

THE FREEMASON.

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

REPORTS OF THE GRAND LODGES ARE PUBLISHED WITH THE SPECIAL SANCTION OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND; HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND;
SIR CHARLES DALRYMPLE, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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"NO DISLOYALTY."

The *New Zealand Craftsman* for October last contains a well-written article under the above heading, in which it states, not as a matter of opinion, but as a matter of fact, that "one of the greatest difficulties encountered by those who sought to establish local government in this Colony by the formation of a Grand Lodge was the imputation to which they were freely subjected of their action being disloyal to the parent Constitutions. Those who joined in and supported the Grand Lodge movement were not only characterised as disloyal and held up to public reprobation as traitors, but they were also accused of violating the most sacred obligations in proposing to transfer their allegiance." It considers—what is indeed most probable—that "a great number of brethren and many lodges were thus deterred from throwing in their lot with the new movement," and that "even to this day many lodges and brethren hold aloof from and look askance at the Grand Lodge of New Zealand under the entirely mistaken impression that loyalty to their parent Grand Lodge requires that they should do so. They would willingly support the National Grand Lodge if they thought they could do so consistently with their duty to their mother Grand Lodge." Under these circumstances our contemporary calls attention to certain remarks made in United Grand Lodge by Bro. the Earl of MOUNT EDGCUMBE, Deputy G.M., and Bro. the Earl of JERSEY, Past G.M. of New South Wales, Prov. G.M. of Oxfordshire. The former is quoted as having pointed out that "the demand for free existence" was "the natural result of healthy development," and that that demand involved "no breach of allegiance or rebellion and should not be regarded with jealousy." The latter is said "to have emphasised" the same points previously, when he objected to the members of a lodge in New South Wales which had not transferred its allegiance "being referred to as 'loyal,' to distinguish them from the brethren who owed fealty to the Grand Lodge of New South Wales." We have no intention of calling in question the accuracy of our contemporary's statements. There is no doubt that "disloyalty" is, as it describes it, a "nasty" word, nor are we prepared to affirm that it may not have exercised on many brethren and lodges the deterrent effect ascribed to it. No one in his senses would venture to assert that the brethren in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, in setting up Grand Lodges of their own, ever entertained a thought of acting "disloyally" to their parent Grand Lodges. What they then did was, as Bro. Lord MOUNT EDGCUMBE very appropriately expressed it, nothing more than "the natural outcome of the development of Masonic constitutional principles." The mistake made by the promoters of the unrecognised Grand Lodge of New Zealand—a mistake which has been followed by most deplorable results to the Craft in the Colony—was that they did not exercise that patience

and circumspection which are required of all who undertake to establish a new in place of an existing organisation, be it political, commercial, social, or Masonic. The complaint against the old system of concurrent jurisdiction in the Colony was that, so long as it was permitted to remain, so long there existed the danger that frequent and even serious dissensions were possible and by no means improbable; and even our New Zealand contemporary will hardly venture to affirm that the erection of a fourth Constitution in addition to the three previously existing was the only or even the likeliest way of determining the evil. We believe we are correct in saying that if a substantial majority of lodges in the Colony had signified their adhesion to the movement for establishing a Grand Lodge of New Zealand, the United Grand Lodge of England would have recognised it on the usual conditions with the same readiness and pleasure as it had exhibited only a short time previously in recognising the other Grand Lodges at the Antipodes. When, however, the critical moment arrived, it was found that only 32 lodges out of some 150 were committed to the movement, and our Grand Lodge very properly withheld recognition, not from any idea that the brethren in New Zealand who desired a Constitution and Grand Lodge of their own were "disloyal," but because the new movement had succeeded in enlisting the support of so small a proportion of the lodges. There is nothing inconsistent with sound policy or the spirit of Masonic Charity, when a Grand Lodge, while fully and most cordially recognising that "the demand for free existence" is, as our Deputy Grand Master has so justly expressed it, "a necessity, and the material outcome of the development of Masonic constitutional principles," withholds recognition from a Grand Lodge, the creation of which, under the circumstances we have described, must in the very nature of things, have the effect—as, indeed, we know it has had the effect—of only making confusion still "worse confounded." But as we pointed out in the article which appeared in our columns a short while since, the question now is, not as to what happened early in 1889; not whether the promoters of the unrecognised Grand Lodge of New Zealand exhibited a lack of patience and circumspection and sound judgment in determining on the erection of that body *conté que conté*; not whether the deplorable consequences which have followed that act of the said promoters is due to their incaution and precipitate conduct or to some other cause or causes; not whether our Grand Lodge was or was not justified in the course it adopted towards the so-called Grand Lodge at the outset and has maintained towards it ever since; but by what means and at how early a date such a means may be found as will determine, once and for ever, the inharmonious relations presently existing among the several Masonic Constitutions now existing in the colony of New Zealand. Why cannot steps be taken, and at once, to heal the wounds from which—no matter what the *vis et origo mali*—the Craft in that Colony is undoubtedly suffering? Why, as we suggested in our recent article, cannot a convention be held—unofficially, if that is preferred or is held to be necessary—of representative brethren of sound judgment and large experience, selected from the four sections of the Craft now concurrently existing in the Colony? Why, in face of the historic fact that the "Ancient" and "Modern" Societies of English Masons, after more than 60 years of open and undisguised, and, at times, most violent, antagonism, did come together in 1813, and, after arranging terms mutually honourable, did re-form themselves into one united and harmonious whole—why, in the face of this, we ask, should it be impossible for our brethren of the English, Irish, Scotch, and New Zealand

Constitutions, after a schism extending over only *six* years, to meet and unite themselves as one body? This, we repeat, is the question which now confronts us—not what these or those did six years ago, but whether the evils which have resulted from the acts of one or other body cannot be remedied. We say they can, and we have the precedent of 1813 in support of our assertion. If, however, we are wrong in this, then all the talk we are accustomed to hear about Masonic Charity and the “beautiful” thing it is for brethren “to dwell together in unity,” must be the veriest moonshine imaginable.

ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM.*

In its general character the concluding Part of Volume VIII. of the Transactions of Lodge No. 2076, will compare very favourably with its predecessors, while two or three of the papers it contains will be studied with more than usual interest. Prominent among these latter is that which was read by Bro. JOHN LANE, P.A.G.D.C., at the October meeting, on “The Early Lodges of Freemasons, their Constitution and Warrants 1717-1760.” It is the more valuable from the fact that the subject of Lodge Warrants has hitherto attracted no great amount of attention. As a rule, brethren have been content with knowing that lodges were duly entered in the authorised lists of lodges, while the experts have carefully noted their erasure, any alterations that may from time to time have been made in the order of their seniority or in their places of meeting, and such other circumstances as they may have regarded as important in estimating the merits or otherwise of the work done by them and the justice of their claims to any special privileges or honour that may have been conferred upon them. But hitherto they do not appear to have troubled themselves very particularly about the precise character of the authority which led to their being included in the Grand Lodge Register. Thus, though it has long been known that the authority under which our earlier lodges worked was not always the same in point of form, Bro. LANE may be said to have struck new ground and it is needless to say that what he has written on the subject of Lodge Constitution and Warrants is characterised by his usual neatness, methodical arrangement, and precision of detail. It is not necessary we should accept all his conclusions in order to justify the pleasure we have derived from the perusal of his important paper. Indeed, more than one brother present at the meeting at which it was read dissented from sundry of the views he enunciated or of the conclusions he arrived at, and yet there was absolute unanimity of feeling as to the exceeding merit of this valuable contribution to that branch of Masonic History which treats of the origin of our Grand Lodge and its progress as exemplified by the periodical creation of new lodges. As regards the paper itself and its ample contents, Bro. LANE may be said to have treated his subject so exhaustively, as to have left little, if any, room for additions to be made in the way of illustration. But, to judge from the long and able discussion which followed, and in which Bros. E. CONDER, jun., HAMON LE STRANGE, G. W. SPETH, H. W. RYLANDS, and others took part, it is by no means improbable that further consideration may be given to the subject of Lodge Constitution and Warrants.

Notable also among the contents of Part III is the paper which was read at the annual meeting of the Lodge on the 8th November by Bro. E. J. BARRON, F.S.A., P.G.D., on “Death and the Freemason-Musæus.” In this is given the text, as rendered into English from the German, of the explanation written by MUSÆUS in 1785, of that one of SCHELLENBERG’S series of Vignettes, after the manner of HOLBEIN, in which Death and the Freemason are associated. The text is accompanied by a photograph copy of the Vignette, and, as there is no other instance, that we are aware of, in which the Freemason has figured in the Dance of Death, there can be no question as to Bro. BARRON’S contribution attracting a large amount of interest. But, apart from this rareness of the association of Death and Freemasonry, there are other and stronger reasons why the reader should pay particular attention to this paper. As Bro.

SPETH was careful to point out in the remarks he offered subsequently, “the paper before us is not only a literary curiosity, but I think its interest is of even a deeper nature. To my mind the interest centres in the engraving which accompanies it.” This opinion we most cordially endorse for similar, if not for precisely the same, reasons. This interest is still further enhanced by the discovery recorded by Bro. C. KUPFERSCHMIDT in an “Additional Note” appended to the general discussion, to the effect that MUSÆUS was a Freemason, having been, as he tells us, initiated in the Amalia Lodge at Weimar at the St. John’s Festival in June, 1776, the lodge in question working under the Strict Observance.

Among the other contributions to this Part III. will be found “a Sketch of the Earlier History of Masonry in Austria and Hungary,” by Bro. LADISLAS DE MALCZOVICH, continued from Volume VII. of the Transactions; “Squaring the Circle, Geometrically,” by Bro. G. W. SPETH; “the Classic Writers on the Mysteries,” by Bro. GERALD FITZGIBBON; and “Freemasonry in Mexico—III.,” by Bro. R. F. GOULD. As regards the first of these four, while we fully recognise the care which Bro. MALCZOVICH has bestowed upon his work, and the exceeding patience and thoroughness with which he has carried it out, we suggest with all deference that he should move forward somewhat more rapidly with his main narrative, leaving the minor details more in the background, and dealing with them summarily in one or two short paragraphs apart as footnotes. As his paper is presented here, it reminds us of a Greek Play with emendations and annotations in Latin by some learned German scholar, but with this important difference in favour of the Greek Play as thus edited. Each successive page of the latter contains some two or three or more lines of text, while all the rest is emendations and annotations, &c., &c. Still, as Text and Notes are separate, it is possible for the student to read the one and skip the other; but in Bro. MALCZOVICH’S Early History, it is a task of great difficulty to trace the main narrative through the mass of detail which is mixed up with it. Bro. FITZGIBBON’S paper would be improved if he were to add a few more translated excerpts from the works of classic writers, while Bro. SPETH’S is a most ingenious solution of a well-known difficulty, but we leave it to other and more competent critics to determine its value mathematically. As to the further paper of Bro. GOULD on “Freemasonry in Mexico,” our readers must be already familiar with a part of its contents. There is, however, one passage which appears to us to be worthy of quotation. In what must have been originally the concluding paragraph of his article, Bro. GOULD says: “The loose way in which new and mushroom Grand Lodges are accorded recognition in America has long been a reproach to that country. But to acknowledge as regular and legitimate the proceedings of the Gran Dieta of Mexico is going very far indeed, and may well suggest whether any future Grand Lodge—however organised or conducted—need despair of being rapturously welcomed within the circle of governing Masonic bodies by one or more of the American Grand Lodges.” We heartily endorse these remarks. It is, indeed, a reproach that a Grand Lodge like that of New York, which is one of the offending bodies in this case, should have recognised, as being in any way associated with Freemasonry, a system which forbids the presence of the Bible in its lodges, and sanctions, or sanctioned till lately, the initiation of women. However, the reader will be in a better position to judge for himself of the character of Mexican Freemasonry after reading Bro. GOULD’S article.

As for the other matters contained in this Section of the Transactions of the Lodge in 1895, they include a report of the Summer Excursion to Winchester and the hospitable reception of the lodge by Bro. W. W. B. BEACH, M.P., and his Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, with a brief, but able paper by Bro. H. LOVEGROVE—with Illustrations—on the Cathedral; the excellent address delivered by Bro. E. MACBEAN after his installation as W.M. in November last; several able Reviews by Bros. W. J. HUGHAN, SPETH, and GOULD, of the “Records of the Alnwick Lodge, 1717-1757;” HUGHAN’S “Old Charges of British Freemasons”—Second Edition; and Bro. LANE’S “Masonic Records—1717-1894”—Second Edition—respectively. There are also the usual “Notes and Queries” contributed by

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Bros. F. A. POWELL, G. W. SPETH, JOHN YARKER, and others, and a "Chronicle;" together with a Contents Table and Index for the whole Volume, which have been compiled under the direction of the Editor—Bro. SPETH—who has done his work of supervision and annotation with his accustomed ability and care.

NEW YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual entertainment to the resident annuitants of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at Croydon, was held on New Year's Day, when by invitation of Bro. James Terry, the energetic Secretary of the Institution, a large party of brethren and ladies journeyed from London in special carriages annexed to the 1 p.m. train from Cannon-street Station of the South-Eastern Railway. The company comprised:

Bro. John Newton and Mrs. Newton; Bro. Frederick Dunn and Mrs. Dunn; Bros. Charles Frederick Hogard, T. H. Morris, T. Hastings Miller, John A. Farnfield (Treasurer of the Institution); Bro. W. P. Warren and Mrs. Warren; Bros. John J. Pakes, Charles J. Macintosh, Philip Woodman; Bro. Joseph Curtis, Mrs. Curtis, and Mrs. Jacques; Bros. John Aldis, J. Woodman; Miss Beatrice C. Cooke, Bro. George Cook, and Mrs. Cook; Bro. Charles Kempton, Mrs. and Miss Kempton; Bro. Richard S. and Mrs. Sly; Bro. Alex. Mullord, Mrs. Mullord, and Mrs. Gregory (daughter); Bro. H. Massey, Miss Charlotte Massey, and Mrs. F. C. Gates; Miss Annie Cotter, Miss Harriet Cotter; Bro. W. H. Williams, P.M. and Sec. 87; Mrs. Dallimore, Mrs. Terry, Miss Terry; Bro. Edward James Anning, Mrs. and Miss Anning; Aida Crutch, Mrs. Jessie E. Faull, Lilian Raiker; Bros. C. H. Webb, G. Wilkinson; Mr. and Mrs. Allans; Alice Ford, Mr. A. T. Faull; Bros. W. H. Hubbert, A. Start, Daniell, and Mr. Orton.

On arriving at the Institution, the party was most cordially received by Bro. Terry, Bro. John G. Stevens (Chief Clerk); and Miss Norris (Matron), all of whom wished each visitor individually "A Happy New Year." The residents were immediately after summoned to the New Year's dinner in the large hall of the Institution, over which Bro. Dr. Strong presided, with Mrs. Terry on his left, at a cross-table on the dais. The longitudinal tables, of which there were three, had at their respective ends Bros. Terry, J. A. Farnfield, George Cook, John Newton, C. F. Hogard, and Charles Kempton. The ladies of the party dined with the annuitants, while the brethren engaged themselves in looking after the requirements of the whole body of diners. It was a magnificent repast which was placed before them by the liberality of the same perennial donors; magnificent turkeys, choice capons, the finest of sirloins of beef, and Bro. Hastings Miller's yearly gift of the best of Cumberland hams, which he personally carved. All who partook of the banquet expressed entire satisfaction with it, and commended the grand cooking which Miss Norris had superintended. Christmas puddings and mince pies added to the perfectness of the provision made for the comfort and appetite of all, and before the company rose from the table,

Bro. Dr. STRONG requested the ladies and brethren to join him and the annuitants to take a glass of wine in which to drink the very few toasts which were always honoured on these occasions—"The Queen, the Grand Patroness of the Institution," and "The Prince of Wales, Patron," but before doing so, said he would like first of all to welcome every one, in the name of the Committee, and wish them "A Happy and Prosperous New Year." He had been reminded by two old friends whom he had met that day—the Deputy Mayor of Croydon, Alderman Rymer, who was present that day last year, and had been a very good friend of the Institution, and Bro. Sidney Edridge, who was better known to Bro. Terry by his kind contributions to his lists than known personally to the present company, that he (Dr. Strong) was to give their very kindest and heartiest regards to the visitors and the annuitants, and to express their great regret at not being able to be with the party. In proposing "The Queen," he wished her Majesty a "Happy and Prosperous New Year," and many others to follow; and, in giving the toast of "The Prince of Wales," used the same expressions with regard to his Royal Highness.

