, that for more than 30 years it has maintained an Educational Fund, which has materially assisted in the training and advancement of children of Cheshire deceased or indigent Freemasons, and the reason is obvious that it cannot always be found among the supporters of our Central Charities. CORNWALL (30 lodges) was most ably represented at the Boys' School Festival in June of last year by Bro. Gilbert B. Pearce, whose list amounted to £225 15s., while in 1892 it gave its entire subscription to this Institution, the sum it raised in support of its Prov. Grand Master as Chairman of the day being £776 15s. In 1891 it figured in the Returns for this Institution and the Boys' School, the total of its contributions being £289 15s., while in 1890 all three Charities were favoured, the amount distributed amongst them being £380 1s. CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND (20 lodges) took part in the Boys' Festival last year to the extent of £63 8s., and in the Jubilee of this Institution the year previous, when its present D.P.G.M., Bro. McKay, took up a list of £420, while in 1891 the Boys' School received £265 13s., and the R.M.B.I. £46 4s. DERBYSHIRE (25 lodges) may not improbably be reserving itself for one or other of the two School Festivals, and will, no doubt give, as usual, an excellent account of itself before the year is out. In 1893 it raised £1043 7s. 9d. for the R.M. Institution for Boys, while in 1892 it contributed £1362 16s. to the Benevolent Jubilee, £126 to the Girls' School, and £249 18s. to the Boys' School, or altogether £1738 14s. In 1891 it supported the Girls' School to the extent of £136 10s., and the Boys' School to that of £843 17s., or together £980 7s. DEVONSHIRE (52 lodges) raised £206 6s. in 1893, of which the Boys' School secured £179 11s., and this Institution the small remainder. In 1892 the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution received the lion's share of its attention in the shape of contributions amounting to £807 18s. 6d., while the Girls' School had £68 5s., and the Boys' School £47 5s. In 1891 the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution obtained support to the extent of £63, and the Boys' School to that of £408 2s. In 1838 the sum raised by this Province exceeded £1000, the Boys' School being favoured with £840, the Girls' School with £126, and the Old People with £47 5s. HEREFORDSHIRE (five lodges) was represented at last year's Festival of this Institution on an exceedingly modest scale, at its Jubilee in 1892, and at the Boys' Anniversary in 1891, but it has a Charity Association, which enables it to render service to our Institutions for which it obtains no credit in our Festival Returns. LINCOLNSHIRE (24 lodges) took a small part in last year's Festival for the Girls' School, but in 1892 its contingent of 13 Stewards compiled the admirable total of £660 5s. at the Jubilee of this Institution, while in 1891 it raised £451 for the Boys' School. MONMOUTHSHIRE (10 lodges) will doubtless give its support this year to one of the Schools, as in February, 1893, it raised £277 8s. 6d. for the Old People. In 1892 the Boys' School received the bulk of its contributions in the shape of £316 18s.; in 1891 the Old People were supported to the extent of £327 1s., while in 1890, it was the Girls' School turn, and the sum of £247 was raised in its behalf. NORFOLK (17 lodges) figured among the represented Provinces last year, when the Steward of one of its seven lodges raised £78 15s. for the Girls' School, and the year previous it took part in the Old People's Jubilee by raising £406 5s. NORTHUMBERLAND (23 lodges) raised £94 10s. for this Institution in 1893, and in 1892 £105 for its Jubilee and £1364 4s. for the Boys' School. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (16 lodges) raised £131 5s. for the Girls' School in May of last year; in 1892 £157 10s. for the Benevolent Jubilee and £34 13s. for the Boys' School; and in 1891, £37 16s. 6d. for the Girls' School and £203 9s. for the Boys' School. There are not many Festivals from which SHROPSHIRE (12 lodges), since its organisation into a separate Province, has been absent. Last year it raised £105 for the Girls' School, and in 1892 £615 16s. 6d., of which £455 10s. was included in the Returns at the Benevolent Jubilee. In 1891 it subscribed £455 9s. 6d., of which the Boys' School obtained £212 12s. 6d., while at the Girls' School Centenary it was returned as contributing the substantial sum of £770 15s. SOMERSETSHIRE (26 lodges) is not usually to be found among the Provinces we are now concerning ourselves about. Last year it raised £31 10s. for this Institution; £132 6s. for the Girls' School, and £174 6s. for the Boys'

School, altogether £338 2s.; in 1892, £613 10s. for the Benevolent Jubilee, £196 15s. for the Girls' School, and £31 10s. for the Boys' School; and in 1891, a total of £762 8s. 6d., of which the Boys' School was so fortunate as to secure £483 9s. SOUTH WALES (E.D.), with 19 lodges on its roll, raised £315 for the Girls' School in May, 1893, and in 1892, £180 for the Benevolent Jubilee, and £321 15s. 6d. for the Boys' School Festival, making a total of £501 15s. 6d. In 1891, the amount obtained from this source was £479 15s., of which this Institution received £380. STAFFORDSHIRE (31 lodges) raised £424 7s. 6d. in the year 1893, the Boys' School being favoured to the extent of £355 12s., and the Girls' School with the remainder. In 1892, all three Charities were aided, the Benevolent receiving £392 10s. at its Jubilee, the Girls' School £84, and the Boys' School £285 12s., the aggregate of these sums being £762 2s.; while in 1891 the total was £761 15s. 6d., of which the R.M.B.I. obtained £152 5s., the Girls' School £157 10s., and the Boys' School £452 0s. 6d. JERSEY (seven lodges) was included in the Returns at the Boys' School Festival in June of last year for £263, and in those of the Benevolent Jubilee the preceding year for £63; and the ISLE OF MAN (nine lodges) raised sums amounting to £44 10s. 6d. for the School Festivals in 1893, and in 1892 £52 10s. for the Old People's Jubilee, and £46 2s. for the Girls' School. These 19 absentee Provinces muster amongst them 388 lodges, which had no part in the proceedings at Wednesday's gathering.

We have said that the Provinces included in the present Returns are 27 in number, the first in alphabetical order being that of

BEDFORDSHIRE

which has, however, only six lodges on its roll, and is, therefore, not sufficiently strong to make much of a Return. Still, its senior lodge, the Bedfordshire Lodge of St. John the Baptist, No. 475, which meets at Luton, furnished a Steward, in the person of Bro. F. J. Coleman, whose list amounted to £102 10s. Last year its contributions to the three Charities amounted to £183 17s. 6d., the list of its D.P.G.M., Bro. Prior, at the Festival of this Institution in February last, being £47 5s., while at the School Festivals, Bro. Lord Amptill, the Prov. G. Master, did duty as Steward, his list in May for the Girls' School reaching £62 13s. 6d., and for the Boys' Festival, in June, £73 12s. 6d. This is the most successful year since Bedfordshire became a Province, but in 1892 it raised £126 for the Benevolent Jubilee, and £26 5s. for the Girl's School, and in 1891, £138 12s. for the Boys' School, the D.P.G.M.'s list of £109 4s., being the principal item.

Four out of the 15 lodges on the roll of

BERKSHIRE

sent four Stewards to this Anniversary, among whom Bro. C. E. Keyser, representing the Union Lodge of Reading, No. 414, will be found as well as among the Hertfordshire Stewards, and Bro. W. B. Fendick, of the Ascot Lodge, No. 2460, among the London, as the representative of No. 1321. The total raised by these four brethren was £247 13s., of which Bro. Keyser is responsible for £122 5s. 6d., and Bro. Fendick for £70. In 1893, the sum raised amounted to £742 17s., of which this Institution received £203 5s., the Girls' School £325 6s. 6d., and the Boys' School £214 5s. 6d. In 1892 the Returns were still higher, and amounted to £954 1s. 6d., but this is to be accounted for by the occurrence of the Benevolent Jubilee, at which the Province was entered for £661 9s. 6d.; while in 1891, it distributed £385 1s. among the Charities. A record such as this is most commendable.

It was only on Wednesday morning that Bro. Young, of the Lodge of the Three Grand Principles, No. 441, Cambridge, sent in his name as Steward, and thus had the pleasure of transferring the Province of

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

from the list of absentees to that of the represented Provinces. But last year it took part in all three Festivals, contributing £26 5s. to this Institution, £201 12s. to the Girls' School, and £63 to the Boys' School; or together £290 17s. In 1892 it raised £326 8s. for the Benevolent Jubilee, and in 1891 £141 4s. for the Boys' Institution, and £85 16s. for Our Girls; or in all £227. Bro. Young's list on Wednesday was £10 10s.

Bro. W. Douglas Dugdale did duty as the representative of the 13 lodges in

DORSETSHIRE,

his list amounting to £157 10s. In 1893, it took part in the Festivals of the two Schools, the amount contributed to the Girls' Institution being £82 5s., and to that of the Boys' £150 15s. In 1892, the Province laid itself out to support the R.M.B.I. at its Jubilee Anniversary, to which it contributed the handsome total of £500 6s., a sum of £10 10s. to each School raising the total for the year to £521 6s.; while in 1891, it raised £63 for "Our Girls" and £248 17s. for "Our Boys," or together, £311 17s.

DURHAM,

which can now boast of 36 lodges, is more often than not to be found among the represented Provinces on these festive occasions, and the sum it occasionally subscribes is considerable. In 1891 it contributed £168 to the Old People, £193 4s. to the Girls' School, and £127 1s. to the Boys' School, making in all £488 5s. In 1892 its Returns were more than double this sum, the total raised for the Jubilee of this Institution being £720 5s., for the Girls' School £107 2s., and for "Our Boys" £209, the aggregate of the three amounts being £1036 7s. Last year there was a descent to the far smaller total of £338 2s., which was not very unequally distributed among the three Charities. On Wednesday Bro. William Barrow acted as Steward for the Stranton Lodge, No. 1862, West Hartlepool, and had the satisfaction of compiling a list of £154 7s.

After its brilliant efforts in support of the chairmanship of its respected Prov. G.M., Bro. Lord Brooke—now Earl of Warwick—at the Boys' School Festival in June of last year, it could not in reason be expected that the Province of

ESSEX,

though it has 34 lodges on its roll, would make much of a Return on this occasion. Indeed, considering that these efforts followed immediately after the Province had exerted itself with success in aid of the Jubilee of this Institution in 1892, and had raised no less than £2608 5s. during that year, it is an additional feather in the cap of Essex, that it should have sent up the compact little band of six Stewards on Wednesday, of whom three did duty for as many lodges, one for a chapter, and two—Bros. W. Shurmur and George Finch—were Unattached. The total of the lists compiled by these brethren appears as £158 2s., the principal item being the £52 10s. obtained by Comp. G. Graveley, of Chapter No. 2374. In 1891 the Province raised altogether £1648, of which £1265 1s. 6d. was in aid of the Boys' School; in 1892, as already stated, £2608 5s., out of which this Institution obtained £2318 2s. 6d.; and in 1893, £2317 16s., of which £2214 18s. 6d. was in respect of the Boys' School. Thus the aggregate of the years 1891, 1892, and 1893, reaches the tremendous figure of £6574 1s., or an average of £2191 6s. per year. From a Province which has been greatly affected by the diminished value of land and agricultural produce, such figures as these almost take away one's breath.

Two out of the 15 lodges in the Province of

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

sent representatives to this Festival, their lists, with that of Bro. Lea, Unattached, together producing £73 10s. Last year the Province was in the position of Essex at the present time; that is to say, a heavy demand had been made on its resources in 1892, when Bro. Sir M. E. Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P., presided at the Boys'

School Festival, and its figures have since then been on a smaller scale than usual. Thus in 1892 it subscribed £1645 11s. to the Boys' Institution, £21 to the Girls' School, and £63 to the Old People, making in all £1739 11s. for the year. Last year it subscribed £58 3s. 6d. to the Old People, £147 to the Girls' School, and £99 1s. to Our Boys, or together £304 18s. 6d.

Of the 48 lodges on the roll of

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT,

four sent up Stewards, and the D.P.G.M., Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre, Unattached, made a fifth. The total of the lists compiled by these brethren reached the sum of £208 18s. 6d., Bro. Richard Hodges, of Hengist Lodge, No. 195, Bournemouth, being responsible for £109 3s. 6d. In June of last year eight Stewards did duty for the Province at the Boys' School Festival, the sum they raised being £313 19s., while in the preceding May and February, the contributions were £294 1s. 6d. to the Girls' School and £72 3s. 6d. to the Old People; the total for the year being £680 4s. In 1892 the amount distributed was £1650 17s. 6d., or nearly £1000 more. Out of this the Benevolent Jubilee absorbed £1345 19s. 7d. and the Schools had to content themselves with the balance. In 1891 the Returns amounted to £695 11s. 6d., so that during the three years we have referred to, the sums subscribed by this Province reached the handsome aggregate of £3027 8s. 7d. Nor does this by any means represent the full extent of the efforts made by the lodges in this district in behalf of necessitous Masons and their families, the support given to the Provincial Educational Fund being on a corresponding scale of liberality.

As for HERTFORDSHIRE,

five out of its 21 lodges and one of its seven chapters were represented in Wednesday's Returns, the aggregate of their lists being £359 9s. 6d., of which £122 6s. was raised by Bro. C. E. Keyser, who acted as Steward for the Bushey Hall Lodge, No. 2323—as well as for the Union Lodge, No. 414, Reading, under the head of Berkshire—£84 by Bro. H. Trask, W.M. of the James Terry Lodge, No. 2372, and £78 15s. by Bro. F. C. Collingwood, who signalled his accession to office as W.M. of the Gladsmuir Lodge, No. 1385, by undertaking a Stewardship for this Festival. Last year the total contributed by this Province was £2106 14s., the Benevolent Institution, at whose anniversary Bro. Keyser, a Past J.G.W. of Herts, acted as Chairman, receiving £1444 13s. 6s., the Girls' School £257 5s. and the Boys' School £404 15s. 6d. In 1892 the total subscribed was £2135 6s. 6d., of which £1833 6s. 6d. was raised in respect of the Benevolent Jubilee. Such facts as these redound immensely to the credit of this small but well-organised and liberal Province.

Passing hence into the Province of

KENT,

the land of hops and cherries, we find the same goodwill exhibited towards the Institution, and the same spirit of generosity manifested by the lodges and brethren. But the numbers and figures we deal with are on a more formidable scale, there being no less than 59 lodges on the roll of the Province. Thus, in 1893 the aggregate of the year's returns was £2096 5s. 6d., out of which £1242 1s. 6d. was raised by 15 Stewards for the Boys' School, while the remainder was equally distributed between the Girls' and Benevolent Institutions. In 1892 the Returns exceeded £3000, the amounts severally obtained for the three Charities being, £1858 15s. 6d. for the Benevolent Jubilee in February; £361 for the Girls' School in May; and £770 16s. for the Boys' School in June. In 1891 the Returns were as follows: to the Benevolent Institution in support of the Chairmanship of Bro. Earl Amherst, P.G.M., £3483 14s. 6d.; to the Girls' School, £265 2s. 6d.; and to the Boys' School, £269 9s.; the grand total being £4018 6s. Thus Kent in the three years 1891, 1892, and 1893 raised the very splendid sum of £9118 5s., or at the rate of upwards of £3000 per year. A record like this is not to be met with everywhere.

It is but the other day we had occasion to refer to the Systematic Educational and Benevolent Institution which is maintained by the brethren of the Province of

LANCASHIRE (EASTERN DIVISION),

and to remark in terms of commendation on the importance of the work done by this useful local Charity. But Provinces, which lay themselves out to provide for their own necessitous members and the widows and orphans of deceased members, cannot in reason be expected to play so prominent a part in the Festivals of our central Charities as they might otherwise be in a position to take. For this reason, and we sincerely believe for this reason alone, it is that East Lancashire, though it now has 107 lodges on its roll, rarely shows to such advantage in these Returns as many Provinces of a more limited extent. On special occasions—as when some years since Bro. Col. Starkie, its Prov. Grand Master, presided at one of the Festivals in aid of the Old People, and it compiled the goodly total of—in round figures—£3500; in 1888, when it raised £2373 for this Institution and £1350 16s. 6d. for the Girls' School; or last year, when its contribution to the R.M.B.I. was £2657 5s.—it makes a brave show; but at ordinary Festivals it takes note of its own requirements first and is content to hand over a modest total to the central Charities. Thus in 1893, the sum distributed among the three Institutions was under £400, and on Wednesday, the 13 brethren who did duty as Stewards subscribed, or raised, the comparatively small sum of £279 18s. 4d., only six lodges being represented, the Zion Lodge, No. 1798, Manchester, which had five brethren acting for it, being one of the six.

