

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.

VCL. XXXIV. NO. 1378.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1895.

[PRICE 3d.]

THE CRAFT IN ESSEX.

It is difficult to imagine how the annual meeting of our Essex brethren could be otherwise than a success. Indeed, under such a chief as the Earl of WARWICK has proved himself to be, supported as he is by so distinguished a Deputy as Bro. F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C., G. Reg., and with such capable and experienced officers as Bro. T. J. RALLING, P.A.G.D.C., and Bro. G. LUCKING, P.G.P., there is no limit to the prosperity which so enthusiastic a Province is capable of achieving. The lodges are numerous, and the brethren, both officers and members, are careful to perform their appointed duties efficiently and in the manner prescribed by ancient usage. The monetary affairs of the Province are carefully tended, with the result that it is invariably found possible to vote a substantial donation to each of the Masonic Institutions and still retain a fair balance in hand for any emergencies that may arise. In short, whether we have regard to the lodges taken separately, and the manner in which they fulfil their duties, or to the Province as a whole; whether we look at the distinguished brethren, who have been successively entrusted with the government of the Province, to their foremost officers, or to the rank and file, we find reasons enough and to spare to justify the statement that the present position of Freemasonry in Essex is flourishing, and that its future prospects are as encouraging as its past career has been satisfactory. It is close on 120 years since it was constituted a Province and placed in charge of Bro. THOMAS DUNCKERLEY, and under that able Mason and his successors it has gone on slowly but surely acquiring fresh strength and importance. This gradual development, however, is chiefly noticeable during the last 40 years. When the late Bro. ROBERT J. BAGSHAW was appointed Prov. Grand Master in 1854, there were only some half-dozen of the existing lodges on the roll of the Province, but between that year and 1879 a full dozen were constituted. During the brief period that the late Lord TENTERDEN presided over the Province, the additions were of necessity few, but since 1882, when the present Prov. G. Master, then Lord BROOKE, was installed in office, the number of lodges in Essex has been augmented by some 17, the number on the roll at the present time being 37, with an aggregate membership of 1877 as compared with 1862 last year. But this mere numerical increase is far from being the only evidence we have of the sound and healthy condition of the Craft in this county. We have only to look back through the Reports which have appeared in the columns of this journal of the Festivals which have been held in behalf of our Masonic Institutions during the last 12 or 15 years, and we shall see that Essex is both a regular and a generous supporter of them all; while on particular occasions, as when the present Prov. Grand Master has presided as Festival Chairman, or when the Girls' School celebrated its Centenary and the Benevolent Institution its Jubilee, it has taken a leading place among the contributing Provinces, and in its enthusiasm has subscribed even more than might have been reasonably expected. All this, however, and much else that redounds to the credit of our Essex brethren has been chronicled from time to time in the *Freemason*, and we only refer to it now, not with the idea of repeating an oft-told tale which pretty nearly every one must be familiar, but because it affords ample ground for the remarks of the Earl of WARWICK in Prov. Grand Lodge at Grays a fortnight since, that "each year he felt, if possible, more thankful for the cordial and kind support they (the Essex brethren) always gave him, and more

proud of the position of the Order" in the Province. Knowing what we do of Essex Masonry, we are not, as we suggested at the commencement of this article, surprised at the success which attends its meetings, but none the less is it our duty to congratulate both the Prov. Grand Master on having under his charge a Province which supports him so loyally, as well as the Province on its good fortune in being presided over by one who has attached to himself so large a measure of esteem and respect from his brethren.

MUSIC IN THE LODGE.

From the earliest days of Speculative Masonry music has played a prominent part in our lodge procedure. It is on record that Bro. MATTHEW BIRKHEAD, author of the Entered Apprentice song, was the Master of one of the 20 "particular lodges," which signified their approval of the first "Book of Constitutions," compiled by the Rev. JAMES ANDERSON, A.M., in 1723; and so highly does his composition appear to have been appreciated by the brethren of those days that the words, according to Bro. R. F. GOULD in his "Four Old Lodges," are bound up with the edition. It is also on record that Bro. LAURENCE DERMOTT, who, if he was not the founder of the "Ancient" Society of English Freemasons, was unquestionably its chief organiser and brightest luminary, was himself one of the most zealous contributors to the harmony of lodge meetings. Indeed, on one memorable occasion he was openly charged in Grand Committee with having "actually sung and lectured the Brethren out of their senses." At another meeting of the Grand Committee, held on the 13th July, 1753, the minutes tell us that "the Worshipful Master in the chair thank'd the G.S. for the last new song which he composed and hoped that the Applause of his Brethren would induce Bro' Dermott G.S. to compose another 'gainst the next St John's day, which the G.S. promised to attempt." On yet a third occasion—at an emergent communication of Grand Lodge on the 26th September, 1761—after a letter of apology from the Earl of KELLY, G.M., for his inability to fulfil his promise to attend the meeting had been read, the minutes go on to state that "The G. Master's Health was (again) drunk in form and the G.S. sang the Grand Master's Song." We are unable at this distance of time, indeed it does not come within our province, to determine whether these exhibitions of vocal ability on the part of Grand Secretary DERMOTT are to be ascribed to any special musical talent he possessed, to the more convivial habits of the time, or to the respect in which, as a conscientious brother, he held the liberal arts and sciences generally. It is enough for our purpose that from the days of BIRKHEAD onward to those of DERMOTT, and from those of DERMOTT till this present year of Grace, music has always, and very justly, been regarded as one of the chief attractions at our lodge gatherings. But the desire to associate music with our proceedings, both in lodge and at the banquet-table afterwards, has been very greatly developed during these latter years. Nearly all our lodges now look to the charm inspired by music, be it vocal or instrumental, in order to ensure the success of their principal gatherings during the year, while not a few of them have gone so far as to introduce what may almost be described as a service of sacred song into our lodge work, the sacred song being always most carefully selected, and as it generally appears, most appropriate to the particular ceremony or ceremonies which are going to be worked. This may or may not be in accordance with the Book of Constitutions, which, so far as we

are aware, says nothing upon the subject of music; or with the unwritten law, which, for obvious reasons, is silent in like manner. We prefer to offer no opinion upon this point. We are merely stating a fact which, whether its legality is recognised or not, is very generally known among the brethren, namely, that the introduction of solemn and appropriate music into our lodge ceremonial has found favour with a numerous section of the Craft, while every year we find a tendency on the part of lodges to give prominence during our after-dinner proceedings to music rather than to oratory. And hence it is that nowadays there is a larger number of professional brethren than at any time previously, who are both able and willing to give their services at our meetings and by so doing add largely to the pleasure of those present. This, as we have said, may or may not be in accordance with the law or established usage, but there can be no doubt it is a great boon to the Masonic public, nor do we suppose there are many brethren who, having once heard the Schartau Glee Singers, the Cynthia Quartette, the Meister Glee Singers, or other organised body of musical brethren, will care to see a revival on the same scale as a few years since of the old-fashioned after-dinner oratory. We must have speeches, it is true, but in mercy to those who are called upon to listen to them, let them be short; where we can have music, let there be plenty of it and of a high-class, whether those who minister to our pleasure in this respect be professional or amateur musicians.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SHROPSHIRE.

A meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Shropshire was held by Bro. Sir Otley Wakeman, Bart., P.G.M., at the Agricultural Hall, Bridgnorth, on Thursday, the 23rd ult. The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, the P.G.M. and the D.P.G.M., Bro. R. G. Venables, P.A.G.D.C., were saluted. Bros. W. H. Spaul, P.A.G.D.C., and Capt. G. Williams-Freeman, P.G.W. Egypt, were also saluted.

The minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held at Whitchurch on 31st July, 1894, were read and confirmed.

The roll of lodges and the names of the Provincial Grand Officers were read; the total number of members present was 65, two lodges being unrepresented.

The statement of accounts of the Provincial Grand Lodge—which had been previously circulated—showed a balance in the bank of £53 15s.

The accounts were adopted, and Bro. J. H. Cooksey was unanimously re-elected Prov. G. Treasurer.

The P.G.M. then appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Bro. W. L. Southwell, 262, 1621	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" W. Adams, 117, 2311	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. G. R. Plant, 2311 (re-appointed)	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaplains.
" Rev. H. K. Southwell, 1621	...	...
" J. H. Cooksey, 1621 (re-elected)	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" I. E. Woolstein, 1120	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" W. H. Spaul, 1124 (re-appointed)	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" S. H. Valentine, 611	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" T. Free, 1575	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" S. C. Southam, 262	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" W. Baxter, 117, 2311	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" A. Joyce, 2311	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" W. H. Packer, 1120	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. H. Morris, 117	...	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. Caldwell, 601	...	...
" W. C. Reynolds, 1124 (re-appointed)	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" W. Martin, 1432	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" A. C. Minshall, 2131	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" A. Graham, 262	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" H. F. Newman, 117	...	...	} Prov. G. Stewards.
" A. Lacey, 611	...	...
" T. Owen, 1432	...	...
" J. Ashmore, 1896	...	...
" A. Minshall, 2131	...	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" B. Jones, 2311	...	...
" H. Goodall, 1621	...	...

The DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER reported the continued success of the Provincial Calendar; of 300 copies printed for 1895, only seven remained undisposed of; the profit made was £1 19s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £4 4s. 6d.

On the proposition of the PROV. GRAND MASTER, a hearty vote of thanks was given to the Committee for their labours.

The DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER also reported upon the work of the lodges in the province, from which it appeared that the number of subscribing members was 348; there had been, in 1894, 17 initiations and five joining members.

The ninth annual report of the Shropshire Masonic Charitable Association was read showing that, in 1894, two ladies and six brethren had acted as Stewards to the three London Institutions, the amount obtained being £221 11s., making a total in the nine years Shropshire had been a separate province, of £2998 5s. 9d. remitted to these Institutions. For the Provincial Fund a further sum of £52 18s. had also been collected in 1894.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER intimated that in every future application for a dispensation to wear Masonic clothing at a ball, or elsewhere, he should

require a guarantee of 10 guineas, such sum to be devoted to purposes of Masonic Charity.

Bro. W. H. SPAULL was unanimously nominated for election on the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to a luncheon at the Crown and Raven Hotel.

The usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured, the PROV. GRAND MASTER, in response to that of his health, expressing the pleasure it always gave him to preside at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge; he was much gratified at seeing so many brethren present, he considered it a good attendance having regard to the difficulties of railway communication between the several towns in the province.

CONSECRATION OF THE STOKE NEWINGTON LODGE, No. 2552.

On Monday, the 22nd ult., a new lodge with the above title was consecrated at the Assembly Rooms, Defoe-road, Stoke Newington. The founders numbered 17, and are Bro. Lieut.-Col. C. H. Nevill, P.M.; W. H. Hargrave, Frank Chapman, Chas. Coram, William S. Wright, H. E. Moore, L.D.S., C. J. Pond Jones, J. Sheffield, Vicor J. Wright, C. Varley, S. Armfield, R. S. Cushing, J. G. Manten, R. M. Jones, F. Tyler, Wm. Hicklin, and G. Webb.

Among the visitors were Bros. Alex. Corrie, 2119, D.G.T. of Queensland; H. Sadler, P.M. 2148; F. Varley, P.M. 1265; J. P. Parkes, P.M. 1538; T. Easterbrook, W.M. 1216; Albert Mathams, W.M. 548; W. T. Imbrey, 2372; A. Smith, 857; Arthur A. Kelly, 1228; C. F. Cox, 2045; F. C. Roper Barker, 1641; H. Hetley, 30; H. Wand, 2374; E. W. Rollings, 1695; A. O. Grosvenor, 2045; and H. A. Wright, 30.

The lodge was formally opened by Bro. E. Letchworth, P.G.D., G. Sec., who was assisted by Bros. F. Ernest Pocock, M.D., D.G.D.C., as S.W.; C. F. Matier, P.G. Std. Br., as J.W.; the Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C., as Chaplain; Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D.C.; and Major G. H. Newington Bridges, as I.G.

The Consecrating Officer opened the lodge in the Second and Third Degrees, and, by virtue of his power, resumed to the Second Degree, and the opening hymn "Hail, Eternal!" was then sung by the brethren.

The Consecrating Officer addressed those present in most appropriate and felicitous terms on the nature of the meeting, and the P.G. Chap. offered prayer. The brethren of the lodge having been arranged and presented to the Consecrating Officer, the D.C. read the warrant, and the petitioners having signified their approval of the officers named in the warrant, the P.G. Chap. delivered an oration on the subject of Freemasonry.

The lodge being dedicated and duly constituted, the W.M. designate, Bro. Lieut.-Col. Chas. Henry Nevill, V.D., P.M., was presented to Bro. Letchworth, who in the most impressive manner installed him into the chair of K.S. as first Master of the Stoke Newington Lodge.

The W.M. having been duly proclaimed, appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. W. H. Hargrave, P.M., S.W.; Frank Chapman, J.W.; Chas. Coram, Treas.; William S. Wright, W.M. 30, Sec.; H. G. Moore, L.D.S., S.D.; C. J. Pond Jones, J.D.; Jas. Sheffield, I.G.; Victor J. Wright, D.C.; and Chas. Varley and S. Armfield, Stewards.

At the close of the installation ceremony a vote of thanks to the Consecrating Officers was passed, together with the honorary membership of the lodge.

Four propositions were given in for initiation and three for joining members, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where an excellent repast was served.

After the repast, the W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts in pleasant terms, and which were heartily responded to.

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, P.G.D., responded for "The Grand Officers."

Bro. Lieut.-Col. C. H. NEVILLE, V.D., W.M., in proposing "The Consecrating Officers," with which he coupled the name of Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Sec., said that every brother who witnessed the ceremonies that evening must have been delighted with the manner in which they were performed, and he felt sure that the brethren of the lodge would agree with him in saying that a warm tribute of praise was due to the Consecrating Officers for the splendid working of the ceremonies that day.

Bro. LETCHWORTH, in acknowledging the toast, said the brethren were to be congratulated on securing the warrant so expeditiously, and he felt that one and all of the founders had the interest of the lodge at heart, and that it might be a great success was the earnest wish of the Consecrating Officers. He then proposed "The Health of the W.M."

Bro. Lieut.-Colonel NEVILLE, W.M., in responding, said he had the interest and welfare of the lodge thoroughly at heart, and having consented to be its first W.M. he should try his best to make it a thorough success.

Bro. ALEX. CORRIE, D.G.T. of Queensland, responded for "The Visitors," and expressed the great pleasure it gave him to be present at the consecration.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER, in proposing the toast of "The Officers," said that the foundation of the lodge was due to Bro. Chapman, J.W., who had worked indefatigably towards its establishment, and who had its prosperity thoroughly at heart.

Bro. CHAPMAN suitably responded.

The Tyler's toast ended a most enjoyable evening and a successful meeting.

The pleasures of the evening, both at the consecration and at the banqueting table, were greatly enhanced by the musical arrangements under the direction of Bro. Kelly, ably assisted by Miss Clements, Bro. Coram, and several other brethren, whose musical renderings were much appreciated.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ENGLAND.

The following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday next :

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 16th April, to the 16th July, 1895, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows :

To Balance, Grand Chapter	£801 19 9	By Disbursements during the	
" " Unappropriated	...	Quarter	£377 9 8
" " Account	203 12 8	" Balance	864 7 6
" Subsequent Receipts..	438 10 11	" " Unappropriated	...
		Account	202 6 2
	£1444 3 4		£1444 3 4

which balances are in the Bank of England, Law Courts Branch.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petitions :

1st. From Comps. Thomas William Faulkner, as Z. ; George Augustus Mursell, as H. ; Henry Haven Wheeler, as J. ; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Medina Lodge, No. 35, to be called the Asher Barfield Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Cowes, in the Isle of Wight.