Bro. Dr. STRONG, in proposing "The Founders of the Feast," said that most of the ladies and brethren present were aware that the expense of the entertainment did not come out of the funds of the Institution, but was paid by voluntary contributions. How well those had come in he need hardly say, as the company had seen how bountifully the tables were supplied. The two names he would couple with the toast were those of Bro. Thomas Hastings Miller, who, as on former occasions, provided the hams, and Bro. George Cook, who had provided the fluids.

Bro. T. HASTINGS MILLER, acknowledging the toast, said it was not the first time he had had the privilege of doing so, and he hoped it might not be the last by many; but there was no need to pass a vote of thanks to him, because the pleasure enjoyed by every one at these meetings was more valuable than the good things which the donors had contributed to the feast. Nevertheless, for himself and other donors, he was obliged to Dr. Strong and the other members of the party for their acknowledgments of what had been done, which he hoped they would be privileged to take part in on many subsequent new years.

Bro. GEORGE COOK said he thoroughly reiterated Bro. Hastings Miller's remarks, and he assured the company that as long as he lived he should be glad to contribute his proportion to these annual entertainments.

Bro. Dr. STRONG then said the next toast was the last to be drunk on that occasion, and it was one that came home to them—"Success to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution." The company had seen a newspaper paragraph that morning—but here, perhaps, he was trespassing on the province of Bro. Terry when he said that that Institution, although not the highest in the year 1895 on the list of subscriptions, was second. In proposing the toast he was going to associate with it the names of two persons who were respectively king and queen of that Institution. The king was Bro. Terry, the Secretary, and the queen, Miss Norris, the Matron. The cordiality with which those names were received showed how that brother and that lady lived in the kind feeling and regard of every one present. All the residents in the Croydon home could testify to the loving care and kindness of Miss Norris in looking after them in sickness,

or health, or whatever condition they might be in. The visitors saw how comfortable and neat all the residences were, and that was in a great measure due to Miss Norris, and it showed what a woman she was. With regard to Bro. Terry, need he say anything? His work was before them, and whenever or wherever he could do any good for the Institution he was always at its service. They ought to regard the king and the queen first, and he (Bro. Dr. Strong) asked the company to drink, along with success to the Institution, a happy and prosperous New Year to Bro. Terry and Miss Norris, and that the company might live many years to see them both present on these annual occasions.

Bro. TERRY, who replied to the toast on behalf of himself and Miss Norris, thanked the Chairman and the visitors sincerely for recognising the kindly care and motherly affection of Miss Norris towards the residents in the Institution, and her beneficial watchfulness and supervision of the building which the Institution had under its management. She was really a marvel, and long might she live to fill the position she had for some years occupied with credit to herself and advantage to the Institution. The Chairman had foreshadowed what he (Bro. Terry) would say with respect to the Institution in the year which had just passed. Once again it stood second on the list in the amount it had received. The Boys' School was first with £22,743, the Benevolent Institution was second with £21,746, and the Girls' School was third with £18,184, making altogether about £63,000. No other Charitable Institution could say that of itself at the end of the year. It was an astonishing amount to realise, and it was attributable to the great zeal and energy the brethren as a whole felt in the Charitable Institutions of English Freemasonry. He saw by a circular which the Secretary of the Boys' School had issued, that on account of the success of the year the Institution had invested an additional sum of between £9,000 and £10,000. Therefore that Institution's success was most remarkable. There was no account of whether the Girls' School had been able to invest. But the Benevolent Institution had this year invested £4,000. Referring to the assembly of that day, what was done had been accomplished without any great effort. The body of gentlemen now standing up with him had, in kind and money, provided the entertainment, and there was a lady sitting at the Chairman's table who had given to each of the old brethren annuitants in the Institution two pairs of knitted socks for the greater comfort of their dear old feet. That day was an all-important one to him (Bro. Terry), for it was 50 years that day that he first went out into the world to gain his living. He would like to see the gentleman into whose employ he first went. He mentioned that fact in order to show that he had not been an idle man. He hoped the old people had enjoyed themselves. There were gifts of tea and sugar to them and tobacco for the old brethren, and he hoped the annuitants would soon test them and see if they were worthy of acceptance. He begged to say, in reference to the kind remarks of the Chairman, that as long as he (Bro. Terry) was spared he should do everything he could for the benefit of the Institution.

Bro. J. A. FARNFIELD, Treasurer, proposed "The Health of Dr. Strong," whom they were all pleased to see in good health, and who had contributed so much to the welfare of the Institution by his kindness and attention to the annuitants. He was sorry that Mrs. Strong was not present that year.

Bro. Dr. STRONG, in reply, said if he had not been aware that Bro. Farnfield was a thorough bred and born Englishman, he should have said he came from China, because China was called "The Flowery Land," and no one could pay a compliment in more flowery language than Bro. Farnfield. But he thanked him for all his kind words, and could assure a present that there was no day in the year which gave him greater pleasure than that—when he presided over the annual dinner to the annuitants of the Masonic Benevolent Institution. It was a day he looked forward to with a feeling of hopefulness that he might be spared to see it, and, when spared, with feelings of thankfulness that he had been spared. He enjoyed good health, and he looked on the bright side of life; it was wiser and better far to do so.

The annuitants and lady visitors then retired, and the visitors called on the old folks at their residences, whilst the brethren who had attended to the company sat down to a separate meal, over which Bro. Farnfield presided.

Bro. FARNFIELD afterwards proposed the toasts of "The Queen" and "The Prince of Wales," and, in giving the toast of "The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution," said Bro. Terry would give some statistics, and tell the brethren something as to the expected results of the next Festival of the Institution in February. He (Bro. Farnfield) felt some anxiety on the subject, because on the result depended the question how they were to provide for the next 12 months. At the last meeting of the Committee Bro. Terry was buoyant. Bro. Terry had secured the Duke of Connaught as Chairman of the Festival of 1897. Bro. Terry was most energetic in the discharge of his duties, and he had said that 50 years ago that day he went out first to get his living. He was now looking much better and younger than he did five years ago. At that time he was very unwell, but, fortunately for the Institution, he had been completely restored to health.

Bro. JAMES TERRY, in response to the toast, said the Institution had had a very grand year—a year which Bro. Farnfield, as Treasurer of the Institution, could not be ashamed of. He announced on the night of the last Festival a trifle over £14,000, with such good additions and new lists coming in as would make a grand total of £14,600. But in round figures the receipts in the whole year from donations and subscriptions had totalled up to within an ace of £15,800—a large result, and one which was due in a great measure to the exertions of Bro. Mason, the Collector, who had persevered in calling upon the brethren many times. But for that exertion the Institution would not have had that grand show. At the Girls' School Festival the Secretary announced over £16,000, but that had not been realised, as the published figures showed only £15,800. The Boys' Institution announced £18,000, but it made up its figures by the addition of a perpetual presentation and a life presentation to over £20,000; it had realised £20,508. So that the Institutions stood in this position—the Girls' School had not realised its announcement, the Benevolent had exceeded its announcement by £1,600, and the Boys' School about the same amount. About the prospects of the coming Festival of the Benevolent Institution, they were particularly encouraging. This time last year it had 191 Stewards; this year it had 250, or 60 in advance. The Festival would have a most popular Chairman, as it had last year, and his Province of Middlesex was large in the number of its lodges, and there was not one of those lodges which was not represented by a Steward. Some lodges of that province had sent in the names of five or six Stewards. From one lodge ladies were going as Stewards. He thought, therefore, there was every prospect of a successful Festival under Lord George Hamilton. Bro. Farnfield having alluded to the Chairman of the 1897 Festival, that was an

event which somewhat told against the Festival of 1896, as the Province of Sussex was coming up very strong for the Festival of 1896, but he (Bro. Terry) felt that he was bound when he knew the Duke of Connaught was going to be Chairman in 1897—and his Royal Highness's Province of Sussex would support him vigorously—to let the Prov. G. Secretary know so that they might not be taken unawares. On the fact becoming known in the province it stopped all the contributions of Sussex for 1896; but it was a great advantage to have so popular a Prince as the Duke of Connaught as Chairman. Their prospects were therefore bright. But they had an enormous number of candidates, accepted and to be accepted, for the next election; the list was very heavy, but it could not be helped, and hence the necessity of the good the Institution was doing. To take a few figures—they required annually, without office expenses, £16,400 for annuities. The Boys' required £13,000 to keep the children and pay establishment and office expenses, and the Girls' Institution a trifle under. He was glad to think all the Institutions had been so prosperous. Everyone round the table would be glad to feel that the Benevolent Institution had not lost its hold on the affections of the Order, and was supported stronger and stronger. Just in passing, he would refer to his business working life of 50 years. Out of that 31½ years had been spent in the service of the Benevolent Institution, and in that time the change had been wonderful. Thirty years ago they were paying £2300 a year in annuities; they were now paying £16,400. Thirty years ago the male annuitants received £26 a year and the widows £25; the men were now getting £40 and the widows £32. Collectively, the increase made a large amount. He recommended the Institution to the efforts of the brethren, and hoped that whenever there was an opportunity they would not neglect to bring it to the notice of their lodges and chapters, or anything in Masonry they were connected with. The country had solved the problem what to do with its boys and girls; it had not decided the question what to do with its old people. The Benevolent Institution had. It had one annuitant resident in Canada who every quarter had her annuity sent to her. They were doing a good work, and had strong claims on the benevolence of the brethren. He was certain that all around the table would never allow the Benevolent Institution to fall away, but would help the Committee in their work.

The toasts of "The Chairman," "The Staff," and "Dr. Strong and Dr. Waite" were also given and responded to, and in the evening a beautiful musical entertainment was given under Bro. P. Fitzgerald, the following taking part: The Concord Part Singers, Bros. George May, Vivian Bennett, James Brand, Vernon Taylor, George Pritchard, and McCall Chambers, and Miss Ada Cleveland (violin), and the accompanist, Mr. Herbert Cooke.

NEW YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENT AT THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The custom, which has now been in vogue many years, of giving the pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls who remain in the School buildings during the Christmas holidays an entertainment in celebration of the New Year, was duly kept up for 1896 on the 3rd instant, and with the most favourable result. There were only 13 of these pupils who did not go down home for the Christmas of 1895—a smaller number than on previous occasions—but the House Committee determined not to interfere with the usual course which had been pursued, being convinced that it would be no less bright and happy than the experience of past years had shown a meeting of themselves, the Matron and Governesses, the children, and the Committee's visitors always was. Their conviction was by no means erroneous, and when the evening's entertainment was concluded, it was generally admitted that it had been the most successful in the long list of the Girls' School New Year gatherings.

The roll of those who attended comprised the names of—

Bros. Frank Richardson, Alfred C. Spaul, and F. R. W. Hedges; Mrs. D. Richardson, Miss A. Richardson, the Misses East, Mabel Cooker, Mrs. McManas, the Misses Saunders, Percy W. Spaul, Maud Goodhand, A. C. Sadler, Bro. H. Massey, Miss Massey, Miss Helen Massey, Bro. C. Hammerton, Mrs. E. Verrinder, Miss N. E. Verrinder, George John Garner, Violet Hanson, E. V. Austen, J. N. Chapman, R. Chapman, W. Sydney Spaul, L. Lucas, E. E. Connor, E. F. Tupnell, K. H. Luke, H. L. Matthews, T. Y. Bullen, Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, H. A. Hunt, Bro. J. H. Matthews, and Bro. Edward Terry.

These ladies and the members of the House Committee received the visitors at five o'clock, when tea and coffee were served, and a very cordial reception it was, which made every one feel quite at home. The tea was followed by a "Coloured Sketching Entertainment" by Mr. G. J. Garner, in the Alexandra Centenary Hall, and this part of the entertainment, which lasted an hour, seemed to give great amusement, as the artist, who did all his sketching off-hand in view of the whole company, executed it with remarkable rapidity and faithfulness, although his likenesses were more speaking than flattering, more particularly when he delineated a lady. This, however, perhaps made the sketches more amusing, as the company as a whole understood that it was a bit of fun. All the representations were of persons of the "Good Old Times," which make the present generation wonder how people could have made such frights of themselves, not thinking that a few years hence a similar judgment may be, and will be, passed on us. The artist was repeatedly encouraged in his work by the applause of the viewers, and at the conclusion of the performance he received a hearty round. The interval between this portion of the amusements and a conjuring entertainment by "Professor Bellairs" was occupied by that exercise which, of all pleasures, is the most attractive to ladies—dancing, and this, which occupied nearly another hour, the House Committee as fully enjoyed as their fair friends. They threw themselves into the Terpsichorean gyrations with the greatest energy, and as far as the fewness of the number of the House Committee went, did not suffer the ladies to stand in need of partners. The conjuring entertainment fully satisfied both young and old, as all the tricks were performed with extraordinary neatness and rapidity. The Professor himself must have been much gratified with the enthusiastic warmth which every one of his feats met with, and with the demonstration which followed his final piece of magic. The children of the School then had their Twelfth Night supper, and at the invitation of the House Committee the visitors partook of a bountiful supper. Dancing followed, and was kept up with unflagging spirit until past 11 o'clock, when the visitors bade good-bye to their hosts, the staff, and the pupils.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

The annual meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Nottingham, on Thursday, the 12th ult., under the presidency of Bro. the Duke of St. Albans, Prov. G.M., who was supported by Bro. Lieut.-Col. William Newton, J.G.D. England; D.P.G.M.

The following were also present—

Bros. Edwin C. Patchitt, Prov. S.G.W.; Wm. Burrows, Prov. J.G.W.; E. Hind, Prov. G. Treas.; H. J. Hobson, Prov. G. Reg.; Arthur Stubbs, P.P.G.W., Prov. G. Sec.; Alf. Applin, Prov. J.G.D.; Samuel V. Holgate, Prov. G.D.C.; J. G. Martin, Prov. A.G.D.C.; Edwin W. Kidd, Prov. G.S.B.; Saml. Phillips and Geo. Atter, Prov. G. Std. Brs.; Wm. T. Cockrem, Prov. G. Org.; J. P. W. Marx, P.P.A.G.D.C., Prov. A.G. Sec.; J. Valpy-Thomas, Prov. G. Purst.; Jno. James Turner, Prov. G. Tyler; Parker Woodward, James G. Carver, Hy. W. Hutchinson, W. J. Lazenby, Henry Hallam, and J. W. J. Barnes, Prov. G. Stds.; C. G. Wragg, J. M. Perry, C. B. Truman, H. George, G. Baxter, J. T. Spalding, A. H. Bonser, and A. W. C. Peskett, P.P.G. Wardens; Rev. James Farmer, P.P.G. Chap.; A. Lawson, C. Rogers, J. A. H. Hirst, and T. Roberts, P.P.G. Treasurers; J. H. Bradwell and S. Pegler, P.P.G. Regs.; G. Baxter, J. Townrow, R. Pender, G. Chapman, and G. Marshall, P.P.G.Ds.; R. C. Sutton, J. J. Gee, J. Wright, and H. Walker, P.P.G.S. of Ws.; G. W. Dominy, R. F. Vallance, C. A. Bolton, and F. C. Parker, P.P.G.D.Cs.; C. H. Gascoyne and E. G. Loverseed, P.P.G.S.Bs.; W. Clarke, H. Vickers, T. Salisbury, G. G. Bonser, and G. Clarke, P.P.G. Std. Brs.; J. Taylor, J. Levy, and H. E. Wilson, P.P.G. Pursts.; together with Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of the lodges and numerous visitors.

Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened, the Prov. G.M. and Deputy Prov. G.M. were saluted according to ancient custom; and the circular convening Prov. Grand Lodge having been taken as read, the roll of Prov. Grand Officers, all of whom were present who had not sent apologies, and of Worshipful Masters and Wardens of lodges was called.

The minutes of the summer meeting of Prov. Grand Lodge, held at Nottingham, June 6th, 1895, were taken as read and confirmed, and the Prov. Grand Treasurer's report having been received and passed, the Prov. G.M. moved, and the D.P.G.M. seconded, a vote of sympathy with the family of the late Bro. Sir Henry Bromley, Bart., P.P.S.G.W., and Grand Superintendent for the Province of Nottinghamshire, which was carried unanimously.