As regards

LANCASHIRE (WESTERN DIVISION),

which likewise has 107 lodges on its roll, the course pursued by it is precisely similar to that of its eastern neighbour and for similar reasons. It holds that its own necessitous members have the first claim upon its support and has established three Institutions of its own, one for the education of members' children, and the other two to provide annuities for members and their widows. But on particular occasions, it takes a prominent place, which is in every respect worthy of its numerical strength and influence. Thus in 1891, when its Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Earl of Lathom, took the chair at the Boys' School, the sum of its contributions was £6126 14s. 4d.; in 1892 it raised £1697 14s. 6d., of which £1197 8s. 6d. was in respect of the Benevolent Jubilee, while last year the result of its efforts was expressed by the sum of £777 3s. On Wednesday it sent up three Stewards, of whom two were lodge representatives and one Unattached, the lists of two amounting to £35 10s. But the smallness of the sum is to be accounted for. Lord Lathom has undertaken to preside at the Girls' School Festival in May, and the Province is reserving itself for the occasion.

The policy which for many years past has been adopted by

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

has been to support each Charity in turn, so that, though there appears in Wednesday's Returns only a sum of £10 10s. from an Unattached Steward, it must be taken as the gift of the individual brother, and not as part of the work done by the Province. In 1893 the Boys' School had its turn, and was benefited to the extent of £267 10s.; in 1892 it was the Old People, for whom £388 10s. was raised at the Jubilee Commemoration Festival; while in 1891 the Girls' School received £178 10s., a supplementary amount of £70 6s. 6d. having previously found its way into the coffers of the R.M.B.I. It would thus appear that in the present year the Girls' School will be supported by Leicestershire and Rutland and its 11 lodges.

Out of the 39 lodges on the roll of the Metropolitan Province of

MIDDLESEX,

only one—the Elliot, No. 1567, Feltham—was represented, the total contained in the joint list of Bros. J. Mason, collector of the R. W.B.I., and W. A. Brown, being £160 18s. Last year it raised in all £630 18s., of which £417 13s. 6d., obtained by the efforts of 14 Stewards, fell to the share of the Boys' School, £188 9s. to the Girls' School, and £24 15s. 6d. to this Institution. In 1892, the total reached £1610 15s. 6d., of which it is almost needless to say the Old People, in honour of their Jubilee, obtained the lion's share—£1315 9s. 6d. In 1891, the Province rested a while, its efforts in the previous year having resulted in a contribution of £1337 15s., of which just a little over £1000 was in support of the late Col. Sir Francis Burdett's Chairmanship at the Festival of the Girls' School. We may therefore look forward to further useful work being done by Middlesex at the School Festivals.

NORTHANTS AND HUNTS.

though it has only 13 lodges on its roll, manifests every sympathy with our Institutions, and though its efforts are attended by a varying degree of success, while at times it finds it desirable to figure among the absentees, it generally manages to acquit itself well. Last year, for instance, Bro. the Earl of Euston, for the second time since his appointment to office as Prov. G. Master, consented to occupy the chair at one of the three Festivals, that of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and so loyally was his lordship supported on the occasion, that his lodges compiled the very large sum of £1050, the minor contributions to the other two Charities raising the year's total to £1107 15s. In 1892, the Province subscribed £360 10s. at the Benevolent Jubilee, while in 1893, when Lord Euston presided at the Festival of this Institution, the amount contributed was in excess of £900. On Wednesday, his lordship and the representatives of six out of the 13 lodges, contrived to build up the useful sum of £176 2s., the principal list being that of Bro. Cockerill, of No. 360, who had the satisfaction of handing in a sum of £63.

OXFORDSHIRE.

is one of several Provinces, which may be almost invariably relied upon to be present at all our annual Festivals. It musters only 12 lodges all told, and it is only now and then that the total of its subscriptions attains to any considerable dimensions. Still, it does its part bravely, and on Wednesday the result proved no exception to the rule, the total obtained by the representatives of five of its lodges reaching the very respectable figure of £122 16s. 6d. Last year the sum raised was £440 4s. 6d., the amounts apportioned to each Charity being—to the R.M.B.I., £175 13s. 6d.; to the Girls' School, £124 17s. 6d.; and to the Boys' School, £139 13s. 6d. In 1892 the total was still higher in consequence of the occurrence of the Benevolent Jubilee in February and amounted to £631 19s. 6d., of which the favoured Charity secured £428 7s., the balance being about equally divided between the two Schools. In 1891 the Returns reached £414 2s., the Boys' School receiving £246 9s., the Girls' School £98 1s., and the R.M.B.I., £69 12s. The amount raised in the three years preceding 1891, was £1317 16s., giving an average per year of £439 5s.

Remarks of a similar character may be applied to

SUFFOLK,

which has, however, 22 lodges on its roll and is thus enabled to figure to greater advantage. Thus in 1889, when Bro. Lord Henniker, Prov. G.M., presided at the Girls' School Festival, the total raised was £1048 17s. 6d., of which £571 13s. 6d. was in support of his lordship's Chairmanship. In 1890 and 1891 the totals were £619 13s. 6d., and £675 2s. 6d. respectively, but in 1892 the amount reached the high figure of £1449 4s., out of which £1291 14s. fell to the Benevolent Jubilee. Last year there was not unnaturally a reaction, and the total of contributions fell to £533 9s. 6d., the Girls' School receiving £187 11s. 6d.; the Boys' School, £276 12s.; and the Old People the small remainder. On Wednesday, three lodges and the chapter attached to a fourth, sent up Stewards, whose lists totalled up £184 18s., that of Bro. G. F. Hawkins, No. 1224, being £64 10s.

We now come to the Chairman's Province of

SURREY,

and as it was the *début* of Bro. Col. Money, P.G.M., in the capacity of President of a Masonic festival, we may be sure the 38 lodges which owe him obedience, and their members, individually and collectively, were anxious to evince their loyalty towards him, as well as their goodwill to the Benevolent Institution. The circumstances, perhaps, were not as favourable as they might have been for a heavy Return. In 1892 the Province raised in all £2817 19s. 6d., of which the Benevolent Jubilee absorbed £2148 0s. 6d., while the Girls' School obtained £219, and the Boys' School £450 19s. Last year, too, the considerable sum of £913 3s. 6d. was subscribed among the Charities, this Institution being benefited to the extent of £131 14s., and the Girls' School, in May, to that of £121 15s., while in the following month of June, no less than £646 14s. 6d. was raised for the Boys' School. Thus, after raising over £3730 in two years, Surrey was not in as good a condition as it might have been to play the chief part in the proceedings of Wednesday. However, it put its shoulders to the wheel, and with an array of 36 Stewards, of whom four, including Bro. F. West, D.P.G.M., were Unattached, while the remaining 32 acted as representatives of 24 of its lodges and six of its 17 chapters, it had the satisfaction of raising the large sum of £1385 7s. This, though very considerably below the amount already stated to have been subscribed towards the Jubilee of the Institution in 1892, is fully 50 per cent. in excess of that which was contributed in 1883, when the late Bro. General Brownrigg, G.M. of the Province, presided at the Festival of the Old People, and fairly on a level with what the Province raised for the Girls' School in 1886, when the same respected brother was its Chairman. Thus Surrey has well discharged the onerous duty which devolves on these occasions on the Chairman's Province of setting a brilliant example to the rest of the subscribing Provinces. The principal items included in the present total are as follows: £158 11s.—including his personal donation of £52 10s.—compiled by the Chairman; £157 10s. compiled by Bro. Charles O. Burgess, Steward for the Molesey Lodge, No. 2473, East Molesey; £113 8s. sent in by Bro. Joseph Harrison, who represented the Addiscombe Lodge, No. 1556, Croydon; and £105 5s. standing to the credit of Bro. C. Welch, Abbey Lodge, No. 2120, Chertsey.

SUSSEX,

with its 30 lodges, has done extremely well under the circumstances. Like the rest of the country sections of the Craft, it has had many a heavy call upon its purse during the last three years. Thus in 1891, the Boys' School Festival was held under the presidency of Bro. the Earl of Lathom at Brighton, and the Province, as in duty bound, took a leading part in the celebration, the total of its contributions reaching £731 17s. 6d., while the sum raised during the year was £1347 2s. In 1892, after subscribing £1156 6s. to this Institution, it backed up its illustrious Chairman, the Duke of Connaught, Prov. G.M., when his Royal Highness presided at the Girls' School Festival, to the extent of £1038 7s., while in 1893 its total was £1259 13s. 6d., of which £985 0s. 6d. was given to the Boys' School, whose Festival was again held in Brighton; £180 14s. to the Girls' School, and £93 19s. to the Old People. On Wednesday, nine Stewards, of whom six represented lodges and the others were Unattached, together raised £208 3s.

WARWICKSHIRE,

which has 31 lodges, has once more adopted the plan, which it has favoured so often during the past half-dozen years; but though the number of its Stewards

was large, the sum of their contributions was no more than £264 os. 3d. Out of the 21 brethren who took part in the proceedings as many as 12 were members of the Athol Lodge, No. 74, Birmingham, the amount they contributed being £126. Most of the other lists would appear to be personal donations of £10 10s. each, while the veteran, Bro. T. R. Arter, who has figured in so many Returns, has £31 10s. to his credit. Last year the total raised was £553 10s. 6d., of which £63 fell to the lot of this Institution, £141 17s. 6d. to the Girls' School, and £348 13s. to the Boys' School, the last-named sum including £149 3s., the joint contribution of the members of the before-mentioned Athol Lodge. In 1892 the total was £2410 4s., of which £2186 was raised for the Benevolent Jubilee.

The 11 lodges in

WILTSHIRE.

had a worthy representative in Bro. N. S. Bainbridge, whose list reached the capital sum of £175 14s. 6d. In 1893 it raised £288 2s. 6d., of which the Girls' School obtained £185 17s., and the sister School at Wood Green the balance. In 1892 the Province laid itself out to support the Old People, and raised £483 14s., the minor contributions to the Schools increasing the year's total to £530 19s. In 1891 the undivided support of the Province was given to the Boys' School, for which it raised £357 5s. 6d. These tall Returns for the last three years will account for Bro. Bainbridge's less effective total.

Two out of the 13 lodges in

WORCESTERSHIRE

figure to good purpose in Wednesday's lists, that of Bro. W. Adkins, of Hope and Charity Lodge, No. 377, Kidderminster, amounting to £80 os. 6d., and that of Bro. P. C. Smith-Carrington, Royd's Lodge, No. 1204, Malvern, to £50; the sum of the two being £130 os. 6d. Last year the Province raised £245 3s. for the Girls' School, and £63 for the Boys'. In 1892 the total was £489 5s., of which close upon one half was raised for this Charity; in 1891, £408 6s.; and in 1888, £848 3s., of which £605 18s. was in aid of the Girls' School Centenary.

It is due to the act of Bro. R. Roach, of the Humber Lodge, No. 57, Hull, in offering himself as Steward for this Festival that the Province of

YORKSHIRE—NORTH AND EAST RIDINGS

does not appear in the list of absentees. But, though its contributions on this occasion are limited, apparently, to the personal donation of this brother, the Province is among the most constant supporters of our Charities. Thus, in 1893, it raised £323 8s. for the Boys' School and £90 6s. for the Girls' School, or together £413 14s.; in 1892, its subscriptions reached £733 4s., of which £717 9s. was in respect of the Jubilee of this Institution; and in 1891, the Old People and Boys' School were the recipients of its favours, the former obtaining £274 4s. and the latter £189, making the year's total £463 4s. If we add to this that about five or six years ago it started an Educational Fund, raising about £1100 at the first Annual Festival in its behalf, we find it placed beyond all doubt that North and East Yorkshire is mindful of its obligations in the cause of Charity.

As Bro. W. C. Jackson, M.P., who was installed last autumn as Prov. Grand Master of

YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING),

has arranged to occupy the chair at the approaching Boys' School Festival, it is but natural that the Province should hold itself in reserve for that event, and we shall be greatly surprised if, as on previous similar occasions, it does not make a brilliant exhibition of its goodwill towards our Institutions. In the meantime, however, it has raised £1837 10s. with which to assist the Committee of Management of the Benevolent Institution in the prosecution of their important duties, there being included in this amount the sum of £1260 presented through the Province for the purpose of securing it a Perpetual Presentation to the Male Fund. This sum was raised by 12 Stewards, of whom all but Bro. Green, the Prov. G. Secretary, were representatives of lodges. In 1893 the Province contributed £2311 3s., the Girls' School receiving support to the extent of £1425, and the R.M.B.I. and R.M.I.B. to that of £455 13s. and £430 10s. respectively. In 1892 and 1891 the totals were £3907 18s. and £2400 11s., of which this Institution obtained £3555 in aid of its Jubilee, and the Boys' School £1685 11s. at the Festival held at Brighton under the presidency of Bro. the Earl of Lathom.

Two Stewards did duty for the 19 lodges in

NORTH WALES,

Bro. C. K. Benson being Unattached, while Bro. T. Coxhead represented the Caradoc Lodge, No. 1674, Rhyl. Their lists together amounted to £36 3s. In June of last year eight Stewards, of whom Bro. Benson was one, raised £294 6s. for the Boys' School, while in May seven Stewards, Bro. Benson being similarly Unattached, raised £180 12s., the year's total being £474 18s., as compared with £493 12s. in 1892, when £222 14s. was in respect of the Benevolent Jubilee, £234 3s. for the Boys' School, and £36 15s. for the Girls' School.

Bro. the Rev. W. J. L. Stradling took charge, as sole representative, of the interests of the

WESTERN DIVISION OF SOUTH WALES,

the sum standing to his credit in that capacity being £154 12s. As this Province comprises only 10 lodges, the amount, though less than it has been in most cases, is a welcome and worthy contribution. In 1893 it subscribed £177 19s. to the Girls' School; in 1892 the sum of £161 1s. 6d. to the Boys' School; and £32 11s. to the Old People's Jubilee, or together £193 12s. 6d.; and in 1891 £354 1s., of which this Institution secured £248 and the Boys' School £106 1s.

For the group of lodges in the

CHANNEL ISLANDS—

omitting Jersey which is organised as a Province under Bro. Col. de Carteret—or as he prefers to describe it for "Guernsey," Bro. J. Balfour Cockburn offered himself, as he has done on several previous occasions, as Steward, but his list is restricted to what would seem to be his own personal donation of £10 10s. Last year Bro. Cockburn raised £31 10s. for the Girls' School and £57 15s. for the Old People, while in 1892 Bro. Le Page raised £241 11s. for the Benevolent Jubilee. These are welcome contributions, especially from so distant a quarter.

From only one lodge in foreign parts, the St. Paul's Lodge, No. 2277, Limassol, in the island of

CYPRUS

was there any Steward on Wednesday, the representative being Bro. Surg.-Capt. W. Kiddle, with a list of £10 10s. Bro. Kiddle performed a like duty in the interests of the same lodge at two of last year's Festivals, and there is every likelihood that his name will become still more familiar to those who study the composition of our "Stewards' Lists" at the anniversary gatherings of our central Charities.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

There is little to be added to the very ample description we have given of Wednesday's contributions. There may have been some of our readers who expected a higher total from a Board of close upon 300 Stewards, and if the average per list had been nearer what it has been in connection with some of our Benevolent Festivals, their expectations would have been realised. But for ourselves we are content to know that the figures have reverted to the £10,000 and upwards, which has been the order of the day—or perhaps we ought to say, of the year—since 1877 inclusive, with the solitary exception of last year, when a smaller total than usual was inevitable after the Jubilee Commemoration of 1892.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday next. Grand Lodge will be opened at two o'clock in the afternoon punctually, and will not be closed until after seven o'clock.

1. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 6th December, 1893, will be read and put for confirmation.

2. Election of a M.W. Grand Master.

3. Election of a Grand Treasurer. Bros. Alderman and Sheriff Joseph Cockfield Dimsdale, P.M. No. 1, London; Charles William Hudson, P.M. No. 315, Brighton; and William Mason Stiles, P.M. No. 1987, London, the only nominations.

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

- A brother of the Prudent Brethren Lodge, No. 145, London ... £50 0 0
- A brother of the Lodge of Amity, No. 171, London 60 0 0
- A brother of the Belgrave Lodge, No. 749, London... .. 50 0 0

5. 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 a complaint was referred to them by the Board of Benevolence in August last against Bro. Stephen Seward Pearce of Lodge No. 319, Lymington, for having applied to his own use the greater part of £10 confided to him by the Board of Benevolence for the relief of a brother in distress.

Bro. Pearce failed to comply with the summonses sent to him from the Board until the November meeting when, after investigation, the Board arrived at the conclusion that of the sum of £10 Bro. Pearce had properly expended only £4 6s. 4d. for the purpose for which it was entrusted to him. The Board thereupon ordered Bro. Pearce to repay the Grand Secretary within one week the balance, amounting to £5 13s. 8d., which he promised to do. At the meeting of the Board in December, Bro. Pearce having failed to obey the order of the Board, was summoned to shew cause why he should not be suspended. He appeared before the Board on the 16th January, and after declaring his inability to pay, threatened to publish the correspondence between himself and the Grand Secretary in pamphlet form, which threat he refused to withdraw. It was resolved that Bro. Stephen Seward Pearce be suspended from all Masonic privileges and rights until the further order of the Board.