2nd. From Comps. Walter Wellsman, as Z. ; Oliver Claud Robson, as H. ; Edmund Robert Bartley Denniss, as J. ; and seven others for a chapter to be attached to the Willesden Lodge, No. 2489, Willesden, to be called the Willesden Chapter, and to meet at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, London.

3rd. From Comps. Henry Bond, as Z. ; John Gabriel Albert, as H. ; Arthur Dutton, as J. ; and 11 others for a chapter to be attached to the Avondale Lodge, No. 2395, to be called the Avondale Chapter, and to meet at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, London.

4th. From Comps. Godfrey A. B. Geary, as Z. ; Rev. William Morris, as H. ; William Corder Aiken, as J. ; and six others for a chapter to be attached to the Tyrian Lodge, No. 1628, to be called the Tyrian Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Bundaberg, Queensland.

5th. From Comps. Charles Jolly, as Z. ; Thomas Ringrose, as H. ; John George Hammond, as J. ; and 15 others for a chapter to be attached to the Royal Victorian Jubilee Lodge, No. 2184, to be called the Victorian Chapter, and to meet at the Phoenix Hotel, Rainham, in the county of Essex.

The foregoing petitions being regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have likewise received memorials, with extracts of minutes, for permission to remove the following chapters :

The Chapter of Israel, No. 1502, from the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, to Freemasons' Hall, Eastbank-street, Southport.

The St. Aubyn Chapter, No. 954, from the Ebrington Masonic Hall to the St. Aubyn Masonic Hall, Moon-street, Morice Town, Devonport.

The Hamer Chapter, No. 1393, from the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, to the Alexandra Hotel, Dale-street, Liverpool.

The Royal Union Chapter, No. 382, from the Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge, to the Albany Hotel, Twickenham.

The Mount Moriah Chapter, No. 143, from the Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, to the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly.

The Committee have to report that the Priory Chapter, No. 1863, Tynemouth having ceased to meet, they recommend that the chapter be summoned to show cause why it should not be removed from the roll of chapters.

(Signed) ROBERT GREY, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
17th July, 1895.

THE "RED BOOK" OF THE A. & A. RITE.
JUBILEE YEAR.

The "Rules, Regulations, and List of Members, corrected to 30th June, 1895," were in print in the third week of July, which assuredly shows most praiseworthy promptitude, considering the mass of details, names, dates, &c.

As the Supreme Council was "duly, lawfully, and constitutionally established on the 26th day of October, A.D. 1845," this is the jubilee year, and certainly an appropriate time to take a retrospect of the work achieved by that distinguished body. The "Red Book" supplies abundance of material for such a purpose and in a very handy form. The original members were Dr. Crucefix, the Rev. George Oliver, D.D., and Bro. Henry Udall, the fourth of the *historic nine* being Dr. Henry Beaumont Leeson, who was Sovereign Grand Commander when I was "perfected," over 30 years ago, and personally conferred the Rose Croix and preliminary Degrees on those of us who took part in the formation of the St. Aubyn Chapter, at Devonport, No. 20. I believe Bro. Charles John Vigne, the next Head of the Rite, was also present. Captain Nathaniel George Philips was elected the fifth Sovereign Grand Commander, and was succeeded by the late Earl of Carnarvon, on whose regretted decease the Earl of Lathom (Pro G.M. of England) became the chief of the Supreme Council. His lordship has the following brethren as his coadjutors as members of the sole governing body : Captain N. G. Philips (P.G.D. of England), Lieutenant Grand Commander ; Hugh David Sandeman (Past Dist. G.M. of Bengal), Grand Secretary General ; the Earl of Limerick (P.P.G.M. of Bristol), Grand Chancellor ; Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie (Pro. G.M. of East Lancashire), G.C. of Guards ; Frank Richardson (P.G.D. of England), Grand Treasurer General ; Lieut.-Col. Hugh S. Somerville Burney (P.G.D. of England), Grand Marshal ; the Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg, M.A. (P.G. Chaplain of England), Grand Prior ; and James Henry Matthews (P.D.G.D. of C. of England), Grand Chamberlain (elected this year).

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who is the Grand Patron, and H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught are also members of the highest Degree (the 33°), and there are three retired from active service : Lieut. Col. G. A. Vernon, P. Prov. G.M. Stafford ; Major Gen. Henry Clerk, F.R.S., P.S.G.D. of England ; and Lieut.-Col. John Glas Sandeman, P.G. Sec. Gen. ; the first two being honorary members of the S.C., with Bro. Josiah H. Drummond, the distinguished Craftsman of the Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A.

There are eight Districts presided over by as many Inspectors General in this country and five for abroad. Eleven members of the 33° are also "Unattached," these including all on the roll of that high position, mostly brethren holding very honourable rank in Grand Lodge of England and zealous Craftsmen.

Of the 32°, no more than 54 are permitted in this country, five having been elected since the previous edition of the "Red Book" was published. The roll has still a few vacancies. For the 31°, 90 are allowed, seven having been added since June 30th, 1894. The 30° has witnessed several accessions during the past term, and is a distinction much appreciated.

Some 135 warrants have been granted from 1846, there being 109 still on the register. The "Baldwyn," Bristol, is at the head, with its evidence of dating back over a century, in connection with the Knights Templars and a Grand Encampment in 1780, with the laws, &c. Then No. 1 begins the consecutive enumeration with the "Grand Metropolitan Chapter," London, warranted in 1846.

The aim of the Supreme Council has never been for numbers, either of chapters or members. Indeed, I think, if anything, that Body has been rather too anxious to keep the roll of the 30° more exclusive than desirable, considering the many brethren in the Rose Croix Degree that are anxious for preferment. However, doubtless they will receive advancement *in time*, if their applications are warmly endorsed by the Inspector Generals of the Districts. As a matter of fact, it may be stated that there are far more members of the 33° in the United States than there are of the 32° in this country. On the whole, one cannot but admire the decision of the authorities to preserve the dignity of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and keep the "Higher Degrees" for those who have well earned distinction by reason of their conduct as gentlemen and Masons.

The Rules and Regulations have an addition this time—

"13. In all cases of suspension, exclusion, or expulsion passed by Grand Lodge, or by any other recognised Masonic authority, of a brother who is a member of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, he shall, *ipso facto*, be also suspended, excluded, or expelled from that Body."

The new edition of the "Red Book" is larger than any of its predecessors, but may be had as formerly for 1s. 4d. post free, and I should like to emphasise the note on the page of "Explanations," that "*It is very desirable that a copy should be presented to every brother on perfection.*"

In concluding this brief sketch of a very interesting book, I beg to congratulate the R.W. Bro. Hugh David Sandeman most sincerely on the production of such a complete, useful, and accurate volume, and to offer my best wishes to the "Supreme Council" on the advent of the Jubilee of the "Ancient and Accepted Rite" of this Country.

W. J. HUGHAN.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. SIR CHARLES MITCHELL,
G.C.M.G., AS DISTRICT GRAND MASTER OF
THE EASTERN ARCHPELAGO.

Bro. Sir Charles Bullen High Mitchell, G.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Straits Settlements, was on Wednesday, the 12th June, installed as District Grand Master of the Eastern Archipelago. The ceremony took place in the Freemasons' Hall, Coleman-street, in the presence of a very large number of members of the Craft, in which there were representatives of every lodge in the district. The installation was not followed, as is customary, by the usual Masonic banquet, a departure expressly made, so we understand, in deference to the wishes of his Excellency. As Bro. Sir Charles Mitchell stated during the course of the function, it was with great diffidence on his part that he had accepted the high office of District Grand Master, a post of much dignity and honour, demanding, in its administrative duties, a considerable share of the time of the incumbent. Indeed, Bro. Sir Charles Mitchell is by no means so high in the Craft as have been some of his predecessors, particularly his immediate predecessor ; and that point proved no doubt a hesitating thought to acceptance. But mainly through the influence brought to bear by the retiring District Grand Master, Bro. Sir Charles Warren, the consent was obtained, and the necessary patent of office was granted by the M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. It was with feelings of general satisfaction that the Freemasons of the district learned of the consent of Bro. Sir Charles Mitchell to become their leader. Therefore the meeting of the Craft on the occasion proved to be the largest meeting that has been held since the time of the investiture of his Excellency's immediate predecessor. Special delegates had been sent from some of the lodges in the district, in order that their presence might testify to the unanimous approval which was given to the installation ; and, from the many congratulatory messages handed to Sir Charles at the conclusion of the ceremony, it is evident the newly-made District Grand Master enters upon his duties with the heartiest and most cordial goodwill of every lodge and every Craftsman in the district.

Having been duly installed in the chair, the Right Worshipful Dist. G. Master appointed his officers as follows :

Bro. J. P. Joaquim	...	...	Dist. D. p. G. M.
" E. Ormiston, 152	...	...	Dist. S. G. W.
" E. A. Burnett, 2403	...	...	Dist. J. G. W.
" T. de M. Braddell, 1152	...	...	Pres. B. G. P.
" Walter Makepiece, 58	...	...	Dist. G. Reg.
" E. E. Steele, 508	...	...	Dist. G. S. C.
" W. J. Napier, 1152	...	...	Dist. G. Treas.
" Rev. Frayling, 1152	...	...	Dist. G. Chap.
" W. R. Fiddes, 1555	...	...	Dist. S. G. D.
" John P. Joaquim, 1152	...	...	Dist. J. G. D.
" J. B. Matthews, 1152	...	...	Dist. G. S. of Wks.
" J. Gibson, 2225	...	...	Dist. G. D. of C.

Bro. J. Russell, 2337	...	...	Dist. A.G.D. of C.
" W. Bean, 508	...	...	Dist. G.S.B.
" W. Evans, 1555	...	...	} Dist. G. Std. Brs.
" C. V. Creagh, 2403	...	...
" H. Laughler, 508	...	...	Dist. G. Org.
" F. M. Elliott, 1152	...	...	Dist. G. Purst.
" J. F. Gowans, 508	...	...	Dist. A.G. Purst.
" G. Mousley, 508	...	...	} Dist. G. Stewards.
" A. Barker, 508	...	...
" Buckle, 1555	...	...
" J. Ward, 2225	...	...
" W. Nicholas, 2337	...	...
" H. R. Wolf, 2403	...	...	} Dist. G. Tyler.
" F. W. Jones, 508	...	...

Right Wor. Bro. Sir CHARLES MITCHELL then said: Wor. Bro. Joaquim and brethren,—I need not say that I have accepted this high and distinguished office in the Craft with a good deal of diffidence. I have such a high regard and respect for Freemasonry that I think that any man who accepts office in it lightly does a great wrong to the Craft. In your charge, Wor. Bro., you told me, and told me truly, that under my rule the interests of the Craft must either advance or recede. I implore the aid of the G.A.O.T.U. that the interests of the Craft may advance during my rule. Brethren, we live in an age when all institutions are sifted by the clearly keen eyes of the public, and I do not think that the Craft of Freemasonry can escape from the general rule. So surely as we impress on the world about us that we are not embodied for nothing, that we have come together in order that we may advance, in some measure, the good of humanity and of society, if, as I say, the world about us recognises this, so surely shall we prosper. But if, as I regret to say is the too general idea outside the lodge, the Craft exists but for purposes of pleasure, recreation, and society, then I need not tell you that the inevitable result will be retrogression. Brethren, I have heard such an account of the Craft in the Eastern Archipelago that I have little fear that the brethren, sustained by the high ideal of those who have raised the Craft to its present pinnacle of greatness, will, by the utmost power of their ability, by pure life, general usefulness, and charity, commend themselves to the Craft they belong to and to the world around us. I state these views shortly because I believe I have the assent of every brother here present to the general principle that I have evolved this evening. I have to congratulate myself on having secured the services as my Deputy of a brother who is well known to you, and who is a devoted Mason. And I have secured as officers of the District Grand Lodge good and earnest Masons. Brethren, may this then be a new point of departure for Freemasonry; may we all seek earnestly to advance the good of the Craft and the welfare of humanity!

Congratulations were then extended to the R.W.D.G.M. by representatives of lodges: Zeland, No. 508, St. George, Prince of Wales, Penang (telegram), Perak Jubilee (telegram), Read Lodge, Selangor (telegram) Borneo Lodge of Harmony, Shadwell Clerke Lodge, Penang, and District Grand Lodge of Burmah.

The Right Wor. Bro., replying thereto, thanked the District Grand Lodge of Burmah and the lodges of the district for the hearty congratulations which they had been good enough to send him. They had drawn a bill on futurity, and he trusted it would be duly honoured. He asked the representatives of the different lodges to convey his respectful thanks for the greetings.

The other business having been transacted, District Grand Lodge was closed with the usual formalities.

OPPORTUNITY.

How often 'mid the darkest gloom,
When clouds obscure the skies,
Some planet with its brilliant beams
Will unexpected rise.

Of unforeseen the gem of price,
Unheeded on the ground,
Concealed by crust from careless view,
By practised eye is found.

He, fortune favouring, the chance
Will eagerly embrace—
Then watchful opportunity
Unveils her glorious face.

'Tis thus by happy circumstance,
The budding thought sublime,
'Neath sunlight's fostering care will bloom
A golden flower of time!

UNSEEN FOES.

To foes without
Man will unflinching front oppose,
And courage by resistance grows,
'Till put to rout.

Before him flee,
Dispersed and broken o'er the plain,
The hosts which ne'er oppose again
The bold and free.

'Gainst foes within
Unseen, man cannot fight alone;
For oft their mastery will own
Legions of sin.

In God secure,
Let him celestial weapons wield,
The Spirit's sword and Faith's true shield,
With these endure.

F. W. DRIVER, M.A., P.M.

62, Lancas'er-road, Notting Hill, W.

MASONIC PRESENTATION TO BRO. DR. CLARK.

On Tuesday, the 23rd ult., Bro. Dr. F. W. Clark, the Medical Officer of Health for Lowestoft, received a flattering testimonial from Lodge St. Margaret on the occasion of his quitting Lowestoft for Hong Kong. There was a supper at the Crown and Anchor, prepared in Bro. Stebbing's best style, to which many members of the lodge and a few friends sat down. Bro. Kerry Rix, the W.M. of the lodge, presided, and presented Bro. Clark, in the name of the lodge, with a most artistically-illuminated address. Round the border is an inscription in Masonic cypher, relieved by bosses formed by the emblems of the Royal Arch, Mark Master, Secret Monitor, and Craft Degrees. The lettering is chaste and not over-elaborated, as is often the case.

The following is the text of the address: "St. Margaret's Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons, No. 1482. Grand Lodge of England. The Worshipful Master, Past Masters, officers, and brethren, in open lodge assembled, desire to place upon record their cordial appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Bro. Francis William Clark during his membership of the lodge, to express regret at his removal from Lowestoft, and to tender to him their hearty good wishes in his new sphere of usefulness, hoping that he may find in Hong Kong a lodge of Freemasons where his intimate knowledge of the antient usages and customs of the Craft will lead to his early Masonic advancement.—KERRY RIX, W.M.; W. J. ROBERTS, Secretary."

Our Portrait Gallery of Worshipful Masters.