The PROV. GRAND SECRETARY, in presenting the report of the Committee of General Purposes, referred to the very unnecessary trouble caused to the Secretaries and expense to the province through the annual change of Prov. Grand Treasurer under the present system of carrying on the finances, and explained that the scheme recommended by the Committee, though at first sight appearing to give more work to the Secretaries, would in reality save them this unnecessary trouble and save the province considerable expense. If it were adopted it would also put an end to the unfair monopoly by the Nottingham lodges of the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer, thus in future there would be no reason whatever why lodges meeting away from Nottingham should not nominate a Provincial Grand Treasurer in their turn, for he being an *ex-officio* member of the General Purposes Committee, could sign all cheques at the meetings of that Committee, and avoid any expense whatever. The P.G.S. also called the attention of Prov. Grand Lodge to the foundation of a Masonic Library and Museum for the province, and urged those brethren who had articles of Masonic interest to present the same to the province, and forward them to the Curator, Bro. Jno. P. Briscoe.

Bro. Sir JOHN TURNER did not remember that the consent of the directors to the placing of cases in the Masonic Hall had been given, and moved that the question of the Museum be deferred until the next meeting in order that the Directors might further consider the matter, feeling sure that the question would not lose by this, as they were anxious to promote, as far as possible, the advantages of Freemasonry.

Bro. J. T. SPALDING seconded; and after some further discussion, it was moved by the D.P.G.M., and seconded by Bro. Hy. GEORGE, P.P. G.W., that the report of the Committee of General Purposes be adopted and passed, with the exception of the paragraph, "The Directors having given their consent to the placing of cases in the Masonic Hall."

In reply to the P.G.M., Bro. Sir JOHN TURNER expressed his satisfaction, and the report of the General Purposes Committee, omitting the paragraph, was adopted and passed.

The report of the Benevolent and Educational Committee was received and passed.

Bros. T. J. HAYTER, W.M. 1493, and A. H. BONSER, P.M. 1852 and 2412, gave notice that they were attending as Stewards at the annual Festival of the Girls' School.

The reports of the Worshipful Masters of the lodges of the province were read and presented.

Prov. Grand Secretary's annual report of the state of Masonry in the province was received.

Bro. Rev. JAS. FARMER, P.P.G.C., the Treasurer of the Bussell Memorial Fund, reported that the larger scheme of providing a sufficient investment to found a permanent Masonic Scholarship had proved beyond the financial capability of the province, and was abandoned, and a more modest one adopted, by which the bulk of the sum collected would be applied directly to the professional or University education of the late Deputy's son, and that a general meeting of the donors would be called to arrange the details for the benefit of the boy, who is likely in every way to do credit both to himself and to the benevolence of the subscribers. The Fund amounts in actual receipts and promises to £180.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER nominated Bro. T. W. Robinson, P.P. S.G.W.; R. Fitzhugh, P.P.S.G.W.; and Sir S. G. Johnson, P.P.S.G.W., to represent Provincial Grand Lodge on the Committee of General Purposes.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER nominated Bro. C. B. Truman, P.P. S.G.W., to represent Provincial Grand Lodge on the Benevolent and Educational Committee.

A letter having been read from Bro. Sir S. G. Johnson, P.P.G.W., asking, with the consent of the seconder, to withdraw his nomination for the office of Prov. Grand Treasurer, of Bro. Geo. Clarke, 47, P.P.G. Std. Br.,

permission was granted by the Prov. Grand Master, and the nomination withdrawn.

Bro. S. V. HOLGATE, P.G.D.C., proposed, and Bro. G. W. DOMINY, P.P.G.D.C., seconded Bro. J. H. Bradwell, P.M. 1405 and 2302, P.P.G.R., for the office of Prov. Grand Treasurer.

Upon a show of hands being taken, Bro. J. H. Bradwell was unanimously elected.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said: I am happy to congratulate the brethren upon the satisfactory condition of Freemasonry in the province. Before appointing Prov. Grand Officers I wish cordially to endorse the vote of thanks to the Secretary of the Benevolent and Educational Committee. Many brethren are perhaps not aware of the time and trouble devoted to the service of the province by Bro. Thomas Salisbury, and of his regular attendance at the meetings in London entirely at his own expense. During the past year his efforts have been successful in getting an annuity of £40 per annum for an aged brother, and also a girl into the Masonic Girls' School, both in one year—a unique occurrence in this province. I have very great pleasure in appointing Bro. Thos. Salisbury, Prov. S.G.W., and trust he may long be spared to render valuable services to this province.

The following brethren were then appointed and invested as Prov. Grand Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Thomas Salisbury, 1909 P.P.G. S.d. Br.	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" John Sansom, 1852, P.P.G.S.B.	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. H. T. Hayman, 402, P.P.G.C.	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. W. F. Boot, 939, P.P.G.C.	...	
" R. A. M. Webster, 411, 1493	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" J. H. Bradwell, 1405, 2302, P.P.G.R.	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Arthur Stubb, 402, P.P.G.W.	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" Capt. W. H. Tomasson, 402, 1852...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" H. E. Wilson, 47, P.P.G. Purst.	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" John Howitt, 1794	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" Jacob Levy, 1435, P.P.G. Purst.	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" Hy. Hallam, 1909, P.G. Stwd.	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" Parker Woodward, 1434, P.P.G. Stwd.	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" W. J. Lazenby, 1802, P.P.G. Stwd.	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" J. W. J. Barnes, 1434, 2302, P.P.G. Stwd.	...	
" J. G. Carver, 1493, P.P.G. Stwd.	...	Prov. G. Org.
" J. P. W. Marx, 1909, P.P.G.D.C.	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" H. W. Hutchinson, 1661, P.P.G. Stwd.	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" F. W. Fox, 2017	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" J. J. Turner...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" T. Mallender, 939	...	Prov. A.G. Tyler.
" John Wilford, 47	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" Thomas Knight, 939	...	
" W. J. Rorke, 1794	...	
" John Greenwood, 1852...	...	
" Joseph Page, 2017	...	
" J. D. Fidler, 2412	...	

There being no further business, Provincial Grand Lodge was closed, and refreshment followed.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Comp. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P., the Grand Superintendent of Gloucestershire, held a Provincial Grand Chapter at the Masonic Hall, Cheltenham, on Friday, the 20th ult., when there was a large attendance of the companions present, including the following: Comps. R. Vassar Smith, Baron de Ferrieres, H. Bruton, G. Norman, W. R. Felton, General Vizard, W. C. Ferris, H. S. Crump, A. S. Winterbotham, Colonel R. Rogers, C. S. Atkins, R. P. Sumner, J. A. Matthews, Rev. P. Hattersley-Smith, F. Hannam-Clark, H. Fisher, R. J. Weston, Rev. Lefroy Austin, C. Porcher, R. W. Northcott, E. Lea, J. Witchell, B. London, W. Hobbs, L. Evans, and others.

The Grand Superintendent appointed the following companions as his officers for the year:

Comp. R. R. Vassar-Smith	...	Prov. G.H.
" W. R. Fenton	...	Prov. G.J.
" J. B. Winterbotham	...	Prov. G.S.E.
" W. C. Ferris	...	Prov. G.S.N.
" H. Bruton	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" W. Warman	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" R. W. Northcott	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" J. Witchell	...	Prov. G.P.S.
" E. L. Baylis	...	Prov. 1st A.G.S.
" C. G. Clark	...	Prov. 2nd A.G.S.
" Colonel Rogers	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" E. Lea	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" J. A. Matthews	...	Prov. G. Org.
" L. Evans	...	Prov. A.G.S.E.
" M. Carroll	...	Prov. G. Janitor.

After the business of the Prov. Grand Chapter, the companions retired to the banquet room for dinner.

MASONIC BALL AT BRIGHTON.

The annual ball of the Royal York Lodge, No. 315, was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Royal Pavilion, and proved a very enjoyable affair. The company was just large enough, and the rooms and corridor, furnished by Mr. Stead, and florally decorated by Messrs. Balchin, looked very charming. The mantelpiece in the entrance hall was decorated with a row of tulips, backed with maidenhair ferns, and surmounted by white chrysanthemums and palms, while, on the other side, the Pechell statue was almost hidden with tall palms, having at their base a row of graceful ferns. The corridor was charmingly arranged and furnished as a lounge, and here again the fireplaces and recesses were filled in with exquisite flowers, tulips, white hyacinths, cyclamens, and poinsettias; while on the left of the entrance stood the handsome silk banner of the lodge.

Dancing took place in the music room and saloon to the strains of Mr. W. J. Fleet's orchestral band. Supper was served in the banqueting room, and refreshments in the south drawing room, and these, with the north drawing room, used also as a lounge, were florally decorated in an original and effective manner.

The ball was arranged and carried out by a large Committee, with Bro. A. J. Morris as Hon. Secretary, and including, of course, Bros. B. W. Drury, W.M., and W. H. Underwood, Secretary of the lodge. The proceeds are to be devoted to Masonic Charities.

The company numbered about 200, and included: Bro. and Mrs. Brandt; Bro. and Mrs. G. Bungard; Bro. and Mrs. A. E. Buchanan; Miss Buchanan; Miss E. C. Buchanan; Bro. and Mrs. Belcher; Miss A. Belcher; Miss N. Belcher; Miss K. Belcher; Bro. W. Broadbridge; Mr. and Mrs. Brown; Mr. Bailey; Bro. Brown; Councillor Blaker and Mrs. Blaker; Mr. and Mrs. E. Broadbridge; Bro. Combridge; Bro. Collins; Mr. Collins; Bro. and Mrs. Colling; Bro. B. W. Drury, W.M.; Bro. and Mrs. H. Drury; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Drury; Bro. Dollman, P.M., and Mrs. Dollman; Bro. Dell; Bro. J. Edwards, I.G., and Mrs. Edwards; Bro. V. P. Freeman, Prov. G. Sec., and Mrs. Freeman; Bro. and Miss Fleet; Bro. S. T. Foat, P.M.; Bro. and Mrs. Feltham; Mr. H. Feltham; Mr. Feltham, jun.; Mrs. Foat; Miss Friend; Bro. and Mrs. G. S. Godfree; Mr. G. Godfree; Miss Godfree; Bro. Raleigh Gilbert; Mr. A. and Mrs. Galloway; Bro. G. R. Godfree, P.M.; Bro. and Mrs. Homer Herring; Bro. and Mrs. Harris; Bro. H. and Mrs. Ingledew; Bro. Jenner; Bro. and Mrs. H. Kent; Bro. T. Knight; Bro. and Mrs. J. D. Langton; Bro. and Mrs. Lewis; Bro. W. and Mrs. Mitchell; Bro. Mitchell, W.M. 1636; Miss McKenzie; Bro. and Mrs. Morris; Miss Mitchell; Miss A. Mitchell; Bro. and Miss Macfarlane; Bro. Nye; Bro. and Mrs. W. E. Nash; Miss M. Nash; Mr. A. E. Nash; Bro. W. H. Plumb-ridge; Bro. Pritchett; Bro. and Mrs. Proctor; Miss Parish; Mrs. Pooley; Miss Potter; Bro. T. Plumbbridge, J.D.; Bro. Rusbridge; Captain Sheldrick; Councillor and Mrs. Sutton; Miss Sharp; Mrs. Sheldrick; Bro. W. P. Smith; Bro. and Mrs. L. R. Styer; Bro. and Mrs. Symonds; Bro. and Mrs. Scutt; Bro. Councillor Turton, P.G.S.; Bro. Tassell; Bro. W. H. Underwood, Sec.; Councillor Wishart; Bro. W. W. and Miss A. Welling; and others.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The Quarterly Court of Subscribers and Governors of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was held on Thursday last at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. J. H. Matthews, P.D.G.D.C., in the chair. There were also present Bros. Alfred C. Spaul, W. H. Spaul, J. M. McLeod, Henry Massey, S. J. Attenborough, A. W. Duret, C. Pullman, John C. Malcolm (Leeds), and F. R. W. Hedges, Secretary.

On the motion of Bro. A. C. SPAULL, seconded by Bro. W. H. SPAULL, the recommendation of the General Committee the Court approved of the list of 31 candidates for the April election, and declared 21 vacancies in the School for that election.

Bro. MATTHEWS, Chairman, announced that the 108th anniversary festival would take place on May 13th, and that the Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, Prov. Grand Master of Lincolnshire, would preside on the occasion. Bro. Matthews also informed the Court that the total receipts of the Institution from all sources in 1895 amounted to £18,248 17s. 4d.

On the motion of Bro. ATTENBOROUGH, seconded by Bro. DURET, a recommendation to the General Committee was resolved upon to reconsider the cases of two children who were rejected by the Petitions Committee on the ground that the respective fathers of the girls had ceased to subscribe to Freemasonry many years before the children were born, although they had subscribed to their respective lodges the qualifying number of years.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

MASONIC TREAT TO THE AGED.

On Friday, the 20th ult., the annual treat to the aged of Cleckheaton, provided by the members of the Zetland and Friendship Lodges, took place at the Town Hall. A substantial tea was served in the afternoon to about 120 old folks. The tables were furnished by Mrs. Hodgson, confectioner, Northgate, and the following ladies, all but one the widows of deceased members of the Fraternity, presided at the tables, viz.: Mrs. George Roberts, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Robert Tetlow, Mrs. S. Birkett, Mrs. C. H. Douthwaite, Mrs. A. Crossley, and Miss Bull. The tea was altogether a pleasant and successful function, and was evidently much enjoyed by the old folks.

After a time devoted to unrestrained intercourse, the guests re-assembled at the tables for the usual entertainment. Bro. SAMUEL LAW presided, and in opening this part of the proceedings, spoke of the pleasure which these annual re-unions afforded to the members of the lodges, and expressed the hope that all would thoroughly enjoy themselves.

At a later stage Bro. the Rev. W. LEICESTER also spoke briefly, enlarging upon the spirit of brotherhood, which is characteristic of the Masonic Fraternity, and educing an appropriate moral lesson from these annual remembrances of the aged. Let them, he urged, in their declining years, put their whole trust in Christ, and as the pleasures of this life faded away the ecstasies of heaven would draw near.

During the evening songs were given by Mrs. Robert Thornton, Mrs. H. S. Pearson, Miss Littlewood, Master Hardill, Bro. Waddington, Bro. James Robinson, and Mr. W. W. Scholes. Misses Mortimer and Armitage gave a pianoforte duet, and Mr. S. Blackburn exhibited his phonograph. During the tea pianoforte music was played by Misses Isherwood and Robinson. While the entertainment was going on the old folks were supplied with fruit, and those who required it with tobacco and a glass of spirits, or its equivalent value in money.

A number of members of the lodges assiduously looked after the company in these respects, those present including Bros. S. Mortimer (Secretary), Isherwood (Treasurer), Robert Thornton, George Blackburn, William Armitage, S. H. Stocks, R. Castle, George Crossley, H. S. Pearson, Robert Hirst, S. Halliday, Niven, C. H. Briggs, R. Walker, John Birkby, H. A. Cadman, and Robert Naylor. Bro. James Clough played the pianoforte accompaniments for the singers.

In the course of the evening, Bro. MORTIMER announced that each guest would again be presented with a new shilling by Mr. Alfred Law, and by way of acknowledgment the company sang, "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Later on Mrs. MIDGLEY, one of the oldest of the women present, expressed in an admirable way the thanks of the recipients of the bounty for the kindness and generosity of the brethren.

As the guests left each was presented with the customary parcel containing a Christmas cake and a gift of tea and sugar. On the following day similar parcels were sent out to such old folks as were invited and could not attend the tea.—*Cleckheaton Guardian*.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1896.

Masonic Notes.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, and as a result of their proceedings, we are in a position to announce that the lists of candidates for the election in May next will consist of 62 men and 53 widows. We shall have occasion to speak of this and other matters connected with this Institution in our issue of next week.

We have much pleasure in announcing that the Balfour Chapter, attached to the Barnard Lodge, No. 1230, Barnard Castle, will be consecrated in the Masonic Hall, Barnard Castle, on Friday next, the 17th inst., at 4 p.m. The ceremony will be performed by Comp. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., Grand

Superintendent, Durham, assisted by the officers of his Provincial Grand Chapter, and will be followed by the installation of the Principals designate, namely, Comps. Richard Luck, M.A., P.Z., P.P.G.J., as M.E.Z.; W. C. Barron as H.; and B. S. Beckwith as J. The customary banquet will be held at the King's Head Hotel at 6 p.m.