The Board have further to report the investigation made by them of a complaint by Bro. John Bussey against Bro. Maxfield Mead for having on the 21st November last, being then W. Master of the Bromley St. Leonard's Lodge, No. 1805, illegally displaced him from the office of Senior Deacon of that lodge. It appeared that the W.M. laid the cause for complaint before the lodge when 43 members were present. The W.M., although still remaining in the lodge, temporarily left the chair, which was then taken by Bro. Tom Green, P.M., who put a resolution to the vote that the complaint was well founded; 12 voted for and two against, the remaining 29 refraining from voting. The resolution was declared carried, and Bro. Bussey was displaced in contravention of Article 140, which requires such resolution to be carried by the majority of the brethren present.

It was resolved: "That Bro. Maxwell Mead, the W. Master for the time being, and Bro. Tom Green, the P.M. who temporarily occupied the chair and declared the resolution carried, be suspended from all Masonic rights and privileges for a period of six months."

The Board recommend that the thirteen lodges ordered by Grand Lodge, at the last Quarterly Communication to be summoned to shew cause why they should not be erased, being in distant parts, the consideration of their erasure be deferred until the next Quarterly Communication.

The Board have to report that the following presentations have been made to the Library and Museum since the last meeting of Grand Lodge, all of which have been accepted with thanks.

TITLE OR OBJECT.	PRESENTED BY
The Minerva Lodge Directory, 1893...	M. C. Peck, P.G. Std. Br.
Records of the Constitutional Lodge, No. 294	Thos. E. Bee.
An old Royal Arch Apron	
The valuable Masonic Collection of the late Major George F. Irwin	Mrs. Irwin.
Portrait of Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P. ...	Prov. G. L. of Hants and I. of W.
The Obelisk and Freemasonry	Rev. John A. Lloyd, P.G. Chaplain.
Sundry Provincial Calendars, Warwickshire	E. Worrall, P.P.G.W. Warwickshire.
" " " Cambridgeshire	W. P. Spalding, P.G. Swd. Br. Cambs.
" " " Hants and I.W.	G. F. Lancaster, Prov. A.G. Sec.
" " " Suffolk	N. Tracy, Prov. G. Sec. Suffolk.
" " " Gloucester	R. V. Vassar-Smith, D.P.G.M., S.G.D.
" " " Derbyshire	William Naylor, P.G.S.B., Prov. G. Sec.
" " " Durham	Robert Hudson, P.G.S.B., Prov. G. Sec.
Transactions of Prov. G.L. of Durham, 1883-93	
Sundry Calendars of the Grand Priory of Lancashire	Henry Thomas, P.P.G.D. E. Lancs.
Old Masonic Jewel	John Read, G. Org. Grand Chapter.
The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, its Work and Future	J. Morrison McLeod, Secretary.

In consequence of the special value of the Masonic collection of the late Major Irwin, comprising as it does a large number of printed books, manuscripts, medals, &c., the Board resolved that a vote of thanks to Mrs. Irwin be engrossed on vellum, handsomely illuminated and framed.

This has been done, and Mrs. Irwin has acknowledged the receipt thereof with much gratification.

The Board also submit a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 16th day of February instant, showing a balance in the Bank of England (Law Courts Branch) of £3766 16s. 5d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £100, and for servants' wages £100, and balance of annual allowance for library £53 19s. 5d.

(Signed) THOMAS FENN,

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C., 20th February, 1894. President.

6. Report of Bro. John Smith, Auditor of the Grand Lodge accounts, of receipts and disbursements during the year 1893.

7. Appeal by Bro. W. Maxfield Mead, I.P.M. 1805, and Bro. Tom Green, P.M. 1805, against a decision of the Board of General Purposes suspending them from all Masonic rights and privileges for six months for acting contrary to Book of Constitutions, Rule 140, in holding that a resolution displacing a brother from office had been duly carried by the lodge.

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

- No. 2493. The Vale of Eden Lodge, Appleby, Westmoreland.
- 2494. The Humber Installed Masters' Lodge, Hull, N. & E. York-shire.
- 2495. The Goodacre Lodge, Bootle, Lancashire (W.D.)
- 2496. The Wirral Lodge, Birkenhead, Cheshire.
- 2497. The Carville Lodge, Wallsend-upon-Tyne, Northumberland.
- 2498. The Germiston Lodge, Germiston, South African Republic.
- 2499. The North Kent Lodge, Bexley Heath, Kent.
- 2500. The Old Boys' Lodge, London.
- 2501. The Ixion Lodge, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
- 2502. The Gatwick Lodge, Horley, Surrey.
- 2503. The Cleveland Lodge, Townsville, Queensland.

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Summary of the Report presented at the FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on 1st March, 1894.

ORDINARY BRANCH.—The number of Policies issued during the year was 54,558, assuring the sum of £5,627,065, and producing a New Annual Premium income of £304,928.
The Premiums received during the year were £1,854,370, being an increase of £188,759, over the year 1892.

The Claims of the year amounted to £178,564. The number of Deaths was 3,397, and 154 Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Policies in force at the end of the year was 335,176.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.—The Premiums received during the year were £3,971,863, being an increase of £122,406.

The Claims of the year amounted to £1,602,768. The number of Deaths was 185,003, and 1,267 Endowment Assurances matured.

The number of Free Policies granted during the year to those Policyholders of five years' standing, who have desired to discontinue their payments, was 55,764, the number in force being 338,272. The number of Free Policies which became claims during the year was 6,424.

The total number of Policies in force at the end of the year was 10,476,393: their average duration is seven and a quarter years.

The assets of the Company, in both branches, as shown in the Balance Sheet, are £18,538,865, being an increase of £2,229,213 over those of 1892.

The system of annual distribution of profits begun last year having given satisfaction alike to Policyholders and Shareholders, the Directors have decided to continue it, and a complete valuation for the past year has been made.

The Balance Sheet has been submitted to Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths & Co., whose certificate is appended to the accounts.

THOS. C. DEWEY, } Managers.
WILLIAM HUGHES, }

W. J. LANCASTER, Secretary.

The full Report can be obtained upon application to the Secretary.

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Pressure on our space compels us to omit:—
CRAFT LODGES.—Lodge of Union, No. 38; Industry, No. 49; Lodge of Prosperity, No. 65; Golden Fleece, No. 208; Lodge of Stability, No. 217; Indefatigable, No. 231; Saville, No. 421; Cherwell, No. 599; Panure, No. 755; Williams, No. 949; Wandswoth, No. 1014; Gladsmuir, No. 1385; St. John's, No. 1247; Mount Edgcomb, No. 1446; Sir Francis Burdett, No. 1503; Humming, No. 1512; Rose, No. 1621; Minerva, No. 1942; Talbot, No. 2231; Acacia, No. 2321; Royal Somerset House and Inverness, No. 4; and Duchess of York, No. 2492.
ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.—Old Concord, No. 172; Jerusalem, No. 185; and Rowley, No. 1051.
MARK LODGES.—Cusarean, No. 71; Stanford, No. 148; Earl of Chester, No. 199; Tristram, No. 346; and West Sussex, No. 453.
KNIGHTS' TEMPLAR.—De Farnival, No. 66; and St. Cathbert's, No. 139.
ROYAL ARMS MARINERS.—F. R. Sewell Council, No. 66; and Prince Leopold Council.
OBITUARY.—Bro. John Hill, County Clare; and Bro. F. Cox, P.G.S.B.
District Grand Lodge of Jamaica.
Prov. Grand Lodge of Herefordshire.
Centenary of the Apollo Lodge, No. 201.
Ladies' Night of the Lewis Lodge, No. 1185.
Ladies' Night of Lodge Acacia, No. 2321.
Ladies' Night of St. Ambrose Lodge, No. 1891.
Also several Lodges of Instruction.



SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1894

Masonic Notes.

We consider the authorities have done wisely in arranging that at the Quarterly Communication on Wednesday, the 7th inst., Grand Lodge shall be opened at 2 p.m. On previous occasions when there has been a contest for the office of Grand Treasurer, the Hall has been so overcrowded, that an overflow meeting was held. On Wednesday next, when the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication have been read and put for confirmation and the Grand Master for the ensuing year has been elected, the contest for the Grand Treasurership will proceed till 7.15 p.m., when the ordinary business of Grand Lodge will be resumed. By this arrangement all over-crowding will be avoided and those brethren who do not desire to take part in the usual business will be able to attend, record their votes, and depart with comfort.

Two points, however, must be borne in mind. Firstly, the poll for the Grand Treasurership will close at 7.15 p.m. precisely, after which hour no voting cards will be taken. Secondly, all Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens must wear the regulation collar of their respective offices, and every brother so attending must be properly clothed or he will be denied admission into Grand Lodge.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that at the December Communication four brethren were nominated for the office of Grand Treasurer, namely: Bro. J. C. Dimsdale, P.M. Grand Master's Lodge, No. 1; Bro. Charles William Hudson, P.M. Royal York Lodge, No. 315, Brighton; Bro. William Mason Stiles, P.M. Strand Lodge, No. 1987; and Bro. William Shurmur, P.M. William Shurmur Lodge, No. 2374, Chingford. Bro. Shurmur, however, has withdrawn his candidature, and thus the contest will be among Bros. Dimsdale, Hudson, and Stiles. There is every reason to believe that the contest will be a close one, and while there are those among the knowing brethren who believe that Bro. Dimsdale will win, and others that Bro. Hudson will issue from the struggle in the character of Grand Treasurer-elect, there is yet a third contingent of voters who have an abiding faith in the success of Bro. Stiles. For ourselves, we are under imperative orders on no account to divulge the name of the successful candidate until we know which of the trio has polled the greatest number of votes.

With respect to the ordinary business to be transacted, we notice that there is an appeal against a recommendation contained in the Report of the Board of General Purposes that a W.M. and a P.M. of a certain lodge be suspended from their Masonic functions for having sanctioned an alleged infraction of Article 140 of the Book of Constitutions. On the merits of this question we offer no opinion, as it is *sub judice*. There is also another case in which the Board recommends the suspension of a P.M. of a certain lodge for an offence which is set forth in the Grand Lodge agenda, but here also and for a similar reason we refrain from any expression of opinion as to the merits or demerits of the brother's conduct.

Of the 11 lodges for which the M.W. Grand Master has been pleased to grant warrants of constitution since the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in December last, one (No. 2500) is located in London, eight in the Provinces, and two Abroad. The eight new Provincial lodges are located in Cheshire, Cumberland and Westmorland, Essex, Kent, West Lancashire, Northumberland, Surrey, and North and East Yorkshire respectively, while of the two new lodges Abroad, one—No. 2498—has been established in the South African Republic, and the other—No. 2503—in Queensland. We trust they will one and all prove worthy additions to the roll of Grand Lodge.

The result of the first of our great Anniversary Festivals for 1894 has been satisfactory beyond expectation. It was generally anticipated that the total announced would exceed £10,000, as it has done during the last 17 years—with the solitary exception of 1893—but we imagine no one dreamt that the

figure would be nearer £13,000 than £12,000. This of course, is to be accounted for by the inclusion of the £1260 with which, thanks to the splendid generosity of Bro. George Heaton, of Heckmondwike, the Province of W. Yorkshire has been able to secure a second Perpetual Presentation to the Male Fund; but even if we deduct this from the total, there still remains a sum of close upon £11,400 as the outcome of the efforts made by the Board of Stewards in their canvass for donations and subscriptions. The announcement augurs well for the success of the two remaining Festivals.

The ample report we publish elsewhere, with the Stewards' Lists and Analysis, will supply the actual details of the work accomplished, but we may briefly note here that London, with 137 Stewards, furnished £5421 3s. 6d., and the Provinces, with 160 Stewards, £7237 11s., the grand total as raised by a Board of 297 Stewards being £12,658 14s. 6d. Conspicuous among the Provinces were West Yorkshire, which figures for £1837 10s., and Surrey, the Chairman's Province, which raised £1385 7s.

It now only remains for us to offer Bro. Col. Money, Prov. G. Master Surrey, who presided, his Province especially, and the Stewards generally, as well as the authorities and well-wishers of the Benevolent Institution, our very sincere congratulations on a result which is so honourable to all who had a share in bringing it about and will prove so beneficial to the Charity. May the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution never find itself in a position to record a less productive anniversary than that which passed off so admirably on Wednesday!

The Head Master of our Boys' School and his staff are to be most heartily congratulated on the results of the Cambridge Local Examinations just announced. Out of seven boys whose average age is below the minimum age for entrance in the "Seniors'" Examination, six passed—one with Distinction in arithmetic—and out of 22 entrants in the "Juniors'" Examination, whose average age was only 14.3, 20 passed—one with Distinction in drawing. In this division only two failed, one being but 12½ years old.

Considering the circumstance that the year's work was crippled by the enforced additional four weeks' holiday consequent upon the outbreak of scarlet fever near the School, and that the Head Master was, unfortunately, laid aside with that complaint for nearly three months, the results are the more satisfactory, and must be most gratifying to the Board of Management and the subscribers to the Institution.

Whilst noting these successes, it must be remembered that the Board of Management look upon this particular examination as a *test* rather than an *aim*, and the School course is laid out much more widely than for the Cambridge Locals. The Cambridge Examining Board are going to submit the whole School to examination and inspection in May, when, we have no doubt, a good report will be forthcoming.

Correspondence.

BRO. WATSON'S ADDRESS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In your last week's issue appears an address given by myself at Lodge No. 458, Goole, not Castleford as stated. I regret I was not made aware that the text was being sent to your paper for publication, as I should have desired to express my obligations to Bro. W. J. Hughan for valuable information given to me by him on the subject, also to "Kenneth Mackenzie's Cyclopædia" and to Bro. John Lane's "Work on Centenary Lodges," &c., for other particulars. As Honorary Librarian of West Yorkshire I succeeded several years ago in obtaining photographs of all the warrants of our 75 lodges.

The photograph which I presented to the Goole lodge, Aire and Calder, No. 458, on behalf of R.W. Bro. Tew, P.P.G.M. West Yorks., is the exact size of the burnt original (by carbon process), and contained in a handsome oak frame with suitable inscription.

I should strongly recommend all provinces to adopt the course of West Yorkshire and deposit at their headquarters photographs of their lodge warrants, chapter charters, &c., so that in the event of such a calamity which occurred at Goole three years ago when all the lodge property, warrant, books, everything was destroyed by fire, an authentic copy of the warrant will be preserved, valuable not only for reference but for its associations.—Yours fraternally,

WM. WATSON.



Craft Masonry.

METROPOLITAN MEETINGS.

Constitutional Lodge (No. 55).—The time of the foundation of this lodge dates as far back as 1736, and probably during the whole of its long existence the lodge never had so numerous and brilliant a gathering of Masons as was witnessed on the 15th inst., when Bro. N. Robinson, L.C.C., was to be installed in the Master's chair. Bro. Vogt, the Master who was to leave the chair that evening, was a highly popular Master, and he had had a most successful year of office, and a numerous body of friends assembled to see him crown his year of office by installing the new Master. It was no small programme of business that was before the brethren, and to dispatch it in time for them to adjourn for refreshment at a reasonable hour, the lodge was called for three o'clock in the afternoon. Such a notice on the summons showed there was something to be done, and those brethren who desired to see the work had to be at the lodge early.