BRO. JOSEPH HERBERT CHEETHAM, P.M.,

was initiated in Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge, No. 4, 13th August, 1880, and elected as a life member four years later. Joined the Gold Coast Lodge, No. 773, English Constitution in West Africa, 13th December, 1880. After serving various offices, he was elected and installed as W.M. 1886-1887, and was re-elected the following year. Exalted to the Royal Arch in Mariners Chapter, No. 249, Liverpool, in November, 1884. In 1891-2 he was elected and installed as the first W.M. of a new lodge, which was consecrated and known as the Victoria Lodge, No. 2392, in Accra, and of which he was one of the founders; in February this year, at the request and wishes of several brethren in Sierra Leone, about some thousand miles from Accra, he proceeded, and consecrated and installed the officers of a new lodge (St. George's) there. He performed the duties with such ability that a vote of thanks was accorded to him by the members; and at the same time he was elected as Honorary Past Master of that lodge. He is a native of West Africa, and has travelled through the entire West Coast. He is a Mark Master, Plantation Lodge, Glasgow; Royal Ark Mariner, Mount Ararat, Wigan; Knight of Constantinople; St. Lawrence the Martyr; Knight of the Red Cross of Babylon; Knight of Rome and of the Red Cross of Constantine; Knight of the Temple and St. John of Jerusalem; member of the St. Peter's Rose Croix Preceptory, Bolton; advanced to the 30° Ancient and Accepted Rite this year; a corresponding member of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London. Socially he is held in high esteem by both brethren and public generally, here as well as on the West African Coast. He is an unofficial member of the Legislature Council of the Gold Coast Colony; member of the Board of Education, &c.; Fellow of the Royal Geographical and Zoological Societies in London; and Fellow of the Imperial Institute. He will be returning to the Coast shortly. We wish him a safe and prosperous voyage home.

BARTERED HONOURS.—Bro. Archdeacon Sinclair, preaching in St. Paul's on Sunday, dealt with the granting of honours. If, said he, there is any truth in the accusation sometimes made that it has long been the custom on both sides occasionally to recommend the grant of the high and hereditary honours of the State for the main consideration of gross monetary support, then our repudiation of such a practice could not be too severe and indignant. Honour must be honourable. The rewards of the State in a righteous nation must be of unsullied lustre, and beyond all whisper of scandal. We were all shocked at the cynical sale of decorations at the Elysées in Paris; but the barter of high rank for political contributions, if a fact, would be equally disastrous to the purity of public virtue, even if it should be made by parties instead of by a private individual, even if it should be a recognised indulgence on both sides to the supposed exigencies of party warfare.

PLEASURES OF REFRESHMENT.

Labour is instructive, very; delightful, very; but for solid enjoyment, for unadulterated pleasure, give us refreshment.

In this chilly, stony, work-a-day world, where our bodies are continually wearied and our souls fretted, we need something to make us oblivious for a time of the cankering cares of life. The profane world has offered many specifics to accomplish this purpose—the pleasures of the theatre, the ball room, the card table, the saloon, and so on, down grade, to the lowest level of dissipation. Some of them are helpful, but more of them are hurtful. Freemasonry has something better than any or all these to offer its initiates—it is refreshment, Masonic refreshment.

The average Craftsman performs each day, in the round of business duty, from six to ten hours of solid work. This obligation to himself, his family, and his and their future require this. But this is a means, not an end. We do not labour for the sake of labour, but in order one day to enjoy refreshment. Therein lies the mistake. Labour and refreshment should be sandwiched together; they should be companions. Freemasonry understands this, and hence it provides regularly for calling the Craft from labour to refreshment.

The nearest approach to Utopia which can be found on the globe is in a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

The old anatomist, Burton, he who with his pen dissected melancholy, said: "Live merrily as thou canst, for by honest mirth we cure many passions of the mind. A gay companion is as a wagon to him that is wearied by the way." Freemasonry not only practices, but possibly inspires this doctrine. We remember an old indenture which was made with the Master Mason of York Minster in the 15th century, which provided that after his mid-day luncheon he should have an after-dinner nap in the wooden lodge set up near the rising edifice! This was Masonic refreshment. The Master Mason could rest, and sleep, and snore if he wished to, and rise to his labours to exhibit a new zest in their performance.

Every human being ought to be able to be glad that he is alive. But how can he, if he is always on the treadmill of care?

The average Freemason is glad that he is alive. Behold him as he enters his lodge. His hand is wide open, offering a fraternal grasp. His eyes are beaming in anticipation of the mingled instruction and pleasure he is about to enjoy. He realises that he is in a new world, a higher world, a better world. Every one around him is his brother. Every one feels a sincere interest in his welfare. Something akin to tragedy and comedy, both of a superior class, are before him. There is to be labour and refreshment. God bless them both! They are blessed, and have been from time immemorial.

Some labour and some refreshment are better than others, but all are good, very good.

We are of the number of those who think that "the gladness of the spirit is an index of its power." Freemasonry thinks so as a Craft. Did you ever meet a morose Freemason, unless he was overloaded with dyspepsia, or knocked down in the battle of life? Freemasonry furnishes the only reliable specific for "the blues." In this respect it is homœopathic. Blue is the symbolic colour of Masonry, and thus "like cures like."

That lodge makes a mistake which seldom or never indulges in actual refreshment. Of course there is the opposite extreme, so that it is also true that that lodge makes a mistake which indulges always, at all hazards, in refreshment, that is in expensive luxuries of the table. But refreshment need not involve great expense. Its main advantage is to bring a large company of brethren together around the social board. The table is the means, not the end. It only affords material refreshment; but there is something higher and better than this. There is the enlivening of the spirits, the awakening of the fancy, the inspiring of the voice to break forth into speech and song, the inciting of the merry, healthful jest. This is what Freemasons enjoy. This is what attracts them to the table. Not the luncheon, but the dessert that follows it for the intellectual and social man.

No one can exaggerate the pleasures of refreshment. They are rational, satisfying, delightful. Contentment sits as a crown of joy on every countenance. The cares and troubles of life are forgotten. The brethren feel that they are in a charmed family circle. There is no one present to make afraid. All are embraced by the Mystic Tie, and all are alive to the enjoyments of the hour. Sancho Panza said, "God bless the man who invented sleep." We say, "God bless the brother who invented Masonic refreshment."—*Keystone.*

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The usual monthly Council Meeting was held on Friday, the 26th ult., at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Richard Eve was in the chair, and amongst those present were Bros. Fairchild, Stephens, J. J. Thomas, C. W. Hudson, Dr. W. H. Kempster, J. E. Le Feuvre, H. Pritchard, J. Glass, J. W. Burgess, John Strachan, U. P. Hodgson, G. Motion, Arthur Adams, H. Woodrow, Geo. Cook, Harold Imray, and W. H. Saunders.

After the usual routine business had been taken, a resolution of sympathy with Mrs. J. L. Mather, on the death of her husband, was passed. Bro. EVE'S notice of motion to increase the salary of the Head Master from £525 to £639, was seconded by Bro. LE FEUVRE, and carried *nem con.*

WEDDING OF BRO. E. C. PHILLIPS.

On the 24th ult., at St. John's Church, Upper Richmond-road, Putney, the wedding took place of Bro. E. C. Phillips, of St. Mark's Lodge, No. 857, with Miss Beatrice West, the adopted daughter of Bro. R. T. West, of Putney. The bride, who was attired in white satin and crepon gown, was given away by Bro. R. T. West, and Bro. R. E. Colegrave, 1622, was the bridegroom's "best" man. There were two bridesmaids, Miss F. West and Miss Kate West, sisters of the bride.

After the ceremony breakfast was partaken of at Bro. West's residence and was attended by upwards of 20 friends, amongst whom were several members of the Craft, and many telegrams were received from Masonic friends and others with best wishes.

After several toasts the happy pair drove away amidst the heartiest congratulations and the good wishes of all to spend the honeymoon at Herne Bay.

MASONIC GARDEN FETE AT LEWISHAM.

A most picturesque *al fresco* entertainment in aid of the Royal Masonic School for Girls was given in the grounds of Manor Lodge, Hisher Green, Lewisham, the residence of Charles Lamb, Esq., on Thursday, the 25th ult. The fete being held in the evening, the grounds were very prettily illuminated with fairy lamps, Chinese lanterns, &c., the effect produced being exceedingly charming.

The entertainment, which, it should be mentioned, was under the auspices of the Ravensbourne Lodge of Instruction, consisted of the performance of a new and original comedy in one act, entitled "The Postscript," the characters being most creditably sustained by Mrs. Knight Arnold, Miss E. Robinson, and Messrs. Henry R. A. Robinson and Rowbotham. In addition to this histrionic contribution, a series of living pictures were much appreciated, as was the musical bill of fare and recitations. A stringed orchestra, under the baton of Mr. Harry White, kindly volunteered their services and added an additional charm to the proceedings.

The Craft was largely represented by a number of Past Masters and brethren, the whole affair passing off in a most satisfactory manner.

MASONIC PICNIC OF THE LODGE OF RELIEF,

No. 42.

On Tuesday, the 30th ult., in beautiful weather, the brethren of the above lodge, with their wives and friends, celebrated their usual annual picnic, leaving Bury by the 8.56 a.m. train for Skipton, Grassington, and district. On arrival at Skipton about 10.30 a.m. they proceeded to the Black Horse Hotel, where a substantial breakfast awaited them.

Leaving Skipton about 12 noon in waggonettes, the party drove through the villages of Aireville and Thorby to Gargraves; thence by Eshton Hall, Flasby, and Winterburn to Grassington, where the luncheon was provided, after which the party visited the famous Linton Falls and Bridge.

On returning the drive was through the villages of Freshfield, Lintonthorpe, Gracoe, Hutton, Rylstone, and Norton Towers, to Skipton (Black Horse Hotel), where a splendid knife and fork tea was provided for them, to which ample justice was done.

The party left Skipton by the 7.10 p.m. train, and arrived at Bury about 9.15 p.m., when they adjourned to the Grey Mare Hotel, where light refreshments, tea, coffee, &c., had been provided for them, and after several toasts, songs, &c., at 11 p.m. they separated and wended their way to their respective homes, every one being highly pleased at such a successful termination of the outing.

The arrangements for the above were very admirably made and carried out by Bros. Sam. Cox, P.M., and Henry Pollard, I.G., to whom a hearty vote of thanks was passed.

ANNUAL OUTING OF THE MOLESEY LODGE,

No. 2473.

The members and friends of the above lodge went, on the 24th ult., for their annual launch party up the Thames. Saloon carriages were provided from Paddington to Reading; they then boarded the splendid new launch "Bonafide" (Bro. Bonas), and enjoyed the lovely scenery up to Wallford, returning to Caversham; then by train to London. All refreshments were partaken of on board, Bro. Trongi being the caterer.

At the luncheon "The Health of the W.M." was very eloquently proposed by Bro. C. O. BURGESS, P.S.G.D., I.P.M.

Bro. J. R. CLEAVE, W.M., responded.

The toast of "The Ladies" was proposed by Bro. E. L. BERRY, S.W., who, in a few funny remarks, spoke of the joy the presence of the fair sex gave them by gracing their party that day.

Bro. HORNER-PRICE, in a maiden speech, replied on their behalf.

A large number of visitors were present, and their health was proposed by Bro. BURGESS.

Mr. F. KERRALL and Bro. W. F. BALES, P.M., Preceptor 1321, responded.

The musical arrangements were very ably carried out by the new Organist of the lodge, Bro. H. J. FOAN.

Bros. Samuel Hewett and E. L. Berry were the Secretaries, and gave general satisfaction in the arrangements made.

Obituary.

BRO. ALFRED GRAY.

Bro. Alfred Gray (the third son of the late Mr. John Gray, Kingston-street, Hull), died at his residence, 13, Harold-street, Sunderland, on the 18th ult., at the age of 63. Bro. Gray had resided in Sunderland for something like 30 years, and was highly respected. He was one of the oldest members of the Williamson Lodge, No. 949, and served as W.M. in 1875. He was also a P.P.G.S. of W. in P.G. Lodge and a R.A. By profession he was an engineer and marine surveyor, and, together with his son, conducted a business in Sunnyside under the name of "Messrs. A. Gray and Son." He served his apprenticeship at Hull. The funeral took place at Mere Knoll Cemetery, Monkwearmouth, on Monday, the 22nd ult., the *cortège* proceeding from the late residence of the deceased, Harold-street, shortly after two o'clock, in the following order: First carriage: The Rev. G. Hargreaves, Dr. Modlin, and Dr. Robinson; second: Mr. George Gray, Mr. F. Kruger, Mr. J. Maddison, Mr. T. W. Mitchell, and Mr. Alfred Grey Roope; third: Mr. W. Benson, Mr. H. Roope, Mr. R. Maddison, and Alderman Shadforth, J.P.; fourth: Mr. Watson Hunter, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. R. Brydon, and Mr. John Hunter; fifth: Mr. F. Hunter, Mr. Robert T. Cutler, jun., Captain Watson, and Mr. Joseph Wright. The coffin was of solid oak, with brass mountings, the shield bearing the following inscription: "Alfred Gray, died July 18th, 1895, aged 63 years." In addition to the mourners and several prominent local gentlemen interested in shipping and engineering, the following members of the Sunderland Williamson Lodge attended the funeral: Bros. E. Lautebach, W.M.; F. W. Ingram, I.P.M.; T. Harrison, S.W.; R. W. Halfnight, P.M.; J. G. Kirtley, P.M.; G. B. Hall, P.M.; L. R. Davis, P.M.; D. L. Smith, Sec.; Grayson, Org.; J. W. Donovan, E. R. Cherrit, and A. Donovan. Each wore a sprig of acacia, which was afterwards laid upon the coffin.

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At 11.15 a.m. for FROME, Shepton Mallet, Wells, YEovil, Bridport, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH (for the CHANNEL ISLANDS), Portland, &c., for 3, 10, or 17 days.

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FRED. HARRISON, General Manager.

London, August, 1895.

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OUR BROTHERS' BED.

IN WHICH BRO. T. C., OF LODGE 179, (I.C.), DIED JULY 16TH.

RECEIVED DURING JULY.

Table with columns for names and amounts received during July. Includes entries like 'Friends in Council Lodge, No. 1383 (A) ... 1 1 0', 'Harmony Lodge, No. 372, Budleigh Salterton ... 10 6', etc.

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INCOME AND FUNDS (1894).

Table showing financial figures: Fire Premiums £701,000, Life Premiums 232,000, Interest 171,000, Accumulated Funds £4,44,000.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1895.

Masonic Notes.

The annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cheshire will be held at Northwich on Wednesday, the 21st instant, and considering how successfully the Prov. Grand Master presided at the recent Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and how loyally the Province supported their chief, there is little doubt that the proceedings will be of a more than usually interesting character.

The annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of North and East Yorkshire was held at Selby on Wednesday, the 24th ult., under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. the Marquis of Zetland, Prov. G. Master. There was a full attendance of brethren from all parts of the Province, and the Prov. Grand Master, in his address, had good reason for congratulating the members on the events of the past 12 months. We have been favoured with various reports of the meeting, but we prefer waiting for the official report, which has been promised, and will be in our hands in the course of the next few days.

For several weeks past there have appeared in our correspondence columns letters on the subject of the "Grand Treasurership." In the majority of these the writers have contented themselves with advocating the claims which London and the Provinces respectively may be supposed to have to the election of the candidate of its or their choice for the year 1896-7. Last week, however, we published a letter from a correspondent who signed himself, "A true lover of Masonry," in which the question of the annual election of Grand Treasurer is dealt with in a spirit of generous regard for the true interests of the Craft, which cannot be too highly commended. This week we publish another letter from "A Past Prov. G. Officer," which is conceived in a similarly generous spirit of impartiality as between London and the Provinces, and differs from its predecessors chiefly in the recommendation it offers.