The report of the syndicate appointed by the University of Cambridge to provide for the examination of schools which was recently presented to the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and referred to at the meeting of the Council on the 27th ult., is eminently satisfactory. The range of subjects in which the School was examined was a wide one, and in the opinion of the examiner, there is no doubt that "a thoroughly sound and practical education is being given" to "Our Boys." As the report in question was published in full last week, there is no need to go into particulars as regards the proficiency of the several classes in the subjects in which they were examined. Suffice it to say that only in a few instances were there any shortcomings noted, while in the majority the praise bestowed by the examiner was unstinted.

But this is not all. The improvements and additions to the requirements of the School which have been made during the past year are spoken of with approbation. The organisation is declared to be "most satisfactory." The result of the examination is said to have convinced the examiner that "much steady work had been done" since his last visit, while as regards "the tone and demeanour of the boys," he affirmed that they "left nothing to be desired." It is thus evident that after instituting a series of careful and discriminating tests, the examiner feels himself justified in pronouncing the training and education which the pupils of our Royal Masonic Institution for Boys are receiving as being highly creditable, and we trust this report will be borne in mind when the time approaches for the celebration of this year's Anniversary Festival.

We are very sensible of the kindly tone adopted towards this journal by the *New Zealand Craftsman* in its October issue, and its manifest desire to help in putting an end to the difficulties by which Freemasonry in that Colony is just now beset. It is hardly worth while discussing its statement that, in ascribing to the founders of the unrecognised Grand Lodge of New Zealand there-sponsibility for the present lamentable condition of New Zealand Freemasonry, we have been misled by the information we have received. It is enough that both we and our contemporary are sincerely anxious that harmony should be restored with as little delay as possible among the brethren of the different sections of the Craft in the Colony. Perhaps the *Craftsman* will avail itself of the opportunity which our recent and present articles on the subject furnish of instilling into the minds of its readers the absolute necessity that exists for a speedy termination of the New Zealand imbroglio. There is no reason why the Craft in this Colony should be less happily circumstanced than in other parts of her Majesty's dominions.

In its December issue the *Canadian Craftsman* is kind enough to quote in full and comment upon a former article of ours on "The Doctrine of Exclusive Jurisdiction." Its remarks are couched, as usual, in a friendly spirit, but it loses sight of one or two facts which are of some slight importance in any attempt to settle the point at issue between us. We do not object to the Doctrine of Exclusive Jurisdiction as interpreted by American Masons, provided the interpretation is limited to American Masonry. We admitted the right of a new Grand Lodge to exclusive jurisdiction within its own territorial limits in 1770, when we recognised the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands, but we did so conditionally that lodges which elected to remain under our banner should be free to do so.

This principle of freedom to remain in allegiance to our Grand Lodge in the case of lodges which are desirous of so remaining has been embodied in every act of recognition that has since been issued by our Grand Lodge authorities, and considering that it is the local lodges themselves which elect to remain, not we who force them to do so, we see no reason why that principle should be modified. If sundry lodges on the spot evince a determination not to cast in their lot with a newly-formed Grand Lodge, it is not for us to say them nay. Moreover, as we have again and again pointed out, our Grand Lodge, even if it had the will, has not the power of compelling them to quit our ranks.

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.]

CHRISTMAS MASONIC TREAT TO THE AGED OF CLECKHEATON.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Having spent Christmas in the Spen Valley, I had an opportunity of witnessing a most interesting gathering of aged people in the Town Hall, Cleckheaton, where they were entertained by the members of the two Freemasons' lodges in the town—particulars of which may be gathered from the report, which I have cut from the *Cleckheaton Guardian* of December 27th, 1895, and which, I think, will interest many Freemasons, if you can find space to insert it in your columns. On enquiry, I ascertained that this was the 20th annual meeting of the old people. My object in calling attention to this interesting gathering is to point out how much pleasure may be afforded to the aged poor and gratification to themselves by the unselfishness of Freemasons. The newspaper report from the *Cleckheaton Guardian* omits reference to the very pleasant informal dance which the brethren and their families enjoyed after the old folks had retired. If so much gratification can be given by two lodges in a small country town, what might be done in the same direction by the wealthy lodges in large towns whose members regularly spend large sums in costly balls?—Yours fraternally,

EX-SECRETARY P.M.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Freemasons' Repository; New York Dispatch; Sunday Times; Craftsman; New Zealand Craftsman; Indian Masonic Review; Canadian Craftsman; Mollatt's Pupil Teachers' Course, Part II.; Masonic Tidings; Toronto Freemason; Masonic Chronicle; Voice of Masonry; and Kansas Freemason.

NEW MASONIC HALL AT PENZANCE.

The Mount Sinai Lodge have long outgrown their present abode at the Penzance Public Buildings, and will, on Wednesday next, betake themselves to the commodious premises hitherto known as the Prince's Hall, and more recently as the Billiard Club. Prince's Hall is a substantial erection, with massive cut granite front, graced with Ionic pillars, which was the predecessor of our more modern pretentious concert rooms, and some of the old inhabitants can, doubtless, call to mind many an interesting and memorable scene there. Now, however, it is to be given over entirely to the mystic ceremonies of Freemasonry, and to this end extensive alterations have been made. The fine front has been cleaned down and renovated, the interior remodelled, and new floors and staircases introduced. The ground-floor has been transformed into an ante-room, and will also serve, perhaps, for the social functions of the Brotherhood. Naturally, considerable taste, judgement, and expense have been bestowed on the lodge room, and fittingly so for an Order which has as one of its fundamental objects the veneration of "The Great Architect of the Universe." The room is 42-ft. by 26-ft. and 19-feet high, and has been most beautifully decorated, the main scheme being blue. There is a frieze filled in with watchwords and emblems of Masonry, over the W.M.'s throne being "Wisdom," the Senior Warden's, "Strength," the Junior Warden's, "Beauty," and on the north wall, "Benevolence." The ceiling is a cleverly painted representation of the constellations, and over the W.M.'s seat are the sun, moon, and stars, with the motto—*sit lux et lux fuit* are depicted. The walls are divided into large panels, and there is a dado of panelled *lincrusta walton* picked out in colours. Three noble windows provide light, and these will be filled with handsome stained glass, the two centre panes being illuminated with emblems of Masonry; and the artificial light will be supplied by neat gas brackets, having patent incandescent burners. A very noble throne has been provided for the Worshipful Master, the canopy being supported by massive granite pillars, and the whole is beautifully embellished. On the top-floor are a chapter room of the Royal Arch Masons (containing some fine antique chairs belonging to the chapter), an ante-room, and a well-fitted lavatory. The Penzance brethren will have a house second to no other lodge in Cornwall.

ST. JOHN'S CARD.*

There is little more to be said respecting this quaint and admirably-drawn card than that it contains a representation of "the children of Lamech discussing the Arts, and that underneath the illustration there is an expression of "Hearty Good Wishes" on the part of the W.M. and officers to the members of both the Inner and Outer, or Correspondence Circles of the Lodge. The card is accompanied by a letter from Bro. E. Macbean, W.M., in which this sentiment is expressed at greater length. In addition there is a complete roll of the members of both Circles, those forming the Correspondence being arranged in sub-divisions, comprising "Governing Bodies"; "Lodges and Chapters on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England"; "Lodges, &c., not under the Grand Lodge of England"; "Brethren"—in alphabetical order with dates of their admission appended; those admitted on the 8th November being given in a separate list. These are followed by lists (1) of the stated meetings during the present year; (2) deceased members; (3) Local Secretaries. To crown all these will be found, firstly, a Directory and then a table explanatory of the Abbreviations used in the roll. It is a useful compilation—especially for purposes of reference, while at the same time it serves to convey to the Craft generally and in a matter the most convincing, some idea of the amazing degree of popularity to which, in the brief period of 10 years, Lodge Quatuor Coronati has attained. We trust that future "St. John's Cards," with their accompanying lists, will demonstrate as clearly as this does, the respect in which the lodge is held and the appreciation which is felt by all classes of Freemasons for the admirable manner in which its duties are carried out.

*St. John's Card of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, London, 27th December, 1895. Margate: Printed [at "Keble's Gazette" office, 1895.

Craft Masonry.

Doyle's Lodge of Fellowship, No. 84.

Friday, the 27th ult., being the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the members of this lodge assembled, according to ancient custom, in the Masonic Hall, Guernsey, to install their new Master for the ensuing year. Bro. T. C. Royle, P.M., had been selected by the brethren at their last meeting, and he was placed in the chair in the presence of the P.G.M. and his Deputy, the installation ceremony being most impressively performed by Bro. T. J. Mitchell, I.P.M. The newly-installed W.M. invested his officers as follows: Bros. R. Quinn, S.W.; J. P. Yvoves, J.W.; Rev. E. T. Jesse, Chap.; J. T. Lainc, P.M., Treas.; Haighton Wilkins, P.M., Sec.; Charles Jones, S.D.; H. K. Ramsden, J.D.; T. P. Hamel, P.M., D.C.; T. Elliott, Org.; and R. Cheyne, I.G.

When the lodge was closed, the brethren repaired to Gardner's Royal Hotel for the annual banquet.

It may please many Shropshire brethren to learn that the present W.M. was W.M. of Salopian Lodge of Charity, No. 117, in 1885.

All Souls Lodge, No. 170.

The annual festival of the above lodge was held on Friday, the 27th ultimo, at the Masonic Hall, Weymouth, when Bro. F. W. Hetley, S.W., was installed W.M. in the presence of a large number of brethren, including the Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. Colonel Brymer, M.P.; Bro. R. G. Thornton, P.G. Treas.; and the principal Past Masters of the lodge.

The ceremony of installation was very ably performed by the retiring W.M., Bro. J. Howard Bowen. The W.M. invested his officers as follows: Bros. J. Howard Bowen, I.P.M.; J. E. Crickmay, S.W.; J. T. Whetham, jun., J.W.; the Rev. J. A. Miller, Chap.; J. A. Sherren, Treas.; B. Morris, Sec.; D. H. Williams, S.D.; E. M. Griffin, J.D.; W. B. Morgan, D.C.; Nelson Bowes, Org.; E. W. Chave, I.G.; A. Graham and E. H. Wiseman, Stewards; Zillwood Milledge, re-appointed Charity Steward; and Bro. J. Piddington, Tyler.

At the close of the ceremony, the annual banquet took place, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given.

The following telegram was sent to the *New York World*:—"All Souls Lodge, 170, Weymouth, St. John's Day. To the Masons of America: Let brotherly love continue.—F. W. HETLEY, Worshipful Master."

Joppa Lodge, No. 188.

The installation meeting of this centenary lodge was held on the 6th inst., at Freemasons' Tavern, when the programme of business was so heavy that it occupied the brethren for nearly five hours. Bro. M. Siegenberg, W.M., presided, and, besides his officers, was supported by Bros. B. Weigel, P.M.; L. Wall, P.M.; W. Gardner, P.M.; I. Botibol, P.M.; H. Lazarus, P.M.; L. A. Dodson, P.M.; H. Garrard, P.M.; and A. Cohen, P.M.; a large number of lay brethren of the lodge, and visitors: Bros. Nawson, 1439; Hart, 1349; Lusty, 1259; Linton, 2411; Young, 1601; Dancyger, 205; Green, 1695; H. Massey, P.M. 1928 and 619; Asher I. Myers, P.M. 185; Saunders, 1567; Phillips, 704; Salomon, 1017; Genrith, 188; Harman, 764; Streven, 1602; Gabb, 902; Dodd, 1194; Castello, 227; Lazarus, 185; Neville, 1767; Hillier, 1366; Bird, 1963; Anaidjah; Clark, 1668; James, 185; Lillepool, 1744; J. Genese, 1540; and Mead, 1772.

The W.M. raised Bro. Craig to the Third Degree, passed Bros. Kozminski and Israel to the Second Degree, and initiated Mr. Simon Weissberg. Bro. Harry Lazarus, P.M., installed Bro. the Rev. Samson J. Roco as W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. M. Siegenberg was invested as I.P.M.; Bros. Ernest Davy, as S.W.; Onkes, as J.W.; Lyon, as Treas.; Lewis Lazarus, P.M., as Sec.; Rosenberg, as S.D.; Emanuel, as J.D.; Rosenbaum, as I.G.; Edwards and Cohen, as Stewards; A. Dodson, P.M., as D.C.; and Ives, P.M., as Tyler.

A banquet followed the working of the lodge, and for the entertainment of the brethren a splendid programme of music was provided, in which Bro. Maurice Moscovitz, Miss Fanny Goldhill, Mr. Jack De Solla, Miss Adelaide Genese, Mr. Charles De Solla, Miss Daisy De Solla, and Mr. Mark Hyam took part, under the direction of Bro. Henri De Solla, but the hour was so far advanced that the proposal of toasts had to be compressed within a short compass.

Bro. Siegenberg, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," said it was a very easy task after the enthusiastic manner in which Bro. Roco's name had been received. He (Bro. Siegenberg) had on one or two occasions expressed his own feelings as to what sort of a W.M. the brethren would have in 1896, and the lodge not only ought to be proud but was proud to have selected such an eminent brother to preside over the brethren for the year. Bro. Roco did not come among them as one who was not known; he came there as a minister of religion—it was no matter of what religion he was minister so long as he was a good man. There were probably brethren of every denomination present, but they always respected an honest and honourable good man. Bro. Roco came before them with a very good career, not only a good private career, but a good Masonic career, and a career of 27 years in this country, during which he had done a large amount of good in his religious circles and in his ministerial duties, and he had gained the appreciation of every one with whom he had had any dealings. To the poor and afflicted he need not say there was no better friend than Bro. Roco, and if he was called upon to say a friendly or kindly word of any one he was always ready to do all in his power. As far as his Masonic career went, he would be second to none who had occupied the chair of the Joppa Lodge. He was thoroughly efficient in his duties; he knew the work of a Masonic lodge; he would take great interest in it, and had attended lodges of instruction, and was perfect in the ritual of Freemasonry. That was saying a great deal of a W.M. It was for all these solid and substantial reasons he (Bro. Siegenberg) submitted that toast to the brethren in entire confidence.

Bro. S. J. Roco, W.M., in acknowledging the toast, assured the brethren that he was almost at a loss to find words to do so when Bro. Siegenberg had proposed it so ably and nicely, and the brethren had accepted it so cordially and kindly. Although that was the first time he had occupied the high position of W.M. of any lodge, he was fully sensible of the importance of the position and of the great duties attached to it. He therefore claimed the brethren's kind indulgence. He was sure they would not think him exaggerating, particularly the Past Masters, if they remembered the first evening they were in the position he found himself in at that moment. It had always been his greatest desire and ambition ever since he became a Freemason to become Worshipful Master, and it was therefore his duty to offer his thanks—his sincerest thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe, who had spared him to see the time come which he desired. The brethren he, too, thanked for the confidence they had placed in him. He could only say he would endeavour in every possible way to give them that satisfaction they might, perhaps, expect from the W.M., and as far as the ritual was concerned, he had only to go to one place where he had been as regularly as possible—the Joppa Lodge of Instruction—and there, under the able tuition of Bro. Dancyger, not only himself, but every Freemason, was welcome who was in search of Masonic knowledge. The hour being so late, he did not think it would be just to detain the brethren further than to assure the P.M.s., visitors, and brethren that he was delighted to see them all, and he trusted that when they met to install his successor they would receive him (Bro. Roco) with the same sympathy and kindness of heart as they did that evening. That evening was only a trial; they did not know what he would do during the year. They were all only mortals; they did not know what the day or the morrow might bring forth; but as far as lay in his power, he would do everything to please them, to promote the welfare of the lodge and of Masonry in general.