Among the brethren who attended were Bros. W. Vogt, W.M.; T. Echerwone, P.M.; W. H. Dipstale, P.M.; John Soper, P.M.; James Cooper, P.M.; Frank F. Unite, P.M.; J. T. Robertson, P.M.; Nathan Robinson, S.W.; E. Ferguson, J.W.; R. P. Atkins, P.M.; Treas.; W. T. Farthing, P.M., Sec.; Walter G. Langlands, D. of C.; F. L. Steil, S.D.; J. W. Jacobs, J.D.; James Allward, I.G.; and the following visitors: Bros. C. F. Quicke, P.M. 1531; J. C. Main, P.M. 157; C. Sauney, 704; F. G. Baker, 1366; R. T. Cummings, W.M. 2427; R. Manuel, P.M. 1196; C. G. Cutler, P.M. 212; M. J. Garcia, 2427; W. J. Bone, 1708; John Nash, 1668; W. G. Lowe, W.M. 1769; W. D. Walford, I.G. 2054; H. L. Barrett, W.M. 2218; John Hedges, W.M. 2435; R. J. Campbell, 1429; R. J. Robertson, 1531; J. Percy Fitzgerald, P.M. 2168; W. J. Mason, P.M. 2150; F. Arliss, 1194; W. J. Ferguson, P.M. 177; C. E. Leck, P.M. 151; James Kerfoot, 172; F. Harleston, 325; G. Everett, P.G. Treas.; J. Rawle, 619; W. Lewis, 1366; Wm. Short, 2168; E. Styles, I.P.M. 704; H. Bangs, W.M. 2246; J. H. Moggridge, J.W. 1321; F. W. Middleitch, 1624; E. R. Capon, 1549; John Rexworthy, P.M. 1728; George Rule, 1984; Alfred W. Larcome, 3; F. H. Walmsley, 2168; R. Glasspool, 723, 1201, &c.; Robert Trotter, 957; Walter Morrow, 2454; H. Ansell, 1305; C. S. Lee, W.M. 2455; W. Mitchell, 1507; Alfred Mills, 704; W. T. Baydrop, 1984; Sydney Martin, 404; James F. Percival, 2204; R. Schreiber, W.M. 2150; J. Freeman, P.M. 1399; Wm. Lawrence, J.W. 2168; C. W. Mayo, J.W. 1636; H. Dowding, 145; M. Dowding, 145; S. Garcia, P.M. 1420; J. H. Hambleton, W.M. 1319; A. Piper, I.P.M. 177; Henry Radcliff, P.M. 358, P.G.S.; S. R. Lambie, P.M. 27; M. Tirrell, 1305; N. Salmon, I.P.M. 2426; Frank Sheffield, W.M. 2029; Alfred Wood, J.D. 2426; George E. Fairchild, P.M. 1196; Joseph Burgess, 27; J. M. McLeod, P.P.S.G.W. Derby, Sec. R.M.I.B.; John L. Mather, P.A.G.D.C.; Stephen H. Moore, P.M.; C. R. Alder Wright, P.M. 1691; W. J. Rowe, W.M. 2021; W. J. Dixon, P.M. 27; A. Boden, I.G. 2168; John J. Geisel, 2020; George T. Cox, 3; George Phillip, 2168; James A. Hamilton, 1319; Wm. Moma, W.M. 2168; Thos. Parker, I.G. 2271; H. G. Jay, 174; W. Gayton, P.M. 1607; J. B. Everett, 780; C. Hamilton, 860; Ernest Collard, P.M. W.M. 19; Thos. Shillitoe, J.W. 1008; F. E. Everard, W.M. 871; F. Sharman Oates, 1216; Chas. Challen, P.M. 3; W. J. Grummett, P.M. 13; James Addington, P.M. 217; A. J. Turner, 1767; W. H. Walkley, 1622; George S. Elliott, P.M. 749, P.P.G.D.C. Middx.; H. Massey, 160, P.M. 619 and 1928; H. A. Hetherington, J.D. 957; J. Cohen, 205; G. Collins, 511; J. H. Hewett, 1825; F. F. Scrisby, 795; J. Wm. Smith, 2168; Richard Eve, P.G. Treas.; H. Cousens, 172; T. C. Thomson, 1769; Robert Foskett, 1625; J. M. Buckley, P.M. 1320; H. G. M. White, 9; T. Staines, P.M. 174; Charles W. Cunningham, 1612; M. T. Hawkin, 704; F. W. Fay, 984; W. Humphreys, 2168; J. E. Bennett, 902; R. H. Booth, 2168; J. Demetrius, 2168; Charles Taylor, 2168; John Sandon, 704; W. L. Barrett, 1319; Fred. C. Finch, 1901; T. Physick; John Eccleston Gibb, 2168; E. F. James, 2168; and Robert Grice, 1399.

Bro. Vogt, W.M., passed Bros. John Spelthman and John Law, and, after some other business had been transacted, installed Bro. Nathan Robinson as W.M. The list of officers was as follows: Bros. W. Vogt, I.P.M.; E. Freeman, S.W.; J. O. Jacobs, J.W.; R. P. Atkins, P.M., Treas.; W. T. Farthing, P.M., Sec.; L. Steil, S.D.; J. Allward, J.D.; W. G. Langlands, I.G.; C. L. Gilks, D.C.; and Henry Thomas, Tyler. Bro. Vogt performed the whole of his work in a most impressive manner, and was heartily applauded after he had delivered the last charge. But there was more work yet to do, and a lodge consisting of 160 brethren witnessed it. Bro. Vogt was presented with a well-deserved, handsome Past Master's jewel by the W.M., and the W.M. initiated his own son, Mr. George Albert Robinson, and Mr. Clement Stewart as members of the Order. This work was also admirably done by both the W.M. and his officers, the style being a happy augury of a worthy succession to the memorable year of Bro. Vogt. A great portion of the pride of this old lodge is derived from the fact that all its Masters are initiates of the Constitutional, as the lodge has no joining members.

At the banquet which followed the working of the lodge, the usual toasts were proposed, and an attractive selection of vocal and instrumental music was performed, under the direction of Bro. Percy Fitzgerald, P.M., P.Z., with Bro. Tom Physick at the pianoforte, by Bros. Maldwin Humphreys, Robert Grice, Will. Edwards, J. E. Hambleton, W.M. 1319; W. L. Barrett, J. A. Hamilton, Walter Morrow, P.M. 742; William Short, E. F. James, and R. H. Booth.

Bro. Richard Eve, P.G.T., responding to the toast of "The Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," said he had heard of the W.M., Bro. Nathan Robinson, as a thoroughly Constitutional man, long before he knew him,

and the brethren realised his work by placing him in the chair of the only Constitutional lodge in the Kingdom. He knew Bro. Robinson would discharge the duties of the lodge in a Constitutional way. The brethren were able that evening to judge how this would be by the masterly style in which he did his work. Everything was done well. The initiation ceremony was pronounced in a way that would be thought of by the initiate for years to come, and never be forgotten. He liked to hear a brother with impressive utterance and manner, and he had listened with great pleasure both to the initiation ceremony and to the way in which the W.M. charged the officers. He was sure they would be good officers. He was a Constitutional brother and he was delighted with the Constitution of Masonry. All the brethren were Constitutional Masons although they were not members of the Constitutional Lodge. Why did they like the Constitution of Masonry? Because it was on the broadest basis that any institution could be put upon. All men were level in the lodge; they met on the level and parted on the square; there was no rank but that obtained by the brethren in the lodge; it was most democratic because the Prince was the elected of the Craft. And there was one other elected by the Craft, the Treasurer. For these reasons they liked the Constitution of Masonry. There was no freer Institution; it was broad in its constitution and extensive and cosmopolitan in its action; it embraced all classes, all colours, all creeds, and all climes.

Bro. Vogt, I.P.M., proposed "The W.M." He said it was 17 years that evening that Bro. Robinson and himself were initiated in the Constitutional Lodge. Bro. Robinson had endeared himself to all the members and they wished him a successful year of office, with health and strength.

Bro. Nathan Robinson, W.M., responding, said it would be the greatest amount of affection to pretend for one moment that he was not extremely proud of the position that the members of the Constitutional Lodge had conferred on him. They had all heard, at different times, either in Masonry or outside, a speaker declaring that that was the happiest moment of his life. Well, he had had so many happy moments in his life that he was almost loth to say that that was the moment, but he could say with the greatest sincerity, that he was never happier. That man was not fit to live who had not the appreciation of generous-minded men, and he believed he lived in the affections of a great number of people; in fact, he had had to say on more than one occasion when his health had been dray that it had been followed by the glorious old refrain, "For he's a jolly good fellow." He had heard that so often that he believed it to be true. But, egotism on one side, he would say he was proud, and very proud to occupy the chair that had been so ably filled by so many of his predecessors. It was a pleasing recollection to think that 17 years ago that night he and his twin brother were initiated in the good old Constitutional Lodge. He believed that they had three companions—five of them were initiated on one occasion; but he and Bro. Vogt were the only two wrecks left of that good old crew. He was very much obliged to Bro. Vogt for the kind and generous manner in which he had proposed the toast. Bro. Vogt since they sat down to dinner had taken him into his confidence; he said he had not told him half what he thought about him. In reply, he (Bro. Robinson) said he would have that half on another occasion. Nevertheless, he did thank Bro. Vogt, and he thanked the brethren one and all for the very cordial manner in which they received the toast. Now, came the plea of all indifferent speakers—time. Time did not permit him to say more, but he could not sit down without informing the brethren that he had broken the record of all past attendances at the lodge. He did not know how many hundred years old the lodge was, but the present was the largest attendance at the Constitutional Lodge. For the brethren having given him the opportunity of making that proud announcement he again heartily and sincerely thanked them.

Bro. Nathan Robinson, W.M., next proposed "The Initiates." One of the initiates was bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, and if he made as good a Mason as he was a son, the lodge would not be ashamed of him. If he talked to his son to-morrow, his son might say "You gave me a name last night, father." He would say "No, I shall not call you father, but brother." His son might call him "Brother Nat," but, whether he did or not, he should forgive him; he did not care. He had the greatest possible pleasure in proposing the initiates, and hoped what they had seen that night of Masonry would lead them to respect and love it. He hoped they would make good and honoured members of the Society, and in course of time fill the chair, if not with such rotundity as himself, with equal credit to themselves and the lodge.

Bro. Robinson, on behalf of himself and Bro. Stewart, said this was a very peculiar occasion on which to speak, it being their first entry into Freemasonry; therefore the brethren could not expect them to say much. Like his father he would say time was pressing; he was not joking, he was not a good speaker, and he asked the brethren not to expect him to say much. He trusted that he and Bro. Stewart would make themselves good Masons, a credit to the lodge and to the Order generally.

Bro. Stewart also replied, and said the impressive ceremony he had gone through he should never forget. He hoped that in time he would be a useful member.

Bro. Nathan Robinson, W.M., in proposing "The Installing Master," said the brethren of the lodge who had attended the meetings during the past year would realise the truth of what he was about to say, that the I.P.M. had done his work right royally and well, and as one who was initiated with him many years ago, he was heartily and sincerely proud of him. Bro. Vogt had told him once or twice since they had been under that hospitable roof that he was quite sensible of shortcomings. He (Bro. Robinson) had to say he had never seen the work done from the chair in a more hearty, constitutional, and brotherly manner than by Bro. Vogt, and all members of other lodges who had been present that night agreed that the installation ceremony was done splendidly. In some lodges he had seen the work done indifferently, and yet when the brethren got round the festive board they said it was done well. That was not the case that night; the work had been done well; the I.P.M. had excelled himself. He had much pleasure in placing on his portly form, a handsome Past Master's jewel. Long might he live to have it adorn his breast.

Bro. Vogt, I.P.M., replying to the toast, which was very warmly received, said he also could use the words of the W.M., that this was the proudest moment of his life.

The jewel with which he had been decorated, was one every Mason felt proud of wearing and obtaining. When he looked back on the time when he was initiated with the W.M., he never thought at that time he would wear the jewel. The brethren had been kind enough to say he had done his work as he ought to have done it. He was very thankful to them for their kind expressions. His year had been one of great trial to him, the greatest any brother could have, but he thanked the brethren sincerely for the kind manner in which they had supported him, and he hoped as long as he lived in England he would be in the Constitutional Lodge, and do all he could for it.

Bros. Eccleston Gibb, G. S. Elliott, George Fairchild, and Collard replied to the toast of "The Visitors."

Bro. J. M. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I.B., responded to the toast of "The Charities," the W.M. having announced that he was Steward for the Benevolent Institution and the Boys' School.

Bros. Atkins, P.M., Treas., and Farthing, P.M., Sec., acknowledged the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary."

Bros. Cooper and Webb replied for "The Past Masters," and the S.W. responded to the toast of "The Officers."

The Tyler's toast was then given, and the brethren separated.

Notwithstanding the large number of brethren who attended, the excellent arrangements of Bros. Atkins, Treas., and Farthing, Sec., on whom the burden of making them fell, caused a most delightful evening to be spent, and all the brethren expressed unqualified praise.

John Hervey Lodge (No. 1260).—The February meeting of this lodge was held on the 14th ult. at Freemasons' Hall, when a large number of members and visitors assembled. Among those present were Bros. Fred. Varley, W.M.; E. G. Packman, S.W.; James Evans, J.W.; J. Brockett Sorrell, P.M., Treas.; J. Robertson Reep, Sec.; Major J. Heaton, P.M., D.C.; W. Henry, P.M., Org.; F. Dangerfield, P.M.; G. T. Salmon, P.M.; H. F. Frost, P.M.; Charles Varley, Thomas Kefford, Cartledge, French, Charlton, Hill, Foss, O'Connor, Shuter, W. Evans, G. S. Evans, Blackburne, Aitchison, McCabe, Manger, Smith, Thornber, Johnson, Andrews, Cameron, Pearce, and J. R. Cox. Bro. Freeman officiated as Tyler. The visitors were Bros. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; J. J. Macfadyen, P.M. 1397; J. Reaworthy, P.M. 1728; John Avery, P.M. 511; Henry Bell, P.M. 1287; Lewes Ferguson, W.M. 1997; J. A. Cruikshank, 174; J. C. Francis, 2374; G. Perrin, 1288; H. Lomer, 534; and others.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last regular meeting and those of a lodge of emergency, held in January, were read and confirmed. The by-laws were also read, and the ballot taken for a re-joining brother, after which the raising of Bros. George and Walter Evans was performed by Bro. F. Varley, the W.M., in a very able and impressive manner. Subsequently Bro. Blackburne was passed to the Second Degree by the same hands. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year unanimously proved in favour of Bro. E. G. Packman, the S.W.; that of Treasurer in favour of Bro. J. Brockett Sorrell, P.M.; and Bro. Freeman again was elected to the time-honoured post of Tyler. The Treasurer, in eulogistic terms, moved the presentation of the usual Past Master's jewel to the W.M., remarking on the zeal he had shown for the Craft and for the lodge during his year of office. The comfort of the brethren had been the subject of his close care, and his crowning act while in the chair was his undertaking a Stewardship to represent the lodge at the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. He moved that the jewel should be suitably inscribed to commemorate the Worshipful Master's services in the lodge, and the attention displayed to the wants and wishes of the brethren in all things. Bro. Major Heaton, P.M., seconded the proposition, stating he could verify the proposer's statements in every particular. The S.W. then put the motion, which was received with approbation, and carried unanimously.

After some further business had been disposed of, the lodge was closed, and the brethren and their visitors adjourned to a very excellent banquet at Freemasons' Tavern, 42 of those present in lodge remaining for refreshment.

After grace had been sung, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and then the W.M. gave "Prosepoity to the Masonic Charities." In a brief, but comprehensive, speech, he reminded those present of the duties of Freemasons in the cause of Charity, and pointed out the assistance afforded by the Benevolent Institution, and that that year he intended going up as Steward for that Institution.

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, and it may here be noted that the W.M.'s list during the evening was swelled by subscriptions amounting to about 50 guineas.

Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., in responding, congratulated the lodge on its present prosperity, and thanked the brethren for the manner in which they had received the toast. In his usual able manner he impressed upon all the benefits and requirements of the Charities; and his efforts, as stated, met with a fair recompense by way of kindly appreciation in the shape of subscriptions.

Bro. Packman, in responding to the toast of "The Worshipful Master Elect," expressed his desire to tread in the footsteps of his predecessor, and to carry out his duties in the same able manner, reminding the brethren that the musical arrangements had been provided solely at the expense of Bro. Varley throughout his year in the chair.

In proposing the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary," the Worshipful Master said he congratulated the brethren on having two eminent Masons in Bro. J. B. Sorrell, P.M. 176, for the former office, and Bro. J. R. Reep, W.M. 1184, for the latter. They had been most regular in their attendance at every meeting, and were always doing all in their power for the welfare of the lodge, and it would be difficult to equal those beloved and highly esteemed officers, who had done so much for the good of Freemasonry.

The toast was heartily received and very ably responded to.

The Tyler's toast closed the very enjoyable proceedings of the evening.

The musical programme was the work of Bro. Haskins, P.G.O. Essex, assisted by Bro. Wm. Henry, P.M., Org., and the artistes—Misses Hermione Hamilton and Alice Andrews, and Messrs. George Gibbs and A. B. Cole.

Royal Arch.

Chapitre La France (No. 2060).—A visit to this chapter is always most interesting, as is a visit to the Loge La France. It is rather a novelty to hear our rituals rendered in French, but in the chapter the novelty is increased, for here we see our own countrymen at work in another tongue. In attending a meeting of this kind one's curiosity is not unmixed with a certain amount of anxiety as to how some will acquit themselves of their task. This anxiety sometimes rises to a high pitch at the banquet, when it begins to dawn upon you that you may have to return thanks for the visitors. However, you soon find out that English speeches are allowed to non-members, and you resume your peace of mind and your dinner. We may say at once that any anxiety we might have had about the officers was soon set at rest, and it became perfectly apparent that they were as at home in one language as in the other.