Some years ago, when the office of Grand Treasurer no longer had attached to it any duties or responsibilities, and became like the other Grand Offices to which annual appointments are made, a purely honorific one, the *Freemason* took upon itself to advocate the principle of annually electing a fresh Grand Treasurer, so that Grand Lodge might have it in its power to confer honour upon brethren whom it looked upon as being especially worthy of being honoured. Our advocacy was successful. The principle was established, nor do we see any reason for regretting the course we adopted. Good men and true have been elected to the office, representative brethren, whom no Grand Lodge need repent of having included among the *élite* of its members.

Latterly, however, the election of Grand Treasurer has created a feeling of disquietude among those members of the Craft to whom, as to the two correspondents we have referred to, the dignity and repute of the Order are pre-eminently the chief care. The picture is not overdrawn, which "A true lover of Masonry" has presented to us, of the "touting and canvassing," the "treating and drinking," the "rivalries and jealousies" which attend these annual elections in March, which we certainly never anticipated when we began advocating the principle we have mentioned, and which undoubtedly are "having a most mischievous effect in tending to extinguish the true spirit of Masonry."

It is most desirable that something should be done to put an end once and for ever to these untoward circumstances which attend these functions; nor are we aware of any reason why the Craft itself should not take the initiative, and, by setting its face sternly against the practice of which our correspondents complain, make it unmistakably clear to all intending candidates for the office of Grand Treasurer that it will neither permit nor suffer anything to be done, either by them or their supporters, which, even in the remotest degree, is likely to prove injurious to the true interest and high character of Freemasonry.

As "A true lover of Masonry" very justly points out, it does not matter where the Grand Treasurer for the year hails from, whether from London, the Provinces, or Abroad. The principal object is, or ought to be, the election of a brother who by his position, ability, and services shall be able to confer lustre upon the office, and through the office upon the whole body of English Freemasons. If this object cannot be achieved under the present system with its attendant "touting and canvassing," its "rivalries and jealousies," then it were better that the office should be abolished altogether, as "A true lover of Masonry" suggests; or better still, as proposed by a "Past Prov. Grand Officer," that the existing law should be amended, and the appointment of Grand Treasurer, as of the bulk of the Grand Officers, be vested in the Grand Master.

We gather from the proceedings of the District Grand Lodge of Canterbury, New Zealand, at its Quarterly Communication in St. Augustine's Masonic Hall, Christchurch, on Thursday, the 18th April, that "the warrants of those lodges which were erased from the roll of lodges under the Grand Lodge of England by this District Grand Lodge on the 30th August, 1889, have been handed to our District Grand Master, Bro. Cunningham, unconditionally;" and, further, that they "have been cancelled by the District Grand Master, and are held by him awaiting instructions from Grand Lodge as to the disposal of them." The warrants thus held are those of Lodges Nos. 604, 609, 760, 1651, 1856, 1857, 1877, 1918, 1919, 1925, and 2236.

We have much pleasure in announcing that the St. Martin's Lodge, No. 510, Liskeard, which was warranted in the year 1845, and has just completed an existence of 50 years, intends celebrating the jubilee of its constitution by a trip to the Dart and Dartmouth on Wednesday next, the 7th inst., and that a special lodge will be held on Monday, the 19th inst., for the purpose of commemorating the same auspicious event.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk was held at Aldeburgh, at the invitation of the Adair Lodge, No. 936, on Monday, the 29th ult., under the presidency of R.W. Bro. Lord Henniker, Prov. G. Master. There was a full attendance of Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers and of the representatives of lodges, and the proceedings were of a most satisfactory character. The reports, both statistical and financial, were submitted and approved, the former showing an aggregate membership of over 1000 brethren and the latter a substantial balance in hand. We shall publish the full report of the proceedings we have received—but too late for the present week—in our next issue.

Freemasonry in the United States has sustained a grievous loss by the death of one of its most prominent members—Bro. William B. Isaacs, who had been a Mason for upwards of half a century, and had filled several important offices with honour to himself and signal advantage to the Craft. Bro. Isaacs, who died at his residence in Richmond, Virginia, on Sunday, the 9th ult., in the 78th year of his age, was initiated in 1842. Not long afterwards he was appointed Deputy Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, under Bro. Dr. John Dove, Grand Secretary, and in 1876, on the death of the latter, was advanced to the more important office thereby rendered vacant. He was also Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter and Grand Recorder of the Grand Conclave of Virginia, as well as General Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the United States. He was held in the highest esteem and respect both at home and abroad, and though his loss is not irreparable, it will not be easy to find one who will exhibit the same efficiency and zeal in the discharge of such onerous duties as had devolved on him for the last 19 years. We offer our respectful sympathy to the family of our deceased brother, and the Grand bodies in Virginia which he had served so long and faithfully.

BRO. THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry, and Mr. Arthur Balfour and Miss Balfour visited the Imperial Institute on Tuesday evening.

Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.]

THE GRAND TREASURERSHIP.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I doubt if any of your readers will question the accuracy of the representations of "A True Lover of Masonry" in his letter in last week's *Freemason*, directing attention to the evils connected with the annual election of Grand Treasurer.

There is, however, one suggestion with which I do not altogether agree. The remedy he suggests is the abolition of the office, to which no duties are now attached.

We all know how eagerly Grand Office is sought for, and how highly it is prized, and I confess I see no reason why it should be abolished.

I would prefer to see the object in view accomplished by retaining the office, but vesting the appointment in the Grand Master. No one can have examined the lists of those who have been appointed to Grand Office of late years without being impressed with the care and scrupulous fairness with which the selection has been made, and, although my suggestion may not find favour with those ambitious spirits who do not object to advertise themselves, and who dearly love the excitement of a fight, I am sure it will commend itself to the far more numerous body who regard such contests as altogether opposed to the spirit of Masonry, and calculated to lower the Order in the estimation of the outside world, and who would welcome any change by which the Craft could be relieved of the manifold evils attendant on these annual elections.—Yours fraternally,

A PAST PROV. GRAND OFFICER.

"OUR BROTHER'S BED."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In publishing the list of recent contributors to this bed in the *Free Home for the Dying* at Clapham, may I remind your readers that we still require £41 to maintain it during this year; no one need be ashamed of giving only five shillings; it may seem mean but "little fish are sweet," and 400 such donations would provide all there is wanted for the "poor and penniless" brother in his dying hours.—Very truly and fraternally yours,

W. PORTLOCK-DADSON, 1383, P.M. 1771, Hon. Sec.

281, Strand, W.C., July 31st.

Reviews.

"THE INDIAN FREEMASON." 9, Municipal Office-street, Calcutta.—The June number contains several contributions that are well worth reading. First of all, we note a further instalment of the "History of Freemasonry in Bengal," compiled by Bro. Andrew D'Creig, jun., from the Records of District Grand Lodge, the period dealt with being from the close of 1774 to the close of the following year. This is followed by an interesting record of the Masonic career of Bro. James W. Browne, Past Dist. S.G.W., Vice President of the Bengal Masonic Association, whose portrait accompanies the number. The other contents include reports of the meetings of the District Grand Lodge and District Grand Chapter of the Punjab on the 30th March last, with Notes, Lodge and Chapter Reports, and other matter.

Craft Masonry.

Lodge of Harmony, No. 220.

The installation meeting of this distinguished lodge was held on the 24th ult. at the Garston Hotel, Garston, when there was a large assembly of brethren present. Bro. Thomas Finch, W.M., took the chair at the appointed time and opened the lodge. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. raised Bro. Lloyd Jones, and at the close of the ceremony requested Bro. William Olver, P.M., Sec., to occupy the chair for the purpose of acting as Installing Master. This ceremony he has often performed before, and it is gratifying to see how he still maintains his former ability, as the whole ceremony was performed very impressively indeed. Bro. G. W. Lofthouse, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented by Bros. Thomas Finch, I.P.M., and H. Hatch, P.M., Treas., and was duly inducted into the chair. He was then proclaimed and saluted in the various Degrees. He afterwards invested the following as officers for the ensuing year: Bros. T. Finch, I.P.M.; G. W. Hughes, S.W.; G. E. Jones, J.W.; Henry Hatch, P.M., Treas.; W. Olver, P.M., Sec.; J. G. Watson, P.M., D.C.; T. H. Short, S.D.; F. W. P. Ashton, J.D.; R. G. Mitchell, I.G.; Bernard Beard, Org.; J. H. Ashton, J. H. Helsby, and John Wynn, Stwds.; and John Lawton, Charity Representative. Just previous to the lodge being closed a handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to the retiring W.M., Bro. Finch, which bore the following inscription: "Presented by the brethren of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 220, to Bro. Thomas Finch, P.M., as a token of their esteem and regard. July, 24th 1895." Bro. Finch acknowledged the gift in a few well chosen remarks.

Subsequently the brethren adjourned to a banquet, prepared in a large marquee placed on the Bowling Green, which was somewhat agreeable as the weather was very close, whilst the festive board was held in the usual room in the hotel. The following brethren were present: Bros. Thos. Finch, W.M.; J. G. Watson, I.P.M.; Joseph Williams, P.M.; Thomas Lawton, P.M.; G. S. Fisher, P.M.; G. W. Lofthouse, S.W.; G. W. Hughes, J.W.; Henry Hatch, P.M., Treas.; Wm. Olver, P.M., Sec.; G. Jones, S.D.; T. Short, I.G.; Robert G. Mitchell, Philip Lott, Tyler; John Billingsley, P.M.; John Lamb, J. Jackson, N. Edwards, Bernard Beard, T. Gidlow, M. Teare, C. Lloyd Jones, R. H. Bennett, A. L. Appleby, J. A. Edgerton, J. Dornent, and Jellicoe. Visitors: Bros. Wm. Goodacre, P.G.S.B. England, Prov. G. Sec.; Wm. Savage, P.P.G. Treas.; Jas. T. Callon, P.P.G. Treas.; Jas. Pittaway, P.P.G.S.B.; J. R. Bottomley, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; A. Cotter, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; G. S. Smith, P.G. Org.; R. W. T. Hatch, W.M. 613; E. Heavyside, C. A. Young, James Stopford, P.M.; H. J. Pye, P.M.; T. J. Robinson, R. Coates, T. S. Hunt, J. H. Hughes, P.M.; Jas. David, P.P.G.O. Mon.; J. Hick, G. H. Gibson, and others.

Lodge of Unity, No. 267.

The Festival of St. John the Baptist was celebrated by the above lodge at the lodge room, the Macclesfield Arms Hotel, Macclesfield, on Thursday, the 18th ultimo, when Bro. Charles Stoneley was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The following brethren were present: Bros. Geo. Fountain, W.M.; James White, P.M.; Charles Stoneley, S.W.; Wm. Richmond, P.G.S., J.W.; Thomas Brough, P.M., Treas.; A. Frith, P.M., Sec.; Wm. Lockett, S.D.; Geo. Kershaw, J.D.; James Mobey, I.G.; Daniel Mason, Tyler; A. Cockayne, P.P.A.G.D.C.; John Wardle; John Fowler; Wm. Mellor; W. Astle, P.M.; C. A. Hordern, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; W. Harrison, P.M., P.P.G.S.; and John Dunkerley. Visitors: Bros. John H. Brookes, P.M., Sec. 295; Richard Newhouse, P.G. Sec.; Joseph James Mason, 295; J. G. Wills, 2386; J. Brough, 2532; Benjamin Pownall, 295; E. Moreton, J.W. 295; J. Stephens, 295; J. L. Stebbens, 295; Wm. Dale, I.P.M. 941; James Kenyon, Stwd.

941; Joseph Westwood, 295; Frank Hulme, 295; Thomas Lockett, P.M., Treas. 295; P.P.S.G.D.; Thos. A. Daniel, P.M. 533; A. Bodé, J.D. 533; B. R. Leech, P.M. 295; William S. Thompstone, W.M., P.P.G. Steward; and J. Fred May, P.M. 295.

The ceremony of installation was performed by the Installing Masters—Bros. Alf. Cockayne, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., D.C.; George Fountain, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; and Jonathan White, P.M., the musical portion of the proceedings being conducted by Bro. James Stevens, Org. The newly-installed W.M., Bro. Charles Stoneley, then took the chair amid the hearty congratulations of the brethren, and efficiently invested his officers as follows: Bros. Geo. Fountain, I.P.M.; Wm. Richmond, S.W.; W. Lockett, J.W.; Thos. Brough, P.M., Treas.; A. Frith, P.M., Sec.; Geo. Kershaw, S.D.; J. Mobery, J.D.; John Dunkerley, I.G.; J. Fowler, John Wardle, and Wm. Mellor, Stwds.; D. Mason, Tyler; and F. Hulme, Asst. Tyler. The proceedings in lodge included the election of Bros. George Fountain and John Fowler as Auditors. Bro. R. Newhouse, P.G. Sec., in speaking on the Masonic Charities, mentioned that during the late Festival in connection with the Boys' School, London, held at Brighton, and presided over by Bro. Lord Egerton of Tatton, it was announced that the contributions for the year amounted to £20,598, the Province of Cheshire heading the list with about one-ninth of that amount.

In the evening the brethren sat down to the annual banquet, successfully prepared by Bro. Crowther.

The toasts were of the usual Masonic character, and were interspersed with some excellent songs and musical selections, the enjoyable proceedings terminating shortly before the statutory hour.

Prince Frederick William Lodge, No. 753.

The installation meeting of this lodge, held at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, on the 24th ult., proved of an exceptionally interesting character. A large number of brethren attended to witness the installation of Bro. H. J. Thomas—a very popular and genial member of the lodge—the interesting ceremony being impressively rendered by his father, Bro. J. J. Thomas, P.M. and Sec. of the lodge. The Installing Master wore the regalia of his office as Prov. Grand Treasurer of Bucks, which was presented to him the preceding evening by the members of the Prince Frederick William Lodge of Instruction, as a mark of their appreciation of his services for thirteen and a half years as Secretary.

The brethren present included Bros. W. P. Clark, W.M.; R. S. Redfern, I.P.M.; H. J. Thomas, S.W.; Dr. W. D. Slyman, P.M., Treas.; J. J. Thomas, P.M., P.G. Treas. Bucks, Sec.; W. Parsons, S.D.; J. H. Chandler, I.G.; W. A. Unwin, Org.; J. Redfearn and J. H. Gibson, Stwds.; R. W. Scattergood, P.M.; W. Stratton, P.M.; J. Page, P.M.; R. P. Tabb, P.M.; J. Stephens, P.M., P.P.G.D. Bucks; A. Butt, T. R. Harpham, M. Shelton, T. Cox, M. E. Swan, L. B. Cornadi, and B. R. Thom. Visitors: Bros. W. M. Stiles, G. Treas.; J. M. McLeod, P.P.G.W. Derby, Sec. R.M.I.B.; J. Williams, P.P.S.G.W. Bucks; J. E. Bowen, P.G. Sec. Bucks; J. W. Burgess, P.J.G.D. Bucks; W. J. Mason, P.P.G.D. Surrey; W. A. Scurrah, V.P. Board of General Purposes, P.P.G.S. of W. Middx.; G. Sims, P.G.S. of W. Bucks; H. Trask, P.G. Stwd. Herts; W. J. Wills, 723; A. E. Henderson; S. Barrow, 1425; J. C. Kruse, 1624; C. Brand, 305 (U.S.A.); S. J. Peck, 1 (U.S.A.); W. R. Hatton, W.M. 2246; W. Van Praagh, W.M. 1491; W. Bowyer, 223; R. H. Jackson, 733; G. Wood; H. Hart, W.M. 73; W. Chapple, W.M. 2308; J. H. Adcock, 1744; F. Cole, 177; M. Goldstein; F. G. Soper, 1987; E. Delevanti, Org. 2021; A. Ritchie, J.D. 173; and W. W. Lee, I.P.M. 1897, P.G. Stwd. Middx.

The lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed, and Mr. A. E. Rowbotham was unanimously approved by ballot as a candidate for initiation. Bro. Mark Shelton was next passed to the Second Degree. The chief item of interest on the agenda was then proceeded with, and Bro. J. J. Thomas, P.M., Sec., having assumed the chair, installed his son, Bro. H. J. Thomas, with an impressiveness that was considerably enhanced by the interesting occasion. The following officers were invested—Bros. W. P. Clark, I.P.M.; A. Pozzati S.W.; W. Parsons, J.W.; W. D. Slyman, P.M., Treas.; J. J. Thomas, P.M., Sec.; J. H. Chandler, S.D.; J. H. Gibson, J.D.; D. R. Redfearn, I.G.; H. Slyman, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C.; W. A. Unwin, Org.; T. Cox and A. B. Butt, Stwds.; and C. Shepperd, Tyler. A handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to the I.P.M., and briefly acknowledged. Bro. Slyman, P.M., Treas., presented each of the members with a photograph of an illuminated album, recently presented to him to celebrate his silver wedding in Masonry, the gift being heartily appreciated. Other business having been transacted, the lodge was closed.

A *recherché* repast followed, and the usual toasts were subsequently honoured.

Bro. W. M. Stiles, G. Treas., in reply to "The Grand Officers," said he should best study their convenience by replying briefly. He must, however, say that the Pro Grand Master had been hard at work consecrating new lodges, and the Deputy Grand Master had been busy looking after one of the Charity Festivals. The Grand Officers appreciated the kind way in which this toast was always received, and were proud of their position. Speaking personally, he appreciated the kind assistance he received from the members of this lodge which enabled him to gain the proud position he held. That was his first opportunity of expressing his deep sense of their kindness. It was a great pleasure to be present to see his friend, Bro. J. J. Thomas, P.M., instal his son as the W.M., and also see the work carried out in such an able manner.

Bro. W. P. Clark, I.P.M., next gave "The W.M.," and said the brethren were well acquainted with the working abilities of Bro. H. J. Thomas, having seen them in the lodge of instruction as well as their own lodge. They had always found him a most genial and generous hearted man, and none better could be found. They would, therefore, drink the toast with enthusiasm.

Bro. H. J. Thomas, W.M., who met with a cordial reception, thanked the I.P.M. and brethren for their kindness. It was undoubtedly the proudest moment of his life. He felt rather dubious some 12 months ago about going on, feeling he was too young in years to preside over such a gathering. Having, however, arrived at the position of the chair, he could only thank them from the bottom of his heart for their kindness.

The W.M. next proposed "The I.P.M.," and said that Bro. Clark's work had been creditable to himself and the lodge.

Bro. W. P. Clark, I.P.M., briefly responded, and said that during his year of office he had endeavoured to do credit to the lodge. Having gained the approbation of the members he was more than gratified, and thanked them for the kind present he had received in recognition of his services.

Bro. W. D. Slyman, P.M., Treas., then said he had to offer a toast which all would consider worthy of acceptance. He had been called upon somewhat suddenly to propose "The Health of the Installing Master." Why he had been called upon to perform that duty was because the Installing Master was the father of the W.M., and during the 25 years he (Bro. Slyman) had been a member of the lodge, that was the first occasion on which he had been present to see a father install his son. He need not call their attention to the admirable way in which that ceremony was carried out. All who took a deep interest in Freemasonry believed that the objects might possibly be divided into three different kinds, but the first principle they recognised was that they in their respective lodges should be up to their work, setting an example to those following on, and handing down the ancient ritual in a manner not unworthy of those gone before. He felt confident no Past Master could say the installation ceremony had been diluted one single jot by the admirable way in which Bro. Thomas performed the ceremony. Bro. Thomas, whose functions were so numerous, who had done so much for Masonry, particularly in their lodge, and who had recently been elected as Provincial Grand Treasurer of Bucks, would no doubt tell them the reward was more than he deserved, but as far as he could tell them from close association for many years—the one as Treasurer and the other as Secretary—it would be impossible for them to honour any brother more deserving. He could easily imagine Bro. Thomas's feelings when installing his son into the chair he so ably filled many years ago, and his anxiety that his boy should follow as closely as possible in his footsteps. He could leave it to the brethren to judge of their W.M., who, under the guidance of his father, had placed before them an admirable display in the lodge, at the banquet table, and in the musical programme.

Bro. J. J. Thomas, P.M., Prov. G. Treas. Bucks, Sec., in response, expressed the difficulty he felt in finding words to thank Bro. Slyman for the kindly way in which the toast was proposed. He could only say that if his work in the lodge had met with their approbation it was a pleasing thing to know that after his many years' connection with the Masonic world, in which he had met so many brethren, he had been allowed to install his son into the chair of K.S. in the presence of such a gathering as the present. He thanked the I.P.M. very much for allowing him that privilege, for it had been a tradition in that lodge for many years—ever since he had been a member—that the outgoing W.M. should install his successor. It had been one of the things they prided themselves

on, as showing that the Worshipful Masters had been able to do the whole of the work entrusted to their care. They felt those duties were not fully discharged unless they installed their successors. Seven years ago he had the pleasure of initiating his son into Freemasonry, and he felt it was an epoch in the life of very few to be able to initiate a son and afterwards install him into the chair. He greatly appreciated the kindness shown in allowing him that privilege, and he had felt proud on the present occasion to perform that duty. If he had done it to their satisfaction he could only assure them he was amply repaid by the kindly allusions made, and the hearty response given the toast. Since he had been a member of that lodge he had always had a great pleasure in doing all he could to fulfil his Masonic duties, but he felt those duties had culminated in the installation of his son. He should never forget it, and hoped to be spared for many years to remember the pleasing moments of that evening. He had another son, but it was too much to hope to be able to install him, for, although it was the privilege of a Lewis to be initiated at an earlier age, he did not think it prudent to do so, but preferred he should choose for himself when manhood was reached. If his younger son should have the desire to become a Mason, and the W.M. be in the same vein as the I.P.M. had been, he should have great pleasure in initiating him, and, please God, he might be spared—although it would be many years—to install him also into the chair. He thanked them for the kind way in which they had always received him, and, with regard to the Treasurer's remarks as to the high appreciation of the members of the lodge of instruction, he could hardly tell them how much he thanked them for their kind remembrance of his services during the thirteen and a half years he was Secretary of it. He had only been a Mason 14 years, but before he was 12 months a Master Mason he was elected Secretary of their lodge of instruction. That position he had held until a few weeks ago, and the brethren had thought his services worthy of recognition. The high distinction conferred upon him by his election as Prov. Grand Treas. of Bucks was thought a fitting opportunity of presenting him with some mark of their approval, and the Prov. Grand Officer's clothing with a very handsome testimonial on vellum was the form their recognition took. The vellum would find a place on his walls and be honoured and revered by him, and when he looked upon it he should think his services had met with the approval of the brethren, and it would also remind him of the many pleasant meetings he had attended at that lodge of instruction. He hoped to be spared to attend many more meetings and see that lodge of instruction—which had met for something like 35 years—go on and prosper. The mantle of Secretary having fallen upon his son, he hoped he would take the same kindly interest in the duties, and he entertained no doubt but that he would. His son had shown an apt disposition for the work, and would doubtless prove a great ornament to the lodge of instruction, being in touch with all the members, who would give him that kindly support extended to himself. Bro. Wood had held the post of Preceptor since Bro. Baker passed away, and as an excellent and good working brother they appreciated his services. He would say no more, but thank them heartily and sincerely for the many kindnesses shown him, and assure them that as long as he had health and strength his services would be at their disposal, Masonically or otherwise, in order that he might continue to fulfil the duties he had taken so much to heart during the time he had been a Mason.

Bro. J. Stephens, P.P.G.D. Bucks, proposed "The Masonic Charities" in an excellent speech, quoting facts and figures to prove that they were deserving of the utmost support.

Bro. J. M. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I for Boys, said the proposer had said all he might have said in response, and he could say nothing more eloquent than the figures quoted. The W.M. had shown he was following in the footsteps of his father—who had done such good work for the Charities—by taking up a Stewardship thus early, and he earnestly hoped the brethren would cordially support him.

The toast of "The Visitors" followed, and there were four striking speeches in response. Bro. Scurrah, Vice-President Board of General Purposes, told of the good opinion held by his colleagues of the Installing Master, Bro. J. J. Thomas, who was a valued member of the Board.

Bro. Bowen, Prov. G. Sec. Bucks, referred to the excellent work done by Bro. Thomas in Bucks, a fact which was sufficiently testified to by the large contingent of Bucks brethren present that evening.

Bro. A. Ritchie, Treas. 2310, in a racy speech returned thanks for the visitors generally, and last, but by no means least, one of the American visitors bore testimony to the profuse hospitality shown to a brother from "across the pond."

"The Past Masters" and other toasts were given before the Tyler's toast closed a meeting, the remembrance of which will remain with those present for years to come.

The musical arrangements, which proved to be one of the principal charms of the evening, deserve special notice, the programme being almost undertaken by Bro. Thomas's family. Amongst those who kindly assisted were Mrs. W. J. Wills, Miss Alice Thomas, Miss Kate Thomas, Miss Nellie Thomas, Master Charles Thomas, Miss Edith Snell, Bros. Trefelyn David, G. De Pledge, D. R. Redfearn, and E. P. Delevanti, the instruments used comprising violins, mandolines, guitar, and piano.

A very handsome menu card and toast list was specially designed for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Rowbotham, who was balloted for and will be initiated at the next meeting.

Southern Star Lodge, No. 1158.

One of the most successful gatherings of this well-known lodge took place on the 25th ult. at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, the occasion being the installation of Bro. J. Hands, a highly-esteemed member. The lodge was opened by Bro. T. F. Knibb, W.M., supported by Bros. J. Hands, S.W.; W. Bellchamber, J.W.; A. W. Wright, P.M., Treas.; J. Austin, P.M., Sec.; F. W. Downes, S.D.; W. Richards, J.D.; F. Austin, D.C.; G. J. Robinson, I.G.; T. Green, Stwd.; R. E. Clarke, P.M.; J. Bunker, P.M.; J. F. Farrant, P.M.; J. Block, P.M.; A. Welle, P.M.; W. W. Block, P.M.; W. Beecroft, P.M.; J. Atkinson, C. Thompson, S. Parker, V. S. Guggenheim, H. Robinson, W. Ashbourne, G. Gainger, W. Green, F. B. Benson, W. B. Ardwick, S. Blum, W. C. Tanner, A. J. Drapkin, W. H. Hopton, H. Richardson, S. Isaacs, J. A. Morath, G. Maxwell, W. Price, E. G. Cooper, T. Morris, R. C. Radford, J. G. Blake, D. Bushell, and G. S. Gregory, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. A. Briscoe, P.P.G. Org. Surrey; A. E. Todd, P.M. 27; R. E. Fairclough, W.M. 1365; D. Campbell, P.M. 1365; T. Eade, W.M. 901; G. Sylvester, P.P.G. Org. Sussex; Rev. H. V. Tyrrel, Chap. 2369; J. R. Cordell, P.M. 813; A. Rusby, 917; T. Renwick, 861; E. Bishop, 355; T. Bowles, 2202; H. Pearse, J.W. 1524; N. Finch, P.M. 1365; H. Baddeley, 1695; T. Feiste, 171; J. J. Wright, P.M. 1981; J. H. Gaskin, P.P.G.D. Middx.; E. W. Atterley, 2262; H. Foreman, P.M. 1275; J. D. Graham, P.M. 1559; H. Rivett, 2484; J. Wynn, P.M. 2484; C. H. Stone, P.M. 507; F. Small, 2242; R. Codd, 1929; A. C. Huddart, 15; A. H. Russell, J.W. 13; A. H. Hentsch, 410; W. J. Hemsley, 2414; W. Edwards, 1897; and R. T. West, 1744.

After the confirmation of the minutes of the last regular meeting and of two emergency meetings, the W.M. raised Bros. Morris and Price to the Degree of M.M., and he afterwards gave the ancient charge. The working of the W.M. was excellent, and was much appreciated by the large assembly. Bro. Knibb, the W.M., having only recently recovered from a serious illness, was unable to perform the ceremony of installing his successor, which duty, however, was undertaken by Bro. W. W. Block, P.M.; who very impressively installed Bro. J. Hands, the W.M. elect, into the chair for the ensuing year. The new W.M. then appointed and invested the following as his officers: Bros. W. Bellchamber, S.W.; W. Richards, J.W.; A. W. Wright, P.M., Treas.; J. Austin, P.M., Sec.; G. J. Robinson, S.D.; T. Green, J.D.; F. Austin, I.G.; F. Benson, D.C.; Maxwell and W. C. Tanner, Stwds.; S. Blum, Asst. Sec.; and G. S. Gregory, Tyler. The delivery of the customary addresses was well rendered by Bro. W. W. Block, P.M. A vote of condolence and sympathy with the widow of the late Bro. J. C. Ashdown was directed to be recorded.

After other business the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet, which was provided by Bro. Pearse in his best style, and gave every satisfaction.

At the close of the repast and as a preface to the toasts, the W.M. stated that he hoped the speeches would be brief, and in giving the usual loyal and Masonic toasts he set a good example.

Bro. T. F. Knibb, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M." He stated that it was a very pleasant duty to him to have the honour of submitting the toast, which was the one of the evening. The members were all proud to see him in the chair, and it was the grandest moment of one's Masonic career to be installed ruler of a lodge. In all the offices that the W.M. had filled he had shown great efficiency, and he had no doubt that he would discharge the duties of his high office with satisfaction to himself and to the honour of the lodge, and he sincerely wished him every happiness, the best of health, and a splendid year of office.

The toast was received with much enthusiasm, and

The Worshipful Master, on rising to respond, had a brilliant reception. He said it was very kind of the brethren, but their welcome exhausted him. When he was on the first rung of the Masonic ladder he tried hard to catch the speaker's eye, but he thought that night that he had certainly caught that optic. He earnestly hoped that he would have plenty of work during his year of office, and his great aim would be to endeavour to keep up the high standard of the lodge, which was well known in the Metropolis for its excellent working of the ritual.

The W.M. gave "The I.P.M., Bro. Knibb." He said that it was impossible for any lodge to have had a better Master than his predecessor, and it was a great satisfaction to him that he would have his valuable assistance during the next 12 months. He then presented him with a Past Master's jewel, which he did in very appropriate terms.

The jewel bore the following inscription: "Presented to Bro. T. F. Knibb by the brethren of the Southern Star Lodge, No. 1153, as a mark of their esteem for his uniform courtesy and the ability with which he discharged the duties of W.M. during his year of office."

In response, Bro. Knibb, I.P.M., stated that he hardly knew how to thank the W.M. and the members for their hearty greeting, as he was unaware until then that he had done so much to warrant the manner in which he had been received, but his services appeared to be appreciated, and that was very gratifying to him. Might he mention that he had had a year of hard work, and he hoped the outcome would be to the benefit of the lodge. He took that opportunity of thanking his officers for their great assistance, which had made his year of office an easy one, and he trusted that those he had had the honour to initiate would turn out splendid members of the Craft.