Bro. S. J. Roco, W.M., next said: The toast he had then the pleasure to submit to the brethren was one to which they would give a very hearty reception, because it had been so well deserved and so fully earned—the toast of "The I.P.M., Bro. Siegenberg," who had occupied the chair 12 months, and who left it that night with the esteem of the brethren. The brethren would all sympathise with him (Bro. Roco) and give Bro. Siegenberg their best and heartiest wishes for his welfare after the very able and eloquent manner in which he had discharged his duties as Master of the Lodge of Joppa. Those who had been in the habit of attending the lodge regularly had found Bro. Siegenberg a most earnest worker, who knew the ritual well; and, to go further than that, he was most sincere, conscientious, and straightforward in the discharge of the duties he had taken upon himself. No man could ever act more conscientiously and

straightforwardly than Bro. Siegenberg had acted during his year of office. Bro. Siegenberg was present, but if he were absent he (Bro. Roco) would speak in a similar way, because Bro. Siegenberg fully deserved what was now being said of him. The pleasant duty then presented itself to ask Bro. Siegenberg's acceptance of a beautiful jewel of a Past Master, voted to him by the brethren of the lodge, and he had no hesitation in saying that whatever jewel had been earned by, or presented to, any Master of the Joppa Lodge or any other lodge, it had never been earned more worthily than by Bro. Siegenberg. In affixing it to his collar, he (Bro. Roco) trusted he would wear it with pleasure, knowing the esteem, regard, and kindly feeling in which he had been, and was, held by the members of the Joppa Lodge, as well as by the visitors. Many years might he be spared in health and happiness to remember his pleasant year of office, and might the day come for him to initiate his son in the lodge, who might also see the happy days his father had spent in the Lodge of Joppa.

Bro. M. Siegenberg, I.P.M., in reply, said if he were half as good as the W.M. had tried to make him out, he should be a very good Mason, and a very good man. He hardly thought he was deserving of what Bro. Roco had said. One thing, however, was very certain—they would not have presented him with the jewel unless they had thought he had performed his duties in a fearless and honourable way. If anything had been said or done by him during his year of office to any older than himself or to his younger brethren that they might not have liked, he took the opportunity of publicly apologising; it had never been done by him with any bad intent. He had Freemasonry at heart; he had the Joppa Lodge at heart; and he only tried to carry out his duties according to the obligations he took when he was installed. It was very gratifying to him to have given satisfaction. Whatever he could do for the benefit of the lodge or for any individual member he should do. They had only to call upon him and he should respond.

Bro. Weissberg replied to the toast of "The Initiate;" Bro. A. Dodson, P.M., to that of "The Benevolent Fund;" and Bro. H. Lazarus, P.M., the Installing Master, to the composite toast of "The Past Masters, the Visitors, and the Officers." Bro. Ives, P.M., gave the Tyler's toast, which closed the proceedings.

Affability Lodge, No. 317.

The installation meeting of this very ancient and successful lodge was held on the 2nd inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester. The chair was taken by Bro. T. Bushell, W.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Bro. B. Wild, as a re-joining member, and was declared favourable. Bro. T. Bushell, W.M., installed his successor in a manner which reflected great credit upon himself, and showed him to be a great student in our rites and ceremonies. Bro. A. Allen, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented to him by Bro. F. Spencer, I.P.M., and he was duly inducted into the chair with dignity and saluted. The officers for the ensuing year were as follows, and they were addressed by Bro. J. Dawson, P.M.: Bro. T. Bushell, I.P.M.; J. S. Whitehead, S.W.; A. H. Rottmayer, J.W.; S. Staton, P.M., Treas.; E. G. Chesworth, P.M., Sec.; W. Brocklehurst, S.D.; G. O. Whittaker, J.D.; J. Bladon, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., D. of C.; A. Sinclair, I.G. H. Samuels, Org.; A. Findlow, J. Chenery, A. C. K. Smith, and J. Simcock, Stwds.; and E. H. Flowers, Tyler. The address to the W.M. was delivered by the Installing Master; to the Wardens, by Bro. F. Spencer, P.M.; and that to the brethren by Bro. J. Dawson, P.M. The balance-sheet was presented, and was found to be very satisfactory indeed, therefore, we have pleasure in congratulating the brethren of the lodge in having so able and excellent a W.M. in Bro. Bushell, and, indeed, they marked their appreciation of his services by presenting him with a beautiful Past Master's jewel, which was presented by Bro. A. Allen, W.M., in the name of the brethren of the lodge, in a few well-chosen words, and was gracefully acknowledged by the I.P.M. The following brethren were present: Bro. T. Bushell, W.M.; F. Spencer, I.P.M.; A. Allen, S.W.; J. S. Whitehead, J.W.; S. Staton, P.M., Treas.; N. Field, Sec.; A. H. Rottmayer, S.D.; W. Brocklehurst, J.D.; G. O. Whittaker, I.G.; J. Bladon, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., D. of C.; J. Robinson, P.M.; S. Titmas, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; J. Dawson, P.M.; J. Garside, P.M.; W. B. Akerman, P.M.; E. P. Collett, H. A. Whaithe, J. W. Morley, H. Balfie, A. C. K. Smith, J. Chenery, F. R. Kelley, O. A. Hamson, W. A. Boyers, A. Findlow, A. Wild, T. Plumpton, and E. H. Flower, Tyler; Visitors: Bro. W. Gray, P.M. 999; J. C. Gillman, P.M., P.P.S.G.D. West Lancs.; G. E. Mellor, 581; J. A. Eastwood, W.M. 1869; W. Rumsey, P.M. 1357; W. W. McLeod, S.W. 1166; G. L. Vaughan, P.M. 1030; R. V. Critchley, J.W. 1140; F. H. Hall, P.M. 1458; T. Chorlton, 1166; A. Hepworth, W.M. 163; and H. S. Greenwood, 1633.

Faith and Unanimity Lodge, No. 417.

The annual festival of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Dorchester, on Wednesday, the 1st inst., when Bro. J. Neville, S.W., was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed by the retiring Master, Bro. Knight, assisted by Bros. Dron and Parsons. The newly-elected Master invested his officers as follows: Bro. A. Knight, I.P.M.; O. G. Barrow, S.W.; H. N. Kingdon, J.W.; Rev. H. J. U. Charlton, Chap.; A. H. Lock, Treas.; J. E. Stroud, Sec.; G. J. Hunt, S.D.; E. W. Young, D.C.; E. Newman, Org.; J. S. Schollar, I.G.; W. Talbot, Tyler; and F. Longman, Asst. Tyler.

In the evening a banquet was held in the hall, Bro. Bilham, of the King's Arms Hotel, being the caterer, and the usual list of Masonic toasts were gone through.

Lodge of the Three Grand Principles, No. 441.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held on Monday, the 6th inst., at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, and was attended by upwards of 80 brethren, including the Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. the Rev. J. H. Gray, and a number of visitors from the other Cambridge lodges, Wisbech, Huntingdon, and elsewhere.

After initiating a candidate, Bro. James Catling, the out-going W.M., installed his successor, Bro. W. R. Roper, M.D., in the chair of K.S. There were 26 Past Masters present at the Board of Installed Masters. The newly-installed W.M. subsequently appointed and invested his officers in a manner which gave promise of good work during his Mastership. The officers for the year are as follows: Bro. James Catling, P.G. Supt. Wks., I.P.M.; F. W. Potts, P.P.G. Stwd., S.W.; F. R. Leach, J.W.; T. Watts, P.M., P.P.G. Purst., Chaplain; J. Taylor, P.M., P.G. Reg., Treas.; J. S. Youngman, P.M., P.P.J.G.W., Sec.; L. Hosegood, S.D.; G. R. Barnes, J.D.; F. Dewberry, Mus. Bac., P.M., P.P.J.G.D., P.G.D.C., D.C.; J. Royston, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; F. Palmer, Std. Br.; W. H. Berridge, P.P.G. Org., Org.; F. W. Miller, I.G.; J. Vail, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., F. Cole, P.P.G. Purst., and C. E. Gray, Stwds.; and A. F. O'C. Hurry, Tyler. An anthem, composed by Bro. A. J. Caldicott, Mus. Bac. Cantab ("Behold! brethren, how good and joyful it is to dwell together in unity") was sung by Bros. J. Fuller, Moore, F. W. Miller, W. B. Flack, O. J. Hammond, and W. James. The charges to the W.M., the Wardens, and the brethren were then impressively given by Bro. Joseph Royston, P.M.

After "Hearty good wishes" the brethren were called to refreshment.

The customary loyal and Masonic toasts followed the banquet, and with some excellent music (including the anthem "Prosper the Art") the evening was spent in true Masonic harmony.

The Deputy Prov. Grand Master, alluding to the disturbed state of public feeling in the world, and the hard things that were just now being said of Britishers, expressed the belief that matters were not nearly so bad as they were painted, and hoped that they would, after all, have a happy new year. Any way, it was a comfort to be able to turn to the inside of a Masonic lodge, and find that there was some brotherly love in the world.

During the evening Past Masters' jewels were presented by the D.P.G.M., on behalf of the lodge, to Bros. Joshua Taylor, P.M., Treas., and J. Stacey Youngman, P.M., Sec., for many years' services rendered to the lodge. A Past Masters' jewel was also presented to Bro. James Catling, in recognition of his work in the chair during the past year.

St. James's Lodge, No. 448.

The brethren of this lodge celebrated their annual Festival of St. John the Evangelist at Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax, on the 31st ult., when Bro. W. S. Milligan was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed by Bros. Thomas Robertshaw, the retiring W.M.; Alfred Robertshaw, P.M.; and C. T. Rhodes, P.M., P.P.G.D.; and the W.M. appointed and invested his officers as

follows: Bros. T. Robertshaw, I.P.M.; T. H. Thompson, S.W.; A. E. Spencer, J.W.; W. F. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; J. Jessop, P.M., Sec.; Rufus Charles Sykes, Asst. Sec.; Rev. H. Williams, Chap.; George Tinker, S.D.; Charles E. Rose, J.D.; E. Hanson, D.C.; James Milligan, I.G.; Allan Haigh, Org.; Henry Wilson, Almoner; George Whiteley, Asst. Org.; Joseph Whiteley, Librarian; S. Hanson, W. Crabtree, Henry Balm, Robert Town, W. G. Thompson, and J. A. Worsnop, Stewards; Alfred Robertshaw, P.M., Charity Steward; and W. Fielding, Tyler. At the close of the ceremony, Bro. W. F. Wilkinson, P.M., presented to Bro. Thomas Robertshaw, I.P.M., a very handsome Past Master's jewel, as a token of respect from the brethren, and of appreciation the efficient way he had discharged the duties of his office as W.M. during the past year. Bro. T. Robertshaw acknowledged the gift, and returned thanks to the brethren for such a proof of their recognition of his services.

The brethren then adjourned to the dining hall, where the usual installation banquet took place, Mr. and Mrs. Hind being the caterers, and providing a first-class menu, which gave every satisfaction.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

The toast of "The Mayor and Corporation of Halifax" was proposed by Bro. ex-Councillor Jonathan Jessop, P.M.

Bros. G. H. Smith, S.W., W.M. elect 61 (the Mayor); Alderman R. Hodgson, P.M.; and Councillor J. T. Simpson, P.M., P.P.G.D., responded.

A most enjoyable evening was spent, a number of the brethren contributing to the harmony of the meeting. Special reference should be made of Bros. Ehud Hanson, Sykes Broadbent, Jonathan Bairstow, A. Robertshaw, A. Alderson, W. J. Morris, and J. C. Bell.

La Tolerance Lodge, No. 538.

This lodge held its installation meeting on the 1st inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Walter Hooker, W.M., presided. Among other brethren present were Bros. J. T. Pittman, S.W.; G. T. Augsburg, J.W.; Jas. Kench, P.M., P.G.P., Treas.; T. H. Clear, S.D.; Thomas H. Tidy, J.D.; J. W. Elvin, P.M., D.C.; G. A. Sturgess and S. C. Cross, Stwds.; Thomas W. Smale, P.M.; S. Edridge, P.M.; John Skinner, P.M.; W. E. Wilby, P.M.; W. J. Fenn, P.M.; W. M. Clear, P.M.; Henry Lee, Fred Cambridge, H. H. Perry, R. Hopf, H. T. Hipwell, and Thomas Bowler, acting Tyler. Visitors: Bros. W. D. Hayward, S.W. 2096; H. Massey, 160, P.M. 619 and 1928; John M. Newnham, J.W. 1636; A. Pusey Keith, I.G. 1556; B. Colbron, 2096; C. M. Wilson, W.M. 1619; W. Merrett, W.M. 1937; A. G. Dinn, 1769; D. Belenfaute, P.M. 435; H. W. C. Bearnd, 1133; Frank Simon, 21; Henry J. Kniff, 1706; David Strong, 1706; Herbert Goodwin, I.P.M. 1663; Sutton Shepley, S.W. 1706; J. F. Davey, 2168; Frederick Wm. White, 1471; M. B. Skidden, 27; W. Gemner, P.M. 720; John Thompson, J.W. 2242; Fred. Nicholls, P.M. 463, S.G.D. Surrey; B. A. Williams, P.M. 463; John Paul, P.M. 1287; and J. E. Fox, P.M. 1988. Bro. Harry Thomas Hipwell, 2173, was elected a joining member, after which the W.M. and Bro. James Kench, P.M., installed Bro. John James Pittman as Master for the ensuing year. The following brethren received the collars of office—Bros. Walter Hooker, I.P.M.; G. T. Augsburg, S.W.; T. H. Clear, J.W.; James Kench, P.M., P.G.P., Treas.; T. W. Smale, P.M., Sec.; T. A. Tidy, S.D.; S. C. Cross, J.D.; G. A. Sturgess, I.G.; Frederick Cambridge, P.P.G.O. Surrey, Org.; J. W. Elvin, P.M., D.C.; W. E. Wilby, P.M., A.D.C.; W. G. Fenn, P.M., P.P.S.G.D. Surrey, E. A. Harris, and Harry Lee, Stwds.; and Thos. Bowler, Tyler. Bro. James B. Sly, P.M., having, on account of ill-health, resigned the office of Secretary which he has held for 21 years, the lodge, through the W.M., presented him with a massive silver inkstand with Bro. Sly's monogram engraved on it, together with the emblem of Lodge La Tolerance, and the following notification of the cause of the gift: "Presented to Bro. G. B. Sly, P.M., by the brethren of the lodge upon his retirement from the office of Secretary, as a small token of their appreciation of his many years' service. January 2nd, 1896." The gift was accompanied by two handsome dressing-table scent bottles with silver caps for Mrs. Sly, the caps being engraved with that lady's monogram. The W.M., in making the presentation, made a very complimentary speech to Bro. Sly, and that brother having gracefully replied, the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to banquet.

This having been disposed of, the toasts were proposed, and under the direction of Bro. Frederick Bevan, P.M., P.P.G. Org., with Bro. F. Cambridge at the piano, Madame Isabel George, Miss Florence Venning, Bros. David Strong and Sutton Shepley gave a grand concert, and Bro. Harry Lee performed some magnificent violin solos.

Bro. James Kench, Treas., replying to the toast which includes "The Grand Officers," said: It affords me much pleasure to respond to the toast of the Grand Officers, not alone from the fact that it is an honour to be called upon to do so, but also because the aim and object of the Order to which we all have the honour to belong and of which the Grand Officers are the Executive, is of so beneficent a nature as to commend itself to the heartiest approval of the whole civilised world. Not to speak of our different Masonic Charitable Institutions further than to congratulate the W.M. on the honour he reflects on the lodge by representing us at the forthcoming Festival of the Boys' School this year, I may mention that there is one particular Charity that may be said to be eminently representative of the Grand Officers of England, and that is the Board of Benevolence, for as is well known to you, brethren, that Board is presided over by Grand Officers. Every Grand Officer, Present and Past, is *ex-officio* a member of it, and the moneys they distribute for the relief of our distressed brethren are entrusted to them as the representatives of Grand Lodge. Still, however, it is not so much to their attendance at that Board, nor yet at the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge that I particularly wish at this moment to invite your attention, but to the scene of their active labours in diffusing the light of Masonry and disseminating the genuine principles of the Craft. Would you wish to visit them there, brethren? It is not on the tented field amid the thunder of cannon, the rattle of musketry, and the wild notes of the bugle that they are to be found. Far different from all those surroundings is the field of their operations. Their mission is not to kill and destroy, but to instruct and benefit their fellow man. And there within the portals of some fair and serene Temple of knowledge, such as the Emulation Lodge of Improvement or the La Tolerance Lodge of Instruction, are they to be met with, engaged in the delightful occupation of training the hearts and minds of our young neophytes to shine in all those attainments that adorn our nature, in order that by their example they may be an encouragement to others in the practice of every moral and social virtue. And the humble seeker after knowledge may rest assured that while he enters with zeal and energy into the several branches of our Masonic studies, not only will he be welcomed with "Hearty good wishes" and warm fraternal greetings, but he will be taught by virtue of his own successful efforts in the paths of nature and science to exhibit that modesty which is the natural accompaniment of all true merit. Such, brethren, are the principles which it is the high privilege and duty of every Grand Officer, as well as of every Past Master, to inculcate in the hearts and minds of the younger members of the Craft and the brother who has made the most progress in learning and giving a practical application to them, may be said to be the most reliant and the most capable of conducting enterprises of great pith and moment.