The chapter having been opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, the Treasurer's accounts were submitted, and proved the chapter in a healthy financial state. Comp. W. Regester, J. elect, was then presented by Comp. F. Richardson, D. of C., and duly installed in his chair by Comp. Saillard, who performed the ceremony in perfect style. Comp. Saillard, H. elect, being already a P.Z., was conducted to his chair by Comp. Mead, who made him a neat little speech; and similarly Comp. Mead, Z. elect, received the congratulations and good wishes of Comp. Fenn, the I.P.Z. The officers were then invested as follows: Comps. G. H. Hopkinson, P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; E. Monteuis, P.D.G.D.C., Scribe E.; C. Cassal, Scribe N.; E. Cutler, P.S.; E. E. Pouard, 1st A.S.; C. Fihon, 2nd A.S.; Frank Richardson, P.A.G.S., G.D.C., D. of C.; and H. Evenden, P.Z., Janitor. It will be perceived that curiously enough exactly one-half of the officers are French and the other English.

Chapter having been closed, the companions adjourned to refreshment, when a well-selected menu was put before them.

And now came the grand crux, the speeches. Comp. Mead, the M.E.Z., came out of the ordeal with flying colours. He had no less than five speeches and one answer to make, but he proved himself equal to the task, and was afterwards heartily congratulated on his success.

La première santé a été celle de la Reine et de l'Arche Royale. Le T.E.Z. a prononcé les paroles suivantes:

La fidélité à la Reine et le respect pour l'Arche Royale nous inspirent la pensée de les unir pour la première Santé d'obligation. Rien de plus convenable, car la Reine personnifie l'Arche Royale entre la deuxième et la dixième décade du Siècle—le trait d'union entre le premier Grand Zorobabel après l'union, son Oncle le Duke of Sussex, et le présent Grand Zorobabel son fils, le Prince de Galles, Compagnons levez-vous pour boire à la Santé de la Reine et à la prospérité de l'Arche Royale.

Ensuite est venue la santé de la France et de son Président que le T.E.Z. a proposée en ces termes:

Compagnons—Suivant immédiatement le Toast de la Reine, nos pensées se tournent naturellement vers la Santé du Président Carnot, la tête du pays pour lequel nous avons tous le plus profond intérêt. Elu peut-être, grâce à l'envie d'autres concurrents considérés comme Candidats plus probables, il s'est montré un Président parfait. C'est un plaisir de l'honorer non seulement pour son mérite personnel, mais comme le représentant d'un pays joint au nôtre par une mer (quelque fois une mer troublée) et lié à nous par l'intérêt commun. Dans cette réunion nous avons encore un plus grand intérêt, celui d'être Compagnons d'un Chapitre portant le nom de la France, sous deux drapeaux. Compagnons, levez-vous pour boire avec enthousiasme (particulièrement les Compagnons Anglais) à la Santé du Président Carnot.

Le Comp. H. Buc, P.Z., P.D.G.D.C., a proposé la santé du G.Z. son Altesse Royale le Prince de Galles, disant qu'il était fier d'avoir été chargé d'une santé aussi importante, en réalité la plus importante de toutes, puisque c'était celle de notre Maître à tous, de notre Grand Z. Malgré son importance, ou plutôt à cause de son importance, cette santé était la plus facile à proposer, car notre G.Z. était si profondément respecté, vénéré et aimé de tous les Maçons, qu'il n'avait pas besoin de leur être recommandé par des paroles éloquentes, son nom seul suffisait pour exciter l'enthousiasme de tous les Compagnons.

C'est au Comp. St. Clair, P.Z., que fut confiée la santé des Grands Officiers. Il fit un éloge flatteur, mais mérité, des trois Grands Principaux et, tort adroitement, attira l'attention des Comps. sur ce fait que, parmi tous les Grands Officiers présents au banquet, il y en avait six qui étaient membres du chapitre; quant aux autres il leur souhaitait la bienvenue du fond du cœur, au nom du chapitre heureux et fier d'avoir à sa table d'aussi illustres invités.

In reply to this toast, Comp. Sir R. Hanson begged to apologise for being the first to speak in English. Had the company been entirely French, he would have ventured his response in that language, feeling sure of their indulgence, but experience had taught him that his own countrymen were the severest critics. He remembered that on one occasion, when Lord Mayor, he had to receive the Orpheons at the Albert Hall, and had prepared a very pretty speech to greet them, but when he got there, not only were the audience all English, but mostly ladies into the bargain, and then his heart failed him. He pocketed his notes and burst forth in his mother tongue. He begged to thank Comp. St. Clair and all the companions for the hearty manner in which the toast of the Grand Officers had been proposed and received. He did not wish to forestall those who would have to respond to the visitors, by any remarks on the good work and genial hospitality, and would simply say, the Grand Officers had spent a most enjoyable evening.

Le Comp. Thos. Fenn, en proposant la santé des Principaux, fit remarquer que deux des trois étaient Anglais et que l'autre était Français, et pourtant les trois ne faisaient qu'un. Qui oserait prétendre après cela que l'accord entre Français et Anglais était impossible? Quel bel exemple nous avons là de la sincère amitié qui devrait toujours exister entre les deux nations! Revenant à ses Principaux, le P.Z. Immédiat nous rappela que seul le Comp. Saillard avait eu un travail à faire dans le Temple et qu'il s'en était acquitté d'une façon magistrale, qui promettait de beaux travaux pour plus tard.—Le Comp. Regester avait déjà fait ses preuves en remplissant, l'année dernière, les fonctions difficiles de P. Séjournant et le chapitre fondait

sur lui de grandes espérances.—Quant au T.E.Z., Comp. Mead, le zèle et l'habileté qu'il avait déployés pendant toute sa carrière maçonnique, aussi bien que son travail dans le chapitre, étaient de surs garants pour l'avenir. Il l'félicitait de l'honneur qui lui était conféré, honneur qui était le point de mire de tout Maçon zélé. Il félicitait aussi les membres du chapitre d'avoir à leur tête, comme premier Principal, un si habile Comp. Et, pour terminer, le P.Z. Immt. souhaitait aux trois Principaux bonheur et joie pendant l'année de leur Présidence.

Réponse du T.E.Z.
Nous apprenons dans nos Cérémonies, que la Modestie et la docilité sont de surs indices de mérite. C'est pourquoi j'espère réussir, car je commence mon année de travail plein de modestie. Je sais que je fais beaucoup de fautes d'expression et de prononciation. Pour moi les R's ne roulent pas toujours—les lèbres ne se ferment pas assez sur les u's—les H's aspirent quelquefois à l'aspiration—les N's et les M's sont mes ennemis toujours, et beaucoup d'autres fautes trop nombreuses pour être énumérées. Epouvanté dès l'abord par le travail difficile dans une langue étrangère, je le suis de plus en plus en me rappelant ceux qui m'ont précédé, les quatre fondateurs du Chapitre—le triumvirat Français renommé pour son travail autant en Anglais qu'en Français—et l'unique Compagnon Fenn, le premier Maçon du Siècle, renommé pour son travail autant en Français qu'en Anglais, la vraie clef de voûte de l'édifice Maçonique du temps présent. De chacun et de tous, j'ai reçu l'aide inestimable dans le passé, et je compte avec confiance sur leur assistance précieuse dans l'avenir. Me rendant compte de combien je serai loin d'approcher même du but atteint par eux, je ne puis que promettre de faire de mon mieux. Ce que je dis pour moi-même, je le dis aussi pour les deux pierres contiguës. Nous sommes animés par les mêmes sentiments—nous sommes engagés à employer nos meilleurs efforts pour maintenir la bonne réputation du Chapitre la France. Compagnon Fenn et Compagnons, de la part des trois Principaux, mille remerciements.

Le T.E.Z. s'était, comme de juste, réservé la santé des invités qu'il proposa en ces termes :

Un des plus grands plaisirs que les Compagnons puissent avoir, c'est celui d'offrir un accueil chaleureux aux invités. Dans cette réunion nous pouvons leur offrir quelque chose en addition—d'entendre les cérémonies entièrement rendues dans la belle langue de la France. Pour les uns ce serait peut-être un travail aride, pour les autres cela peut offrir un intérêt considérable. Nous espérons que ce dernier est le cas ce soir. Nous avons un grand nombre d'invités, quelques-uns de mes amis personnels, Compagnon Lord Dunganvan, Compagnon Sir Reginald Hanson, Compagnon Godson, Cooper Lockwood et d'autres encore sont venus pour m'aider de leur présence dans cette position responsable—et j'apprécie cordialement leur support, à chacun et à tous nous disons soyez le bienvenu, soyez les bienvenus : Nous espérons les revoir à la France toutes les fois qu'ils le désireront et si par hasard l'appel ne leur arrive pas j'espère qu'ils prendront la permission dite "à la Française" et viendront sans invitation. Compagnons réunissez-vous à la Santé des Invités et je nomme Compagnon Lord Dunganvan et Compagnon Colonel Lockwood pour répondre.

Les Comps. Lord Dunganvan et le Colonel Lockwood répondirent en français avec beaucoup d'à-propos et à la grande satisfaction de leur auditoire.

Le T.E.Z. proposa ensuite les Passés-Principaux.

Le toast des quatre "Passés-Principaux" réclame toute votre reconnaissance. Les quatre Fondateurs du Chapitre—les quatre Traducteurs de nos Cérémonies, les quatre colonnes sur lesquelles repose en sûreté le Chapitre la France—les quatre bornes du chemin enroulé dans les années du Chapitre. Une faute, et la seule que je trouve, c'est que leur travail était si parfait que ma tâche est rendue doublement difficile. J'ai déjà parlé du bon travail du triumvirat Français—Compagnon Bué est à présent le Zorobabel honoré du Chapitre "British"—Compagnon St. Claire est le vénérable Maître dans la Loge Tuscan et Compagnon Monteuis a été choisi pour proposer le Prince de Galles comme Grand Maître de la Franc-Maçonnerie de Marque. Compagnon Fenn.—Il y a trente-cinq années que j'ai eu pour la première fois, l'honneur de travailler avec lui en Maçonnerie—et jamais il n'a mieux fait que dans l'année passée. Il n'y a personne qui ait acquis la reconnaissance de chaque Maçon comme Compagnon Fenn. S'il n'était si fortement opposé à la présentation des témoignages, il y a à peine une loge ou un Chapitre dans le Royaume qui ne se réjouirait de lui en présenter un—particulièrement la Loge d'Emulation, la Loge du Prince de Galles, le Chapitre du Prince de Galles, l'école des filles, le comité des travaux généraux, la Grande Loge et le Grand Chapitre, et en dernier lieu mais pas des moindres, le Chapitre la France. Cher Compagnon Fenn, nous espérons que vous vivrez encore un grand nombre d'années, la personification de toutes les lumières Maçoniques. Compagnons, levez-vous pour boire à la Santé des Passés-Principaux.

Le Comp. Monteuis remercia les Comps., au nom des Passés-Principaux et en son propre nom, de la façon cordiale dont ils avaient répondu à la santé proposée par le T.E.Z. en termes si flatteurs. Si les P.Z. avaient rendu des services au chapitre ils en étaient très heureux et ils feraient de leur mieux, à l'avenir, comme ils avaient déjà fait par le passé. Il remerciait le T.E.Z. d'avoir bien voulu, en passant en revue la noble carrière du Comp. Fenn, omettre, à dessein, les relations de ce dernier avec "La France," afin de lui fournir, à lui Monteuis, l'occasion de constater et de déclarer hautement encore une fois combien la loge et le chapitre étaient reconnaissants à cet illustre Maçon des services inappréciables qu'il leur avait rendus, services qui resteraient gravés dans la mémoire de tous les membres, tant que la Loge et le Chapitre "La France" existeraient. Était-il nécessaire de rappeler qu'à la consécration du chapitre le Comp. Fenn avait été l'officier consacrateur et avait, dans cette soirée mémorable, installé lui-même les trois Principaux ? Était-il besoin d'insister sur la façon exquise dont il avait toujours fait le travail du chapitre depuis sa fondation ? Non, sans doute ; ce souvenir ne s'effacerait jamais ! Après s'être excusé d'avoir fait cette petite digression pour rendre hommage au Grand Maçon, le Comp. Monteuis remercia de nouveau le T.E.Z. et les Comps. au nom des Passés-Principaux.

Le T.E.Z. ne voulant céder à personne le droit de rotir ses Officiers prit de nouveau la parole et dit :

Epouvanté par le travail de ma charge, vous pouvez comprendre que je suis heureux de le partager avec d'autres autant que je puis. Mais dans le toast des officiers j'éprouve un intérêt trop personnel pour m'esquiver.

Comme un Général à la veille d'une campagne, je regarde autour de moi pour m'assurer de l'aide sur laquelle je puis compter. Premièrement, quoique non compris ordinairement dans cette *rotie*, je suis sur d'un support solide à droite—et que le drapeau ne sera pas "assailli." A gauche je puis compter que l'intention est enregistrée de la plus énergique assistance. Dans le Principal séjournant je puis dire, "Je connais cet homme" et "quoique il ne vienne pas de Sheffield" c'est un "Cutler" du plus grand mérite. Tombant de ses lèvres le Rituel magnifique du Principal Séjournant sera rendu dans toute sa pureté. Pour les officiers anciens, *Père Monteuis* and the "Sons" Richard et Hopkin, je suis assuré d'une assistance cordiale et je puis dire la même chose pour les autres officiers.

Compagnons levez-vous, non asseyez-vous pour boire à la Santé des officiers ; les Compagnons Cutler et Hopkinson vont répondre.

Au nom des Officiers, le Comp. Cutler répond par le gracieux madrigal en prose que nous reproduisons aussi fidèlement que notre mémoire nous le permet. Il est utile ici de rappeler que le Comp. Cutler est membre du Chapitre La France, de la France-Marque et a visité la Loge La France.

"Il y a, dit-il, de par le monde, trois filles charmantes, presque des fées ; elles sont sœurs par la beauté et par la nature ; elles s'appellent : la Loge La France, La France Royale-Arche et La France-Marque. J'ai été présenté à la première et j'ai partagé mon cœur en deux parties égales pour en faire hommage aux deux autres."—Puisque le Grand Orient, continua-t-il, a rendu la Maçonnerie impossible pour nous de l'autre côté du détroit, la nécessité de fonder une Loge et un Chapitre travaillant en Français devenait impérieuse, et, puisque cette année nous sommes les Officiers du Chapitre, nous devons et nous voulons faire tous nos efforts pour que le travail approche le plus près possible de la perfection.

Le Comp. Hopkinson prit la parole, au nom des Officiers comptables, et remercia les Compagnons de l'accueil qu'ils avaient fait à ce toast ; puis, en sa qualité de Trésorier, il félicita le Chapitre de l'état satisfaisant de ses finances. Dans un an la dette contractée envers les fondateurs serait complètement acquittée, et il pourrait alors conseiller au Chapitre de souscrire, à tour de rôle, aux trois Charités.

La Santé du Tuteur vint ensuite mettre un terme à une des plus agréables réunions du Chapitre La France.

PRESENTATION TO COMP. FENN.

In connection with the above chapter, the following address signed by Present and Past Officers as well as Past Masters of Lodge La France, and beautifully illuminated on vellum, has been presented to Comp. Fenn :

"F. C. & T. Ex. Comp."

Au moment où vous terminez votre année de Présidence dans la Chaire de Z., les Membres du Chapitre désirent vous exprimer toute leur reconnaissance pour les Services éminents que vous leur avez rendus, en même temps que leur haute appréciation de l'honneur que vous leur avez fait en les éclairant de vos lumières depuis la formation du chap.

Les Membres de la R. L. La France ayant appris que la présente adresse était en cours de préparation ont désiré ajouter leur témoignage de gratitude au nôtre, et vous reconnaîtrez ci-dessous les noms des F. C. auxquels vous avez bien voulu prêter votre concours, lors de leur installation.

Veillez agréer T. C. & T. E. Comp. avec l'expression de notre haute considération, nos Salutations les plus fraternelles."

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

JOPPA LODGE (No. 188).—This lodge met on Tuesday last at the City Boundary Tavern, Aldersgate-street, when there were present : Bros. W. Shurmur, P.M.; W. M. Dancyger, P.M.; Garrard, P.M.; Tyre, P.M.; Zander, P.M.; Brandon, P.M.; Norman, P.M.; Medwin, P.M.; Anderson, P.M.; C. C. Mote, P.M.; Whiting, P.M.; Kaufman, P.M.; Lazarus, P.M.; Josephs, P.M.; Knight, P.M.; Davies, P.M.; Toye, P.M.; W. M. Stiles, P.M.; W. A. Scurrell, P.M.; G. Gregory, P.M.; Capt. Knightley, P.M.; W. Metcalf, P.M.; A. Scurrell, P.M.; A. E. Todd, W.M.; Brendal, S.W.; Westbury, P.M.; Parry, Telling, S. Lewis, Walter, J. Carter, Lorkin, Rocco, Davis, Blake, Humphreys, Brown, Cosham, Ward, Webb, J. Botibol, Edward, Rosenberg, Koenig, Gorman, Hands, Dines, Wade, Cresswell, Seigenberg, Bid, J. F. Saunders, and R. T. West.