In submitting "The Installing Master, Bro. W. W. Block, P.M.," the W.M. stated that great praise was due to him, and he and the members owed him a deep debt of gratitude for his efficient services that evening, as he had no idea until he arrived at the lodge that he would be called upon to perform the installing ceremony, and he had done it in a most excellent manner, which he felt sure was appreciated by all those present.

The toast was drunk with acclamation.

Bro. W. W. Block, P.M., in reply, said that it was a great honour to him to have been asked to act as Installing Master, and he was pleased with their hearty thanks for what he had done.

In eulogistic terms the W.M. gave "The Visitors," remarking that they were favoured with the attendance of many eminent and well-known Masons, and he coupled with the toast the name of Bro. F. Eade, W.M. 901.

Bro. F. Eade said it was the first time in his life that he had had the honour of responding to the toast. He thought his lodge knew something about Masonry, and the members considered their lodge second to none, but after what he had seen of the working that night, his lodge, he felt, was outdone. He had derived much pleasure from his visit, and their hospitality was lavish.

Bro. R. E. Fairclough, W.M. 1365, also responded. He was delighted to see his old friend Bro. Hands installed. He had seen him go through the several Sections, and he would be able to do everything asked of him, and it went without saying that he would be a great success as the Master of the Southern Star Lodge.

In an eloquent speech, given with much feeling, Bro. Rev. H. V. Tyrrel referred to the absence of Bro. J. C. Ashdown, who had lately died, and which he deeply regretted. Theirs was the first lodge he (Bro. Tyrrel) had visited after he was initiated, and he felt it his duty to pay a tribute to the memory of Bro. Ashdown, who was a splendid Mason, and the lodge had sustained a great loss.

In giving "The Past Masters," the W.M. observed that they were a splendid body, and he ventured to hope that he would have their great support.

Bro. C. W. Wise, P.M., responded.

"The Treasurer and Secretary" having been honoured,

Bro. A. W. Wright, P.M., Treas., responded, and said he was delighted to see so vast an array of visitors, they had never had so many before. He loved the lodge, which was his mother lodge, of which he had been Treasurer for over 20 years, but he felt the time had arrived for him to give up his office.

Bro. J. Austin, P.M., Sec., also replied. He said he was glad to see so many old faces present. He was initiated in the lodge by Bro. Wise 25 years ago. He hoped to be able to continue his work, which he trusted might add to the prosperity of the lodge.

The W.M. gave "The Masonic Press," and he associated with the toast the name of Bro. R. T. West, who responded.

The W.M. proposed "The Artistes," who he stated had added to the enjoyment of the brethren, as without them the proceedings would have been very dull, and he thanked them for their great efforts.

The next toast was "The Officers," which was heartily received and suitably responded to.

The Tyler's toast terminated a very pleasant and memorable evening.

During the intervals an excellent entertainment was carried out under the able direction of Bro. Arthur Briscoe, P.P.G. Org. Surrey, assisted by Bros. A. E. Todd, P.M., W. H. Edwards, Sam Hemsley, Fred. Small, Geo. Sylvester, Herbert Emlyn, and Rev. H. V. Tyrrel—who gave by special request the recitation "Jay Gould"—and a word of praise is due to him and to Bros. Edwards, Sylvester, and Emlyn.

United Military Lodge, No. 1536.

The last of a series of installations in the Woolwich and Plumstead districts of the Metropolitan and Masonic Province of Kent took place on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., at Freemasons' Hall, Plumstead, when the W.M. elect of the above lodge was installed in the chair of K.S. for the ensuing 12 months. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. E. W. Sinnett, who commenced his day's work by initiating Master Gunner E. W. Gearle and raising Bro. J. F. Williams. The W.M. elect, Bro. George W. Ingle, was then presented to him to receive at his hands the benefits of installation, and with the usual ceremony Bro. Ingle was installed and saluted. He invested his officers as follows: Bros. R. Fowler, S.W.; F. Reed, J.W.; J. W. Gee, Treas.; E. W. Sinnett, I.P.M., Sec.; A. Hill, S.D.; L. E. Gee, J.D.; A. Simmonds, I.G.; W. Sayle Edwards, P.M., D.C.; J. R. Fairbairn, 1st A.D.C.; S. G. Meredith, 2nd A.D.C.; W. Redman, Org.; and A. J. Swanson, J. W. Thatcher, F. Hully, and A. B. Arthur, Stewards. The ceremony of installation having been admirably performed, Bro. Sinnett was thanked for his excellent services, and rewarded with a handsome Past Master's jewel, for which he returned thanks. Bro. Capt. G. Spinks, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., was re-elected to represent the lodge at the Provincial Charity Committee meeting, and then the lodge was closed.

The banquet was served in the building by Bro. Williams, of the Cambridge Hotel, Dockyard Station, and was much appreciated.

Among the other brethren present were Bros. G. Kennedy, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; W. Mculd, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; C. Jolly, P.M. (Hon.), P.M., Sec. 1472, P.M., Sec. 2184; Lieut. H. Chase, A.S.C.; J. Clarke, J. F. Williams, A. Andrews, C. Warren, L. Hackworth, J. Wickens, J. Gould, W. Robinson, W. Foster, and J. Howe, of the lodge; W. A. Anson, W.M., and A. H. Russell, S.W., of 13; J. Delo, W.M., and N. Turvey, J.W., of 1472; G. H. Nichols, W.M., G. H. Porter, and H. Pamment, J.W., of 700; J. Lee, W.M., F. Hully, S.W., and H. Crowdy, J.W., of 2399; G. Davis, P.M. 1977; Capt. Nichols, W.M.; and others.

The brethren representing, as they do, "the service," drank the toast of "The Queen and the Craft" most loyally, nor were the other Grand Lodge toasts neglected. "The Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Earl Amherst," who has an especial liking for this "service" lodge, was enthusiastically pledged, as was the toast of "Bro. Eastes, D.P.G.M."

Bro. Spinks, in responding for the toast of "The D.P.G.M. and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past," said there were, no doubt, many in the room who did not know their esteemed P.G.M., which he was sorry to say, was their loss. He (Bro. Spinks) was present at the P.G. annual meeting at Maidstone on the 3rd of the month, and had the pleasure of seeing his lordship, who presided over one of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings he (Bro. Spinks) had ever been present at, and he had pretty regularly attended those meetings. At the meeting referred to their esteemed D.P.G.M., Bro. Eastes, was presented with a testimonial, subscribed to by the brethren of the province, of the value of over £600, to mark their appreciation of his services to the province for some 21 years as D.P.G.M. He was proud of being a P.G. Officer of a province which, he believed, to be one of the best in the United Kingdom, and he would be proud even to be a doorkeeper in a province presided over by such splendid Masons and men as their beloved Provincial Grand and Deputy Provincial Grand Masters.

Bro. Spinks was cheered lustily as he enunciated his eulogium of his lordship and Bro. Eastes.

Bro. Sinnett, in proposing the toast of "The W.M.," said they had "the right man in the right place," and he felt sure that under the rule of the W.M. they would have a prosperous and happy year, and that at its end Bro. Ingle would have fully won their approbation by his conscientious work and genial rule.

Bro. Ingle, who was cheered on rising, said it had only taken him seven years to get to the chair, and he considered himself very fortunate in getting there so early. He was initiated by Bro. Gooding, P.M., and he regretted that brother's absence, because the impression made on him by the ceremony was such as he should never forget. He should endeavour to imitate that brother's working, and make the same impression on the minds of his candidates as Bro. Gooding made upon his.

Bro. Sinnett, having been eulogised for his fine performance of the installation ceremony, and his health having been drunk as Installing Officer, feelingly returned thanks, and in responding to the toast of "The Past Masters," regretted the absence of so many of them, who, by the exigencies of the service, were "scattered over the face of earth and water." He said he had recently received a letter from Bro. Bilton, I.P.M., who was now in China, in which letter Bro. Bilton assured him that he was with them in spirit if not in the flesh. Bro. Bilton wished to be kindly remembered to one and all, and that the W.M. might have a happy and prosperous year of office.

Bro. Spinks said their W.M. was the 20th in regular succession that had sat in the Master's chair since the consecration of the lodge. Next year they, that is their lodge, would attain its majority, and he felt sure that when Bro. Fowler, the next in order for installation, attained the chair, they would have, as in olden times, a real musical year of office, and one that would even surpass any recorded in the minutes of the lodge. He cordially thanked them for their hearty reception of the toast.

Bro. Kennedy, in responding, said it was 14 years since he occupied the chair as their W.M., and during that time he had fairly well attended the lodge meetings. At the time of his Mastership they met at the hall at the top of the hill (Mount Pleasant), and he was proud to say they now met in a hall that was a credit, not only to the neighbourhood, but to the province itself. Fourteen years ago they had a much larger number of members, but, as they knew, where the soldier was called to duty, he had to go, and went. He felt sure their W.M. would be worthy of the best traditions of the lodge, and he heartily thanked them for coupling his name with the toast.

Bro. Mould also briefly responded.

"The Masonic Press" was greeted with cheers, and Bro. Jolly was enthusiastically received in responding. His long and painful illness was deplored, and his re-appearance among them was the occasion of a warm and hearty reception.

Bros. Anson, Nichols, Delo, Lee, Clapham, and Capt. Nichols responded for "The Visitors," and the other toasts were "The Initiate," "The Officers," and the Tyler's toast.

Bros. Anson, Fowler, Nichols, Howe, and Meredith sustained the harmony, and Bros. Redman (piano), Stretton and Robinson (violins), Parsons (euphonium), Chambers (double bass) and Foster (clarionette) played selections to the exceeding delight of all present.

Henry Levander Lodge, No. 2048.

There was a good attendance at the installation meeting of this lodge held at the Railway Hotel, Harrow Station, on the 27th ult. The members present included Bros. W. M. Stiles, G. Treas., W.M.; H. W. Parker, S.W.; W. D. Dickinson, J.W.; W. A. Scurrah, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., Treas.; A. H. Scurrah, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., Sec.; H. T. Gurner, S.D.; J. W. Ryder, J.D.; G. Lewis, P.M., I.G.; W. Paine, D.C.; A. W. Ware, P.M.; J. Stubbings, J. H. Wilson, J. H. Paine, and H. T. Dexter. Visitors: Bros. H. H. Room, G. Std. Br.; J. Terry, P.P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; J. J. Thomas, Prov. G. Treas. Bucks; J. Osborn, P.P.G.S.B. Middx.; H. R. Grice, C. W. Matthew, 2271; W. B. Parsons, W.M. 2206; C. E. Atkinson; Alf. Moore, P.M. 173; J. T. Davies, S.W. 1321; A. Wood, J. W. Lewis, T. C. Edmonds, P.M.; T. Ward, 1706; A. Williams, P.M. 834; J. Halle, A. Martin parsons, S.W. 2206; J. Scarth, P.M. 27; and W. W. Lee, I.P.M. 1897, Prov. G. Stwd. Middx.

After the formal opening of the lodge, the minutes were confirmed and the Audit Report adopted. Bro. W. A. Scurrah, P.M., Treas., was appointed Steward to represent the lodge at the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at which the Prov. Grand Master will preside. Bro. H. W. Parker was then impressively installed as W.M. by Bro. Stiles, G. Treas., and the following officers were invested: Bros. W. D. Dickinson, S.W.; H. T. Gurner, J.W.; W. A. Scurrah, P.M., Treas.; A. H. Scurrah, P.M., Sec.; J. W. Ryder, S.D.; G. H. Lewis, P.M., J.D.; J. Stubbings, I.G.; W. Paine, D.C.; G. A. Wall, Org.; E. G. Southcott and F. F. Boyen, Stwds.; and Verry, Tyler. A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Stiles, I.P.M., in recognition of his valuable services to the lodge. Bro. W. A. Scurrah, P.M., also presented to Bro. Stiles a complete set of miniature jewels, which had not been completed when the recent presentation of Grand Officer's clothing was made. The Grand Treasurer briefly returned thanks for the handsome gifts. Mr. H. T. Desch was initiated by the newly-installed W.M., who performed the ceremony in a very able manner. Bro. H. H. Room, Prov. G. Sec., was unanimously elected an honorary member, on the proposition of Bro. W. A. Scurrah, P.M.

Lodge was closed, and a banquet was followed by the customary toasts.

Bro. W. Stiles, G. Treas., in response to the toast of "The Grand Officers," said no member of that body could be more earnest than he was in returning thanks for the kind way in which it is always proposed and received. They had recently seen Lord Lathom consecrating and constituting a lodge, whilst the Deputy Grand Master had been looking after one of the Festivals, and other Grand Officers—including the Grand Secretary—had been hard at work in the best interests of Freemasonry. By the kind suffrages of the brethren he was able to reply to that toast, and he appreciated the fact that he held that position by their kindness of heart. The Grand Officers were pleased to visit the lodges and find the work as well done as some of it had been that day.

Bro. Howard H. Room, G. Std. Br., Prov. G. Sec., replying for "The Prov. Grand Master, Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past," said he would not detain them long as they would doubtless wish to hear sweeter voices in the musical programme. This was a comprehensive toast, and he might be permitted to dissociate himself for the moment from the subject of the toast. The Prov. Grand Master took the keenest interest in all that appertained to the province, and although he did not come amongst them often, he was a busy man and they had reason to be proud of him. Their Prov. Grand Master was a man of high position and they must all be proud to think that he had been recently placed in so important a position as that of Secretary of State for India. Their dear friend, the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, as many of them knew, had been suffering for months with serious indisposition but he hoped he was a little better, although not able to visit the lodges. There was not the slightest thing in connection with the province that was not benefited by the wisdom and advice of Bro. Thrupp, Dep. Prov. G.M., whose experience extended over 15 years, his help was most invaluable, and he was always ready to do anything for the benefit of the province. For the other Prov. Grand Officers he would ask the brethren to look round and find excellent specimens in their own lodge. Bro. Scurrah's name was a pass word in Masonry and the lodge should be proud of such a brother, for he was not only a prominent Mason in Middlesex but was also the Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes. He (Bro. Room) could not do his work without the assistance of such Prov. Grand Officers, and it showed with what wisdom and skill the selection for Prov. Grand Office had been made in the past, was being made in the present, and would be made in the future. Associating himself personally with the toast he would thank them for the kind manner in which the toast had been submitted, and the generous way in which it had been received.

Bro. W. M. Stiles, I.P.M., G. Treas., said it was his privilege and pleasure to propose the next toast—"The Health of the W.M." He was told he must be brief, but he would be none the less sincere in his remarks. Bro. Parker had worked through the various offices in the lodge and had now arrived at the proud position of W.M. As a Preceptor he might perhaps be permitted to say that he never yet heard a Worshipful Master perform a ceremony for the first time better than their Worshipful Master that evening. No one could possibly have done more than their W.M. to perfect himself in his duties and the brethren were justly proud of him. They all wished Bro. Parker prosperity, and hoped for many years to enjoy his company as a W.M. and a Past Master.

Bro. H. W. Parker, W.M., said he scarcely knew how to thank the I.P.M. for the terms in which he had proposed the toast—terms he felt he was not entitled to. He felt somewhat handicapped in his present position in having to follow so eminent a Master and distinguished a Mason as Bro. Stiles. He would endeavour to imitate his predecessor—however feebly—in the excellent working of the lodge. He was in the first batch of candidates initiated by Bro. Scurrah exactly 10 years ago, and he remembered that in response to the toast he said he hoped by attention to his duties to

become the W.M. That he had succeeded in some measure was evinced by the cordial way in which the toast of the W.M. had been received, and for which he most heartily thanked them.