Bro. Walter Hooker, I.P.M., in giving the toast of "The W.M.," said that if ever there was an occasion when the W.M. of La Tolerance was a man of good report, true and trusty, and held in high estimation among his brethren and fellows, it was that evening, and the very fact of so many brethren of importance from Croydon, his native town, attending to witness his installation was a proof of how he was esteemed there. If the brethren of La Tolerance were not satisfied with that, an announcement which Bro. Pittman would make would amplify the feeling the brethren had for him. It was only seven or eight years ago Bro. Pittman was initiated in that lodge, and ever since he began to take office—and he had gone through all the offices from I.G. up to the chair of S.W.—his work in Freemasonry had been such as to assure the brethren that in the chair of W.M. his conduct would not fall short of that of any Master who had gone before him. Bro. Pittman had been indefatigable in his work, and that evening he had been successful in securing a splendid entertainment for the brethren.

Bro. J. J. Pittman, W.M., in acknowledging the toast, while saying he did not think he deserved half of the kind things said by the I.P.M., observed that he knew Bro. Walter Hooker so well that he took what he said in a very different spirit to what he should have done in other circumstances. He knew Bro. Hooker so thoroughly that he was sure he would not say what he did not mean, and, although his (Bro. Pittman's) modesty compelled him to say that Bro. Hooker's praise was far too great, he knew Bro.

Hooker felt what he said, and he (Bro. Pittman) thanked the brethren through him for giving expression to those kind feelings. He thought he had arrived at that position in his life, which he never dreamed he should attain to. When he first entered Lodge La Tolerance it was furthest from his thoughts ever to aspire, or to make himself worthy or fit to occupy the most important position of W.M.; but, through the kind and good friends he had met in the lodge, and the encouragement he received from time to time, from the Past Masters and the brethren generally, he felt it was a duty incumbent on him to strive and reach the chair which so many able brethren had previously occupied. Example was better than precept, and no man in any lodge had had a better example to follow than he had had in Lodge La Tolerance, which possessed some of the best of men and some of the best of Past Masters. He continually looked to them, and to what they had done, and it gave him a sort of incentive to strive on; at all events, to do as much as they had done. He should be content if he did as well, leaving better to somebody else. At least, he would strive to do credit to the lodge. He would endeavour to bring in only worthy men. He was fortunate in being able that night to propose a brother of his in the flesh, who he hoped would be a brother in Masonry before long. As a brother in the flesh, that brother was one of the best of men, although probably he should not say it; but there was one present who knew his brother very well indeed and who would be able to say he was one of the best of men. He hoped the other members of the lodge would be able to introduce other good men. It had been hinted by Bro. Kench, P.M., that he (Bro. Pittman) would go up during his year to represent the lodge at the coming Boys' School Festival. He hoped so to do, because he felt that it was important that, apart from ordinary Masonic work, all through the ceremonies and from the earliest moment he entered the porch, Charity and benevolence were two of the chief virtues of Masonry, and it presented itself to him that it was necessary that that lodge should do something with regard to the Charities. He selected the Boys, for the reason that he felt that lodge had not been represented at that Institution's Festivals for many years—he did not know how long—perhaps something like eight or nine years, although it had been represented at festivals of the other Institutions. From the moment he mentioned his resolve he had been very fortunate, as brethren came forward and said they would support him, and now he had a list of 160 or 170 guineas. Lodge La Tolerance would probably send to that festival a larger amount than it had ever sent to any festival. He had personally to thank P.M. Sidney Edridge (who was always ready to carry out the theories he advocated to those who sat under him time after time, that the virtue of Charity should be more practised by Masons than it was), for having headed his list with 100 guineas—thereby showing that he was not only a man of words, but a man of deeds, and that he was determined to prove practically that he meant to disseminate that doctrine which he had always inculcated. Next came P.M. Webb, who had the honour of taking up one of the largest lists from that lodge to the Girls' Institution. Bro. Webb said this year should not be second to his, and that he would do his utmost for him, putting 25 guineas on the list. P.Ms. Fenn, Wilby, and Hooker had all given largely to the other Charities, but they each put down 10 guineas. He (Bro. Pittman), unfortunately, was not a man of wealth, but still he should put down 10 guineas. He was delighted to find a brother visitor come forward, Bro. Simon, of No. 21, with a guinea. He should take an opportunity of seeing other Past Masters and brethren of Lodge La Tolerance on the subject, but he was sure he should have that hearty support which previous Masters had had for the Charities. Nothing more remained for him to say than to thank the brethren again from his heart for the kind way in which they had received the toast. The present was a very proud moment for him, and he would add that he would endeavour to do in the future what he had done in the past—his duty to Lodge La Tolerance.

Bro. J. J. Pittman, W.M., next proposed "The Immediate Past Master, Bro. W. Hooker," and said that although the former toast had been described as the toast of the evening, that toast came very near it. The brethren had heard what Bro. Walter Hooker could do in work; of him (Bro. Pittman) they had had only a few moments' experience. The toast of I.P.M. commended itself to the brethren in that instance, as Bro. Hooker, apart from his Masonry, was a brother of whom he had great knowledge almost from the first day he (Bro. Pittman) went into Croydon; they had lived together and worked side by side ever since. He had been content—as he always should be content—to be just behind Bro. Hooker, as he was that night. He knew how well Bro. Hooker had occupied the chair of K.S.; he was a right good man and a right good brother. If he (Bro. Pittman) could only do for Lodge La Tolerance as much as Bro. Hooker had done he should be satisfied. Bro. Hooker had explained his natural characteristics in all his undertakings, and he had shown them particularly in Lodge La Tolerance. The brethren of that lodge had had a very happy and prosperous year under Bro. Hooker's rule, and the lodge had voted him a Past Master's jewel, which he (Bro. Pittman) was fortunate enough to have the honour of pinning on his coat. The jewel showed that the brethren appreciated Bro. Hooker's efforts on behalf of the lodge.

Bro. Walter Hooker, I.P.M., thanked the W.M. for his remarks, and the brethren for their cordial reception of them. At the last lodge meeting he had said he did not think he was worthy of the presentation, and he was going to ask the brethren if they could not see their way to forego it this year. They would not, however, agree to do so. He had had jewels before, but had been unfortunate in losing them, but he could assure the brethren that there was no chance of losing that jewel.

Bros. Dr. Nicholls, Wilson, Paul, Merrett, Davey, Simon, Freeman, and Newnam responded to the toast of "The Visitors," and Bro. Wilby having responded first for "The Past Masters,"

Bro. Edridge, P.M., also replied. He said that Charles Dickens, describing Peter Magnus, and his signing his letters in the afternoon, put into Magnus' mouth, when he asked why he did so, that he referred the question to the initials, P. M., of his name. He (Bro. Edridge) had reached that glorious epoch in his career as a Mason, when he was privileged to place after his name the initials, P.M. He drew the brethren's attention to that for this reason—he hoped that when Masons had arrived at that distinguished position of Past Master they would not be Past Masters, post meridian—not afternoon Masters, men going down in the glorious Brotherhood—but that they would strive and try to become Past Masters in the sense of Past Masters in arts and science. He wished to draw attention to a war cry he was going to raise on this occasion, which was to be placed under two heads, the first, greater union—communion—between lodges, and the second, decentralisation. The greater communion between the lodges referred to the management of lodge finances; the decentralisation, to the Board of Benevolence. He was not saying one word with regard to the glorious work carried on by that Board; but he did say that if the majority of that work was carried on alone under the auspices of Grand Officers at that Board it must come considerably short of the necessities of the case. The decentralisation he referred to would be this: Lodge La Tolerance was not unlike other lodges, it did not waste any moneys; the last thing he should attempt to suggest would be that the lodge wasted its money; but if the lodges were able to draw together under Committees of Management with regard to their finances—he was restricting himself to the question of benevolence now—he believed that out of that communion of lodges and joint management of lodge finance they might be able to do a great deal more than they did towards the relief of the necessities of others. He had in his pocket a letter written by a widow whose husband lived and died a Mason, and was sheltered beneath the fostering roof of that glorious branch of their Masonic Charities—the Old People's Institutions at Croydon—and died there. The widow was in great want. The brethren would readily answer, "and so are thousands of others"—but that widow's cry was exactly the cry that was mentioned by a Judge on the bench in a great calamity which happened in the outside world. All who had listened to him (Bro. Edridge) that night had read or heard of that touching story of the Pool of Siloam, to which the Angel of Mercy came down at periods to trouble the waters, and along the road came the lame, the halt, and the blind, and the suffering, and the story told was that only those who were lucky enough to have someone to put them into the pool while it was troubled were cured. Well, it was only those who had the necessary ability to get relief who got it. In Masonry there were hundreds toiling towards the Pool of Siloam, which was under the roof of Freemasons' Hall, raising their cry to the cars that were wide open to hear them, but their voices could not be heard. He would suggest, with all anxiety, but with all deference, that if the Masons would consider the advisability of inter-communion in their finance, the Charity-boxes (he had not seen the Charity-box go round that night in Lodge La Tolerance) would contain such stores of gold, that they could hold out the help which was greatly needed. That was the decentralisation which he meant, and it would encourage the duty which was pressed upon them in their meetings as good men and true. By that means they could afford greater help.

Bros. Kerch and Smale replied to the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary;" Bro. Augspurg, S.W., responded to the toast of "The Officers;" and Bro. Bowler gave the Tyler's toast, which wound up the proceedings of the evening.

Williamson Lodge, No. 949.

On Monday night, the 16th ult., in the course of the proceedings of this lodge, at the Masonic Hall, North Bridge-street, Monkwearmouth, a presentation was made to Bro. J. G. Kirtley, P.M., P.P.G.D. The W.M., Bro. E. Lautebach, presided, and was supported by Bros. F. W. Ingram, I.P.M.; R. Shadforth, P.M., P.P.G.D.; G. W. Bain, P.M., P.P.G.R.; G. B. Hall, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; J. G. Kirtley, P.M., P.P.G.D.; H. J. Turnbull, P.P.J.G.W.; J. C. Moor, P.J.G.W.; A. Grundy, P.A.G.D.C.; Thomas Robinson, W.M., and R. Lee, P.M., of 97; Nicholas Lee, W.M., and Wm. Scott, P.M., of 2039; J. Hudson, P.M., and M. J. Todd, P.M., of 80; T. Harrison, S.W.; J. Blake, J.W.; R. D. Smith, Sec.; R. F. Smith, S.D.; W. T. Fowler, J.D.; J. Grayston, Org.; W. T. Wallace, I.G.; and T. Grieve, P.M., Tyler.

The presentation of a beautiful silver tea service and tray to Bro. J. G. Kirtley, P.M., was made by the W.M., on behalf of the officers and members of the lodge. The W.M., Bro. E. Lautebach, made fitting reference to Bro. Kirtley's Masonic career. His services to the lodge as Treasurer had been of great value, and he felt sure he would still do all he could to assist them.

The silver tray bore the following inscription: "A.F. and A.M. Presented to Brother Jno. George Kirtley, P.M., P.P.G.D. Durham, with the accompanying tea service, in appreciation of his valuable services as Treasurer from 1886 to 1895, by the brethren of the Williamson Lodge, No. 949, Monkwearmouth. 16th December, 1895."

The W.M. said they all joined together to show their esteem for Bro. Kirtley, and trusted he and his family would be long spared to make use of it.

Bro. J. G. Kirtley, P.M., suitably acknowledged the presentation. He said he could not give expression to his feelings, but ever since his initiation it had been his desire to do all he could for the welfare of the lodge, and to promote the harmony of the brethren, and he should continue to evince the same interest in the future.

At a subsequent part of the proceedings, "The Health of Bro. Kirtley" was proposed by Bro. Ald. Shadforth, P.M., P.P.G.D., and Bros. H. J. Turnbull and J. C. Moor also expressed their gratification at seeing the way in which the brethren had testified their appreciation of Bro. Kirtley's services.

Bro. Kirtley suitably responded, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Acacia Lodge, No. 2321.

The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Rawson-square, Bradford, on Thursday, the 5th inst. There was only a moderate attendance. Bro. Samuel Robinson, W.M., presided. There were also present Bros. John Niven, as I.P.M.; S. A. Bailey, P.M., Treas.; J. T. Last, P.M., Sec.; John Haigh, P.M.; J. B. Fearnley, S.W.; J. A. Drake, S.D.; J. W. Bland, J.D.; John Morton, as I.G.; H. Holmes, Tyler; Wm. Docksey, Org.; W. S. Smith, J. S. Hedley, J. S. Marsland, F. Betteridge, T. H. Bedford, J. R. Peat, and others. Visitors: Bros. H. S. Pearson, W.M. 750; H. Ellison, 750; Chas. Dean, I.P.M. 1034; Jas. Tilley, 600; and Rev. J. W. Clough, Chap. 2330.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. Bro. Betteridge, B.A., was passed to the Second Degree by Bro. Bailey, P.M., the working tools being explained by him, and the charge delivered by Bro. Fearnley, S.W. Bro. Niven, the Representative of the lodge on the Provincial Charity Committee, reported the result of the recent representative meeting at Leeds with reference to the testimonial proposed to be presented to Bro. Henry Smith, the retiring Deputy Prov. G.M., and gave notice of motion for a grant from the lodge funds towards the fund it was intended to raise in the province for the purpose referred to. Apologies were tendered for the unavoidable absence of a number of the brethren, and after "Hearty good wishes" from the visitors, the lodge was closed.

After refreshment, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

The Worshipful Master, in submitting the toast of "Our Visitors," stated that the lodge was always pleased to entertain visitors, who were at all times welcome at their meetings without any formal invitation. He gave them all a very hearty greeting.

The toast was received with much cordiality.

Bro. H. S. Pearson, W.M. 750, responded. He said that it was his first visit to the lodge. He had spent a most pleasant evening. He was much gratified with what he had witnessed, and thanked the brethren for the cordial manner the visitors had been received.

Bro. Rev. J. W. Clough also responded.

"The Health of the Worshipful Master" was proposed by Bro. C. Dean, I.P.M. 1034, who said he was proud to have to have the opportunity of proposing that toast as the W.M. was a respected member of the Eccleshill Lodge at the time he was initiated. He was pleased to see Bro. Robinson in the chair of that lodge.

Bro. Robinson, W.M., suitably responded. Other toasts followed.

Bro. Last responded for "The Past Masters," and Bro. Fearnley, S.W., for "The Officers."

The Tyler's toast closed a very harmonious meeting.

Bros. Tilley, Fearnley, Smith, Haigh, Last, and Docksey contributed songs and music.

Minerva Lodge, No. 2433.

An ordinary meeting of this lodge, which works on the lines of the Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, was held at the Masonic Rooms, Hamilton-street, Birkenhead, on Friday, the 3rd inst. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. William F. Robinson, the chair was taken by the Secretary, Bro. Samuel Jong, P.M., P.P.G.D., who at a moment's notice most efficiently rendered the ceremony of initiation, after which Bro. Dr. George Tate was called upon to read his paper on "Microbes, and the Mysteries of Nature and Science revealed thereby." The lecturer first made apology for bringing before Speculative Masons a subject apparently so remotely connected with the objects of their Order; but contended that in being a student of those mysteries that are revealed by the investigation of the lowest forms of vegetable life, and in endeavouring to elucidate the objects and methods of research adapted by bacteriologists, he was fulfilling the ancient precepts of their Craft. The bacteria were described as belonging to the lowest forms of vegetable life, comparatively simple in structure and possessing astonishing reproductive powers. Typical specimens were exhibited, and explanation given of the methods adopted to separate the individual species and propagate them as pure breeds or cultures. In describing what the bacteria did, Bro. Tate likened them in their work to Operative Masons, the stones with which they worked being the various atoms of the chemical elements, and the Masonic structures towards which their energies were directed the molecules of various chemical compounds. Whether as the friends or foes of man, their work in nature generally consisted in the systematic unpiecing of the molecules of compounds or the re-arranging of the stones of a chemical structure. Each tribe showed partiality for work to which it was accustomed, but each probably was capable of being trained by judicious treatment to do new work either for the good or ill of man. Whether from the view of the industrial chemist or of the pathologist, the work of a bacterium was that of one of nature's chemists—producing from complex compounds either useful or poisonous chemical substances, and so helping to sustain or destroy the higher life of the world. An interesting discussion ensued, in which Bros. Dr. Logan, Dr. Brewer, Dr. McVie, Rev. Robert Edwards, J. Armstrong, and T. C. Thorburn, P.P.S.G.W., took part. Bro. Dr. Tate was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his very interesting contribution.