The lodge having been opened and the minutes of the previous meeting read, Bro. Shurmur, P.M., rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Seigenberg acting as the candidate.

At this point, Bro. W. M. Stiles, P.M., entered the room, the members rising and giving him an enthusiastic reception as candidate for the office of Grand Treasurer.

Bro. Shurmur then gave the Lecture in the Second Degree, on the tracing board. Bro. Shurmur was very much in evidence and his more than excellent working was much appreciated by the large number of members present. The following were elected members Bros. W. M. Stiles, P.M.; J. Davies, P.M.; G. W. Knight, P.M.; Parry, A. Walters, Cresswell, Anderson, Humphries, Lander, and A. Norman. Bro. Knight, in suitable terms, returned thanks on behalf of the new members.

Bro. Dancyger, P.M., moved that the lodge should do its utmost to support Bro. Stiles in his candidature for Grand Treasurer. This was seconded by Bro. J. F. Saunders, who remarked that Bro. Stiles was working his hardest in the campaign. He had done everything in the Craft to qualify for Grand honours. He was the best of friends, and one to whom all could go for advice. He was the representative of the Blue, and every effort should be made to send him in with a large majority.

In supporting the resolution, Bro. Garrard, P.M., observed that it was the first time that so much interest had been taken in the election of Grand Treasurer, which was the only office at Grand Lodge open to the Craft.

Upon the resolution being put, it was carried with acclamation.

Bro. Shurmur said that it was gratifying to him the way the resolution had been carried. He as one of the Blue thought that it was only his duty to retire from the contest

in favour of Bro. Stiles, as if he had not done so the nominee of Grand Lodge would in all probability have been elected. Titles outside Masonry ought not to have any weight in the Craft, but the one who had worked hard in Masonry should receive the only office the Blue had the right to give. What had Bro. Stiles done for the Charities? He had given hundreds of pounds out of his own pocket, and was possessed of over 300 votes. In conclusion, he said the fight was a hard one, and all should stand shoulder to shoulder to assist their old and esteemed friend, Bro. W. M. Stiles.

Bro. W. M. Stiles, on rising to respond, received an ovation. He said that he would be wanting in gratitude if he did not state how he appreciated his flattering welcome that night, and for the very kind things said of him. Bro. Shurmur having retired, deserved the best thanks from the Blue, and he should never forget such an act of kindness. He had the largest number of promises on paper, and if fulfilled he would be elected to the high office he was seeking. He could not express in words the thanks he owed to all his friends who were making great efforts on his behalf, but he hoped after the first Wednesday in March to meet them as Grand Treasurer of England.

Several visitors having now arrived and expressed their willingness to join the lodge, the following were elected members: Bros. Gregory, P.M.; Capt. Knightley, P.M.; A. Scurrell, P.M.; and Metcalf, P.M.

After repeated calls, and at the request of Bro. Shurmur, Bro. W. A. Scurrell, P.M., addressed the brethren. He said that one of the candidates in the field would, in due course, become Lord Mayor, when he would no doubt receive a collar of Junior Grand Warden, and he thought he should be content, and not interfere with the privileges of the Blue. What had Bro. Stiles done for Masonry? He had filled 14 Stewardships, and taken up thousands of pounds for the three Institutions. He had founded many lodges; a splendid Preceptor—hundreds had to thank him for what they knew of the ritual. He had been a member of the Craft for 20 years, and no one had done more for Masonry than he had. Bro. Shurmur had acted in a most generous way, as the moment he saw the action of the Purple, he withdrew in favour of Bro. Stiles, as he thought if the Blues lost the present election, it would be good-bye to the right of an annual election.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Shurmur for his able services that evening as W.M., and for his splendid working of the ritual.

Bro. Shurmur, in a few words, said that he was sincerely grateful for his kind reception. He had acquired nearly all his Masonic knowledge in the Joppa Lodge of Instruction. His best thanks were also due to them for the way they had received his dear friend, Bro. Stiles, and for their promises to work their hardest for him on the 7th of March.

The lodge was then closed.

ST. AMBROSE LODGE (No. 1891).—A meeting was held on Monday, 26th ult., at the Scarsdale Arms Hotel, Edwardes-square, Kensington, when there were present: Bros. C. G. Hatt, W.M. 865, W.M.; Joseph Cox, S.W.; C. E. Betts, J.W.; Jesse Collings, P.M.; Preceptor; F. Craggs, P.M., Sec.; H. Oliver, S.D.; T. C. Dyer, J.D.; A. C. Brown, I.G.; and A. Williams, W.M. 834.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Oliver acting as candidate. The 1st and 2nd Sections of the First Lecture were worked by Bro. Jesse Collings, Preceptor, assisted by the brethren. A vote of thanks was passed to the Kensington Lodge of Instruction for the use of their furniture during the period of occupation. Votes of thanks were passed to the Treasurer, Preceptor, and Secretary for their services, and the lodge was then closed.

HYDE PARK LODGE (No. 1425).—A meeting was held on Monday, the 26th ult., at the Prince of Wales Hotel, corner of Eastbourne-terrace and Bishop's-road, Paddington, W., when there were present Bros. W. Chapple, W.M. 1425, W.M.; M. Rosenberg, S.W. 1425, S.W.; D. Gelion, P.M. 1425, J.W.; G. Reed, Sec. 1425, P.M. 511, Treas.; H. Dehane, P.M. 1425, Sec.; J. C. Conway, I.P.M. 1891, S.D.; H. Campbell, J.D.; S. N. Isaacs, I.G.; A. Clark, Stwd.; W. J. Ferguson, P.M. 177, Dep. Preceptor; A. Cadbury Jones, P.M. 1441; W. Hillier, W.M. 1366; H. Windatt, W.M. 1793; Major E. Reed, C. F. Brown, J. J. Hough, T. M. Lamole, S. Manne, and A. W. H. Jones.

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 resumed in due course. The ceremony of raising and passing were rehearsed, Bros. Lamble and Manne being the candidates respectively. Bro. Ferguson gave the Lecture on the tracing board. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Hillier for the services he had rendered to the lodge. After "Hearty good wishes" the lodge was closed.

EUSTON LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

The members of the Euston Lodges of Mark and Ark Masons had the honour of entertaining their Worshipful Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, to luncheon on Monday, the 26th ult., at the Grafton Rooms, Blanchard's Hotel, Beak-street, W. The lodge was opened by Bro. Sir Lionel Darell Bart., P.G.W., the senior Past Master of the lodge. The Ark Mariners lodge was opened by Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., and Bros. Lord Skelmersdale, Woodhouse, Bevan, and Col. Egerton were elevated as Ark Mariners by Bro. C. F. Matier, Grand Sec.

The lodges were then adjourned and the brethren retired to luncheon, which was presided over by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, who afterwards proposed "The Health of the Queen."

The only other toast was that of "The W.M.," which was proposed by Bro. the Earl of EUSTON, Pro G.M., Treas.

On the lodges being resumed, H.R.H. the W.M., attended by Bros. the Earl of Euston, Treas., and Col. A. B. Cook, Prov. G.M. Middx., Sec., entered and was formally placed in the chairs of Master and Commander by Bros. Sir Lionel Darell and Sir Reginald Hanson.

The officers were presented to his Royal Highness by Bro. Frank Richardson, Grand Registrar, after which the lodges were closed, by command of the W.M., by Bro. Clement Godson, the Deputy Master. His Royal Highness was graciously pleased to accept from the members the jewels of W. Master and W. Commander N., and to express his entire satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made by Col. Cook, and most admirably carried out by the Manager of Blanchard and Co.

Among the brethren present were H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., Bros. the Marquess of Carmarthen, M.P., the Earl of Euston, Viscount Dungarvan, Earl of Yarborough, Lord Skelmersdale, Sir Lionel Darell, Bart., Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., Col. Lockwood, M.P., Col. A. Fife, Rev. A. W. Oxford, F. Mead, F. Richardson, E. A. Baylis, Capt. G. Gordon-Gilmour, A. Cooper, A. F. Sapse, F. Holme-Sumner, R. Woodhouse, J. H. Parker-Wilson, G. Fitzwilliam, Captain Lyell, Alfred Bevan, L. Miéville, C. Godson, M.D., and Col. A. B. Cook. Visitors: Bros. Col. Egerton (in attendance), Capt. N. G. Philips, and C. F. Matier. Bros. the Earl of Lathom, Past G. Master, and R. Loveland-Loveland, President General Board, were unavoidably prevented from attending.

FESTIVAL OF THE EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.

The annual festival of this lodge of improvement, now 71 years old, was held on the 23rd ult., at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, Past Grand Deacon, presiding at the working of the lodge, which preceded the supper. It was the first occasion on which Bro. Sudlow took the chair of W.M. at these annual meetings, Bro. Thomas Fenn presiding for the last time in 1893. A reference to the event will be found at fuller length in the course of this report, but the retirement of Bro. Fenn after so many years' connection with the lodge as the officer putting the questions has again given evidence that whenever an active member who is looked upon as indispensable to a lodge's existence feels himself forced by natural causes to leave his duties in the hands of others there is always to be found someone who has followed his example fully competent to take his place. The whole history of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement has strongly exhibited this truth, for whenever one instructor has left the scene there has been no difficulty in finding a good successor. Year by year the lodge is growing in popularity, and from week to week the attendance of brethren has increased. The annual festival now gathers together more than 400 brethren, and at the meeting now recorded fully that number were present.

The Grand Officers who attended were Bros. Thomas Fenn, Frank Richardson, A. C. Spaul, J. H. Matthews, L. G. Gordon Robbins, W. M. Bywater, C. J. R. Tijou, S. Vallentine, S. V. Abraham, W. H. Spaul, C. Martin, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Col. George Lambert, Col. James Peters, F. R. W. Hedges, H. Garrud, R. Loveland Loveland, Dr. Turtle Pigott, E. Monteuis, C. E. Keyser, Dr. Clement Godson, E. Letchworth, J. A. Farnfield, C. F. Hogard, J. C. Parkinson, and H. J. P. Dumas.

The Second Lecture was worked in exceptionally fine style, the questions being answered in the 1st Section by Bro. H. Wellcome, in the 2nd by Bro. Kirby, who was acting as S.W., in the 3rd by Bro. Chas. Lewis, in the 4th by Bro. J. J. Black, and in the 5th by Bro. Budd.

Bro. SUDLOW, at the opening of the lodge, said the brethren would all regret to learn that Bro. Samuel Pope, Q.C., who was to have presided at the supper, was lying very seriously ill in bed. He was sure they all regretted, not only his absence, but the cause which compelled him to be away. Bro. Letchworth, the Grand Secretary, had most kindly come forward in the difficulty thus created, and had consented to take the chair. He knew that announcement would give the brethren a great deal of pleasure.

At the conclusion of the working,

Bro. FENN, P.B.G.P., said that he had permission, in the enforced absence of Bro. Pope, to propose a vote of thanks to the working officers of the lodge, for the admirable manner in which they had discharged their duties. Having filled the chair, now so worthily occupied by his successor, Bro. Sudlow, for many years past, he (Bro. Fenn) was perhaps better able to testify to the absolute correctness of the work they had heard than most of the brethren present, and every brother must have been gratified by the able and eloquent manner in which the Sections had been delivered. He was sure they must all be pleased to see Bro. Sudlow occupying the place to which he was justly entitled. For many years he had done what used to be his (Bro. Fenn's) work in the lodge, and he had long felt that the brother who presided week after week throughout the year should have the honour of presiding over the lodge on these great occasions. Indeed, he should have given it up long ago had not Bro. Sudlow himself urged him not to do so. He now felt quite unable to undergo the fatigue and excitement of the after supper speech, and being now in his 74th year, he thought it quite time that he gave up the work to his younger brethren. In doing so it was a great satisfaction to him to feel assured that the lodge with which he had been so closely connected for a period of 38 years and in which he had—so to speak—spent the greater part of his Masonic life, was now in such capable and willing hands. He had great pleasure in proposing a cordial

vote of thanks to the working officers for the admirable Masonic entertainment they had given them.

Bro. C. E. KEYSER, P.G.D.: Brethren, they tell me this resolution wants a seconder, but I think I may take it we are all ready to second it, because we have all had a great treat this evening. As I know that Bro. Fenn, who says it must be seconded, cannot err, I have great pleasure in seconding it.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

Bro. R. CLAY SUDLOW, in acknowledging the resolution, said: Worshipful Bro. Fenn and brethren, according to precedent, I rise to thank you very heartily on behalf of the five brethren who have worked the Sections to-night for the vote that you have been so good as to pass for the working. To a great extent the prestige of this lodge has been in their hands, and I am sure that it will be gratifying to them to know that they have acquitted themselves to your satisfaction. Two of the brethren are really, I was going to say, veterans in the work; but three of them have essayed this work for the first time, and I know that the words of praise that have fallen from the lips of our Treasurer will be very, very highly prized by them. As for the kind words that Bro. Fenn has made use of in connection with myself, I can only thank him very, very heartily indeed. It is a trust, I feel, reposed in me of a very sacred character, and I shall, with the assistance of my colleagues, endeavour to merit the kindness with which Bro. Fenn has spoken of me.

After propositions had been given in for joining the lodge on behalf of a large number of brethren, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern to supper, at which Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Sec., presided.

After Bro. LETCHWORTH had proposed the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft" and "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales."

Bro. ST. CLAIR, P.M. 538, P.G.S., proposed "The Pro G.M., the Dep. G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. J. C. PARKINSON, P.G.D., in responding, said he thanked Bro. Budd for his rendering of the 5th Section with so much intellectual ability, which set forth plainly and clearly the constitutional methods upon which Masonry was formed and was strong. The brethren who were familiar with it needed not that he should expound it, but the most casual observer must see that in that clearly detailed account of the government and administration of the Ancient Temple, the successors of the brethren found force and confidence in the Masonry of to-day, and in that admirable system which to him combined the broadest democracy with the soundest conservatism. The brother who proposed the toast was kind enough to refer to him personally, and it would be an ingrate indeed if he did not rejoice on occasions like the present to testify to his deep obligations to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. At an early period of his life it was good enough to welcome him, and teach him such Masonic knowledge as he now possessed, and to start him on the career to which he owed so much happiness. The rulers of that lodge, whose names were familiar to the majority of those present, were to him active living realities on an occasion like that. Stephen Barton Wilson was made a Grand Officer by reason of his Masonic knowledge and his position as a teacher in the Emulation Lodge; John Hervey, a predecessor of the Chairman that evening, well known for his admirable rendering of the ritual and for his genial personality; and so they had gone on and lived and worked under the genial sway of a brother who, it was a pathetic circumstance, was not present at the table as he was in the lodge—their Bro. Fenn, who during a long career had endeared himself not merely to that lodge, but to a much larger and wider circle, sound, discreet, sagacious, talented, who had been one of the living ornaments of the Craft. There was not a brother present who did not hope, at all events, that Bro. Fenn might be well enough and strong enough to join them next Wednesday. Passing from the Grand Officers in general he now had the pleasant duty entrusted to him of proposing "The Health of one Grand Officer in particular, Bro. Letchworth, the Chairman;" a brother called to that position at a moment's notice caused by the unexpected illness of Bro. Pope. Bro. Letchworth had discharged his duties with a geniality, and had placed the Craft under a debt of gratitude. Bro. Letchworth had a long Masonic career and had a brilliant future before him besides having the largest and widest circle of friends.

Bro. LETCHWORTH, responding, first thanked Bro. Parkinson for his kind words. It was quite true that he had been called upon at almost a moment's notice to take the chair, but he, as well as the rest of the brethren, had looked forward to listening to the genial and eloquent words from Bro. Pope, whose absence they all regretted. They deplored the cause which prevented his presence. He thanked the brethren from the bottom of his heart for their kind reception. He then proposed "Success to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement." Many of the brethren were well acquainted with the history of that distinguished lodge; but, for the information of those who might not be aware of the circumstances under which it was started he might state that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement had been in existence for upwards of 70 years, having been started in the year 1823. It was originally attached to the Lodge of Hope, No. 7, now the Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, to which the late Bro. Peter Gilkes belonged, and who had a warm interest in its welfare, from its beginning in 1823, until his death ten years afterwards. The Emulation Lodge of Improvement had been a favourite lodge of instruc-

tion of many worthy and distinguished exponents of Masonic ritual and ceremony. Among these were Bro. S. B. Wilson, and Bro. Hervey, to whom he was indebted for his Masonic knowledge, because as a very young Mason 20 years ago, Bro. Hervey proposed him as a member. Bro. Hervey was Treasurer of the lodge for 30 years, and he was succeeded in that office by Bro. Fenn, to whom they had had the pleasure of listening that evening, and whose absence from the festive board they one and all regretted. Bro. Fenn's connection with the lodge extended over a period of 40 years, and his services to Masonry in general, and the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in particular, were too well known to need recapitulation. Bro. Charles Murton, P.G.D., many years ably discharged the duties of Secretary, and was a constant attendant at the lodge meetings. There were many other distinguished brethren who belonged to the lodge; but with the excellent qualities of Bro. Sudlow most, if not all, the brethren were well acquainted. At all events all then present had had an opportunity that evening of witnessing those qualities—his able work in the chair, his skillful tuition. The excellent way the various brethren who assisted him performed their work they also had witnessed. The records of Grand Lodge conclusively proved that this Emulation Lodge of Improvement was looked upon as the standard of Masonic perfection. Its past career had been prosperous and brilliant, not only with reference to advancing Masonic knowledge, but also as regarded its liberal response to the Masonic Charities. All the brethren would join with him in wishing that the good work done in the past by the lodge might be continued for many years and that the lodge might prosper.