"The Installing Master, Past Masters, Treasurer, and Secretary" was next given by the Worshipful Master, who alluded in complimentary terms to the brethren included in the toast.

Bro. W. M. Stiles, I.P.M., G. Treas., in a characteristically modest speech, said he had done his little best in the discharge of his duties, and had had great pleasure in installing Bro. Parker that evening.

Bro. W. A. Scurrah, P.M., Treas., P.P.G. Supt. Wks., referred to the improved financial condition of the lodge since he undertook the duties handed over by Bro. Lovegrove. If all the officers and members only acted in concert with the W.M. and Treasurer the lodge was bound to be a success. He thanked the Prov. G. Sec. for his kindly allusions, which he regarded as a great compliment.

Bro. A. H. Scurrah, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. Wks., Sec., also replied.

"The Initiate" having been honoured,

Bro. Desch, in an excellent speech, said he had read that Freemasonry was responsible for everything that went wrong in the world, but with that perversity of nature peculiar to himself he was the more anxious to become a Mason. The privilege had been accorded him, and he would try his best to render himself worthy of the honour done him.

Bro. Jas. Terry, Sec. R.M.B.I., responded for "The Masonic Charities," and with reference to the Worshipful Master's remark that he had given way in order that Bro. Scurrah should represent the lodge, suggested a dual list with the W.M. and Bro. Scurrah as joint Stewards. In eloquent terms Bro. Terry alluded to the self-abnegation practised by Bro. Hy. Levander, after whom the lodge was named, and expressed the hope that the amount forthcoming at the next Festival would be worthy of the lodge and the distinguished name it bore.

Other toasts were given before the pleasant proceedings terminated.

The excellent musical arrangements were carried out by Miss Bessie Grant, Miss Ada Potter, Mr. Leyton Barker, and Bros. Horace Ward, Will Edwards, and Wall, Organist.

Elthorne and Middlesex Lodge, No. 2094.

On the 11th ult. an interesting event took place in connection with the above lodge. The 10th anniversary of its consecration was celebrated at the Café Royal, Regent-street, where most of the brethren met for the purpose of dining together. This was considered by some members of the lodge an excellent opportunity for expressing to Bro. Col. G. E. E. Blunt, one of the founders of the lodge, and at all times its most active and influential member, their sense of his merit, Masonic and otherwise. Bro. Col. Blunt, it may be said, possesses the affection and esteem of every member of the lodge, most of whom he has himself initiated. A hasty whip round had enabled a silver jug and goblets to be presented to him on the auspicious occasion under notice.

The presentation was made on behalf of the subscribers (Bros. Col. Vincent Bailey, Major J. Edward Elin, Major J. C. Henry, Capt. G. W. Redway, H. J. W. Whitaker, Col. F. B. Bowyer Lane, Major John Ross, Col. F. H. King, Col. T. P. Powell, Capt. T. Clyde Goldsworthy, General Robert Stewart, Major Vilett Rolleston, Major E. Bengough Ricketts, Major A. W. Hill, Cecil E. Morgan, Capt. C. Vipan, Col. D'Oyley Battley, Capt. Reginald Jessel, Capt. A. Bennett Black, S. V. Rolleston, Col. J. Copley Wray, H. C. French, Capt. R. E. Neale, Capt. A. M. Faulkner, and Major J. G. Scott) by Bro. Major J. G. Scott, the W.M., and was acknowledged in most feeling terms by Bro. Col. Blunt. The lodge, he said, had gone through a time of severe trial years ago when meetings were held at Hounslow. Often the faithful few who faced the winter journey to that deserted village were obliged to send for a neighbouring policeman (a Mason) to make up the indispensable number for work. He was rewarded for all his efforts to keep the lodge going by the success which had crowned his labours. The Elthorne and Middlesex Lodge was originally a regimental lodge, founded by officers of the old Elthorne Light Infantry Militia, but now it welcomed as initiates or joining members all who had borne the Queen's commission in the regular army or the militia. Many of its members were scattered over the face of the globe, but those who were within hail of London between October and April found the lodge a place of re-union with old brother-officers.

Scots Lodge, No. 2319.

The annual installation meeting of this lodge was held on the 25th ultimo, at the Scottish Corporation Hall, Crane-court, Fleet-street, under the presidency of Bro. Thos. Grant, P.M., W.M. Bro. Grant was supported by the following: Bros. J. Whitehead, P.M.; J. Page, P.M.; D. F. Gillion, P.M.; C. F. Matier, P.G. Std. Br.; Joseph Whitehead, S.W.; James Thomson, J.W.; A. Ritchie, C.C., J.P., Treas.; D. A. Ross, Sec.; Dr. D. M. Forbes, S.D.; D. R. Duncan, J.D.; E. J. Gordon, I.G.; W. Craig, Wm. Lawrie, T. Sandilands, Ashley Gordon, Org.; T. McClure, W. B. Smith, P. Black, A. D. Arnott, T. D. M. Burnside, W. S. Beaton, A. Whitehead, W. Mackean, Dr. Smith, J. Plenderleith, J. M. Barclay, T. Charteris, J. Macgregor, John Bennett, J. Nicol, and A. Macgregor. Visitors: Bros. C. Digby, 1933, 2032; J. Featherstone, P.M. 1656; H. Massey, 160, P.M. 619, 1928; J. J. Thomas, 753, P.G. Treas. Bucks; H. J. Inderwick, 824; J. Squire, 2030; J. A. Jones, 2030; H. Dehane, 1543, P.P.S.G.D. Essex; J. Whitehead, P.M. 1440; E. Savage, 2291; A. Grant, 127; E. Gabril, P.M. 1818; E. Barnes, 2424; A. J. Macmaster, 1185; A. G. MacDonald, 1695; T. Chandler, 1952; and J. Groomes, P.M. 1656.

Bro. W. Mackean was raised to the Third Degree by the W.M., who afterwards installed Bro. Joseph Whitehead, S.W., W.M. elect, as Master of the lodge for the year ensuing, he having been unanimously elected at the previous regular meeting. The following brethren were appointed to office: Bros. Thomas Grant, I.P.M.; James Thomson, S.W.; Dr. D. M. Forbes, J.W.; A. Ritchie, C.C., J.P., Treas.; D. A. Ross, Sec.; D. R. Duncan, S.D.; E. J. Gordon, J.D.; W. Craig, I.G.; Wm. Lawrie and T. Sandilands, Stewards; Ashley Gordon, Org.; D. F. Gillion, P.M., Trustee; Wm. Robertson, Tyler; and Peter MacLean, Piper. A handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Thomas Grant, P.M., for his eminent services to the lodge during his year of office.

After the lodge was closed, the usual liberal banquet was partaken of, and a charming evening was spent, Bros. I. Powley, I. Charteris, T. Grant, I.P.M., and Stovell contributing some beautiful songs.

When the toasts were honoured,

Bro. C. F. Matier, P.G. Std. Br., responded for "The Grand Officers," of whom he regretted there were not others besides himself present. He congratulated the lodge on having such an excellent and expert W.M., and wished him every success and prosperity in all time to come. He could never forget that he was one of the founders of the Scots Lodge, and that he had had the honour of sitting in the chair, not disgracing, he hoped, the office.

Bro. Thomas Grant, I.P.M., in proposing "The W.M.," said he was quite sure, from the way Bro. Joseph Whitehead had discharged his duties that evening for the first time as Master, the brethren need have no fear that in this year he would complete his duties to the satisfaction of the brethren. He had invested his officers and performed all his other duties that evening in a style which had justified the brethren selecting him as they had. It was particularly pleasing to him to see Bro. Whitehead in the chair, as he had known him from his infancy. Knowing what he was, he was sure he would be a faithful and zealous Master. From the first day he had seen the light of Masonry he had worked hard, and had gone through all the offices of the lodge.

Bro. Joseph Whitehead, W.M., acknowledging the toast, and thanking Bro. Grant for the kindness of his remarks, said he had gone into the position of W.M. with a very great deal of fear; but now that the brethren had shown him that they appreciated what little he tried to do, he should go forward with every confidence, and he sincerely trusted that the lodge in his hands would not suffer. He should do whatever he could to promote the interests of the lodge, and with the able assistance of his brother officers, the Past Masters, and the other brethren of the lodge, he sincerely trusted that his year of office might be, if not better than the others, at least as good as they had been.

Bro. Joseph Whitehead, W.M., next proposed "The Installing Master, Bro. Thos. Grant, P.M.," who had had a most successful year of office. He had undertaken the duty of Master—as very few men would have undertaken it—without any guarantee from the lodge, but only from private members. He (Bro. Joseph Whitehead) thought he should not be doing wrong in saying Bro. Grant's year had been a success; if there had not been a balance, there was very little loss. As far as his performance of the installation was concerned, the brethren had heard it and could judge for themselves. He knew

beforehand that Bro. Grant would do it well, because he heard him do it a year ago. Those who were newly initiated in the Order would have a much higher appreciation of it when the ceremonies were well worked, as they were by Bro. Grant, than when they were worked indifferently.

Bro. Thomas Grant, I.P.M., replying, said he was sure those he had initiated in the Scots Lodge remembered the happy moment when they were made members of that lodge. Those he had passed and raised were no doubt equally pleased to feel they had joined Freemasonry. Standing before the brethren as a P.M. of the Scots Lodge he thanked the brethren for the Past Master's jewel they had presented him with; he hoped he might be long spared to wear it and to render every assistance he could to the brethren of the Scots Lodge.

Bro. John Whitehead, P.M., in responding to the toast of "The Past Masters" said: Worshipful Master, Past Masters, Officers and brethren,—I can assure you that this is one of the proudest and happiest moments of my life in Freemasonry, when as a founder of this lodge and afterwards its second Master, I can assure you that I little thought that I should be spared by the Great Architect of the Universe to see its first initiate, my eldest son Joseph, installed in the chair of King Solomon, and from what we have seen of the manner in which he has filled the duties of the chair to-night I feel very proud and happy to think that the Scots Lodge in London has not lost any of its prestige, but will go on prospering until time with me shall be no more. As for the way in which you, brethren, have received the toast of the Past Masters of the Scots Lodge, as its senior, can assure you that I have the interest of the lodge at heart whether at home or abroad, and it is, I can assure you, a proud moment for me to look back and see so many old friends rally round the old Scotch Standard and the Scots Lodge in particular. Mention has been made of my services in England and Scotland, and the honours which have been conferred upon me. I can assure you, brethren, that I am heart and soul in Masonry and very proud of it, and as a representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Provincial Grand Lodge of the City of Aberdeen, I have to offer you, Worshipful Sir and Brethren, their hearty congratulation for the success of the Scots Lodge in London, and to thank you, Worshipful Sir, Officers and Brethren, for the way in which you have received me and the toast of the Past Masters of the Scots Lodge. Brethren, one and all, I thank you.

Bros. John Page, P.M., Gellion, P.M., and Thomas Grant, I.P.M., also replied.

Bros. Digby and J. J. Thomas, Prov. G. Treas. Bucks, responded to the toast of "The Visitors;" Bros. Thomson, S.W., Dr. Forbes, J.W., and Ross, Secretary, replied to the toast of "The Officers;" and Bro. Robertson having given the Tyler's toast, "Auld Lang Syne" closed the proceedings.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Mount Calvary Chapter, No. 3.

The installation meeting of this distinguished chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Golden-square, on the 12th ult., when there were present, among others, Bros. G. H. Grimwood, I.P., M.W.S.; Nelson Prower, M.A., 30°, 1st General; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.M.W.S., Recorder; Dr. V. Jagielski, J. Speller, T. Biddlecombe, H. F. Bromhead, F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M.W.S.; H. J. Lardner, 30°, P.M.W.S.; Capt. Baldwin, Dr. Hinton, Murray, and Biggs. Bro. Fairhurst was a visitor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. In consequence of the death of Bro. Major W. B. Williamson, I.P., M.W.S. elect, the Supreme Council had kindly given permission to the chapter to elect and install a brother in his stead. The members unanimously elected Bro. N. Prower, and he was most impressively installed by Bro. H. J. Lardner. The officers appointed and invested were Bros. L. Steele, Prelate; W. Maple, 1st General; Dr. V. Jagielski, 2nd General; H. J. Lardner, unanimously elected Treas. nec Bro. W. Paas, resigned; Capt. Walls, P.M. W.S., Recorder; J. Speller, G.M.; A. W. Humpereys, Raphael; T. C. Biddlecombe, C. of the G.; J. M. Smith, Herald; H. J. Adams, D.C.; Dr. E. M. Lott, Organist; Egbert Roberts, Asst. Reg. A vote of thanks was passed to the Installing Officer with acclamation. The P.M.W.S. was invested with a Past Sovereign's jewel. A vote of condolence was passed to the widow of the late Bro. Major W. B. Williamson, I.P., and a vote of thanks ordered to be recorded on the minutes and forwarded to Bro. Paas for his long and efficient services as Treasurer. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. Communications regretting inability to attend were received from Bros. L. Steele, W. Maple, Dr. E. M. Lott, 31°, and many others.

The chapter was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Café Royal to the banquet.

The Most Wise presided very ably, his remarks being characterised by originality of thought and most interestingly eloquent and expressive.

In proposing "The Health of the Installing Officer," the Most Wise paid a great and well-deserved compliment to Bro. Lardner, whose services that afternoon, he said, could not be too highly praised. Personally he felt extremely gratified at being inducted as Most Wise Sovereign by so distinguished and able an exponent of the Rose Croix ritual. In conclusion, he said that whilst they grieved to lose the services of so worthy an officer as their worthy and genial Bro. Paas had proved himself to be, yet they congratulated Bro. Lardner upon the distinction of being elected to fill the honourable and onerous position of Treasurer, and the duties of which office he was so competent to carry out.

The recipient of these compliments modestly expressed his thanks in a few well chosen words.

The remaining toasts were quickly proposed, and duly honoured.

During the proceedings, Bros. Dr. Hinton, T. Biddlecombe, F. W. Driver, and others entertained the brethren, who departed at an early hour.

Allied Masonic Degrees.

Metropolitan Council, T.I.M.

A meeting of this council was held at the Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 19th ult. Among those present were Bros. George Graveley, W.M.; George Powell, S.W.; W. G. Lemon, J.P., P.M., as J.W.; Nelson Prower, M.A.; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.M., Sec.; H. J. Lardner, P.M.; Basil Stewart, and W. Toye.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A vote of sympathy was passed to Bro. J. J. Pakes, who was absent in consequence of the severe illness of a near relative. Apologies for non-attendance were also received from Bros. Shepperd, J.W.; W. Vincent, P.M., G.D.C.; R. L. Loveland, J.P., P.M.; Baron de Ferrieres, P.M.; and Andrew McDowell, I.P.M.

The council was then closed, and a dinner followed at the Holborn Restaurant.

The only toasts honoured were "The Queen" and "The W.M.," and the proceedings terminated at an early hour.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

KENSINGTON LODGE, No. 1767.

A meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 30th ult., at the Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, when there were present: Bros. H. G. Danby, P.M., W.M.; A. F. Taylor, S.W.; J. J. Rumbal, J.W.; George Read, P.M., P.G. Std. Br. Eng., Preceptor; R. H. Williams, P.M., &c., Treas.; F. Craggs, P.M., Sec.; Charles Orntner, S.D.; W. Thwaites, J.D.; A. J. Turner, I.G.; W. Hillier, P.M.; J. H. Neville, W.M. elect 1767; A. Williams, P.M.; M. Moss, C. C. Barber, P. Howard, A. J. Clayton, R. Hendy, T. E. P. Bell, and A. C. S. Mackenzie.

The lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Barber offered himself as a candidate for passing, and was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and called off. The lodge was called on, and resumed to the Second Degree. Bro. Clayton offered himself as a candidate for raising, and was examined and retired. Bro. Barber then took his place, and was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bro. Taylor was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was then closed.

Masonic and General Tidings.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES visited Eastwell Park on Saturday last at the invitation of Lord and Lady Gerard, and, having lunched with his hosts, went over the mansion and drove round the estate, returning to town by train from Ashford about 10 p.m.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK and Princess Maud of Wales and suite visited the Empire of India Exhibition on Saturday afternoon. Afterwards, accompanied by the Princess Victoria of Wales, they visited the Imperial Institute and heard the Strauss Orchestra.

BRO. THE REV. J. STEPHEN BARRASS, rector of St. Michael Bassishaw, in the City, has arranged a splendid walking tour in Switzerland and Northern Italy for young men. The party will start on Tuesday, the 13th inst. Full particulars can be had on application to Bro. Barrass.

THE REV. DR. FARRAR was installed as Dean of Canterbury on Saturday last, the Cathedral being filled, and among those present being the Mayor and Corporation of Canterbury. The Dean of Westminster and the Speaker, who had been expected to be present, were unable to attend.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES, with the Duchess of York and the Princesses Victoria and Maud and a party of friends, occupied the Band Stand Pavilion of the Imperial Institute Gardens on Tuesday, and in the course of their visit inspected the Photographic, Railway Appliances, and Geographical Exhibitions.

PROFESSOR JUDD, who has been appointed to succeed the late Professor Huxley as Dean of the Royal College of Sciences, South Kensington, is Professor of Geology at the Royal School of Mines. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, has been twice President of the Geological Society, and is the holder of the Wollaston medal for Geology.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE left London for an extended tour on the Continent on Monday. A large number of officers assembled at the Victoria Station for the purpose of taking leave of his Royal Highness, among them being Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Bros. General Sir R. Gipps and Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., and most of the Headquarters Staff.

AT A MEETING of the Fitzwilliam Hunt on Saturday last, it was announced that Mr. George Fitzwilliam would take upon himself the vacant mastership, and that Mr. Wright, formerly master of the Badsworth, would hunt the hounds for him. Mr. Fitzwilliam does not ride to hounds, as his father, the late Hon. G. Fitzwilliam, died from a fall in the hunting field.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE.—During the past few days several men have been engaged in repairing the stonework of the Great Hall, which had become somewhat dilapidated in parts. The famous old vine, which is now 127 years old, survived the winter frosts, and is now covered with about 1200 clusters of grapes. This is about the average number which it produces.

THE SHAHZADA NASRULLA KHAN visited the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House on Monday, for the purpose of taking leave of their Royal Highnesses previous to their departure from London. The Spanish Ambassador, accompanied by the Countess Casa Valinera and Mademoiselle Alcala Galiano, also visited the Prince and Princess on the occasion of his appointment as Ambassador to the Court of St. James's.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, who commanded the Guards 41 years ago in the Crimea, made what is expected to be his last annual inspection of the battalions in London in Hyde Park on Saturday morning last. The battalions inspected were the 1st and 2nd Grenadiers, the 1st Coldstreams, and the 2nd Scots Guards, who numbered in all about 2500 men under the command of Major-General Lord Methuen. His Royal Highness was attended by the Headquarters Staff, and among those present on the ground as spectators were Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and other old Guardsmen.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES honoured Bro. Don Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, 708, Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate, Ceylon, who is on a visit to this country, by receiving him at Marlborough House on the 29th ult. Don Solomon is a member of an ancient and distinguished Singhalese family, and had in 1882 the marked distinction conferred upon him of being personally invested, by the late Duke of Clarence, during his and the present Duke of York's visit to Ceylon, with the insignia of the rank of Mohandiram of the Governor's Gate. A reference to this event is made in "The Cruise of H.M.S. Bacchante."

THE REMAINS of the late Bishop of Winchester were interred near the Lady Chapel, Winchester Cathedral, on Monday, the service being conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Rochester, and the Dean of Winchester. The congregation included, in addition to the relatives of the deceased prelate, several of the bishops, the Mayor and Corporation of Winchester, the Mayor of Basingstoke, the Chancellor of the diocese, the governing body and masters of Winchester College, and about 400 clergy from all parts of the diocese. Among the friends present were the Earls of Selborne and Portsmouth, and Bros. General Sir F. Fitzwygram, Sir John Mowbray, and Wyndham Portal.

BRO. SIR J. WHITTAKER ELLIS, BART., HONOURED.—On Tuesday afternoon, at the Richmond Town Hall, in the presence of a distinguished company, the marble bust of Alderman Sir Whittaker Ellis, Bart., the gift of his friends, was unveiled by H.R.H. the Duchess of Teck. The proceedings were conducted in semi-private. Executed by Mr. Williamson, of Kingston-on-Thames, the bust is a striking likeness of the well-known original. Sir Whittaker is a popular figure in the ancient Royal borough, and few men have given more liberally than he to local enterprises. Mainly through his instrumentality Richmond was raised a few years ago to the dignity of a borough, and to mark the occasion he presented to the town the site upon which now stands the handsome pile of municipal buildings. He is to the front in all local movements, and no great step in the borough is ever taken without his aid and advice being sought. The tribute of Richmond's gratitude (for the subscribers are all Richmond men) which now occupies the place of honour in the Town Hall bears a suitable inscription, engraven on a silver plate, recording the labours and liberality of the Alderman.—*City Press.*

THE LATE BRO. T. W. TEW.—Probate of the will, dated February 22nd, 1895, has been granted, and estate duty has been paid on £93,045 4s. 1d., as the net value of the personal estate of Bro. Thomas William Tew, of Carleton Grange, Pontefract, a partner in the West Riding Bank and the Wakefield and Pontefract Bank of Leatham, Tew and Co., and Provincial Grand Master, Grand Superintendent, and Grand Prior of the Province of West Yorkshire, who died on the 29th March last, aged 65 years. The executors are the testator's widow, Mrs. Amelia Tew, his son, Mr. Edward Grosvenor Tew, and Mr. Claude Leatham, of Wakefield, solicitor, to the last named of whom the testator bequeaths £50, to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Thompson, £150; to his brothers and sisters and nephews and nieces, £5 each; to his children, £50 each; to his servant, Thomas Woodcock, £50; to his servant, Edward Woodcock, £25; to Percy Wood, if he assists the executors in winding up the testator's estate, £300; to the other clerks in the Pontefract and Goole Bank of Leatham, Tew and Co., £10 each; to the Pontefract General Dispensary, £100; and some other legacies. Bro. Tew bequeathed to his son Edward his guns and shooting appliances, his fishing tackle, and £5000; and to his daughters Emily, Mary, and Florence, £10,000 each, and further £5000 each after the death of Mrs. Tew. To her the testator bequeaths £300, his plate, pictures, furniture, and household effects, Masonic and scientific articles, horses and carriages, and the income during her life of the residue of his personal estate and of all his real estate; and, subject to Mrs. Tew's life-interest, the testator devises his real estate and bequeaths the residue of his personal estate to his son, whom he nominates to a partnership in the banking house of Leatham, Tew and Co., and bequeaths to him his share and interest therein.

MAN'S INGRATITUDE.—We have it on Shakespeare's authority that the winter wind is not more unkind than man's ingratitude. In many cases this is unfortunately only too true. There are times, however, when the benefit received is so great that ingratitude becomes impossible. When life is rendered a burden to us by sickness, and someone comes and restores us to health, we should be base indeed to feel ungrateful. Thus, millions are to-day grateful to Holloway's Pills and Ointment, which have cured them of all stomach and liver troubles, banished headache, flatulency, indigestion, and low spirits, and cleared their systems of gout, rheumatism, sciatica, and all similar ailments.

AFTER THE close of the meeting of the British Medical Association on Thursday last a smoking concert was given by the Æsculapius Lodge at the Portman Rooms, a full account of which will appear in our next.

THE CROWN PRINCESS OF ROUMANIA and the Grand Duchess of Hesse took leave of the Queen on Wednesday, and having embarked on the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert, crossed the Channel to Flushing, with the intention of proceeding to Coburg.

THE CEREMONY of laying the foundation-stone of the new Payne Smith Higher Elementary Church Schools was performed by the Mayor of Canterbury on Monday, among those present being the Very Rev. F. W. Farrar, D.D., who had been enthroned as Dean of Canterbury the previous Saturday.

THE LAST SPEECH DAY that will be held in Christ's Hospital previous to its removal to its new quarters at Horsham took place on Wednesday, there being a large attendance of visitors in the great hall, among whom were Bro. Alderman Sir Joseph Savory, Bart., M.P., and Lady Savory, Alderman and Sheriff Samuel, and Bro. Sheriff Hand.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT drove over to Windsor Castle on Saturday last, and having taken luncheon at the Victoria Tower, visited the Albert Chapel and St. George's Chapel. Bishop Barry met them in the latter, and Bro. Sir Walter Parratt played a selection of organ music. Their Royal Highnesses left the Castle in the evening.

GENERAL REGRET is felt at the news that Bro. Sir E. Baldwin Malet, her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, has tendered his resignation, and has signified his wish to withdraw from active service in October. The Emperor, on being advised of the fact, through his Ambassador in London, has openly avowed his sorrow at having to part with one who has played so eminent a part at his Court.

CHARLES DICKENS'S desk has been presented to the South Kensington Museum by Bro. S. B. Bancroft. It was given by the great novelist's executrix to the late Bro. Edmund Yates, and on his death was sold by public auction, the purchaser being Bro. Bancroft. It was used by Dickens only a few hours before he died on 8th June, 1870. The inscription on the desk records the above facts.

THE MARRIAGE of the Duke of Argyll with the Hon. Mary Erskine, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Archibald McNeill, of Colonsay, Argyllshire, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to the Queen, was solemnised in the chapel of the Bishop's Palace at Ripon on Tuesday, the proceedings being strictly private. The Duke and Duchess afterwards left for Castle Howard to spend the honeymoon.

EARL WALDEGRAVE, as Captain of the English Eight which won the Elcho Challenge Shield at the recent annual meeting at Bisley of the National Rifle Association, has requested the Lord Mayor (Bro. Sir Joseph Renals) to be the custodian of the Shield until the next annual competition. The trophy will be presented to his lordship and hung in the Guildhall in October, the ceremony being accompanied with military honours.

THE MARRIAGE of Mr. Richard F. Cavendish, M.P., second son of the late Lord Edward Cavendish, and nephew of Bro. the Duke of Devonshire, with the Lady Moyra Beauclerk, daughter of Bro. the Duke and Duchess of St. Albans, was solemnised in and bridegroom left for Chatsworth, which had been placed at their disposal by the Bestwood Church, Notts, on Wednesday. After the wedding breakfast, the bride Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, for the honeymoon.

MONDAY was the last night of the season at the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, and the scene presented by the house was brilliant in the extreme. The opera performed was Gounod's "Roméo et Juliette," and among the audience were their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princesses Victoria and Maud, and the Duke and Duchess of York. In the course of the evening Bro. Sir Augustus Harris, after a brief speech, handed a bâton, for presentation to Signor Mancenelli (the conductor), to the prima donna, Madame Melba.

MUSEUM STATISTICS.—An interesting return relative to the national museums in Bloomsbury and Cromwell-road was issued on Monday as a Parliamentary paper. To the former the number of visitors during the year was 578,977, exceeding those in any of the five preceding years; 209,973 persons used the reading-room, a daily average of 670, the highest on record. In the Natural History Museum during the same period the total number of visitors was 413,572, an excess of more than 500 over the previous year, and giving a daily average of nearly 1330.

THE DUKE OF YORK, attended by Sir Francis de Winton, visited the Maxim Nordenfeldt Gun Works at Erith on Monday, and was conducted over them by Mr. Maxim, who explained the various machinery. Subsequently he visited the Cray ford factory, where he inspected the new light cavalry gun, from which he fired several rounds. Lastly a journey was made to Baldwyns Park, Bexley, the residence of Mr. Maxim, where he witnessed experiments with the flying machine, which he mounted and travelled a short distance by at the rate of between 40 and 50 miles an hour.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the British Medical Association was inaugurated on Tuesday by a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral, the sermon being preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Subsequently the first general meeting of members was held at Exeter Hall, when the retiring President, Dr. E. Long Fox, introduced his successor, Sir Russell Reynolds, who is also President of the Royal College of Physicians. In the evening there was a further meeting at the Imperial Institute, which was very numerously attended, at which the new President delivered his inaugural address.

THE ANNUAL REGATTA of the Royal Cork Yacht Club, which dates from the year 1726, commenced at Queenstown on Monday, the principal race being for yachts of over 40 tons, racing for a prize of the value of £100 given by Mr. George Gould, of New York, over a course of 40 miles. The Britannia and Ailsa were entered, but at the conclusion of the first round, when the former was nearly 25 minutes ahead, the Ailsa was becalmed, and the Committee subsequently shortening the course, the Britannia passed the winning post at 5 hours 12 minutes 20 seconds, having started at 10.30 a.m.

BRO. THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN'S Valkyrie, which is about to try conclusions with the best of the American yachts for the possession of the America Cup, started from Greenock on Saturday last on her voyage across the Atlantic. The yacht is in charge of Captain James Harrison, an Anchor Line Shipmaster, who has had considerable experience of the Atlantic trade, and is expected to reach her destination in about 20 days. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, there was a large crowd of spectators on the quays at the time of the Valkyrie's departure who cheered her lustily as she was towed out to sea.

AT OSBORNE ON SATURDAY last, the Queen conferred the decoration of the Victoria Cross on Surgeon-Captain H. Frederick Whitchurch, for having, during the sortie from Central on the 3rd March last, gone to the assistance of Captain Baird, who had been mortally wounded on the heights about a mile and a half distant. When the Ghoorkas who had accompanied him were so diminished in number by casualties as to be no longer able to carry the captain in a dooly, Surgeon-Captain Whitchurch took him on his back and carried him the rest of the distance, eventually succeeding in getting him and the rest of his party back into the fort.

THE ANNUAL DINNER of the Royal Geographical Society took place in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Métropole on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Mr. Clement R. Markham, amongst the guests being the American Ambassador, the Belgian Minister, Bros. the Earl of Crawford and Lord Kinnaird, Bro. Admiral Markham, Sir George Nares, Professor Vambéry, Professor Geikie, and Mr. H. M. Stanley, M.P. On the same day the members of the Geographical Congress, now assembled in London, attended a garden party given by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts and Bro. W. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., at their residence, Holly Lodge, Highgate.

A NEW DEPARTURE.—Many newspapers insure their readers against railway accidents, but it has been left to our contemporary, *Swimming*, to introduce a novel system of insurance, namely, against drowning. Purchasers of this paper are presented with an insurance coupon, by which £1000 are guaranteed to the legal representatives of any such purchaser who is accidentally drowned, having voluntarily entered the water in an attempt to rescue another person from drowning, and £100 if accidentally drowned. This is certainly a most useful scheme, and should commend itself to the thousands of swimmers and others who spend most of their holiday time on or in the water. *Swimming* is a penny weekly paper devoted to the interests of this healthy and useful pastime.