White Rose of York Lodge, No. 2491.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. JOHN HUNT, P.M., P.P.G.D., FIRST W.M. OF THE LODGE.

The ordinary monthly meeting of this lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield, on Friday, the 3rd inst., Bro. C. F. Brindley, W.M., in the chair. There was a very good attendance. The officers supporting the W.M. were Bros. Joseph Jackson, P.M. 139, I.P.M.; Wm. Gunstone, S.W.; Carl A. Hahn, J.W.; Joseph Craven, Treas.; Wm. Gadsby, P.M., P.P.G.O. Derbyshire, acting as Secretary in the absence, through illness, of Bro. Geo. Wish, Bros. Dr. John Stokes, S.D.; T. W. Hanforth, Mus. Bac., J.D.; Charles Ariel Wright, D.C.; W. H. Peasegood, Org.; M. T. Miner, I.G.; J. E. Dawhurst and A. B. Gunstone, Stwds.; and Thos. Leighton, Tyler. The Past Masters were represented by Bros. Simon Hayes, P.P.G.W.; Enson Drury, P.G.W.; H. J. Garnett, P.P.G. Std. Br.; John Hunt, P.P.G.D.; T. H. Vernon, P.P.G.D.; John Shaw, P.P.G.S. of W.; and A. Macredie, P.P.G.D. There were about 30 other brethren present, and amongst the visitors were Bros. W. Fisher Tasker, P.M. 296, P.P.G. Treas., and Joseph Matthewman, P.M. 1019, Prov. A.C. Sec.

The first business on the agenda, after the reading and confirmation of the minutes, was the ballot for Mr. Ernest Moore, artist, Sheffield, the painter of the picture shortly to be presented to Bro. John Hunt. This being declared successful, Mr. Fred. Cartwright, M.S.A., previously elected, presented himself for initiation. The ceremony was most carefully and reverently conducted by the W.M., Bro. C. F. Brindley, who was ably assisted by his officers, conspicuous amongst whom were Bro. Wm. Grunstone, S.W., who presented the working tools, Bro. Dr. John Stokes, S.D., who gave the ancient charge, and the J.D., Bro. J. W. Hanforth, who conducted the candidate. The music, both vocal and instrumental, which has been arranged by Bro. Gadsby and others and adopted for general use in the lodge, added largely to the impressive character of the proceedings. The efficiency of the W.M. and the accuracy and attention to detail of his officers reflected much credit, not only upon the lodge but also upon its able Preceptor, Bro. John Hunt. A vote of 10 guineas from the lodge funds towards the "Henry Smith Testimonial," was cheerfully and unanimously granted on the proposition of the W.M., seconded by the I.P.M., Bro. Joseph Jackman. This concluded the routine business of the evening, after which the W.M. said they had got a most interesting function yet to discharge, that of presenting to Bro. John Hunt the oil painting of himself now hanging in the lodge. He would call upon Bro. Jackman to do this because the movement had originated during his Mastership, and it was only fair that he, having had all the responsibility and trouble—both most cheerfully borne—should now wear the laurels of the success which his efforts had produced.

Bro. Jackman, standing beneath the portrait, said: Brethren,—As you, most of you doubtless know, at our meeting in September last it was proposed, and unanimously carried, that our esteemed Bro. John Hunt, P.M. 139, founder and first W.M. of the lodge, be requested to sit for his portrait. The execution of this work was entrusted to Mr. Ernest Moore, artist, of Sheffield, and, as I am sure you will all admit (unveiling the picture) he has done it in a highly satisfactory and pleasing manner. It is especially gratifying to me to be allowed to display this really excellent portrait and unveil the handiwork of the artist, and I entrust it to the care of this lodge for ever, to belong to it as a mark of the spontaneous desire of all to show appreciation of the talents and Masonic virtues of Bro. John Hunt. I have known him for 30 years, and, to use a nautical phrase, I have always found him "in the rigging," and on the look out for enterprise. In relation to our own lodge, he has tried and has undoubtedly succeeded in raising a superstructure "creditable in its parts and honourable to the builder." Bro. Hunt (turning to him), in the dining-room below is a replica of the picture which now holds an honoured niche in our midst. That replica we have the greatest pleasure in presenting to you to hang beneath your own roof. We pray that the Most High may bless you and yours; that He may preserve you long to adorn this room by your presence, and, in your absence, this faithful portrait will ever be to us and our successors a lasting evidence of your never-failing interest in the lodge, and your unswerving attachment to the noble principles of Freemasonry.

Bro. Hunt, in replying, said: Bro. Jackman, W.M., and Brethren,—This act of yours to-night is to my mind a noble and a generous one. It is true that the work I did in the founding of the lodge and my attention to its interests since involved considerable demands upon my time and labours, and was not without its difficulties. But neither was it without its pleasures. The ready co-operation and support which I received assisted my efforts and lessened the weight of my responsibilities. I never supposed I should receive such a mark of your appreciation of my services. My ambition for some recognition on your part did not, indeed, soar so high. Being, however, your desire, I accept this testimonial with pleasure and gratitude, and I—and I am sure the members of my family also—feel proud to think that I have been deemed worthy of so great an honour, and that my portrait will fill a corner in this hall, associated as it is with our Masonic ceremonies and the noble principles of our Order. Bro. Hunt then intimated that as an opportunity of saying more as to the reasons for the formation of the lodge and other matters would, he believed, be afforded him downstairs, he would not detain them longer, but simply repeat his heart-felt thanks.

The lodge, after the usual questions, the reception of two propositions, and hearty salutations, was closed.

The brethren then adjourned to supper, after which the W.M. gave the comprehensive toast of "The Queen and the Rulers of our Craft, Supreme and Subordinate."

In next proposing "The Health of Bro. John Hunt," the W.M. said that Bro. Hunt's name on that occasion must stand first and foremost, as he was the father of the lodge, that the portrait was merely a justification of their obligation to him, and that in honouring him they were honouring themselves; that from its inception his efforts in the interest of the lodge had been unflinching, and it was now placed upon a satisfactory basis; it was possible that some of them might have thought that Bro. Hunt had occasionally been somewhat exacting in his demands and hypercritical in his expressions of opinion—but even if that were at one time so, they now saw the wisdom of the course he had pursued; if the lodge had not been ably conducted it would not have been in its present position, which was one to belong to of which, without vanity or egotism, he might say they were all proud; that they owed a debt of gratitude to Bro. Hunt, and he did not doubt that as in the past so in the future their Preceptor would place his able services at their disposal. He proposed, with the warmest affection and deepest respect, "Health and Happiness to Bro. John Hunt."

After a pianoforte solo by Bro. W. H. Peasegood, Bro. Hunt rose to reply, and received an ovation. It was, he said, an occasion most eventful, both Masonically and personally, to himself. He thanked them for placing his portrait amongst those which already hung in honour on the walls of the lodge. For the replica he was especially grateful, as it was an evidence to the members of his family of the estimation in which he was held by his Masonic brethren, and besides it being to them a cause of pride and pleasure, it might, he would venture to say, confer lessons of profit. He would assure them his family would value the picture equally with himself, and that it would be counted by them as one of the treasures of the household. Bro. Hunt then went into interesting details of the history and *raison d'être* of the White Rose of York Lodge, deduced lessons for the guidance of the brethren, and suggested lines of conduct, interspersed with warnings, as to their future career. Following up this paternal counsel, he gave much information, statistical and useful, especially to the younger members; showed how, by the generosity of the founders, they commenced their undertaking free from debt, and pointed out their steady and consistent progress. As to the efficiency of their officers, proof had been given that night, and he thought that, pausing for a moment after their two years' existence, they might look back with satisfaction and forward with hope. He had, he continued, been much struck with the remarks of the *Freemason* newspaper, which not only gave them a lengthy report of the consecration of their lodge, but in a subsequent issue had honoured them by special reference in a leading article. Statements of that kind, added Bro. Hunt, increased their sense of responsibility, and he trusted that the lodge, with whose concerns he was so closely associated, would never belie the character it had obtained, and would be stimulated to deserve the encomiums so generously bestowed by the *Freemason*. Bro. Hunt concluded a most forcible and instructive address by thanking the brethren for their kindness upon that and all other occasions.

After a song by Bro. W. Gadsby, Bro. Simon Hayes proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master." He had, he said, known him in long clothes, and watched his career from an active boyhood to a useful and more active manhood. They associated Bro. Brindley with them in forming their lodge, and his conduct had justified their selection. As Junior Warden and as Senior Warden he had ably discharged his duties, and, as to competence to fill the chair of W.M., his beautiful rendering of the ceremony that night had, if it were necessary, amply proved. It was most satisfactory to them all to think that their expectations so justly formed of Bro. Brindley had been so thoroughly and abundantly realised.

The W.M., Bro. C. F. Brindley, whose popularity was pronounced, in replying to his health, declared that the lodge of which they had appointed him Master was dear to his heart; that he meant to watch over its interests with a jealous eye, and that he was prepared to sacrifice, if necessary, both leisure and comfort in their service. A W.M., he declared, could not claim acknowledgment and loyal duty from his brethren if he stinted himself, in fact his 12 months' occupancy of the chair was a servitude—pleasing certainly, but yet a servitude—for, though they might smile, it was the truth, and he was sure the Past Masters would bear him out: that, like Popes, W.M.s. were the chief servants of their brethren. He knew that, in order successfully to conduct their affairs, self-sacrifice was needed. He was prepared to sacrifice much of personal inclination and feeling in their behalf, and he hoped if the time should arrive they, too, would be ready to give up something rather than by persistency to damage the reputation or impede the progress of the White Rose of York Lodge.

Other toasts, including those of "The Visitors," responded to by Bro. Matthewman; "The Officers," and "The Masonic Charities," were duly honoured.

Songs and instrumental music also contributed much to what was in all respects a highly successful evening.

Mark Masonry.

Industry Lodge, No. 293.

The annual meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 6th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Gateshead-on-Tyne, when there was a good attendance of members and visitors. The retiring W.M., Bro. T. R. Jobson, presided, and amongst those present were Bros. R. B. Reed, P.M., P.G.S.B. England, D.P.G.M.; John Page, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; W. F. Carmon, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; Robt. Whitfield, P.M., P.P.G.R. of M.; Wm. Brown, P.M., P.P.G.S.O.; T. R. Short, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; Adam Dodds, S.W., W.M. elect; C. P. Laidler, J.W.; Rev. W. Bowker, Chap.; W. Stafford, M.O.; H. Jackson, S.O.; W. J. Jobson, J.O.; H. S. Bird, R. of M.; W. Holzapfel, S.D.; T. Douglass, I.G.; R. Ferry, Org.; Thos. Chegwidden, R. Harrison, W. E. Peacock, J. Neill, C. H. Keay, H. H. Pitt, and others. The visitors were Bros. T. J. Armstrong, G.D. England, Prov. G. Sec.; T. W. Lovibond, W.M. 346, P.J.G.O.; W. M. Lyon, P.M. (T.I.), P.P.G.M.O.; Jas. Shaw, W.M. (T.I.); C. B. Ford, P.M. (T.I.), P.J.G.W.; G. Laing, and others.

After the preliminary business, Bro. John Page, P.M., presented Bro. Adam Dodds for installation as W.M., and he was duly inducted into the chair by Bro. T. R. Jobson. The ancient charges to the W.M., Wardens, officers, and brethren were delivered by the D.P.G.M., Bro. R. B. Reed, and the whole of the work was done in remarkably good style. The officers were then invested as follows: Bros. T. R. Jobson, I.P.M.; C. P. Laidler, S.W.; Wm. Stafford, J.W.; W. F. Carmon, P.M., Treas.; Rev. W. Bowker, Chap.; H. Jackson, M.O.; W. J. Jobson, S.O.; H. S. Bird, J.O.; T. W. Bagnall, R. of M.; W. C. A. Holzapfel, Sec.; W. Douglass, S.D.; Thos. Douglass, J.D.; W. Brown, P.M., D.C.; R. Ferry, Org.; T. Chegwidden, I.G.; R. Harrison and J. Armstrong, Stwds.; and J. Curry, Tyler. Three propositions for advancement were made, and after receiving the hearty congratulations of the D.P.G.M. and visitors, the proceedings terminated.

The annual festival was afterwards held at the "Central," Half Moon-lane, Gateshead, the new W.M., Bro. A. Dodds, presiding, when most of the brethren above-mentioned were present, and enjoyed themselves during the evening.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 1st inst., at the Weavers' Arms, London Wall, when there were present: Bros. Wise, W.M.; Greig, S.W.; Knight, J.W.; Harlow, Preceptor; Thomas, Treas.; Meadows, Sec.; Robeson, S.D.; Spencer, J.D.; Shadler, I.G.; Harris, P.M.; J. J. Smith, Pepe, Fisher, and Betts.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Harlow acting as candidate. Bro. J. Smith answered the questions and was raised to the Degree of a M.M. The lodge was then closed.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE, No. 144.

A meeting was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Victoria Tavern, Gertrude street, Chelsea, when there were present Bros. Thomas, W.M.; Weller, S.W. Holland, P.M., J.W.; Carlstrom, Preceptor; Stutfield, Sec.; Rayner, S.D.; Marriott-Matthews, J.D.; Sellick, I.G.; Cooke, Palmer, J. A. W. Thompson, Markland, and Westron. Bro. Cray was a visitor.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Cray being the candidate. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees. The 1st Section of the Third Lecture was worked by the Preceptor, assisted by the brethren. The lodge was closed in the Third and Second Degrees. After the third rising, the lodge was closed.

BLACKHEATH LODGE, No. 1320.

A meeting was held on Monday, the 6th inst., at the Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell. Present: Bros. Morgan, W.M.; Rice, S.W.; Cornford, J.W.; Wm. Dawson, Preceptor; J. Hooper, P.M., Deputy Preceptor; T. R. Cass, P.M., Treas.; C. H. Stone, P.M., Sec.; Hooper, S.D.; Thompson, J.D.; Niblett, I.G.; Taylor, Wilson, Chamberlin, Ezekiel, Gaze, Trotter, Cross, Fisher, Martin, Morson, L. Cren, Rimbault, Stunt, Turner, Chapman, Salmon, Keeble, Hodgson, Porter, Grummant, Garland, and Telling.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Chapman being the candidate. Bro. Morgan vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Turner, who repeated the ceremony, Bro. Cass, P.M., being the candidate. The 2nd Section of the Lecture was worked by Bro. Salmon, assisted by the brethren. Bros. Garland, Hodgson, Keeble, A. Wilson, A. H. Rimbault, Chamberlin, and Taylor were elected members, and Bro. E. A. Rice was elected W.M. for the next meeting. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Bros. Cass, Turner, J. Hooper, Cornford, and Sons for their great kindness shown towards the lodge. After "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 7th instant, at the Cock, Tavern, Highbury, when there were present: Bros. C. Smith, W.M.; M. Miroy, S.W.; E. Faux, J.W.; J. W. Clarke, P.M., Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; J. Birks, S.D.; A. F. Hardyment, J.D.; J. E. Thomas, I.G.; A. Oliver, P.M.; A. L. Gieve, R. P. Upton, A. L. Langton, S. Cload, G. Vexley, G. A. Hopkins, W. Rapley, A. Oldrev, W. A. Goring, G. Hucklepp, J. H. White, J. R. Thurman, and M. Tuck, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Essex.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. Bro. Smith vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Upton, and the lodge having been opened in the Second Degree, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Rapley being the candidate. The ceremony of installation was then rehearsed, Bro. Faux as W.M. elect; the officers were invested, and the addresses given. Bro. Miroy was elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM CHAPTER, No. 753.

A meeting was held on Thursday, the 19th ult., at the Eagle Tavern, Clifton-road, Maida Vale, W., when there were present Comps. W. J. Stratton, M.E.Z.; G. Lane, H.; W. Parsons, J.; H. Trask, S.N.; H. J. Thomas, P.S.; J. C. Kruse, 1st A.S.; M. Spiegel, P.Z.; C. Coleman, P.Z.; and T. B. Harpham.