Bro. R. CLAY SUDLOW, in replying to the toast, said: Brother Chairman and brethren,—we must all regret the absence of one who has been with us uninterruptedly for so many years; indeed, as it has been said at this table to-night the Emulation Lodge of Improvement Festival scarcely seems to be itself without Bro. Fenn. For I don't know how many years this toast has been associated with the name of our Treasurer and chief; and it is only because he preferred not to take the position that he has occupied on these occasions for so long that I have the honour to respond—an honour, brethren, that I need hardly say I very highly appreciate. In view of the fact which has been mentioned by our Chairman that this lodge has been in existence for over 70 years it is most gratifying to find that its influence is still extending, that its weekly meetings are always numerous attended and that its festivals are still a great success. The splendid gathering of to-night, brethren, is in itself a proof that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement occupies a very important place in the confidence and good will of the Craft. Probably no one in this lodge would desire to see a uniformity of ritual adopted even if such a thing were attainable; on the other hand I believe every one will agree that a standard working is absolutely essential—a standard that shall be fixed, unaltering and unalterable—and such a standard Emulation provides. As an Emulation enthusiast I would go further and I would say that it is the standard. I may give you, brethren, an example, and a very interesting one, of the vitality with which the system recognised by this lodge is adhered to. A brother who is probably present with us to-night joined this lodge in the year 1863. Between that time and 1867, when he left the lodge, because he was going abroad, he thoroughly mastered the various ceremonies and many of the sections. He remained away for the space of 26 years, only rejoining this lodge last year, 1893. As you can easily imagine, when he returned to us there was not a single face he knew, but the working was precisely the same, and though he knew no one, not even the P.M., who occupied his proper seat, yet he was at once at home with the work which was being carried on, and he is now one of our most exemplary and regular workers. Brethren, this is the first time I have been associated with this toast, the first time I have represented at our festivals, the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. I have already spoken, brethren, of the honour of that position, but it brings with it, as you will easily understand, a very great responsibility. The responsibility of a Past Master of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement is a very important one, and I am glad to say that I do not share that responsibility alone—that is to say, I share it with my colleagues, Bro. Spaul and Bro. Rushton. The knowledge that we possess the traditions of this lodge, we have received from Bro. Fenn, Bro. Murton and Bro. Richardson. We look upon the trust delivered to us by those brethren as very important indeed—a very sacred one—and, speaking for myself, and I am sure, speaking in the name of my colleagues, I may say that that trust shall be most faithfully, most honourably, and most religiously preserved. Brethren, on behalf of the Committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, I thank you most heartily, and I thank our Chairman for the very kind way in which he has put the toast before you, and I thank you for the very hearty manner in which you received it.

Bro. J. A. FARNFIELD, P.A.G.D.C., in reply to the toast of "The Lodge of Unions, No. 256," which was proposed by Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C., said he much regretted that the W.M. of the lodge was absent through indisposition. In consequence of that absence, he, Bro. Farnfield, had to reply to the toast as senior P.M. of the lodge. When he looked back he thought it was now considerably over 30 years ago that he was made a Mason in that lodge, and joined this lodge of improvement. He had passed twice

through the chair of the lodge, and he had heard the present toast proposed many times. The brethren of the lodge were pleased to see that the true lessons of Masonry were so widely spread by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. He could assure the brethren if the child was not ashamed of its parent, the parent would never be ashamed of the child.

Bro. C. E. KEYSER, P.G.D., proposed "The Masonic Charities," and reminded the brethren that the Festival of the Benevolent Institution would take place the following Wednesday, under the presidency of Col. G. Noel Money, C.B. That Institution provided annuities for 450 aged Masons and widows at an expenditure of £18,000 a year. The Girls' School would hold its Festival on the second Wednesday in May, under the distinguished presidency of the Earl of Lathom. Through that Institution 262 girls received education, board, lodging, and clothing. The Boys' School would hold its Festival on June 27th, under the presidency of Bro. W. L. Jackson, the new Prov. Grand Master for West Yorkshire. There were 268 boys in that School receiving the same benefits as the girls received in the sister Institution. He asked the generous support of the brethren for all those Institutions.

Bro. F. R. W. HEDGES, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G., replied. Speaking in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, which had done so much financially to help the Institutions, he thanked the lodge sincerely for them all. They were now arriving at that critical time when the Institutions were looking forward to the supplies by which to carry on their work for another 12 months. That work was never carried out more efficiently than at present, and the only limit to that work was the extent to which the brethren would supply the funds.

Bro. KIRBY, S.W., replied to the toast of "The Officers," proposed by Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, P.G.D. He said that during the evening all the brethren had in some way or other alluded to Bro. Fenn, and it must always be mentioned in connection with that toast. He was present in the lodge. He saw what a brilliant career the lodge had before it. Bro. Fenn had done much in times past to show the loyalty and support of the brethren. The lodge would be unworthy of him if it did not try to maintain the efficiency which he had so earnestly worked for.

Bro. L. G. GORDON ROBBINS, G.D., proposed "The Stewards," specially referring to the labour which was imposed on those brethren in the organisation of so vast a festival as the present. Although it was bound to be a success, the work of the Stewards deserved the most cordial and appreciative recognition. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Kentish, on whom the success not only of the festival but of the ordinary meetings of the lodge depended in a very great measure, as Bro. Kentish was Secretary, in which position he hoped he would long remain.

Bro. W. G. KENTISH, in reply, said he always thought that the Secretary of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was placed in a somewhat awkward position, because at the end of the evening most of the brethren were tired, and the Secretary was tired. Nevertheless, it gave him the opportunity of replying to a very kind toast, and of thanking a body of brethren who had worked energetically with him. To them he was extremely indebted. He had filled the office of Secretary to that lodge with very great pleasure indeed. He had been associated with such brethren as Bro. Hervey and with Bro. Fenn. That was the seventh time he had responded to that toast, and no doubt he should regard with very great pleasure during his life the fact that he had been associated with Bro. Fenn so long. It had been the greatest pleasure to him to be able to do anything for a lodge of such reputation, and it was not the less a pleasure to have been able to do anything to assist those who had now the management of it. During the seven years he had been Secretary, Bros. Sudlow, Rushton, Spaul, and he had worked hand in glove, and it should be a lasting pleasure that they had done so: there had never been a single wry word between them. However, that was not to the purpose. What he had then to respond to was the kind toast of the Stewards, who had certainly made that annual festival the success it had been. He thanked all the brethren, and especially Bro. Gordon Robbins for his kind words in recognising what the Stewards had endeavoured to do.

The Tyler's toast was given by Bro. FREEMAN, and drunk enthusiastically by the brethren, who immediately afterwards adjourned.

Bro. J. H. MAUNDER, of the Civil Service, who has on some former occasion presided at the organ, was present on this occasion in the same capacity, and gave a most interesting programme of selections while the brethren were assembling.

CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

We very heartily congratulate the authorities, Miss Davis and her staff of Governesses, and the friends generally of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, on the success achieved by the pupils who entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations in December last. There were 17 of them, and without exception they all passed, several of them in the Honour Classes and with special distinction in one or more subjects. We publish the complete list below, therefore we need say no more here than that of the three who entered for the Senior Examinations one was awarded Second Class Honours with special distinction in French and Music; while of

the 14 who were entered for the Junior Examination, one was awarded First Class Honours with special distinction in Religious Knowledge, English, and Music; two Second Class Honours with special distinction in each case for Religious Knowledge; and two Third Class Honours with special distinction in the case of one for French, and in the case of the other for Religious Knowledge. The remaining nine satisfied the Examiners, distinction being awarded to two of the number for Religious Knowledge. This result is the more satisfactory when we bear in mind firstly, that this is the third time in the last five years that the whole of the candidates have passed; secondly, that while the percentage of "Passes" for the whole of England is 73, that of "Passes" in the case of this School for the same five years is 97; and finally that last year the whole course of training was disturbed by an epidemic of scarlet fever.

Seniors. Class II., Honours, Bertha Dean, French and Music; Hester Burt and Evelyn Conti, satisfied examiners. Juniors. Class I., Honours, F. Bexfield, Religious Knowledge, English, and Music. Class II., Honours, Nellie Cooper and Helena Tims, Religious Knowledge. Class III., Mabel Bohli, French; Ethel Sanders, Religious Knowledge and French; M. Baverstock, satisfied examiners, Religious Knowledge; Winifred Chinneck and Nellie Harvey, satisfied examiners; Kathleen Holman, satisfied examiners, Religious Knowledge; Dora Ireson, Alice Smith, Olga Tettenborn, Edith Woodbridge, and Myrtle Speed, satisfied examiners.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The following is the result of the Cambridge Local Examination held last December. Seniors. (6) Satisfied the examiner: Bingham, Coupland, Crompton, Davis, Fortune, Higginson (distinction in arithmetic); one failure. Juniors. (20) Third class: Stephenson. Satisfied the examiner: Bartholomew (distinction in drawing), Baylis, Binks, Bland, Broad, Buckley, Foote, Groombridge, Hayes, Jarmain, Jewitt, King, Leeming, Mountford, Mundle, Parker, Ravenscroft, Watson, Whale. Two failures (one of whom was only 12½ years old). Number last year, 22.

Our Portrait Gallery of Worshipful Masters.



BRO. FREDERICK VARLEY,
of Finsbury Park,
W.M. John Hervey Lodge, No. 1260,

was initiated on October 8, 1884, in this well-known lodge, being proposed by Bro. J. Brockett Sorrell, P.M. 1260 and 176, and seconded by the late Bro. O. Latrielle, P.M. He served the various offices leading to the chair, and was installed W.M. in April last, a large and influential number of brethren assembling to witness the ceremony. He was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry last year, being proposed by Comp. Dr. Jabez Hogg, Treas. 1260, P.G.D., P.G.S.B., and seconded by Comp. J. R. Reep, W.M. 2241, S.E. 1260, and in January, 1883, he became a joining member of the Finsbury Park Lodge, where he was proposed by Bro. John Oldis, P.M., and seconded by Bro. W. Wells. He represented the John Hervey Lodge this year as Steward at the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, in which office he received generous support. Nine candidates have been initiated in the lodge since April last, and by his ability in the chair, his interest in the Craft, and earnestness for the comfort of the brethren, he has had a most successful and prosperous year—second to none, in fact, in the history of the lodge.

THROUGH REVERSES.—

J. RAMSDEN RILEY desires EMPLOYMENT. He has a life-long, irreproachable character, and would be invaluable as BUSINESS MANAGER, CASHIER, or in any position of trust and responsibility. Is a capable BUYER, and has a thorough knowledge of Dress Goods and Woollens. Extensive commercial experience; a first-class Correspondent; exceptionally quick at figures; and has many qualifications for Secretarial duties, public or private. Address—49, Grey Road, Walton, Liverpool.

MASONIC MEETINGS (Metropolitan)

For the week ending Saturday, March 10, 1894

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 3.

RAFT LODGES.

142, St. Thomas's, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
1572, Carnarvon, Albion Tavern.
1928, Gallery, Andertons' Hotel.
2182, Sterndale Bennett, Surrey Masonic Hall.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

975, Rose of Denmark, Star and Garter, Kew.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Alexandra Palace, Station Hotel, Camberwell New-road, at 7.30.
C. Iswick, Windsor Castle Restaurant, Victoria Station, S.W.
Duke of Connaught, The Lord Stanley, Paragon-road, Hackney, at 8.
Ebury, Grap's Tavern, 123, High-street, Borough, S.E., at 8.
Eaton, Windsor Castle Restaurant, Victoria Station, S.W.
Evening Star, Rut. and Hotel, Perry Hill, Catford, at 8.
Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, at 8.
King Harold, Four Swans, Waltham Cross, at 7.
Manchester, Blue Posts, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, at 8.
Percy, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N., at 8.
Star, Dover Castle, Broadway, Deptford, S.E., at 7.
Urban, Freemasons' Hall.
Vitruvian, Duke of Albany Hotel, Kitto-road, St. Katherine's-park, Hatcham, S.E., at 7.30.
Mount Sinai Chapter, Red Lion Ho., 14, King-st., Regent-st., W., 8

MONDAY, MARCH 5.

RAFT LODGES.

12, Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
25, Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall.
72, Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel.
144, St. Luke's, Anderton's Hotel.
182, Joppa, Freemasons' Tavern.
256, Unions, Freemasons' Hall.
1319, Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.
1025, Tredgar, London Tavern.
1669, Royal Leopold, Surrey Masonic Hall.
1924, W. Chham, St. Peter's Hall, Brockley.
2098, Harlesden, National Schools, Harlesden.
2142, Tyssen-Amherst, Amherst Club House, Hackney.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

91, Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
1056, Victoria, Holborn Viaduct Hotel.
165, Bayard, 33, Golden-square.
1291, St. Ambrose, St. James's Restaurant.
2108, Empire, Cr. terion.

MARK LODGE.

193, Panmure, Mark Masons' Hall.

RED CROSS CONCLAVE.

Original or Premier, Mark Masons' Hall.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Blackheath, Milkwood Tavern, Milkwood-road, Herne Hill, at 8.
Carnarvon, Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate-street, at 6.30.
Coborn, Eagle Hotel, Sparesbrook, at 8.
Cripplegate, Goldsmiths' Arms, Gutter-lane, at 6.30.
Eleanor, Rose and Crown, High Cross, Tottenham, at 8.
Empire, The White Horse, 94, White Horse-lane, Mile End-rd., E., at 8.
Hyde Park, Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne-terr., Bishop's-brd., Paddington, at 8.
Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30.
Marquess of Ripon, Lord Stanley, Paragon-road, Mare-st., at 8.
Metropolitan, Moorgate Tavern, 15, Finsbury-pavement, at 7.5.
Neptune, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, S.W., at 7.30.
Perseverance, Old Parr's Head, Doctors-common, E.C., at 7.
Rose of Denmark, L. & S.W.R. Institute, Wandsworth-rd., 7.30.
Royal Arthur, Prince of Wales Hotel (opposite Wimbledon Railway Station), at 7.30.
Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, Putney, at 8.
St. James's Union, St. James's Restaurant (Piccadilly entrance) at 8.
St. Luke's, Victoria Tavern, Gertrude-street, Chelsea, at 8.
St. Mark's, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road.
St. Michael's, Norfolk Arms, Addison-rd. North, Uxbridge-rd., 8.
Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Finch-h-street, at 8.
Stockwell, White Hart, Abchurch-lane, E.C., at 6.
Tyssen-Amherst, Amherst Club, Amherst-road, Hackney, and 4th Mon., at 8.
United Military, Earl of Chatham, Thomas-st., Woolwich, 7.30.
Upper Norwood, White Hart Hotel, Church-rd., Upper Norwood, 8.
Upton, Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, E., at 8.
Walthamstow, The Chequer, High-street, Walthamstow, at 8.
Wellington, White Swan Hotel, High-street, Deptford, at 8.
Zetland, York and Albany, Park-street, Regent's Park, at 8.
Doric Chapter, Duke's Head, 79, Whitechapel-road, at 8.
Hope Chapter, Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich, at 8.
Lewis Chapter, King's Arms, Hotel, Wood Green, N., at 8.
North London Chapter, Grosvenor Hotel, Canonbury, at 7.30.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6.

GRAND MARK LODGE.

Colonial Board, at 4.

RAFT LODGES.

9, Albion, Freemasons' Hall.
18, Old Dundee, Cannon-street Hotel.
101, Temple, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
172, Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.
217, Stability, Anderton's Hotel.
765, St. James's, Bridge House Hotel.
1159, Marquis of Dalhousie, 33, Golden-square.
1257, Grosvenor, Freemasons' Hall.
1259, Duke of Edinburgh, Eastern Hotel, West India Dock-road.
1261, Golden Rule, Cafe Royal.
1381, Kennington, Horns Tavern.
1397, Anerley, Clarence Hall.
1417, Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich.
1662, Beaconsfield, The Chequer's, Walthamstow.
1693, Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Hig. bury.
2032, Richmond, Greyhound Hotel, Richmond.
2128, United Northern Counties, Inns of Court Hotel.
2150, Tivoli, Frascati Restaurant.
2190, Savage Club, Freemasons' Hall.
2398, Holborn, Holborn Restaurant.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Brixton, Prince Regent, Dalwich-road, Herne Hill, S.E., at 8.
Capper, City Arms, St. Mary Axe, at 6.
Clarence and Avondale, Masonic Hall, Leytonstone E., at 8.
Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton Buildings, at 7.
Chaucer, The Old White Hart, High-street, Borough, at 8.
Clarence, Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, at 7.30.
Corinthian, George Hotel, Cubitt Town, Poplar, at 6.
Dalhousie, Middleton Arms, corner of Queen's-road and Middle-ton-road, Dalston, E., at 8.
Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, at 7.30.
Duke of Cornwall, Queen's Arms, Queen-street, Cheapside, at Earl of Lathom, Joiner's Arms, Denmark Hill, S.E., at 8.
East Surrey Lodge of Concord, Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, at 8.
Egyptian, Salutation, Newgate-street, at 7.
(Continued on page 10.)



A Knights Templar Preceptory will be consecrated in the County Hotel Carlisle, on Thursday, the 15th inst., at two p.m.

Bro. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has kindly promised to open a bazaar at St. John's Mission-room, Clifton, Bristol in April next.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke of York received the French Ambassador, and M^{me}. Decrais, the Netherlands Minister, and the Baroness Goltstein, and the Japanese Minister, at Marlborough House, on Tuesday.

The Prince of Wales has very kindly promised to be present at the festival, which will be held on the 13th April, in aid of the Middlesex Hospital, which was founded in 1745, and for the extension of which a sum of £12,000 is needed.

Prior to the Queen leaving Buckingham Palace, on Wednesday, on her return to Windsor Castle, the Prime Minister was admitted to an audience of her Majesty, that he might make the usual communications previous to the assembling of Parliament for a new session.

We regret to announce the death at Brighton on Monday of Mrs. Reginald Hart-Dyke, the youngest daughter of the late Lord Alfred Paget, and wife of Mr. Reginald Hart-Dyke, the youngest brother of Bro. Sir William Hart-Dyke, Bart., M.P.

The Queen's dinner party at Buckingham Palace on Monday included the Empress Frederick of Germany, the Princess Louise, Duchess of Fife and the Duke of Fife, Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, and the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone gave a dinner party at the Premier's official residence in Downing-street on Wednesday, at which there were present the Italian Ambassador and the Countess Tornielli, Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Breadalbane, Earl Granville, the Speaker and Miss Peel, Sir Algernon and Lady West, and others.

The Duke of York has declined the freedom of the city of Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the ground that he is unable to depart from the rule already laid down, that he should accept the freedom only of metropolitan cities and that from which he derives his title. At the same time his Royal Highness has expressed his gratitude to the city of Newcastle for the distinction it proposed to confer upon him.

We regret to hear that the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., the "Father of the House of Commons," was suddenly overtaken by a fainting fit while at the Wellington Club on Wednesday evening, and after a time was removed to his residence in Cadogan-place. The right honourable gentleman completed his 92nd year on the 3rd January.

Bro. Lord Mayor Tyler presided at a meeting held at the Mansion House on Tuesday in connection with the East London Nursing Society for tending the sick poor in their houses by means of trained nurses. The report, which was adopted, was moved by Bro. Alderman Sir David Evans, K.C.M.G., and was supported by Alderman Faudel Phillips, and others, who all bore willing testimony to the increasing value of the Society.

Owing to the absence of the Duke of Cambridge on the Continent, the Earl of Waldegrave presided at the Winter General Meeting of the National Rifle Association, held in the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall, on Wednesday evening, among the members present being Sir Henry Fletcher, Bart., M.P., Bro. Lord Kinnaird, Major Knox, Colonel Mackinnon, Sergeant Fulton, Mr. W. Wirrans, Captain Dalton Hunt, Mr. C. F. Lowe, and other well-known marksmen.

Bro. Alexander Howell's great "History of 257, Portsmouth," is rapidly approaching completion. Proof sheets have been received, covering pages 91 to 130, and bringing down the narrative to 1844. The portion thus referred to begins with the election of Lord John George Lennox as W.M., a presentation to his lordship later on, with interesting correspondence; By-Laws of 1837; tracing boards purchased; laying of foundation stones with Masonic ceremony; appointment of Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis as Dep. Prov. Grand Master of Hants; erection of a Masonic hall; Sir Lucius Curtis appointed Prov. Grand Master, and address voted; By-Laws of 1842; installation ceremony; death of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, M.W.G.M., &c. Illustrations to hand include facsimile of first page of the premier Minute Book of the Royal Arch Chapter of 1769, alluding to the Mark Degree (the earliest of the kind known); and two of signatures and marks of the members from late last century down to 1840, very curious and interesting. The names of subscribers are still received at one guinea each until publication. "A word to the wise," should be good enough.

THE ELECTION OF GRAND TREASURER.

The Grand Lodge authorities have, as we announced last week, made special arrangements for the expected rush of the brethren to the poll. Other authorities seem to have made special arrangements of almost equal importance in the direction of sustaining the inner man. Not only will there be the usual provision for visitors at the Freemasons' Tavern and Holborn Restaurant, but the manager of the Inns of Court Hotel has announced his intention, in our advertising columns, of providing a special luncheon in the large and splendid room so pleasantly overlooking Lincoln's Inn Fields. This, at the moderate figure charged, should be well attended.

ANOTHER BANK FAILURE is unfortunately in these days a familiar piece of news dished up at breakfast time as regularly as the matutinal coffee and roll. Fortunately, however, for the peace and happiness of mankind tidings of successes as well as failures are received. The most pleasing and beneficial amongst the former are the letters which arrive from all parts of the world announcing the wonderful cures effected by Holloway's Pills and Ointment. No disease can withstand their almost magical influence. At the present time, when rapid weather changes are helping to speed the progress of influenza, rheumatism, and the various diseases of the throat, chest, and lungs, no family should be without a supply of these valuable medicines.

The Duke of Cambridge has approved of Colonel G. M. Onslow, of the Cavalry Depot at Canterbury, being again commandant at the Royal Military tournament this year.

The Duchess of Sutherland has consented to distribute prizes to the successful students of the Royal Female School of Art, at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, at three p.m. on the 13th inst.

The Queen has consented to the services of Major J. F. Burn-Murdoch, 1st (Royal) Dragoons, Brigade-Major of Cavalry at Aldershot, being placed at the disposal of the Khedive as commandant of the Cavalry of the Egyptian Army.

Bro. Sergt.-Major Hazel, S.W. of the Eldon Lodge, No. 1755, Portishead, was on Thursday, the 22nd ult., presented with a marble timepiece, a dinner service, and a dozen knives and forks, on his retiring after 12 years' service from the post of instructor of the corps.

Brethren are invited to send for the list of Masonic Books published at the office of the *Freemason*. Many works of interest both to the Masonic student and general reader have recently been added, and the publisher will gladly forward a copy to any address on receipt of a post-card.

The Duke of Westminster presided at the annual meeting, at Chester, of the Industrial Training Ship, Ohio, stationed in the Menai Straits, Bangor, the Duchess of Westminster and Bro. Sir Horatio and Lady Lloyd being among those present.

The Point-to-Point Races in connection with the Bicester and Warden Hill Hunt were held at Stratton Audley, on Wednesday, among those present being Bro. the Earl of Jersey, Viscount Villiers, Lord and Lady Chesham, Bro. Viscount Brackley, and others. The Oxford University Race was won by Viscount Villiers, on his Ebony, and the Farmers' Race by Mr. G. Mansfield, on Spilsmore.

We regret to record the death of Bro. Col. Addison Potter, of Newcastle, who was at the time of his death Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch in Northumberland. He has held many important offices in Masonry during his long connection with the Craft, amongst others that of Grand Master Overseer of Mark Master Masons in 1886. Col. Potter was in his seventy-fourth year, and it is stated was the oldest volunteer officer in the Kingdom. A more detailed notice of his Masonic career will appear in a future issue.

The Prince of Wales presided at a meeting of his Royal Highness's Council, which was held at the offices of the Duchy of Cornwall, on Wednesday. Among the members present being the Earl of Leicester, Sir Henry James, Sir Nigel Kingscote, Sir Dighton Probyn, and Mr. Holtzmann. In the evening the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of York, and the Princesses Victoria and Maud, witnessed a performance of "Charley's Aunt," at the Globe Theatre. On Thursday evening the Prince left London for the Continent, travelling *via* Dover and Calais.

The Queen left Windsor Castle for Buckingham Palace on Monday, and the day following held the first Drawing Room of the season, among the members of the Royal Family being the Grand Duke and Grand Ducal Highness Princess Alice of Hesse, the Prince and Princess of Wales and their daughter, the Princess Victoria, the Duke of Connaught, the Duchess of Albany, Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, the Duke of York, and Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. A large number of presentations were made, the names having been previously submitted to and approved by her Majesty.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.—Bro. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, of the Natural History Branch of the British Museum, gave a lecture on "Birds," to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, on Thursday, the 22nd ult. The lecture, illustrated with lime-light pictures of the different birds, was listened to with intense interest by the children. It was an act of great kindness on the part of Bro. Sharpe, a kindness which was appreciated to the fullest extent by his listeners. We may add that our esteemed brother is S.W. of the Rynnymede Lodge, and a member of the Savage Club Lodge.

THE GLASGOW MASONIC HALL COMPANY, LIMITED.—This company was registered in Edinburgh on the 15th inst., with a capital of £20,000, in 20,000 shares of £1, to ratify the purchase by John Graham, of Broadstone, Glasgow, of certain subjects in West Regent-street, Glasgow, and to enter into, and carry into effect, a certain agreement, and to provide a hall, lodge-rooms, and other premises, within the City of Glasgow, suitable for Masonic and general purposes. There are not to be less than seven nor more than 15 ordinary directors, apart from *ex-officio* directors. All the directors are to be Freemasons, and each is to hold in his own right not less than 50 shares. Thirteen directors have already been appointed.

An interesting circumstance occurred on the 19th ult., during the visit of the Prov. G. Lodge of Dumfriesshire to Lochmaben. Bro. Johnstone-Douglas, the Grand Master of the province, had inspected the books of St. Magdalene Lodge, and complimented Bro. M. Millan, the W.M., upon the satisfactory position of the Craft in the old burgh, when Bro. W. Dryden, a P.M., rose to thank the deputation. He stated that he claimed to be more closely connected with St. Magdalene's Lodge than any other brother in the province, for his great-grandfather was one of its founders in 1766 and there had been a Dryden in it ever since. Naturally Bro. Johnstone-Douglas was impressed with the statement, and he expressed the hope that the connection between the lodge and the house of Dryden would long remain unbroken. But Bro. Dryden is still a bachelor!

Not the least pleasant dance of the present season was that held on the 20th ult. in the Central Hall by the officers and members of the Humber Lodge, No. 57. Although numerous applications were made for admission—far more than the accommodation warranted—the Committee wisely decided to limit the number of tickets, and the result was that those present (about 160) were not inconvenienced. The hall was very tastefully decorated; indeed, one could hardly recognise the interior of the building, so complete had been the transformation. The W.M., Bro. James Wildbore, officiated as Master of Ceremonies. He was ably assisted by the Stewards—Bros. T. G. Milner, S.W.; G. H. Panton, J.W.; J. Martenson, D.C.; W. C. Thornton, I.G. (who, with Bro. Milner, fulfilled the duties of Hon. Secs.); G. W. Richardson, J. Milestone, T. Morrill, and Councillor P. Atkinson.

Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry has arrived in Hamilton-place from Wales.

The Duchess of Fife has consented to re-open the Welbeck-street General Dispensary, Marylebone, early this month.

The Earl and Countess of Dudley and family have left Brown's Hotel, Albermarle-street, for Witley Court, Worcestershire.

The funeral of the late Madame Patey will take place to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon, at West Hampstead. On Thursday afternoon the coffin containing the remains were removed from Sheffield to London.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon, Earl and Countess Spencer, and Sir Edward Bradford arrived at Windsor Castle on Thursday evening on a visit to the Queen, and were included in the Royal dinner party.

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.—The attendance beneath the great concert dome at Kensington on Thursday evening was not overpoweringly large. However, although there were many groups of empty seats to be noted, the excellence of the performance was not to be denied. Both the Requiem from Gounod's "Mors et Vita" and Rossini's familiar "Stabat Mater," were rendered in a manner that did Sir Joseph Barnby and his forces all credit.

Some valuable MSS. and literary treasures will be offered at Sotheby's in the course of a four-days' miscellaneous sale next week. These include a series of the original editions of the works of Charles Dickens, which will be offered first in one lot at the upset price of £200, and failing that, the volumes will be sold separately; a collection of books from Napoleon Bonaparte's Library at St. Helena, which became the property of Jerome Bonaparte, and eventually came into the possession of Fraulein Malvine Fischer, of Arolsen, Waldeck, Germany; and the MS. of Sir Walter Scott's "Life of Napoleon," mostly in the author's handwriting.

Bro. the Earl of Kintore, G.C.M.G., Governor of South Australia, was on Thursday afternoon the recipient of the Honorary Degree of Doctor in Law at Cambridge. The honorary degree of Doctor in Science will be conferred upon Senor Ramon y Cajal, Professor of Histology in the University of Madrid next Tuesday. Among those who proceeded to the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery on Thursday was Mr. J. C. Gardner, of Emmanuel College, the stroke of the Light Blue crews of 1888, 1889, and 1890, who was greeted with loud cries of "Well rowed!" from the occupants of the galleries.

In the unavoidable absence of the Countess of Wemyss, Lady Hilda Brodrick distributed the prizes to the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers, at the head-quarters, James's-street. Lord Elcho's Challenge Cup was won by Major Brodie's (D) Company. Private J. P. Hunter, of the same company, carried off the Battalion Championship and Wemyss Cup. Colonel Nicol, in reading the report of the regiment, referred feelingly to the death of Captain Hill, for 13 years Quartermaster of the Scottish Rifles. The number of men had increased from 801 in 1890 to 855 at the present time, and the battalion figure of merit has steadily increased, and now stands at 186'32. An interesting feature of the evening was the presentation of a congratulatory address to Lord and Lady Wemyss, in honour of their golden wedding. An excellent concert followed the distribution of prizes.

Distinguished patronage has been given unstintedly to the ball which is to be held on Monday next, at the Cannon-street Hotel, on behalf of the Firemen's Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The cause is one which naturally commends itself to the public, for the fund is intended to relieve the pressing wants of women and children whose bread winners have died in the brigade service, but who, not having been actually killed at a fire, could not pass on to those dependent on them a claim for pension. Under the circumstances, a ball to augment the fund which supplies the delicacy has been arranged, and the Duke of York, the Duke of Portland, the Duke of Westminster, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl of St. Germans, Lord Farrar, Viscount Curzon, M.P.; Sir Edward Thornton, the Lord Mayor, Sir Edward Bradford, Mr. John Hutton, and Capt. Simonds are among the prominent patrons. It rests, however, with the general public to ensure the success of the gathering by their support, and this they can give at any London Fire Station, before Monday, or to the Secretary of the Fund, Mr. E. Hunt, at the Southwark Head-quarters.

Reference was made the other day to the adaptability of the Masonic Ritual for developing the elocutionary powers. There are many eloquent Masons, no doubt, but the common-place utterance of the present day compared with those of a hundred years ago are what a farthing candle is to the electric light. In the Ettrick Shepherd's "Laird of Winchholm," the learned propositions of Dominic were beyond the comprehension of poor Clinkum, and those who listened to the addresses of some of the early Masons must have been as sorely puzzled as the blacksmith was with the schoolmaster's big words and overplus of wisdom. No Masonic speech of modern date, for instance, could compare with the resplendent eloquence of the Durham Mason, Sir William Appleby, when he presented an address to George the Third on the occasion of his Majesty's recovery to health and wisdom in the year 1789. "Most Gracious and Potent Monarch," said he, "Great Britain—the Queen of Isles and Pride of Nations, Arbitress of Europe (perhaps of the world), the Nursery of Arts, Freedom and Independence, the Terror of her Enemies and the Scourge of Tyrants is once more raised from a depending humble situation to its present glorious and resplendent acme of power, opulence and grandeur, by a descendent of the great and illustrious Chatham and his responsible coadjutors in administration, under the immediate direction, benign and spiritual auspices of our most gracious, potent, and much-beloved Sovereign; for whose happy restoration to the inestimable blessing of health, domestic felicity, and for the political salvation and comfort of these realms, the humble and grateful adorations to the Omnipotent be ever due. The valleys may now again be justly said to laugh and sing, and the mountains to leap for joy, praising the One Eternal for His infinite mercies."—*Newcastle Chronicle*.

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