The chapter was declared open, and the minutes of the last convocation read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Harpham acting as candidate. Comp. Harpham was elected a joining member. Votes of thanks were ordered to be recorded on the minutes to Comps. Lane and Thomas for the able manner they performed the duties of H. and P.S. respectively for the first time, and each of the companions suitably responded. It was arranged that no meeting be held on the 26th inst. (Boxing Day), and that Comp. Stratton again occupy the chair of M.E.Z. on the 2nd January. Being the last meeting in the year, seasonable congratulations were offered to each other, and the chapter was closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 3rd inst., at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell. Present: Comps. Benedetti, M.E.Z.; Loader, H.; Barr, J.; T. Grummant, P.Z., Preceptor; Hayes, S.N.; Cornford, P.S.; Dawson, 1st A.S.; North, and Dunn.

The chapter was declared open, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. North personating the candidate. Comp. J. Loader, H., was elected M.E.Z. for the next meeting. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Comp. Barr, J., for the very able manner he rehearsed the ceremony of J. for the first time. After "Hearty good wishes" the chapter was closed.

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. THE DUKE OF ABERCORN has arrived at Hampden House, Green-street, St. James's, from Baron's Court, County Tyrone.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF TECK left the White Lodge, Richmond Park, for Sandringham, where they are now staying on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of York.

BRO. LORD AND LADY CHARLES BERESFORD, who had been staying at Park Gate House, Ham, Surrey, left London on Saturday last for Madrid, *en route* for Egypt.

BRO. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF ST. ALBANS have been entertaining a numerous party of guests at Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, for the Nottingham Hospital Ball.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, with Prince Albert and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, left Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Park, on Monday on a visit to the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury at Hatfield.

THE BENCHERS of the Inner Temple have lent their hall to Lady Halsbury for the purposes of a ball, which she intends giving on the 13th February, in aid of St. Michael's Convalescent Home, Westgate-on-Sea.

WE ARE ASKED TO STATE that interim interest on the paid capital of the Accident Insurance Company, Limited, 10, St. Swithin's-lane, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, for the half year ending the 31st December, 1895, is now payable.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that Sir George Newnes has consented to preside at the 32nd anniversary festival, which will be held in the Whitehall Rooms of the Hôtel Métropole on Thursday, the 19th March, in aid of the Homes for Little Boys at Farningham and Swanley.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have decided to proceed at once with the erection of new naval barracks at Chatham. The scheme provides not only for utilising the old convict prison buildings as far as possible, but likewise for the erection of additional premises on a large scale.

HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL at Stettin has been appealing to the public on behalf of the British Seamen's Institute in that port. In 1894 it was visited by over 4000 men, while last year the number was between 5000 and 6000. Parcels of old books, magazines, games, &c., are asked for as well as contributions.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES's cutter *Britannia* has been launched from the slips at Southampton, where she had been laid up, and towed over to Cowes, where she is completing her outfit for the Mediterranean, with a view to taking part in the Riviera regattas. Her most formidable opponents will be the *Ailsa* and *Satanita*.

ON MONDAY, being the Feast of the Epiphany, the customary offerings on behalf of her Majesty the Queen of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, were made in the Chapel Royal, St. James's, at 11 a.m. Mr. E. H. Anson and the Hon. Aubrey Fitzclarence, Gentlemen Ushers-in-Waiting, presented the gifts, while the Dean of the Chapels Royal, the Sub-Dean, and the Priest-in-Waiting, officiated.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY concluded her visit to the Queen at Osborne on Monday, and having crossed from East Cowes to Portsmouth on the Royal Yacht *Alberta*, was received by Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon, V.C., who escorted her over the Majestic, the new flagship of Vice-Admiral Lord Walter Kerr, commanding the Channel Squadron. After inspecting this powerful battleship, her Royal Highness left Portsmouth for Claremont.

BRO. THE DUKE OF PORTLAND, Master of the Horse, entertained the children of the men employed at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, on Monday evening. The young folk, with their mothers, to the number of about 200, enjoyed a dissolving view entertainment after tea, each subsequently receiving from a huge Christmas tree some toy or useful article. Music followed, and at the conclusion the children gave hearty cheers for the Master of the Horse.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES left Sandringham for Lowther Castle on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Lonsdale on Monday. On his arrival at Penrith, the Prince was met by the Earl of Lonsdale, the town being illuminated in his honour and the reception accorded to his Royal Highness being most enthusiastic. The party invited to meet the Prince included the Dowager Countess of Lonsdale, Bro. the Earl of Dunraven, Viscount and Viscountess Curzon, Lord and Lady A. Compton, the Right Hon. James Lowther, the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, and others, while Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry, and Bro. Lord and Lady Muncaster were unable to accept the invitations they received.

THE MARRIAGE of Captain John R. Cottrell, 1st Life Guards, with Lady Evelyn Gordon, eldest daughter of Bro. the Earl of March, was solemnised in St. Peter's, Eaton-square, on Saturday last. Troopers of A Squadron of the Regiment were ranged on each side of the nave, and the Archdeacon of Hereford and the Rev. E. Hill, of Boxgrove, Chichester, were the officiating clergy. Among those present at the reception after the wedding, at the Duke of Richmond and Gordon's residence in Belgrave-square, were Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Hamilton, the Earl and Countess of Winterton, Bro. the Earl of Hardwicke, Lady Emily and Miss Hart Dyke, and others.

THREE CONSTABLES of the S. Division of the Metropolitan Police greatly distinguished themselves by their courage at a fire which recently took place in George-street, Hampstead-road, by rescuing a woman from a room at the top of the house when the whole of the lower portion was completely gutted and the staircase had disappeared. The three mounted a ladder, and when it proved too short, Neale stood, supported by the others, on the topmost rung, the woman stepped slowly out on to his shoulders, and the four then descended in safety. For this act, the three attended at the Marylebone Police Court, and were presented—Neale with a silver medal, Colley with a bronze medal, and Lewis with a certificate, and, in addition, a guinea each, which had been awarded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire.

OPENING OF THE NATIONAL SKATING PALACE.—The well-known house of entertainment—Hengler's Grand Cirque—has transformed itself into a new creation of wonderful and surpassing beauty, in the style and under the name of the National Skating Palace. It is, in fact, a new and formidable competitor in the pleasure world of London. The whole building has been practically reconstructed, and decorated and furnished in such a manner as to command unqualified admiration. The arrangements at the Skating Palace are perfect. All the male and female attendants are at their posts, each knowing their duty and performing it with absolute precision. It is evident that every point has been carefully thought out, and there need be no hesitation in saying that in every respect our own National Skating Palace goes one better than the Paris and Brussels Palaces of a like character. That, at all events, is the opinion of the National Skating Association of Great Britain, which has selected the National Palace as its official headquarters, and its position in such a favoured spot as the corner of Regent and Oxford-streets, added to its own distinct attractions, would seem to justify our belief that Hengler's Grand Cirque, under the new régime, is about to become a most fashionable and popular resort.

BRO. JOSEPH TICKLE, C.C., one of whose sons died about a year ago, has sustained another bereavement by the death of a second son—Mr. Cecil Berriman Tickle—who, after a short illness, succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever at Libau, Russia, on Monday. The deceased was only 23 years of age, and was still serving his apprenticeship as an engineer. He left home about a month ago to join the ss. *Varna*, belonging to the Norwood Steamship Company, of Hull, on which boat he was qualifying for the certificate as second-class engineer. About a fortnight ago he wrote from Libau that he was in the best of health, although feeling the effects of the stormy passage. This was followed by a telegram received from the Vice-Consul at Libau on Christmas Eve stating that Mr. Tickle had been stricken down with typhoid, and had been removed to hospital. Improvement was afterwards reported in his condition, and as late as Monday morning a letter was received stating that no doubt his friends would hear from him in a few days. But at 12 o'clock on the same day a telegram was received in the following terms, "Condition dangerous," and half an hour later a second telegram announced his death. The shock to his parents was very great, and Mrs. Tickle is dangerously ill in consequence. Bro. J. Tickle has given instructions for the body to be brought home for interment in the family grave at Finchley Cemetery. We beg to offer our sincerest and most respectful sympathy to Bro. Tickle—who is P.P.G. Reg. of Middlesex—and his family in the terrible bereavement they have suffered.

A GRAND MASONIC BALL will be held in the Skating Rink, Ashton, on the 4th proximo.

BRO. LORD AND LADY FIRBRIGHT, who have been entertaining large shooting parties at Henley Park during the present week, will arrive at their town residence, 42, Grosvenor-place, on Monday next.

THE MUSICAL NOVELTY of the week has been the lady orchestra now performing at the Café Monico. Organised by Miss Graves, it contains several talented musicians, including a delightful flutist in the person of Miss Mabel Hambleton.

WE HAVE MUCH pleasure in announcing that the Lord Chancellor (Bro. Lord Halsbury) has placed Bro. Dr. H. J. Strong, P.A.G.D.C., Consulting Physician to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, on the Commission of the Peace for the County of Sussex.

THE ABSENCE of suspicion on the part of fish inhabiting waters which are seldom or never fished, was evidenced on Monday at the Piscatorial Society's re-union, when Mr. E. Foreman and a friend, fishing in a private water, brought up four beautiful pike, each scaling over 10lbs.

THE BERKSHIRE MASONIC REGISTER AND CALENDAR FOR 1896.—We hear that this annual, which will shortly be published by Bro. Cosburn, of Newbury, will be embellished with a life-like portrait of Bro. J. T. Morland, M.A., acting Prov. Grand Master, and Clerk to the Berks County Council.

ACCORDING TO the Registrar-General's Returns, the death-rate for London last week was 20.1, as compared with 17.8 the week previous. There were no deaths recorded from smallpox, typhus, or other zymotic diseases, while influenza appears to be abating, only five deaths being attributable to that cause.

THE DEATH is announced of the Right Hon. Sir Julian Goldsmith, Bart., M.P. The deceased, who was 57 years of age, had been for the past 12 months a great sufferer from rheumatic gout, and for some time previous to his death had been unable to leave the house. By this sad event the seat for South St. Pancras becomes vacant.

THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT, assisted by Colonel Kelly-Kenny, Colonel and Miss Miles, Colonel and Mrs. G. M. Fox, and other members of the Headquarters Staff, made a distribution of toys to the children of the District Staff in the Army Service Corps Theatre at Aldershot, on Tuesday. The distribution was followed by a tea and acrobatic and other entertainments.

WHEN THE USUAL change of quarters takes place this year, the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards will move from Wellington Barracks to the Tower, the 2nd from Chelsea to Windsor, and the 3rd from the Tower to Chelsea. The two battalions of the Coldstream Guards will remain at Wellington Barracks, while the 1st Battalion Scots Guards will move from Windsor to Wellington Barracks, and the 2nd remain in Dublin.

THE LORD MAYOR (Bro. Sir Walter Wilkin) and the Lady Mayoress gave a fancy dress ball at the Mansion House on Tuesday, when hundreds of children, accompanied by their parents, enjoyed themselves most heartily. There were also other entertainments given, among them being marionettes in the drawing-room, a troupe of performing dogs in a corner of the Egyptian Hall, and a Punch and Judy Show in the Saloon. The band of the Coldstream Guards also ministered to the pleasure of the guests.

THE 28TH ANNUAL DINNER in aid of the funds of the Goldsmiths and Jewellers' Annuity and Asylum Institution will take place at the Holborn Restaurant, Holborn, W.C., on Tuesday, the 4th proximo, when John Hill, Esq. (Messrs. Hill and Sons, Bankers, West Smithfield), has kindly consented to preside. Bro. Lieut.-Col. George Lambert, F.S.A., P.G.S.B., President of the Institution; and Bros. Alderman Sir J. Savory, Bart., M.P.; the Hon. Massey Mainwaring, M.P.; and George Kenning are among the Stewards for the occasion.

THE 101ST BADELEY CAKE and the bowl of punch were duly consumed after the performance of "Cinderella" by most of those who had taken part in the performance on Monday evening. Bro. James Fernandez presided, and, after referring to the happy idea of the deceased comedian in making a bequest by which his memory was certain to be kept green, proposed, in eulogistic terms, "The Health of Bro. Sir Augustus and Lady Harris." Bro. Sir A. Harris returned thanks, and, in doing so, said, after issuing so many tickets for this event for many years, and yet finding so many complaints from people who had not been invited, he had at length resolved on returning to the original simple form of celebration.

BRIGADE SERGEANT-MAJOR BRO. S. BIGWOOD (Royal Artillery) and Mrs. Bigwood, 6, Prospect-buildings, Wells-road, Bath, celebrated their silver wedding on Thursday, the 2nd instant. The Bath and Somerset Athletic Association, in which Club Bro. Bigwood takes considerable interest, sent him a souvenir of the interesting occasion in the shape of a handsome dining-room striking clock, bearing a suitable inscription. Bro. Samuel Bigwood was initiated in St. George's Lodge, No. 42, London, Canada West, 24th August, 1864; and was member of Zetland Lodge, No. 21, Montreal, Canada East, until his departure in June, 1879. Advanced Mark Master Mason, Eden Lodge, No. 73, at Limerick, 31st May, 1870; exalted Royal Arch Mason, 1870; Knight Templar in the Antiquity Preceptory, Time Immemorial; and Antiquity Chapter Rose Croix, 18°, 1878, at Bath.

ADDRESS BY BRO. SIR B. W. RICHARDSON.—At a meeting of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, held on Saturday evening last, at Carpenters' Hall, Throgmorton-avenue, E.C., Bro. Sir Benjamin W. Richardson, the President, delivered his New Year's address. He said he would indicate several truths that he desired his hearers to impress upon the public. In the first place, he dwelt upon the value of cleanliness—cleanliness of a personal kind, as in dress; cleanliness in food and drink; cleanliness in the air breathed; and cleanliness in the home. The laundry, as it now existed, was one of the most fruitful sources of disease. Laundries ought to be under municipal control—no profit should be made out of the profit of washing clothes. Markets ought to be under thorough inspection, and of all things water should be pure. It was the only necessary drink for man and all animals, constituting 65 per cent. of our bodies. The eagles above, the whales below, and the lions on the level—all performed their feats of strength on water, yet some men thought they needed to be sustained by "something stronger." The water supply ought to be in the hands of the municipality. It was as easy to be habitually clean and orderly as to be habitually unclean and disorderly. The tendency of man was towards gluttony rather than starvation. It was really difficult to starve, but exceedingly easy to gluttonise, and far more died of surplus than of want. He was not a vegetarian, but highly approved the vegetarian system, which, however, required modification to make it always suitable. Fruit, now so cheap, was among the best of foods. Apples were good, and in some sense the banana was one of the most sustaining, as it was one of the most pleasant, of foods. The question of occupation was of considerable interest. Years ago he drew up a table showing the different rates of mortality of the 70 occupations followed by the people of England and Wales. Clergymen of the Established Church came out at the top of the tree, and persons who sold liquor in public-houses at the bottom. Independent gentlemen, gamekeepers, and sawyers were among those near the top. Catholic priests, bracketed with doctors, were below the mean, and hair-cutters were very low indeed. Grocers were right above the line, and drapers (who breathed fluff) a good way below it. In each case there was a cause; and he commended the subject to the study of sanitary inspectors. For one man who was killed by falling from a scaffold, a million were injured by equally severe and removable causes. It was also very important to consider hours of work and hours of recreation. As a general rule, not without several exceptions, from eight to nine hours daily of one kind of work was quite sufficient. Work done when body and mind were tired was not good work. In recreation it was necessary to call into best play all the senses, cultivate the best muscular efforts, and enlarge and charge the mind with the best thoughts and deeds. Games of precision, choice reading, and travels from home were among the important means of recreation. The healthy man was the strongest man, and the healthy woman stood in even a better position, for she became the mother of health.

"BY THE QUEEN'S COMMAND," I once performed at Windsor before her Majesty and several members of the Royal Family; and, oh, it was the most delightful experience I have ever had." The speaker was an enthusiastic young actress, as popular as she is beautiful. "The honour was certainly a great one," we murmured. "Yes," she responded quickly; "but it was not that—her Majesty was so kind, you know. It really did you good the way she treated you." That is just it. Proper treatment is all we want. Nine-tenths of the sickness we suffer might be cured if we only had proper treatment. If you are ill or feel out of sorts, seek relief from the true friends of the sick and suffering—Holloway's Pills and Ointment.